

WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL PROPOSED WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN CHANGE 1
WAIKATO AND WAIPA RIVER CATCHMENTS

Submission Form

Submission on a publically notified proposed Regional Plan prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991.

On: The Waikato Regional Councils proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 - Waikato and Waipa River Catchments

To: Waikato Regional Council
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Complete the following

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I am not a trade competitor for the purposes of the submission but the proposed plan has a direct impact on my ability to farm. If changes sought in the plan are adopted they may impact on others but I am not in direct trade competition with them.

I wish to be heard in support of this submission.

AS Potter

Signature

9-2-2017
date

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<p>The specific provisions my submission relates to are:</p> <p>State specifically what Objective, Policy, Rule, map, glossary, or issue you are referring to.</p>	<p>My submission is that:</p> <p>State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether you support, or oppose each provision listed in column 1; • brief reasons for your views. 	<p>The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:</p> <p>Give:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • precise details of the outcomes you would like to see for each provision. The more specific you can be the easier it will be for the Council to understand the outcome you seek
<p><i>Provision</i></p>	<p>I support/ oppose/ and for each whether or not you wish to amend</p> <p>The reasons for this are:</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety/ Retained as proposed/ amended as set out below</p> <p>As an alternative I propose</p>

Daniela and I have been married now for 16 years and live in Glen Murray on our 93ha drystock property with our three children Sean, Dale & Tasha. We enjoy the country lifestyle and the children love growing up on the farm.

When buying the neighbouring property in 1996 we ran sheep and deer up until 2011 when a downturn in deer made it uneconomical to keep farming deer I decided to farm all sheep. This lacked the flexibility I needed. So now we run about 600 su of sheep and a further 150 su of cattle which now seems to be the correct balance.

I have continued to develop the farm by working up old tired paddocks into summer lamb crops (eg Pajja and Plentain clover). Then back into new and improved grasses.

Spray goose and cutting Manuka tea tree has been a good way to increase stock units and productivity which I hope to keep on doing in the future.

With the help from Environment Waikato poplar poles have been planted on previous slips which has helped prevent further problems.

Like most hill country farmers I am very concerned with PCI and the impact this will have on my business and the community. The Stock Exclusion rule of fencing off all permanently flowing waterbodies within 3yrs. The enormous cost for this financially would be a huge burden on top of existing debt and impossible to achieve. The Land Use rule, as I've already had to change my own farming practices several times gives you no flexibility in the way you run your own farming business. This usually takes years of experience to gain and will need to be altered as you get older. Our water has been tested at over nitrogen contaminants which backs up my submission in saying that hill country farmers are not the cause of nitrogen pollution. Therefore shouldn't have to be lumbered with the costs of cleaning up our waterbodies.

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Provision	I support/ oppose/ and for each whether or not you wish to amend	I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety/ Retained as proposed/ amended as set out below
<p>Stock Exclusion</p> <p>- Schedule C</p> <p>- Schedule 1</p>	<p>The reasons for this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I support the intention to exclude cattle from waterways where nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and pathogens are over the required standards. - I oppose for the following reasons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cost to fencing would be financially impossible. - Existing fences which have already been put in place at considerable cost would have to be altered to accommodate stock movement (hence to avoid erosion and increased sediment) - Due to streams being unpredictable in their course, it would take considerable amounts of land to fence off which would be at a huge loss of production and would harbour noxious weeds (eg. gorse, blackberry). These would need to be sprayed increasing water contaminants. - Continued cost of maintenance to 	<p>As an alternative I propose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waterways should be tested to identify where the contaminants are and then put a plan in place to clean up those areas. - Only fence off areas where farms are running high stock units (eg > 18 stock units per ha). - No need to fence off waterways. Maybe increase troughs around waterways and farms. (stock will always drink from a trough first). - Only fence off waterways that exceed 1m wide and more than 50cm deep - Fencing of waterways for areas with a slope less than 15 degrees.

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Provision	I support/ oppose/ and for each whether or not you wish to amend	I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety/ Retained as proposed/ amended as set out below
	<p>The reasons for this are:</p> <p>additional fencing would add further financial pressure in the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The use of heavy machinery to make room for fences (eg tracks, cuttings on the side of hills). The erosion of sediment into the waterways would exceed any gains. - The >25° slope rule to exclude cattle can't be defined in hill country - When main creeks flood you will always be replacing fences. - 10 year plan does not provide assurance of ongoing compliance to justify capital expenditure - Increased pressure and stress - Closure of community facilities - Loss of community spirit 	<p>As an alternative I propose</p>

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Provision	I support/ oppose/ and for each whether or not you wish to amend	I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety/ Retained as proposed/ amended as set out below
<p>Schedule 1</p> <p>- rule 3.11.54</p>	<p>The reasons for this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • concerns with nitrogen plan. Doesn't have any flexibility. 	<p>As an alternative I propose</p>
<p>Schedule B</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hill country farmers use very little nitrogen. Result no nitrogen leaching (water leaving farm tests at 0.02 nitrogen level.) - Needs to be related to sub-catchment testing • Grandparenting approach is a significant blow to hill country farmers that are already low emitters. - It restricts the ability to continue developing your property over time. • it also fails to recognise existing on-farm investment to minimise environmental impacts - Restricting farms to a Nitrogen Reference Point effectively rewards those 	<p>Schedule B should be deleted.</p> <p>Nitrogen Reference Point should be removed from the plan and that the plan adopts a sub-catchment approach addressing all four contaminants equally.</p>

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Provision	I support/ oppose/ and for each whether or not you wish to amend The reasons for this are: <i>that have been higher emitters, while disadvantaging those that have adopted low intensity or good management practices. - Basically this plan is just to limit and has no room for movement</i>	I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety/ Retained as proposed/ amended as set out below As an alternative I propose

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<p>Provision</p> <p>Land Use Change. Rule 311.5-7 (Non-Complying Activity Rule)</p>	<p>I support / oppose / and for each whether or not you wish to amend</p> <p>The reasons for this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restricts your ability to develop your land or to convert to a more intensive land use. - Restricts your opportunity to expand your business if neighbouring land has a different land use. - Affects your ability to just grow your own business for self satisfaction, which is one main reason why I farm - Loss of succession planning, innovation, growth and an inability to respond to market demands. 	<p>I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety / Retained as proposed / amended as set out below -</p> <p>As an alternative I propose</p> <p>If I don't have the ability to continue to develop my farm eg clearing of tea tree & the spraying of gorse, woody vegetation to farming. Or the ability to cultivate paddocks into crops (be able to fatten all my lambs that I produce). This proposal will impose significant financial costs on my farming activities and business.</p>
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Yours sincerely

Anthony Simon Potter

Signature *A Potter* *27.2.2017*
Date