

**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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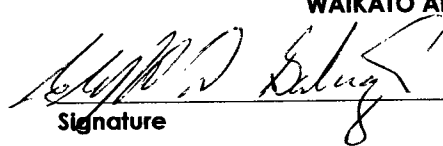
Postcode: 3794


Email: babingtoncliff@gmail.com

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 do not wish to be heard in support of this submission.

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 1/3/17
Signature date

 1-3-2017
Signature date

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Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Waikato Regional Councils proposed Plan Change 1.

My name is Cliff Babington. Along with my wife leonie I have farmed this farm, originally 479 acres, up to 870 acres at one time, and now 550 acres, for the last 50 years. During this time we have planted 30 hectares in trees, introduced deeper rooting grass species, increased fertility, sub-divided paddocks from 16 to 60 by contour fencing, installed a water reticulation system and increased both production and animal health levels. We feel we have achieved this with minimal impact on the environment and the farm is now far less fragile. As the demands changed we have farmed or are still farming; sheep for wool, prime lambs, prime beef, bull beef, export onions, maize for grain, heifers and cows for the dairy industry. It is our hope that our children and their children will continue farming this farm.

Our strategy is to leave the farm in better health than when we purchased it.

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<p>The specific provisions my submission relates to are:</p>	<p>My submission is that:</p>		<p>The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:</p>
	<p>SUPPORT / OPPOSE</p>	<p>REASON</p>	<p>RELIEF SOUGHT</p>
<p><i>Provision</i></p> <p><u>Longterm Land Use:</u></p> <p>Objectives 1, 3 & 4 Policies 5 & 7 Rules 3.11.5.3 to 3.11.5.5 & schedule 1</p>	<p>I oppose</p>	<p>The reasons for this are:</p> <p>It creates uncertainty, potential for capital devaluation and as we don't know what long term effect this will have on our farm and what rules will apply to our farm in the future we are unable to develop any realistic farm environment plan.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: Amended as set out below</p> <p>As an alternative I propose:</p> <p>That the plan be redefined with clear notification as to what land use is available for our property so that we are able to change farm use to meet both environmental mitigation and financial stability.</p>

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<p><i>Provision</i></p> <p><u>Nitrogen Reference Point:</u> Objectives 1 & 4 Policies 2 & 7 Rules 3.11.5.3 to 3.11.5.7 and Schedule 1</p>	I oppose	<p>The reasons for this are:</p> <p>I don't think Nitrogen is the issue in our sub-catchment.</p> <p>It is unfair to limit those who are low polluters and prevent them from farming their farms as they should be farmed to keep viable and therefore have the ability to mitigate nutrient and pathological emissions.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety</p> <p>As an alternative I propose</p> <p>That the Nitrate Level that high users must not exceed be the upper level for everyone no matter where or what farming type.</p>

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<p><i>Provision</i></p> <p><u>Stock Exclusion:</u> Rule 3.11.5.1 and Rule 3.11.5.2 and Rule 3.11.5.3 and Rule 3.11.5.4</p>	<p>I support</p>	<p>But only if it is amended to the National Standard of: 15 degrees slope, 1 metre wide, 30cm deep.</p> <p>The reasons for this are:</p> <p>The cost of fencing hill country is prohibitive as demonstrated by the Federated Farmers Study. The time frame for this to be done in is impossible to achieve.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is amended as set out below:</p> <p>As an alternative I propose:</p> <p>The NPSFW (National Policy Statement for Fresh Water) is used.</p>

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<p><i>Provision</i></p> <p><u>Restricting Land Use Change:</u></p> <p>Pages 15-16 Policy 6 Rule 3.11.5.7</p>	I oppose	<p>The reasons for this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It will place a market value on our land that has no relation to its productive capability. - It prevents us being flexible enough in our systems to meet future needs of both the farmer and the nation. - It is irrelevant as it is captured in other provisions in the proposed plan. 	<p>I seek that the provision is:</p> <p>Deleted in its entirety.</p>

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<p><i>Provision</i></p> <p><u>Farm Environment Plans:</u> Pages 15, 16 Policy 2 Rules 3.11.5.3 to 3.11.5.7 & Schedule 1</p>	I support	<p>The reasons for this are:</p> <p>I support the proposal if we have the ability to make our own business plans that we can review. These plans could be approved by a "catchment board". As it stands it would prevent us being flexible in our farming practices and the cost of expensive consultants are beyond our means.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is amended as set out below:</p> <p>As an alternative we propose that a 'catchment level' plan be adopted.</p>

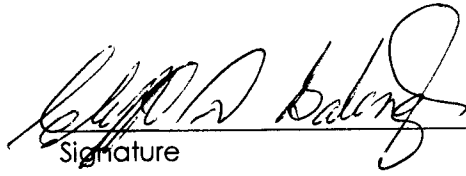
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<p><i>Provision</i></p> <p>Sub Catchment Management: Policy 9 3.11.4.1 and 3.11.4.5</p>	<p>I support</p>	<p>The reasons for this are:</p> <p>This may be a better way to improve waterways.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is amended as set out below:</p> <p>Would like allowance for sub catchment approach in the rules.</p>

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Yours sincerely

Cliff Babington

 Signature _____ Date 1/3/17