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Sent: Wednesday, 8 March 2017 11:31 a.m.
To: Healthy Rivers
Subject: Submission-Flynn Roberts

Categories: Receipt SENT - need log this in s/s

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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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.

If others make similar submissions, I would consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing.

I appose the P1 scheme and the Waiora Water scheme in the Waikato.

Flynn Roberts

8/03/2017

Signature

date

Signature

date

To whom it may concern...

My name is Flynn Roberts. I am the son of Peter Roberts, who is a farmer affected by the Waiora Water Scheme in the Waikato. From a young age, I always thought that my future lay in farming as it had the freedom and different challenges everyday. As I have grown up, I have seen a shift in challenges from increasing productivity, to challenging the bureaucracy that is forced upon us. As I finished my final year of college in 2016, I was given an array of options of where I wanted my life to go. As prior, I said I wanted to take my life down the agricultural pathway, but I sat down and made a list of positives and negatives. The positives included passion and lifestyle choice but the negatives were, too much bureaucracy, limited jobs for young educated farmers and the changing culture of New Zealand farming. People have told me that if you work hard, you can achieve what ever you set your mind to. I once heard a story about how the price of wool was that high that a local shearer could sell enough to put a deposit on a farm but nowadays, there is limited hope for a young kiwi to get into the world of farming. This is due to the increase in bureaucracy, which has increased the prices which has limited the freedom of entering the world of farming, as the new P1 scheme means that council has dictation on what you can use your land for which I feel isn't the kiwi way. So with all this in mind, I decided to not enrol in Bachelor of Agriscience at Lincoln and instead I chose to study a Bachelor of Engineering at the University of Canterbury as I feel there is a greater opportunity for young kiwis. This may be the only submission that you receive like this but, I have meet many people in Christchurch that have similar feelings to me.

I have attended meetings regarding the Waiora Water Scheme in the Waikato and have noticed that, yes, there are positives about the proposed scheme and I can see the need for it, but I feel the instigators of this have not done sufficient research around the devastating affects it posses on New Zealand's largest exporting industry. The blanket policy that is going to be enforced on farmers is ridiculous, as each farm is different and therefore it should be done on a case by case basis. This would mean water testing at multiple points of the streams, rivers and creeks over a certain time period to see if the farmers are a factor in the pollution of New Zealand waterways. From discussions with local farmers, I have come to a general concensis that the communication between the council and farmers was not open enough and this is why we are now at this point. The Waiora water scheme was done in the best interest of New Zealand but not in the best interest of the farmers, as this scheme is putting unacheivable expectations on the farming community which is causing stress throughout it all.

Agriculture is the backbone of the New Zealand economy and with the way the non-sensical policies and standards that we are required to meet, I believe that the future of farming in New Zealand is on a downhill slide. I hope that the submissions presented to you today are taken into consideration and that there can be solution that we can both see eye to eye about.

Cheers,
Flynn Roberts