

PROPOSED WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN CHANGE 1 WAIKATO AND WAIPĀ RIVER CATCHMENTS



**Mandatory questions form for submissions on Proposed
Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 – Waikato and Waipā River Catchments.**

Important: Save this PDF to your computer before answering. Please check or update your software to allow for editing. We recommend Acrobat Reader.

FORM 5, Resource Management Act 1991

SubForm	PC12016	COVER SHEET	
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THIS FORM CAN BE

Mailed to	Chief Executive, 401 Grey Street, Private Bag 3038, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240
Delivered to	Waikato Regional Council, 401 Grey Street, Hamilton East, Hamilton
Faxed to	(07) 859 0998 Please Note: if you fax your submission, please post or deliver a copy to one of the above addresses
Emailed to	healthyivers@waikatoregion.govt.nz Please Note: Submissions received by email must contain full contact details.
Online at	www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyivers

YOUR NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS - please ensure these details match those on your original submission

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TRADE COMPETITION AND ADVERSE EFFECTS (select appropriate)

- I could / could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
- I am / am not directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that:
- (a) adversely effects the environment, and
- (b) does not relate to the trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

PLEASE INDICATE BY TICKING THE RELEVANT BOX WHETHER YOU WISH TO BE HEARD IN SUPPORT OF YOUR SUBMISSION

- I wish to speak at the hearing in support of my submissions.
- I do not wish to speak at the hearing in support of my submissions.

JOINT SUBMISSIONS

- If others make a similar submission, please tick this box if you will consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing.

SIGNATURE OF SUBMITTER - note you can also type your name to certify the above information is true and correct

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 10-4-2017

Personal information is used for the administration of the submission process and will be made public. All information collected will be held by Waikato Regional Council, with submitters having the right to access and correct personal information.

PLEASE CHECK that you have provided all of the information requested and if you are having trouble filling out this form, phone Waikato Regional Council on 0800 800 401 for help.

Peter and Libby Chandler

Spellbound Glowworm and Cave Tours

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Waitomo Caves 3943

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Hamilton

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8 March 2017

Dear Sir, Madam, re the proposed Plan Change 1

We support the initiatives for the Clean Streams , but for streams and rivers with public and private amenity value(most of them?) we would like to see real finite limits of Nitrogen and Phosphorus and eColi to contact / swimmable levels rather than the 75th percentile grandparenting proposed

We have been involved in the Waitomo community and tourism here since the mid 1980s

We have operated our well regarded tours in the Mangawhikau Glowworm cave at the submergence on this stream since 2003 as well as the adjacent cave of the Spirit , down the dry limestone gorge 300metres further east. The site was chosen for most of the glowworm footage for the filming of the BBC planet Earth I in January 2005

The location of the submergence on the property we have a licence to operate on is:-

WRC 1781 348537 5755 945 302 googlemaps N -38.326300 E 175.074500 ,

We are at www.glowworm.co.nz and some of our visitors review their experiences on:-
tripadvisorhttps://www.tripadvisor.co.nz/ShowUserReviews-g616349-d640393-r464132477-Spellbound_Glowworm_Cave_Tours-Waitomo_Caves_Waikato_Region_North_Island.html

We transport most of our 15000 + visitors annually from the Waitomo village via Tumutumu and Boddie Rd and Back on Boddies Rd and Fullerton Road.

The catchment of this cave is approximately 2000 Ha of farmland native bush and exotic forestry in the Wainana Road Boddies Rd and Wainuna Road area

Although the stream normally runs clean in low flow, we believe we are impacted by many factors of the increasingly intensive farming in the catchment.

Unfenced stream margins –

1. random days when in low flow, turbidity of the water means we are unable to see the resident long finned eels clearly. In flood this is also true of course, but more of a natural process. Visitors may not notice this as they have no reference point, but we do.
2. Dead stock washing into cave- including sheep. this is not a new problem, and in fact we get less of these now compared with some years ago. We would like to see fencing in such places fast tracked, rather than waiting for 6 more years. All these dead animals have to be removed, as 150 metres into the cave there is a sump, so they gather and smell very bad in there.

Nitrogen.

We have not yet got any baseline data for nitrate levels in the Mangawhitikau stream where we operate, but we have now sampled and sent for analysis a low flow sample and intend to do this on an annual basis.

We note that in Nitrogen Reference points Oct 2016 document :-

“all other properties will be required to hold their discharge levels”

We do notice in late summer during low flow, the algae *periphyton* we would like to see real limits of Nitrogen and Phosphorus and eColi rather than the 75th percentile grandparenting proposed. We hypothesise, based on the literature, high nutrient levels in streams could reduce invertebrate populations and impact on the ecology of our glowworm cave

We support the statement in the WRC Nitrogen Reference points Oct 2016 document :-

CSG Nitrogen reference points as an interim measure. The CSG have signalled in the proposed plan change principles including land suitability as a starting point for allocation in any future plan changes where property limits are set.

We would expect any proposal to increase farming intensity in the Mangawhitikau catchment to be a notifiable activity and for us to be consulted

Sedimentation. We are not affected directly by this, as we are a non contact activity in a fast flowing section of the stream. We have a resource consent for a 90 cm high weir to operate a punt

on flat water to view the New Zealand Glowworms. Indirectly stream macroinvertebrates must be adversely affected by sedimentation from uncontrolled :-

large stock on steeper slopes,

cultivation on steep hillsides.

So we welcome the proposed limitations on this .

Landscape views- Transporting passengers to the cave , the pastoral landscape also on show, intensive stocking particularly on steep hillsides in wintertime, when seen, does not sit well with the 100% pure brand promoted to overseas visitors. We did have a comment about this on Tripadvisor last winter, so we welcome the proposed limitations on this also .

We would like to be heard on our submission.

Yours sincerely

Peter Chandler MNZM

Elizabeth Chandler


