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

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

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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.

There are eight pages, including this front page, to my submission.

**I wish to be heard in support of this submission.**



Philip Walter

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017

**The specific provisions of proposed Plan Change 1 that my submission relates to:**

*Nitrogen management Adopts a Nitrogen Reference Point (NRP) approach and holds existing land users to this number (grandparenting of Nitrogen leaching) Rule 3.11.5.3, 3.11.5.4, - 3.11.5.7, Schedule B, and any consequential amendments arising from this submission point.*

**I support or oppose the above provision/s:**

*Oppose*

**My submission is that:**

- 1. Rewards polluters and adversely affects those less intensive and lower polluters.*
- 2. Koi carp cause major river bank damage and sediment and nutrient flow into river. Whatever plan developed to eradicate carp will take many years before its effects on the river improve sediment levels.*
- 3. At the head of the Opuatia Stream (which passes through my property) is a forest that is being harvested and already causing major sediment and effecting NRP.*
- 4. In my case stocking rates have been held low because of physical injuries, now passed and NRP will result in further hardship.*

**The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:**

- 1. I would like this deleted in its entirety for sheep and beef farmers. I suggest the Olsen P test may be a better tool.*
- 2. It should be deleted for sheep and beef farmers as impact of the sector on nitrates is low.*
- 3. Reduction in Nitrate discharges from sheep and beef farmers will have little water quality benefits for much expense, bureaucracy and perverse results between farmers.*

**The specific provisions of proposed Plan Change 1 that my submission rates to:**

*Stock Exclusion. Schedule C Rule 3.11.5.1, .2, .3 and .4 and any consequential amendments arising from this submission point.*

**I support or oppose the above provision/s:**

*Partially support.*

**My submission is that:**

*1.I have support for exclusion on the main Opuatia Stream, however a large number of willows block water flow and Council should remove them first. In my situation I will find it hard to retain the fence in flood waters by the Wairamarama Bridge.*

*2.I have a number of small springs that create small swamp areas that sometimes appear in different places each year. These areas are of too small an area to be of use as a wet land and in fact would be better left as a filter and as the hill country is not heavily stocked. Same reasoning applies to small stock drinking water holes with small swamp areas below, which would act as filter etc.*

*3.Because of the degree of difficulty as opposed to the benefits we should only need to fence the larger main streams, not to every nook and cranny. Water will be filtered as it passes through the fenced areas as the plants grow.*

*4.Maybe identify worst areas and mitigate that.*

*5.Huge costs to reticulate water, with some having to pump to tank and then to re-pump onto another tank before running to troughs.*

*6.There appears no clarity over how the slope is measured through a whole paddock.*

**The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:**

*1.25 degree slope provision should be removed and replaced with farming intensity over 18 stock units per hectare.*

*2.Farm environment plans to focus on addressing actual risk, targeting critical source areas rather than requiring blanket stock exclusion.*

*3.Cause of sediment and nitrates in each sub-catchment should be targeted first; ie forestry, road runoff, kio carp.*

**The specific provisions of proposed Plan Change 1 that my submission rates to:**

*Policy 7 Preparing for allocation in the future*

**I support or oppose the above provision/s:**

*Oppose – because policy points a, b, c and d prejudice what research will show.*

**My submission is that:**

*1. Policy creates uncertainty for the future with current proposed expenditure might be irrelevant.*

*2. We have forestry on the headwaters of the Opuatia that is being harvested, which means that our main stream is now high in sediment.*

*Won't the same thing happen where we have converted to forestry in parts and then harvesting will produce the same sediment result?*

**The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:**

*Statement of certainty that future rules on 'land suitability' will be based on sound science.*