

**Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 – Waikato and Waipa River Catchments.**

---

Waikato Regional Council

Submission on “Healthy Rivers”

From – RF & CL Lansdaal Ltd

(Richard & Christine Lansdaal

71 Motumaoho Station Road

RD 2

Morrinsville

[rclansdaal@gmail.com](mailto:rclansdaal@gmail.com)

phone: 078897912

We could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

I 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.

Delete entire paragraph if you could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

**Submission**

**My Submission relates to**

**Schedule One, 2 b iii**

We support the provision with amendments

**Cropping set back areas.**

There is conflicting science relating the efficacy of these setbacks. It is clear that because of setbacks, significantly more land (paddocks) will be required to produce the volume of crop needed to support stock through the winter. This in itself will lead to greater environmental impact as more land is cultivated. What is very unclear is would they work to prevent nutrients on peat soils entering the waterways and what width is the right width of set-back. Is two metres any less effective than 4 metres? And Peat land is all basically flat

On Peat it is standard practice to contour the paddocks by cultivation to manage the shape of the paddock due to subsidence. This contouring needs to go up to the waterway drain edge to be effective. Without this paddock shape correction, grass cover can be compromised due to water ponding leading to damaged soil structure and therefore probably increased leaching

**Decision Sought**

Some flexibility within a Farm Management plan to achieve the required outcomes but with the ability of farmers to adjust the setback distance as needed on a case by case business.

**Water level management**

On Peat land allow water table management in side drains to give better control of soil moisture levels particularly during dry weather conditions ensuring better grass and vegetation helping to reduce runoff etc

**Decision sought**

That the damming of all drains including board drains is part of best practice as it reduces subsidence (degradation?) of peat land. If damming of drains is in place no or minimal set-backs be required.

**My Submission relates to schedule B**

We support the provision with amendments

The Nitrogen limit is being set over a 2 year period when there was a downturn in dairy payout and many farmers (owing to exceptional individual circumstances) will have an N reference point not representative for their farm system under status quo.

**Decision Sought**

That the N reference point for the property be based on the conditions of the property, and the soil type, rainfall etc, not based on how good or bad the leaching on the farm has been in the past.

**Policy 6**

Support policy with amendments

Land use change. Would like to see some allowance due to the restrictions placed on land due to PC1 that more area will need to be allocated to vegetable and feed production in time as population increases.

Plans need to look to the future to ensure communities can have access to fresh local produce

**Rule 3.11.5.2****Permitted activity Rules**

We support the use of activity rules but provided that

Permits need to be easily obtained in a timely manner to allow normal farming operations to continue,

For Example,.

Where a permit may be required due to land contour or slope etc,

Any delay in obtaining a permit to put in crop in a paddock could greatly disrupt and cause financial difficulties for farmers

Permits need to be able to be obtained at minimal cost in a timely manner. We have some concerns that the number of suitable trained and qualified people will be not available to action everything in a timely manner

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

If others make a similar submission, we do not wish to present a joint case
---