

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

Submission form on publicly notified – Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 – Waikato and Waipa River Catchments.

SubForm	PC12016	COVER SHEET	
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
		Submission Number	
Entered		Initials	
File Ref		Sheet 1 of	

FORM 5 Clause 6 of First Schedule, Resource Management Act 1991

SUBMISSIONS 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 <i>Please Note: if you fax your submission, please post or deliver a copy also</i>
Emailed to	healthyrivers@waikatoregion.govt.nz <i>Please Note: Submissions received by email must contain full contact details. We also request you send us a signed original by post or courier.</i>
Online at	www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyrivers
We need to receive your submission by 5pm, 8 March 2017.	

YOUR NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS		
Full name: Richard Mark Webber		
Full address: 2738 Poihipi Road, RD1, Mangakino 3492		
Email: richardwebber@xtra.co.nz	Phone 021 475 436	Fax

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE OF SUBMITTER		
Full name: Richard Mark Webber		
Address for service of person making submission: 2738 Poihipi Road, RD1, Mangakino, 3492		
Email: richardwebber@xtra.co.nz	Phone 021475436	Fax

PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER YOU WISH TO BE HEARD IN SUPPORT OF YOUR SUBMISSION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I wish to speak at the hearing in support of my submissions.
<input type="checkbox"/> I do not wish to speak at the hearing in support of my submissions.

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

SIGNATURE

OF

SUBMITTER

(or person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter)

Signature is not required if you make your submission by electronic means

Signature



Date 6/3/2017

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.

SUBMISSION POINTS: General comments

I am a shareholder in a family business comprising of 700 hectares mixed dairy and dairy-support/grazing at Tihoi/Marotiri (Taupo).

We run our farms with a relatively low stocking rate (2.5 cows/ha on dairy platform) and are conscious of our environmental responsibilities. We have spent many thousands of dollars to date on environmental initiatives including fencing waterways and improving our effluent management. We have also voluntarily completed actions such as nutrient budgets and Sustainable Milk Plans and been proactive in the space of understanding our environmental impact and understanding more ways in which we can mitigate such impact. We have undertaken trial work for Dairy NZ with respect to nutrient loss as part of their P21 project. Even under a low stocking rate regime it is very difficult in the Central Plateau to get significant reductions in Nitrogen loss (in particular) when running a low input, grass system and without investing heavily in infrastructure like cow housing etc. In this regard I have great concerns for the viability of agriculture in the Central Plateau and believe Plan Change One unfairly disadvantages our area as we will be benchmarked in an FMU (Upper Waikato) that has huge variance in soil type (in particular).

I support the submission that has been lodged by Federated Farmers. I am particularly concerned about the following aspects of Plan Change 1:

- The significant negative effect on rural communities
- The cost and practicality of the rules.
- The effect that the Nitrogen Reference Point will have on my business and my economic wellbeing.
- The Farm Environment plan requirements leading to unnecessary and costly regulation of inputs, outputs, normal farming activity and business information
- The costs and practicality of the rules and requirements for stock exclusion, the Nitrogen Reference Point and the Farm Environment Plan.
- The timeframes for complying with the Nitrogen Reference Point rules which are too short and unachievable
- The plan significantly exceeding the 10 year targets in many attributes and areas
- The lack of science and monitoring at the sub catchments level

I wish to be heard at the Hearing.

I am concerned about the implications all of this will have for my property and for my current activity as described above. I set out my concerns more specifically in the table below.

SUBMISSION POINTS: Specific comments

Page No	Reference (e.g. Policy, or Rule number)	Support or Oppose	Decision sought Say what changes to Plan Change 1 you would like	Give Reasons
40	Rule 3.11.5.2 Permitted Activity Rule – Other farming activities	Oppose	<p>4.</p> <p>c. No part of the property or enterprise over 15 degrees slope is cultivated or grazed; and</p> <p>d. No winter forage crops are grazed in situ;</p> <p>Both of these points should still be permitted - as long as they fit in the allocated NRP</p>	<p>A huge area of the Waikato/Waipā region is over 15 degrees slope. To effectively take these areas out of agricultural production would be an economic and cultural disaster.</p> <p>You do not have agriculture without some way of wintering cattle economically – fodder crops allow this.</p> <p>Again, both of these points should be permitted as long as they fit into the FEP and within the farms NRP, and as long as mitigation measures are put in place to minimise nutrient loss.</p>

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47	Schedule B: Nitrogen Reference point	Support but with amendments	NRP 75 th Percentile should be calculated at a sub-catchment level – not at an FMU level.	There is a large variation in soil type between sub-catchments which will dramatically affect the NRP of the FMU. You could effectively run the same farm system in two parts of the Upper Waikato FMU and have a 20 – 30 point difference in NRP between farms. It would be very difficult for a grass-based farm in an area like the Central Plateau to achieve a 10 – 20 point drop in NRP.