

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

**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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Complete the following

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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. NO**

**Comment [j1]:** If this is a group submission everyone must include their details and sign the form, unless the group is a legal entity.

To help the council the group could give itself a name ie collectively referred to as the ..... group.



## WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL PROPOSED WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN CHANGE 1 - WAIKATO AND WAIPA RIVER CATCHMENTS

### Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Waikato Regional Councils proposed Plan Change 1.

Our farm is the North Waikato bordering Lake Whangape on the east side and is 320 hec free hold and 44 hec Maori lease.

Of the 320 hec block there is about 160 hec of wetland ponding area covered in manuka and willows.

I have lived all my life here which is 68 years and my father and his parents farmed it from 1934. The farm is now farmed by our son Christopher on a lease arrangement.

Over the years I have watched the change of water management in our area from the north Waikato being a big flood plane stop banking in the 1960-70s to being a very high producing area of land bordering the river. Lake Whangape is the receiver of the runoff from our farm.

A very shallow lake that has a limited flow of fresh water from the Awaroa, Tiki Tiki, and a lesser Ruawaro streams on the western side of the lake.

Prevailing westerly winds create very turbid water that prevents most aquatic plant life establishment barring the undesirable ones ie alligator weed. Also Koi carp have a detrimental effect on water quality and plant establishment.

One of the big imbalances the lake and quality has to deal with is the ponding effects from the Waikato river which in period of floods from the Waikato and more so the Waipa the water level in the lake can rise and ebb by as much as two metres in a two to three week period and that can be anytime of the year but more prevalent in the winter months thus creating a lot of peripheral flooding and a lot of rotting vegetation contaminating the out flowing water which goes back into the Waikato river.

Bearing in mind that 150 years ago there was no agricultural activities that would have had any effect on water quality barring fires and flooding.

The water in the past 150 years will have changed from being acidic to more alkaline which changes vegetation growth and this process can't be reversed. The lake has also changed from being a peat bottomed lake to a silt bottom lake.

A complex issue.

We need to do everything we can to help clean up our waterways but we need a science based approach to how that can be achieved. We need better benchmarking for specific types of land and soils, for runoff, ground leaching, that will give some certainty to what we as farmers do.

We are going to be spending a colossal amount of money and guess work can't be a part of that equation.

Trials should be set to measure what actions create a positive effect and at what cost.

We as farmers are being asked to contribute to cleaner water something we all agree with but we need to know the cost and the result which will reward us with better water in 50-80 years.

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The specific provisions of the proposal that this submission relates to and the decisions it seeks from Council are as detailed in the following table. The outcomes sought and the wording used is as a suggestion only, where a suggestion is proposed it is with the intention of 'or words to that effect'. The outcomes sought may require consequential changes to the plan, including Objectives, Policies, or other rules, or restructuring of the Plan, or parts thereof, to give effect to the relief sought.

The specific provisions my submission relates to are:  State specifically what Objective, Policy, Rule, map, glossary, or issue you are referring to.	My submission is that:  State:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>whether you support, or oppose each provision listed in column 1;</li> <li>brief reasons for your views.</li> </ul>		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:  Give:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Details of the outcomes you would like to see for each provision. The more specific you can be the easier it will be for the Council to understand the outcome you seek</li> </ul>
	SUPPORT / OPPOSE	REASON	RELIEF SOUGHT
Provision Objective One and Policy 5	I support  I agree with the objective to get healthier rivers and prevent more deterioration. Concerns on costing, effect and viability of our property.	The reasons for the	I seek that the provision is: amended as set out below. That clear guidelines are indicated in FEP as to what we can farm in relationship to the wetland and how we can farm around it.



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The specific provisions my submission relates to are:	My submission is that:		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:
	SUPPORT / OPPOSE	REASON	RELIEF SOUGHT
Provision Sub catchment3-11-4-5	I support/	The reasons for this as it gives local stake holders a more hands on say as to how a given area may respond policy and methods to improve that areas water discharge's. Use scientific analysis to determine the areas contaminants.	I seek that the provision is: amended as set out below. To a combined sub catchment approach that incorporates all the contributing factors for the contamination and resolutions to improve those issues.
Stock exclusion rules.	I support.	I agree with the stock exclusion rules on the lower lying land that is more intensively farmed which is easier and less costly carry out and maintain. The steeper land is very costly to fence so cost vs benefit would have to be well assessed. The width of the conserved strip seems to have very little impact on low lying land. More water enters via subterranean than via run off. On our farm we would need an agreement at the very first stage of FEP as with the amount of lake frontage and wetland we border as to what the requirements would be before we bought into it.	More water containments via dams creating small wetland as filters.

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	My submission is that:		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:
The specific provisions my submission relates to are:	My submission is that:		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:
	SUPPORT / OPPOSE	REASON	RELIEF SOUGHT
Provision Objective 2, Social and cultural well being.	I support/	The reasons for this .Have to make sure that there is economic accountability carried out and a robust analysis of the benefits vs the social cost.	I Retained as proposed/

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	<b>My submission is that:</b>	<b>The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:</b>

Yours sincerely  
Robert Beverland

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