

Form 5, Submission on publically notified proposal for plan change.

To: Waikato Regional Council, WRP proposed Plan Change 1

Name of Submitter: **Spring Sheep Dairy NZ LP (“Spring Sheep”)**

- Spring Sheep could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
- Spring Sheep wish to be heard.

This submission is **neutral**.

Spring Sheep wish to promote the sheep milk industry in this catchment and ensure adequate consideration is given to this emerging land use. The submission is that this Plan change may affect a new industry as it changes land uses in ways not yet realised and the WRC should consult, provide information and make provision for this new primary industry.

- The sheep dairy industry is growing in the Waikato catchment due to capabilities of small/medium spray drier facility with export approval. This is currently exclusive to the Waikato catchment. Furthermore, the Waikato is positioned well for exporting, agriculture R&D and supporting industry. This is underpinned by prime pastoral land in Northern/Central Waikato.
- There are currently large scale operators eying the Waikato catchment for growth.
- Sheep dairy presents a land use alternative that has been shown to reduce N leaching under a pastoral grazing model. The industry’s recent growth has seen the farming model follow the same system as goat milking in ways such as housing of animals.
- Given the likely expansion of sheep dairy farming systems in the Waikato, we need to understand how this new industry will be viewed under the plan change.
- What will be the timeframe to work to and what are the requirements of the industry as farms are sought to be converted?

The Plan, as notified, is unclear and uncertain regarding affects or otherwise on this industry. As such, Spring Sheep wishes to further submit and make cross-submissions in support, or opposition to, this Plan and seek clarification from Council and the Hearing on matters of the sheep dairy industry.

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