

**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

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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.**

**If others make similar submissions, I would consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing.**

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Giles H Lusty 5/3/17  
Signature date

Janez P. Lusty 5.3.17  
Signature date

# 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.

This property has been farmed by My family since the early 1940's. Our eldest son has indicated that he would like to continue farming the property for the foreseeable future. The area of the farm is 330 hectares, with an approximately 300 effective hectares. The soil type is mainly Mairoa ash and is classed as class 4 hill country. The property is typically easy hill country with some rolling and steep areas with streams and wet areas. The elevation ranges from 40 to 320 metres and the annual rainfall is approximately 1700 to 1800mm with common dry spells. The prevailing wind is from the southwest.

The property is situated near Makomako about 20km south of Raglan and 7km from the coast overlooking the Aotea harbour and comprises a sheep operation with dairy support. Dairy cattle carried are kept on the easier contour parts of the farm and can be controlled by 2 wire electric fencing. A reticulated water supply system services a large part of the farm.

A poplar planting programme has commenced with plantings carried out on wet unstable areas. No cultivation is carried out on our property. As can be seen from the map below the current grazing management plan is very successful at retaining a complete pasture cover over the property reducing sediment production.



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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:	My submission is that:		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:
	SUPPORT / OPPOSE	REASON	RELIEF SOUGHT
<p><i>Stock Exclusion</i></p> <p><i>Policy 4, Rule 3.11.5.1, 3.11.5.2, 3.11.5.3, 3.11.5.4 and Schedule C</i></p>	I support with amendments	The recently released (Feb 2017) Clean Water document from the government has guidelines for national stock exclusion. The provisions relating to stock exclusion in Healthy Rivers should be updated to align with these policies.	Update the stock exclusion provisions in Healthy Rivers to align with the requirements of the Clean Water Document.
		On our property cattle are run on the easier parts of the farm with reticulated water and don't have access to steeper areas and waterways. Sheep are run on the steeper areas and areas with access to waterways.	Change the stock exclusion requirements so compliance can be assessed on an individual basis relevant to each farms particular situation and mitigation strategies can be developed to suit and included in the Farm Environmental Plan.
		Presently there is no fixed method of how slopes will be classed. Suitable stock and grazing management policies can produce beneficial outcomes on hill country.	Remove the 25-degree slope rule and replace with a stocking intensity and results based rule.
<i>Policy 16</i>	Oppose	The ownership of land has no relation to whether rules apply or not. This plan applies to water	Remove this policy

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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
		quality and the same rules should apply irrespective of ownership	
<i>Withdrawal of the lower part of the Waikato Catchment from PC1 (Hauraki Iwi)</i>	Oppose	The Waikato Regional council must treat all parties affected by Plan Change 1 as one. Withdrawal of the plan creates more uncertainty than it removes.	Withdraw the plan until the catchment can be treated as one.
<i>Nitrogen Management application of the nitrogen reference point (NRP) and use of Overseer  Policy 2 and 7  Rules 3.11.5.2 to 3.11.5.7 (inclusive) Schedule B and all other areas in PC1 which refer to the nitrogen reference point</i>	Oppose	We are opposed to the grandparenting approach this is not a workable solution for dry stock farmers. The N cap rewards the high polluters and disadvantages the low polluters. There is no evidence that this approach to nitrogen management will have any positive effect.  Overseer was not developed to be used for this purpose. Results rely on too many different assumptions and variations can arise from inaccuracies in data entered to the system.	Remove the nitrogen reference point and the use of overseer from the plan.  Use a sub-catchment methodology to assess contaminants that are particular to each farm taking into account the terrain, farm policy and the receiving environment relevant to that sub-catchment.

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<i>Farm Environmental Plans Policy 2, Rules 3.11.5.1 thru 3.11.5.7 inclusive</i>	Support with Amendments	Farm Environmental Plans (FEP's) are the best way to evaluate the individual farming operation and formulate, apply and manage best practice solutions to mitigate any adverse environmental effects potentially created by any particular farming activity	FEP's should be formulated by the individual landowner to guidelines produced by WRC and supported by WRC resources.
<i>3.11.4.5 Sub-catchment scale planning</i>	We support this implementation method	This is the best and most equitable method assessing the effects and controlling contaminants entering waterways and enables the stakeholders for each catchment to take ownership over improving the condition of their waterways	Do not implement the plan change until the data has been collected identifying the contaminants influencing water quality in each sub-catchment
<i>Restricting land use change  Policy 6 and any relevant points within the plan</i>	I oppose	Innovation has always been at the fore front of New Zealand agriculture farm businesses should be able to assess and take advantage of changing market conditions and switch production as they see fit.	Delete this completely. The effects of any future land use changes should be assessed and addressed through an effective Farm Environmental Plan where best practices for mitigating any adverse outcomes resulting from a change in land use.

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