

**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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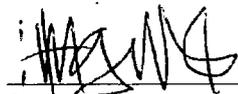
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I am not a trade competitor for the purposes of the submission but the proposed plan has a direct impact on my ability to farm. If changes sought in the plan are adopted they may impact on others but I am not in direct trade competition with them.

**I wish to be heard in support of this submission.**



Signature

5.3.17

date



Signature

5.3.17

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.

We are a brother and sister partnership farming in the Awaroa Valley, Hauturu. We are third generation farmers of this land.

We own a 900ha drystock property which runs breeding cattle, breeding ewes and fattens the majority of offspring. Our farm also incorporates 150ha of native bush, the majority of which is fully fenced off to exclude stock. The Toi creek, a major tributary of the Kawhia harbour, runs through the centre of our farm for over 4km.

We have a low stocking rate (approx. 7su/ha) and our farm is run extensively, with no water reticulation other than that around the homestead.

We are in the process of identifying land which can be retired, and have completed the Beef and Lamb LEP1 to help identify potential areas for mitigating against contaminant loss to further reduce our impact on the environment.

Although Plan Change 1 doesn't cover our location, we are entering a submission as there has been indication from the regional council that this plan is likely to be rolled out to the rest of the region in future. The implications of this on our farming enterprise are huge and was the PC1 to be rolled out as it stands, to the rest of the region it would be debilitating to our farming enterprise, and our local community.

We are currently in the process of succession planning as we both have young families. The introduction of PC1 with its inflexibility and uncertainty makes this a very daunting, and possibly unachievable process.

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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:		
	SUPPORT / OPPOSE	REASON	RELIEF SOUGHT
Objective 1 & Table 3.11-1	Support with amendments	We support the long-term restoration and protection of our waters. There is a concern that the table 3.11-1 80-year numerical water quality targets are unachievable, even under pristine conditions.	<p>Keep the intent of Objective 1, but amend Table 3.11-1 so that the water quality targets are achievable.</p> <p>Water quality targets, need to provide for both the values of water bodies such as ecological health, and cultural values, as well as providing for the social and economic wellbeing of people and communities.</p> <p>Amend Table 3.11-1 so that the numerical targets do not apply during flood events or when they are unlikely to be used – eg during the winter months</p>
Objective 2	Support this objective with amendments	Maintenance of the long-term social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of the Waikato Waipa	Strengthen the objective in relation to providing for the long-term <u>social</u> ,

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		<p>communities is vital to the survival of our rural and urban communities.</p> <p>I am concerned that the plan does not achieve this.</p>	<p><u>economic, and cultural wellbeing</u> of the Waikato Waipa communities.</p> <p>This must be done to ensure that the economic resilience, sustainability, and vitality, of people and communities is maintained.</p>
<p>Objective 4</p> <p>People and community Resilience</p>	<p>Support with amendments</p>	<p>We support objective 4 in relation to providing for people and community resilience. However as currently proposed PC1 will not achieve its objectives. Further plan changes including increasing stringency of land use controls will be required (Objective 4b). PC1 therefor fails to provide communities and individual's certainty about their futures and what will be required of them, and it therefor fails to ensure people and community resilience.</p> <p>The plan provides no pathway for individual and communities to work together to achieve the vision and strategy.</p> <p>Enforcement of 3.11.5.4 and 3.11.5.2 will heavily reduce farm profits, land values and community viability; making objective 4 People and community resilience unattainable.</p> <p>Our community will suffer through depopulation and reduced services.</p>	<p>Amend the objective so that it provides for People and Community resilience over the life of the plan.</p> <p>Numerical Freshwater objectives should not be set if they are not achievable. The required outcomes at year 80 and how they will be reached should be clearly set out.</p> <p>Delete clause b. Include a new objective which will provide for community and individual resilience. The people need to be able to adapt and their management processes. By taking a sub-catchment approach it allows the restoration and improvement of our waterways to become community lead and gives people ownership over the solving issues, and achievements that are made.</p> <p>Delete any reference to the staged approach and future plan changes including increasing stringency in land use control and requirements.</p>

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<p><i>Restricting land use change.</i></p> <p><i>Policy 6</i> <i>Rule 3.11.5.7 and any relevant points within the plan</i></p>	<p>I oppose this</p>	<p>It affects the value of our land and hinders any future ability to develop and grow our businesses.</p>	<p>Deleted in its entirety. It would be more beneficial to river quality to gauge land capability through the Farm Environment Plans (FEP) than to use a blanket prohibition</p>
<p><i>Nitrogen management application of the Nitrogen Reference Point (NRP) &amp; use of OVERSEER</i></p> <p><i>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></p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>We oppose the use of the Nitrogen reference point (NRP) and the grandparenting approach (holding users to their Nitrogen Reference Point). The low emitters are being penalised and the polluters may continue to pollute.</p> <p>It heavily penalises the low emitters – who will no longer be able to develop their farms (they may develop their farms but they will be unable to stock them with these rules) to help pay for the cost of mitigating against the other contaminants. There is no scientific evidence that a blanket rule for nitrogen restriction will be of any benefit.</p> <p>Low emitters should not be held to their NRP, as it removes their focus from the other, possibly more important contaminants and removes the ability to generate more income to address contaminants.</p> <p>I oppose the use of overseer as a means of determining the NRP – it relies on a wide number of assumptions and can vary depending on the</p>	<p>We seek that the Nitrogen Reference Point and use of OVERSEER are removed from the plan in their entirety.</p> <p>Adopt a sub-catchment approach to addressing contaminants that are relevant to each farm, not a blanket restriction of any particular nutrient that may not even be relevant to the water bodies in that catchment or subcatchment.</p> <p>Use FEP's to determine the best scenario for each farm, and science to determine which contaminants are an issue in each sub-catchment.</p> <p>Amend the rules so that they are effects and science based, not based on holding land uses and land users to historic leaching rates, stocking rates, and land uses or grandparenting in other words.</p>

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		<p>information that is entered into it. It was never designed to be used for this purpose.</p> <p>The years chosen to determine the NRP value were drought years, thus stocking rates were very low – this will mean would be restricted to carrying lower numbers of stock (cattle in particular) going forward.</p>	
<p>3.11.4.5 Sub-catchment scale planning</p>	<p>We support this implementation method</p>	<p>This is a sensible and practicable approach to controlling contaminant discharge and gives each farm, and catchment, ownership over their future.</p>	<p>We seek that the plan change should not be implemented until the scientific data around which contaminants are causing water quality decline is available for each sub catchment.</p>
<p>Stock exclusion</p> <p>Policy 3, Policy 4, Rule 3.11.5.1, 3.11.5.2, 3.11.5.3, 3.11.5.4 and Schedule C</p>	<p>I support with amendments</p>	<p>The national waterway accord <u>recommends</u> that slopes up to 15° be fenced, this should also be applied to PC1.</p> <p>Our 900ha farm is all natural water and we are in the first stages of changing to a reticulated water system. We have a myriad of what PC1 classes as waterbodies through our farm; should we be required to fence off every one of these, in the time frame required, it would most likely mean the end of our farming entity. It would not be financially feasible to fence off every water body as classified in PC1, and create a water reticulation system over 900ha. It would not be possible within the time frames that are used within PC1 should they be transferred to our catchment.</p>	<p>Change the definition of a waterway to that of the National Water Accord</p> <p>Change the slope requirements to 15° as per the National Water Accord</p> <p>Extend the timelines and give certainty to those of us with land classed as 6+ that we are not wasting our money and resources in fencing it due to the possibility it may be converted to forestry in future plan changes.</p> <p>Let the individual FEP present mitigations against contaminants, relevant to each farm, rather than a blanket approach.</p>

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		<p>The geography of a large portion of our land makes the fencing off of waterways extremely difficult if not impossible.</p> <p>Over 80% of our farm is currently classed as LUC 6e, and were we to fence all the waterbodies as defined in PC1, there is no guarantee with future plan changes that we will not be required to plant this land in forestry. To endeavor to fence off waterways and develop a water reticulation system without any future certainty would be ludicrous. No business could withstand this.</p>	<p>Any waterway fencing should be subsidised by Waikato Regional Council</p> <p>Enable stock to enter waterbodies if they are being actively managed across the waterbody and the waterbody is not crossed by stock more than 3 x week</p> <p>Let science determine the necessity of fencing of waterbodies, based on their current level of contamination, stocking rate and the proven impact of fencing of waterbodies.</p>
<p><i>Removal of northeastern (Hauraki) portion of Plan</i></p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Removal of a significant section of the lower catchment from PC1 means even more uncertainty about whether the plan will achieve the objectives.</p>	<p>Have the plan placed on hold, or withdraw the entire plan until the lower catchment is re-instated into the plan, at which time the plan can be notified as a whole.</p>
<p><i>Farm Environment plans</i></p> <p><i>Policy2, Rules 3.11.5.1, 3.11.5.2, 3.11.5.3, 3.11.5.4, 3.11.5.5, 3.11.5.6, 3.11.5.7</i></p> <p><i>Schedule 1</i></p>	<p>Support with amendments</p>	<p>We are concerned that neither our communities nor the Waikato Regional Council have the resources to meet the requirements of a farm environment plan (FEP) in the time frames required as detailed in PC1.</p> <p>There is also a concern that a consent to farm comes with consent conditions, which could add extra, indefinable barriers to our ability to farm, and further costs of compliance.</p>	<p>If an FEP is supplied, Rule 3.11.5.3 should be a permitted activity, not a consented one, regardless of the presence of a certified industry scheme. Remove the specification 'under a Certified Industry Scheme' from this rule.</p> <p>Extend the time frames to enable compliance.</p>

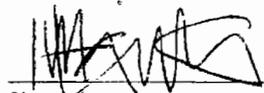
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			<p>FEP's should allow for mitigation against contaminants, not prescriptive blanket measures which have no scientific background.</p> <p>Delete the requirement to be held at or below the properties nitrogen reference point.</p> <p>We seek that the plan change should not be implemented until the scientific data around which contaminants are causing water quality decline is available for each sub catchment</p>
Policy 16	Oppose	<p>We oppose this policy. The application of the rules should not be based on the ownership of the land . The issues addressed in this plan are contaminant discharges and the rules should be the same for all regardless of ownership.</p>	<p>We seek that this policy is removed</p>

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Yours sincerely

Heather Gilbert

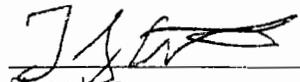


Signature

5.3.17

Date

Tim Gilbert



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