

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

Please consider forwarding a copy of your submission to B+LNZ so we can echo your comments in our submission

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Waikato Regional Council's proposed Plan Change 1.

The Worsp Family Trust has farmed at Matira (part of sub-catchment 16) for the last 17 years. We have farmed cattle and to a lesser extent, sheep, on 45.6 ha of easy rolling country.

We have always used the best professional advice available when applying fertilizer and lime; nitrogen use has always been timely and minimal.

Approximately 180 metres of a large drain flows across the property, half of which 50% is fenced, stock have minimal access to the drain and water is supplied by troughs.

Farming such a small area successfully relies on being flexible enough to change policies when prudent eg from dairy support to maize production and back again.

We have an ongoing policy of pest and weed control.

As with most rural communities we are close knit, work hard, often with little infrastructural help in the form of schooling roading, internet and cell phone coverage and sometimes in remote locations; we represent a small proportion of the overall population and yet contribute to a major part of the economy and social health of this country.

This plan, in its present form, threatens to jepodise the local and broader economy, breaking up communities, including the closure of schools and local supporting businesses and to severely affect the mental health of many farmers.

It should be supporting farmers to combine environmental advancement with innovative farming practices not halting the process through draconian regulation.

We all want a healthier environment and we all need to take some share in the responsibility for where we sit at this point, in the good and the not so good.

Governments have promoted fertilizer subsidies, land development schemes and "skinny" sheep schemes, all to encourage farmers to maximize the production from the land and now when we have created strong communities, maximized our debt levels in infrastructure and livestock you want to severely cut our income earning capacity and devalue our debt security cutting us off at the knees.

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 -

(beef-lamb)

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

Waikato and Waipa River Catchments

To: Waikato Regional Council
401 Grey Street
Hamilton East
Private bag 3038
Waikato Mail Center
HAMILTON 3240

Complete the following

Full Name: The Worsp Family Trust

Phone (Hm): 07 825 4515

Phone (Wk): 07 825 4515

Postal Address: 692 Matira Road, RD 2, Ngaruawahia 3794

Phone (Cell): not enough coverage.

Postcode: 3794

Email: srworsp@xtra.co.nz

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.

 28/2/2017
Signature **date**

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<p>The specific provisions my submission relates to are:</p> <p>State specifically what Objective, Policy, Rule, map, glossary, or issue you are referring to.</p>	<p>My submission is that:</p> <p>State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether you support, or oppose each provision listed in column 1; • brief reasons for your views. 	<p>The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:</p> <p>Give:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • precise 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
<p><i>Provision</i></p> <p>Long Term Land Use</p> <p>Objectives: 1,3 and 4</p> <p>Policy 5 and 7</p> <p>Rules 3.11.5.3 to 3.11.5.5</p> <p>Schedule 1</p>	<p>I oppose</p> <p>The reasons for this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This creates too much uncertainty in our ability to farm economically, to pay back debt and provide for our families. • This creates potential capital devaluation compromising equity in our land and unwillingness to invest. • It stifles initiative and innovation and the potential for advanced environmental and farming practices. 	<p>I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety</p>

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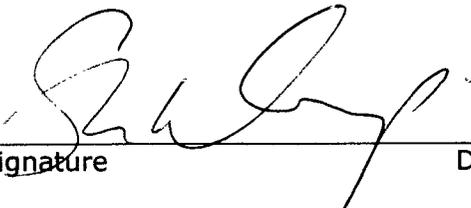
Provision	I support and for each whether or not you wish to amend	I seek that the provision is: amended as set out below:
<p>Stock Exclusion Rules 3.11.5.1 to 3.11.5.4</p>	<p>The reasons for this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the National Water Accord only recommends that slopes up to 15 degrees be fenced, and this should apply. Also, it recommends a different definition of a water body which we are more comfortable with. • The cost of fencing hill country farms is prohibitive as demonstrated by the Federated Farmers study. • In the past, there have been cost subsidies to achieve this and there is nothing in the plan to indicate that this will continue. • The timing is unachievable for us in a priority 1 catchment. We require more time to plan and prepare in order to fence effectively and provide an alternative water source for livestock. 	<p>As an alternative I propose</p> <p>That the rules are changed to reflect recommendations by the National Policy Statement on Fresh Water.</p> <p>That the timelines are extended to allow better decision making with any consequential amendments arising from the submission process</p>

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Provision	I oppose and for each whether or not you wish to amend	I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety
<p>Farm Environment Plan</p> <p>Pages 15-16</p> <p>Policy 2</p> <p>Rules 3.11.5.3 to 3.11.5.7</p> <p>Schedule 1</p>	<p>The reasons for this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is too restrictive and binding. It does not take into account any changes which may need to be made due to adverse weather conditions. It does not allow for farmers to produce their own FEP using national guidelines and these guidelines have not been developed yet and how and who will be decided on the prerequisites? • This will discourage innovation and development of new systems as farmers will be locked into a Farm Environment Plan. Retrogressive not progressive. • The timing is unrealistic given how comprehensive and binding the plan is. • There is a lack of Certified Farm Environment Planners which will result in inappropriate FEPs being signed-off, deadlines not being met and exorbitant charges from incompetent planners. • The indicative cost of engaging a Certified Farm Environment Planner will be prohibitive. 	<p>I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety</p>

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Yours sincerely


Signature _____ Date 28.2.2017