

**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.

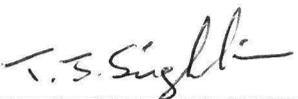
On: The Waikato Regional Councils proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1-
Waikato and Waipa River Catchments

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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

 2-3-17

Signature

Date

"The specific provisions of the proposal that this submission relates to and the decisions it seeks from Council are as detailed in the following. 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".

WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL PROPOSED WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN CHANGE 1 - WAIKATO AND WAIPA
RIVER CATCHEMENTS

Provision - STOCK EXCLUSION (Schedule C
(Including rules 3.11.5.1, 3.11.5.2, 3.11.5.3, 3.11.5.4, 3.11.5.6)

We oppose the exclusion of domestic cattle from water bodies by fencing all rivers, drains, lakes and wetlands.

Reasons

Although living outside of plan change 1 we are still concerned about it's recommendations. We have a family run hill country farm which has many waterways and creeks meandering through it. We rely on these natural sources of water to run our farm. The estimated total km's requiring fencing under these regulations for us would be 32km (x2).

- The cost of fencing our waterways, creeks etc is in excess of \$640,000
- In addition to this we would need to set up a water scheme for the whole farm costing approx \$400,000
- In order for the stock to cross the creeks and waterways we would also need to spend a considerable amount on bridges/crossings
- Weeds, especially blackberry would grow up around the river making swimming in the rivers/ fishing difficult. Rats etc would flourish in these areas
- Have scientific trials been done to research the effectiveness of fencing hill country creeks in order to reduce river contaminants?
- We could not practically and financially meet these requirements and feel that our farming enterprise would no longer be viable and the total farm value would be greatly reduced.

We seek that the provision of excluding domestic cattle from all water bodies is deleted for all hill country sheep and beef farms. However.....

- Farming could be planned to ensure that cattle are not 'break fed' on land with a main waterway unless it is fenced.
- Planning could be done to identify which paddocks cattle could be wintered on, in order to minimize run off. Possibly through an individualised farm environment plan.
- Remove fencing requirement for farms that are not intensively farmed i.e <8SU/ha
- Allow stock crossings at certain points of the river

WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL PROPOSED WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN CHANGE 1 - WAIKATO AND
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PROVISION (Schedule B)

Nitrogen management adopts a grand parenting approach

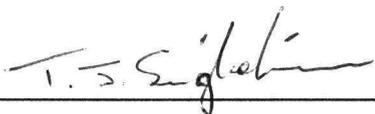
We oppose the restriction of nitrogen management by adopting a grand parenting approach.

REASONS

- Grand parenting reduces the ability to intensify, if that intensification means an increase in our 'Nitrogen Reference Point'.
- Many years we do not use nitrogen at all. Instead we tend to use RPR's and lime
- On hard years when we are running short of feed it is good to have the option of putting a small amount of nitrogen on in order to feed hungry animals.
- Last year we put 2 tonnes of nitrogen on our farm as we were running short of cattle feed. Just because we don't use nitrogen every year, doesn't mean that we should not be allowed to ever use it!
- In previous years, other owners have farmed this farm more intensively than us and used a lot of nitrogen to do so. We have lowered the stocking rate already and concentrated on natural fertility. To have the nitrogen restricted again would be a hardship.

We seek that this provision is amended so that those low users of nitrogen do not have this privilege/tool completely taken away.

Yours Sincerely

 2-3-17

Signature

Date