

SUBMISSION

Sierrama
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My name is Angus Smith . With my wife Jan we farm at Te Pahu north west of Pironga . The farm is at 106 Lime Works Loop Road milking 500 cows and running 20 beef . The family enjoy seeing eels, trout in the Te Pahu stream that flows through the property and the bird life , tuis , native pigeons , plovers turkeys pukako. I like the way the district is now and the flexibility of the rural community to adapt and change to economic events as they happen. All communities must be able to change and adapt as circumstances change . People do matter. No one wants to be part of a forced change in the rural economy and a decline in rural towns. People do matter.

Every person that this plan affects needs to know what are all the implications of the plan . Eighty years is a long time and no one will be happy if the " goal posts " are shifted . We must all know what is expected of the land owners, what it all costs and what are the benefits both economic and environmental . This must not be detrimental to people.

If land is to be retired from grazing who pays . We DO NOT want subsidies

This environmental plan upsets me for a number of reasons

1 . Any land use control must apply to all land users in our country Land is used to produce food for local and overseas consumers. Large areas of excellent market garden land has been built on and concreted over and lost to food production Citys must be restricted in size and large apartment buildings constructed for housing. As proposed in the guide lines we as farmers will not be able to intensify land use unless we apply for and get a resource consent Costs of lawyers and delays . The farming community will have non industry people deciding farming issues and that will result in bad decisions being made in the long term.

2. The plan needs to be completed out to eighty years (Why Eighty why not Twenty Who decided) , so we all know what we are agreeing to. This eighty year time frame would be impracticable because market forces and climatic events can change land use . Again lawyers and non industry people deciding how land is to be used , certainly not in the best interest of farmers.

3. As a farmer I need to know that I have certainty of land use options for profit long term. Do I plant trees now , if I do will I or my family be allowed to harvest this tree crop or will the the land use rules be changed ?Will the family be able to regrass all or part of that area ? We are not certain of future land use options. Once again will these decisions be made by non land use people.

4. Farmers look after their land. They do that because they want long term production off that land and they take a pride in their farms They always need flexibility to make the best long term decisions to respond to market forces This is financial returns against input costs

5. Erosion is a natural process. The Waipa river has always carried a lot of silt , more than the waikato . (With the hydro dams on the Waikato very little silt is transported downstream) .The land scape does change over time How much control of land and land use will this group of people want and will that control be in the best interests of all New Zealanders ? I was involved in partisipating and organising Raft races waikato river 1968 to 1978 always summer time , the finish line was the Tuakau river bridge The water was cold and a light green colour . This was long before the dairy boom and certainly not caused by dirty dairying.

6. I respect the need to control excessive use of nitrogen and phosphate We need to remember that the nitrogen fixing by clovers before the clover weevil came to New Zealand was higher than the nitrogen is applied to pasture out of a bag. (per hectare) To the best of my knowledge there is no cost effective (economical) way of measuring nitrogen and phosphate runoff /leaching from farms . There is a basic need to get this measuring science sorted before control is put in place so that the guessing is eliminated

7. Weed and pest control The koi carp need eliminating from waterways so that our native species of fish can thrive. Gorse control needs sorting . Gorse is a nitrogen fixing plant Get rid of it from the stream edges and there will be a reduction of nitrogen in the water

In summary all New Zealanders need to buy into this proposed control of our country The towns and citys need to clean up there streams and waterways , no more sewerage spills into streams rivers or harbours. The oil and diesel run off from state highways into farm drains and stream that is not the farm pollution Angus Smith