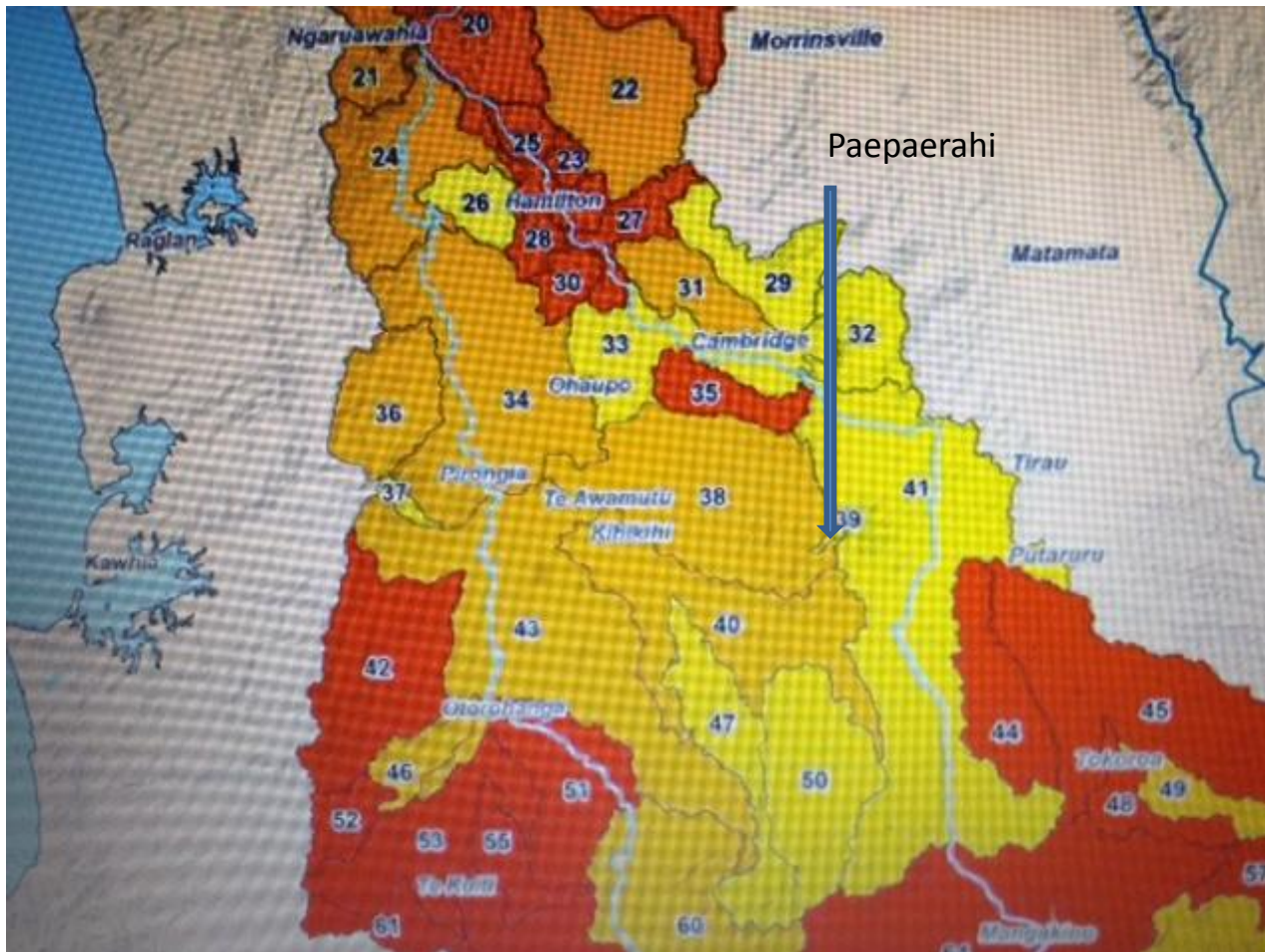


Mike and Clare Ravenscroft



Own and farm 63 hectares (140 acres) in district of Paepaerahi (Priority 3) in the Mangaohoe catchment, a tributary to the Waipa River.

We have one spring fed stream (Korokanui Stream) that runs through the entire length of the farm, mostly in a relatively steep sided gorge. The stream is prone to flooding in times of excessive rain.



50% moderate to steep hill, 50% rolling
10% used for sheep (store lambs only) and 90% for dairy beef rearing and fattening.



- Farm purchased in 1994 as a run-off for a dairy farm we owned at that time.
- Unhappy with the impact of modern dairy farming practices we sold the dairy farm in 2000 and decided to do our dream of being dry stock farmers on the run-off.
- We currently also lease approximately 32 hectares at Plateau Dr. on the edge of Hamilton City which enables us to reduce the stocking rate on the home farm. (Approx. 10 hectares of this block is fenced off for water protection, as the Mangaukotukutuku Stream is on two sides of the block.
- Working on this land close to the city has in part created some of the frustration and sense of injustice we are feeling with some the requirements in Plan Change 1 that are being made of farmers. There ,we are watching new housing developments where foliage and topsoil is ripped off right to the edge of the stream and pristine farmland is lost forever. Meanwhile we have fenced off a thirty metre strip to protect the stream on our side.

Overall, we are in support of the Vision of Plan Change1 and have been working on the home farm for many years to address protection of the environment in several areas. Our concerns are directed more specifically at some of the strategies and tools.



Explanation 1: Objective 1 (Urban contaminants, phosphorous and Table 3.11-1)

- We have learned through reading that the combination of phosphorous and nitrogen indirectly affect the water quality and resultant swimability because they have an effect on the growth of phytoplankton. We have also learned from Waikato District Council data that 45% of the P loading into the Waikato River comes from farming and that 55% comes from other sources. (18% from point sources and 37% from natural sources).
- We have been told that phosphates are an element within sewerage and would like to think that urban point sources were being used for data gathering with the same intensity as rural locations.
- We do not understand why phosphorous levels and targets are not included in the data gathering or targets set in Table 3.11-1
- Omission of phosphorus data has the potential to provide incomplete and skewed data because the effect of that element will not be considered.
- We feel there is an injustice in this current strategy.

Explanation 2 Objectives 2 and 4 Measurable targets for social cultural and economic well-being.

- Plan change 1 makes several references to the fact that these changes are going to cost and that it is a cost that will need to be sustained over an undisclosed time period. Our concern is that there does not appear to be any table of indicators that could be used to measure, for example economic well being of specific groups most affected by these changes. Regional gross productivity measurement will not provide data that reflects increase in farm debt and reduced productivity that has resulted from enforced land use change. Nor will it reflect reduced land values and the consequences of that for farmers who have, in good faith, purchased land under quite a different set of regulations.
- If there are no prescribed indicators for social, economic and cultural wellness (very much the focus of the present government) then these considerations will not be monitored, nor will they be addressed should the Plan prove to have adverse results that have a dramatically negative effect on some sectors of the community.

We want to continue to have a viable business and at the same time maintain our role as kaitiaki of the land that we have worked hard to own. We would like to ensure that our actions do not adversely affect a vibrant rural community and that it is not eventually surrounded by pine trees.

