

We do agree with the Vision and Strategy that the Waikato and Waipa Rivers are being degraded, and require amongst other things, restoration and protection. We recognise that the restoration of water quality with the Waikato Regional Council area is so it is safe for people to swim in and take food from is of high importance.

I'm proud to say that my husband Gary and I and family have lived in Mahoenui, part of the West Coast Catchment for the last 19 years which was owned by one other family for over 100 years. A photo taken of the farm in 1927 proudly hangs on our wall.

We are proud of what we do – sheep & beef farming.

We are very fortunate to farm 2,200 acres of diverse country, with the Awakino River running through part of our farm. We love where we live and feel very protective of the environment that supports our livelihood. We too could have converted our flats to as they say the 'white rush' like our neighbours but with experience of living in this area we know that we have a very high rainfall and with heavy cows on the land it is not good for the environment at all, we don't need overseer to tell us this, it's common sense.

Since we have been here we have fenced all the river off, we have retired trees to Native Bush and also retired land to QE2, we are now in the process of fencing of smaller areas such as drains and sidlings. We have troughs in every paddock so our water system is entirely gravity fed. In total we have over 100 troughs on the farm so no longer do any stock have access to the Awakino River.

Awakino translates as bad creek which I can't understand as our Awakino River is very beautiful, it has a stone bottom, if it does flood it rises very fast and goes down very quickly which causes sedimentary, we have no control over such weather. This river is a very recreational place providing lots of fun particularly in the summer for swimming, kayaking and fishing. We now have the 4th generation of the Jamieson family coming here from the Taranaki, fishing and enjoying this river. Just recently a neighbour fished along the boundary and caught and released 10 trout in one morning.

With regards to the proposed plan there is a lot of uncertainty which is going to lead to havoc in the farming industry. Already there are lot of farms for sale and many aren't selling. We feel this plan is too intensive and is trying to change everything at once. We need to farm land in a good environmentally way yet to be financial. We also want the land here for future generations – it will not be if it is environmentally damaged or if we become financially incapable to maintain it.

One provision put forward is conversion from farming to forestry. Financially this isn't viable. Trees won't be harvested for at least 30 years, there is no income for the farmer in that time. Once the trees are cut down there is so much mess left behind and the damage that can be caused as we have seen in Tolaga Bay just isn't acceptable. Too many trees on the hills might be ok when first planted but when it comes to harvesting they need transport to get them out which means more land disturbance, and who is going to plant all these tree's, we have trouble finding people now for small plots.

Another provision put forward is restricting land use. Farmers already do this in their own way without any rules, we have changed different types of stock where they have not suited certain land. Our farm plan shows us to have 14 different land use capability units and 9 dominant soil types and we have learnt to farm the right stock in the right area of the farm. I do worry about no flexibility for the next generation, they may be financially stretched when buying land so want to take on for example dairy graziers but won't be allowed to because the previous farmer didn't, yet the farm next door is allowed to. Banks are already only lending on short terms because of the uncertainty. Each farm is very unique in it's own way and all farms shouldn't be put in the same category. This is where the suggestion of a farm plan will serve it's purpose.

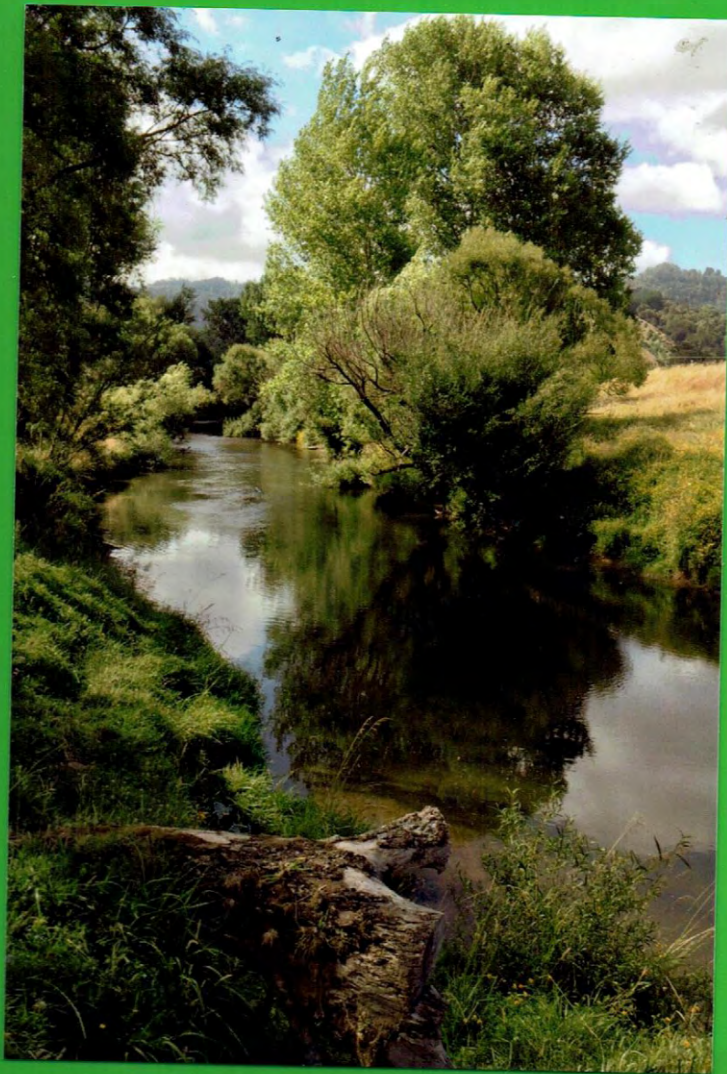
The Nitrogen Management Provision gives no flexibility at all. The Overseer has a high error rate that I haven't even tried to find out what our NPR is. Using the overseer it doesn't give a true picture as we do trade stock and quite often we have to farm due to weather conditions, market prices. We won't be able to develop paddocks for example with cropping if not already doing this, sometimes people don't do things because of financial reasons and/or weather conditions. We have the example of once we had 2 lots of farming friends farming in another area suffering from drought conditions where we had plenty of grass and took their stock on to help them out till it rained and they had grass again, we wouldn't be able to do this, under any new provisions.

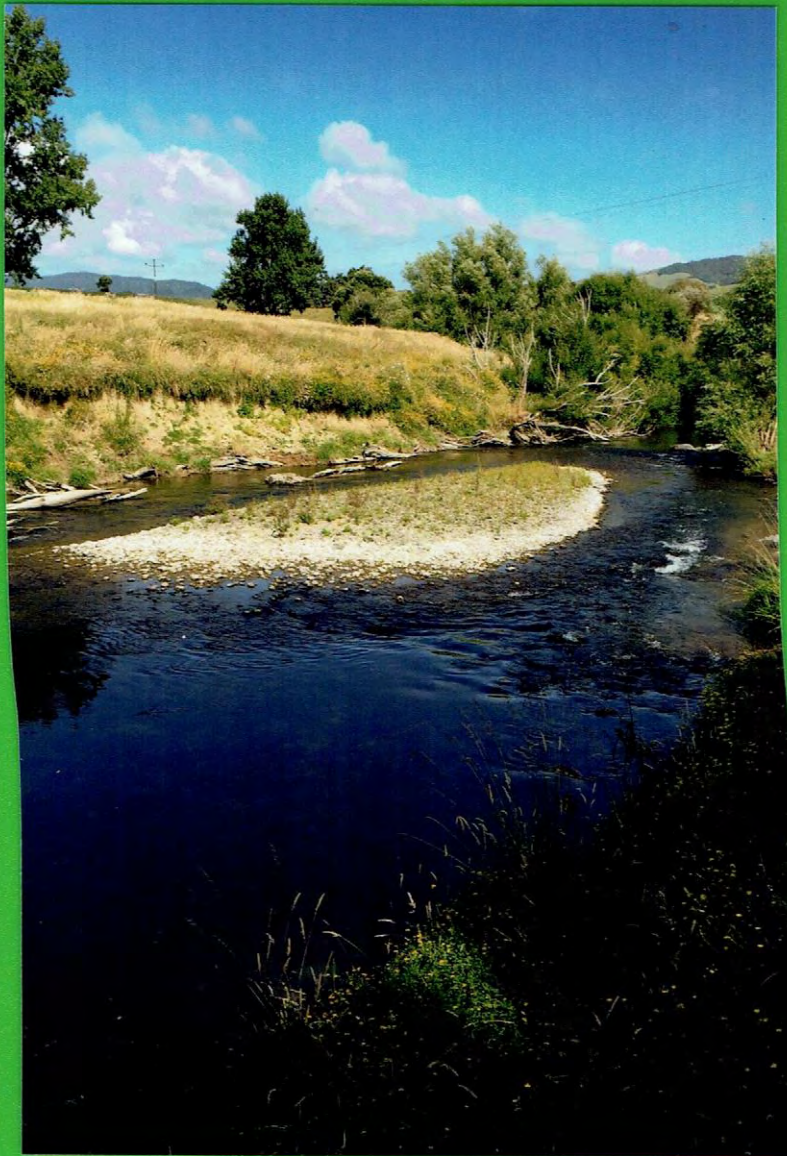
I feel again every farm should be treated individually. With this provision there is no certainty after a 10 year period and definitely no encouragement to be proactive.....

We have worked hard to develop our farm to what it is today. We are proud of the environmental friendly changes we have made to running of the farm and with many more plans and goals as our cash flow and time allows but this won't be allowed for future generations.

Our local community has met and formed the Awakino Sub Catchment Group and have had some good meetings along with a field day last year to help protect our local waterways We also have a local who has developed a nursery and will be selling native plants to the community this year. We have a common goal and are being responsible for our waterways and our target is to have good farm practice and environment management for water quality in the West Coast.

We have a good farming community here in Mahoenui now but what will our community be like in 10 to 80 years time, which scares me because why have we worked so hard for the last 30 years as have the earlier generations, to leave our beautiful farm for future generations if we are being given no flexibility in our farming practice and the proposed plan changes are not treating us as individuals







2509 State Highway 3, Mahoenui
2200 acres of diverse country
- 14 different Land Use Capability Units
- 9 different soil types





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Up in the hills -
Limestone





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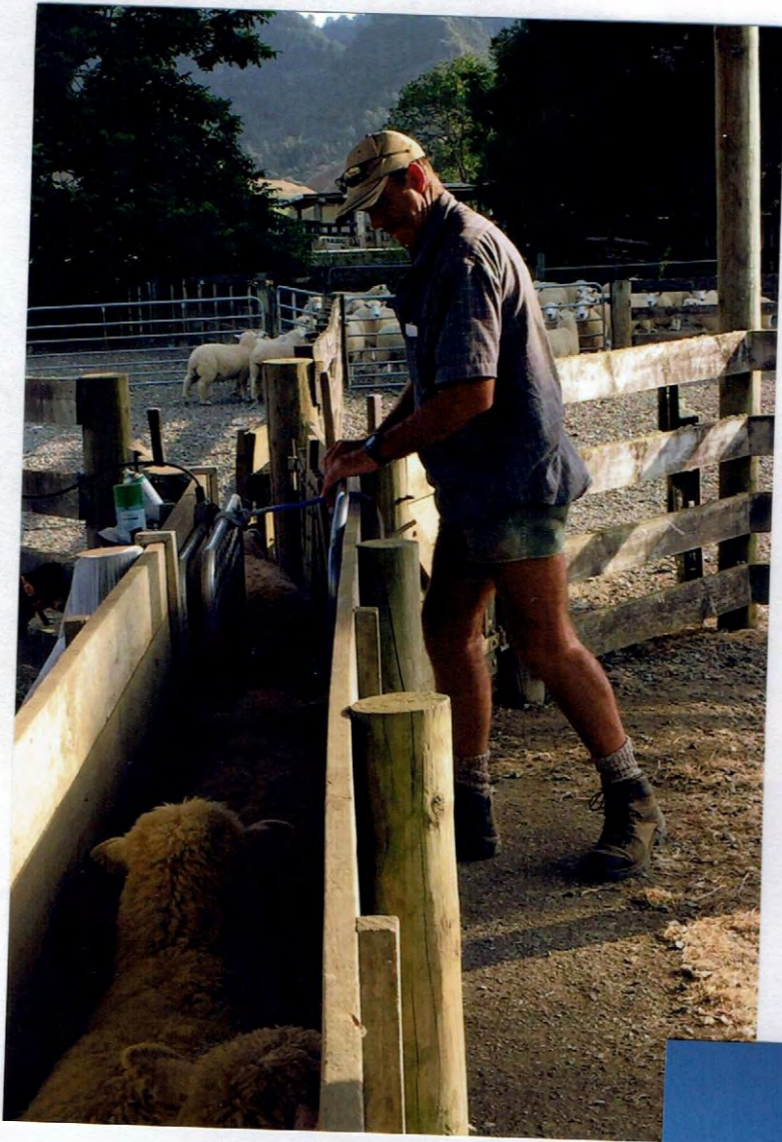
The flats have Awarakino River
running through the middle of them





run 3000 Ewes





2016 Oct 25





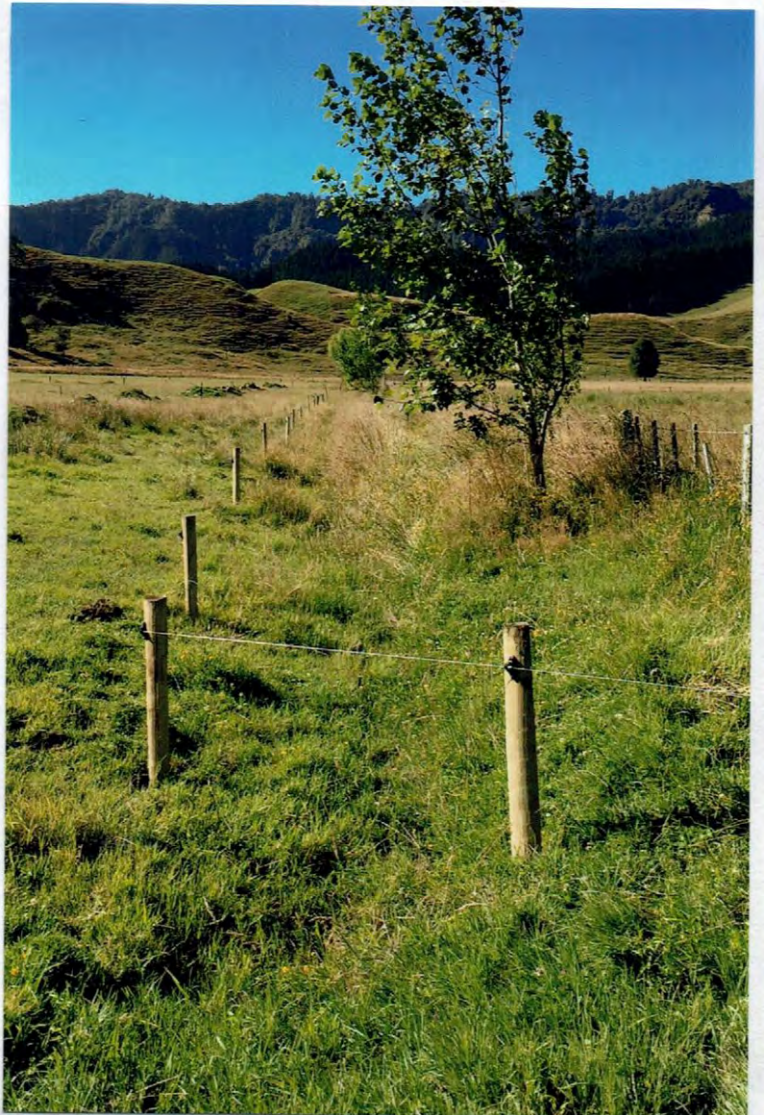
De run 750 cattle







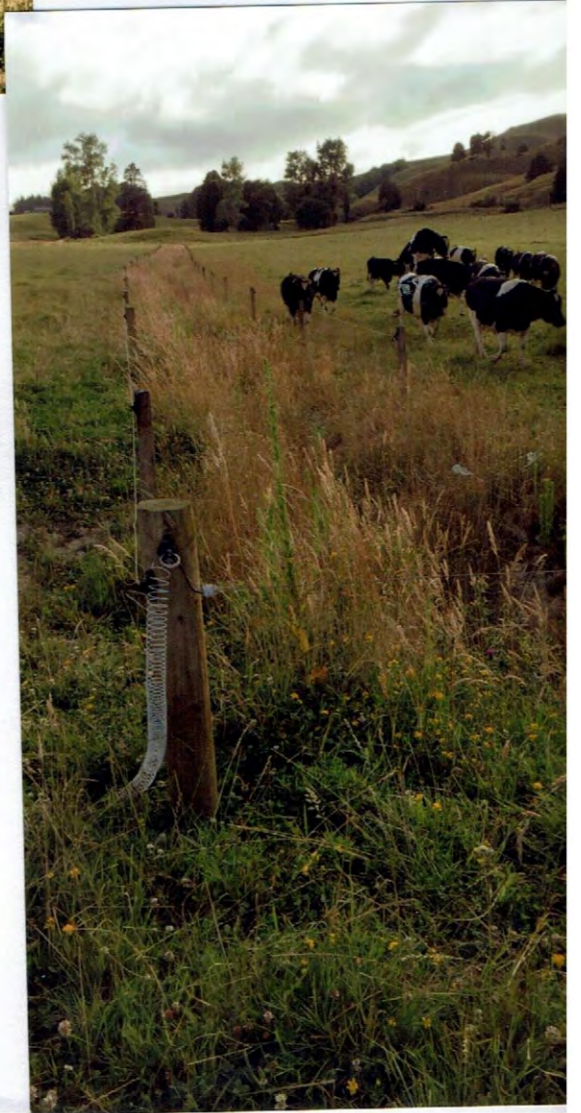
Fencing of drains



Trees for shelter



Riparian fencing

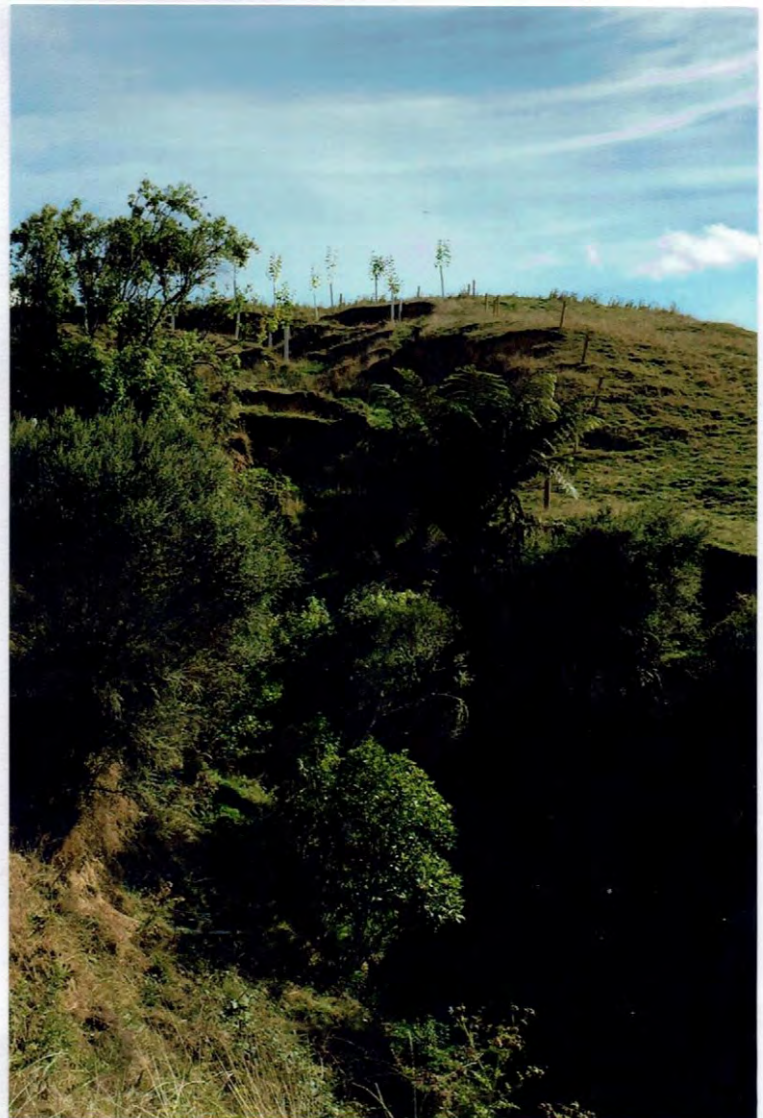






fencing / planting of seedlings









test fencing of
area - January
2019







2 km fenced of Native Bush





As per farm Plan 2016
Stabilising the gully

