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

Submission Form

Submission on publically proposed Regional Plan prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991.

On The Waikato Regional Council's proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 – Waikato and Waipa River Catchments.

To Waikato Regional Council

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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 our ability to farm. If the changes sought in the plan are adopted they may impact on others but I am not in direct trade competition with them.

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I wish to be heard in support of this submission

If others make similar submissions, I would consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing.	
Amol	7/3/2017
Signature	Date
Diana Smith	7/3/17
Signature	Date

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Introduction

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

Diana and I have farmed the property at 439 Taniwha Road for 42 years. The property has been in our extended family for around 70 years.

Our land area is 205.45ha. Over time it has moved from being a small dairy farm on to a breeding property for sheep and cattle, to total sheep to now predominately finishing beef and an horse enterprise.

The specific provisions of the proposed Plan Change that my submission relates to is:

3.11.5.7 Non Complying Activity Rule.

The proposed rule states -

Not withstanding any other rule in this plan, any of the following changes in the use of the land from which was occurring at 22 October 2016 within a property or enterprise located in the Waikato and Waipa catchments, where prior to 1 July 2026 the change exceeds a total of 4.1 hectares.

- 1 Woody vegetation to farming activities; or
- 2 Any livestock grazing other than dairy farming to dairy farming; or
- 3 Arable cropping to dairy farming; or
- Any land use to commercial vegetable production except as provided for under standard and term g. of rule 3.11.5.5

is a non – complying activity (requiring resource consent) until 1 July 2026.

I support oppose the above provision.

I Oppose.

The reasons I oppose this rule is that over my time farming is this area we have had to adopt a FLEXIBLE farming policy due to disease and market changes.

These changes have had to have been made predominately due to an outbreak of facial eczma in the mid 1980's. This created a loss of half of our 2200 breeding ewe flock over two years

This involved a progression from sheep farming to cattle farming over a twenty year period by means of grazing dairy cattle, calf rearing and store stock selling, maize growing, and now to a profitable bull finishing unit.

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Under the proposed scheme I understand that each of the steps to the achieved recovery would involve a change in land use with it's associated cost and time frame for approval. This period was difficult and would have been impossible if the proposed restrictions had been in place.

Our success in recovering from this situation was due to the flexibility we could exercise at the time. This and our on the ground knowledge of our location.

Had our tenure terminated in the mid 1980's, I believe that many of the "other" activities would not have been welcome on the property. These have included cricket games, orientation events and extensive equestrian events.

Around 1600 horses and riders enjoy the opportunity to ride on the property.

The significance of this is part of the flexibility we are willing to exercise now. We are happy and able to host these people. This stems from our social conscience and our community values. Also I guess if this was not provided by land owners it would become a civic responsibility.

The Decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:

That in rule 3.11.5.7 flexibility be allowed for movement in stock types in the Dry Stock industry with stocking rates (rather than nitrogen caps) being the determining factor. This would allow for individual action without the need for permission to respond to the various crisis and market forces which hit every enterprise from time to time.

In Conclusion

Thank you again for the opportunity to put forward this submission.

We support the objectives of the Healthy Rivers proposal, however we question the severity of the imposition of the changes on the dry stock industry. This severity is at the expense of rural values and the rural contribution to the Nation.

Yours sincerely

Graham & Diana Smith

Date