

Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 – Waikato and Waipa River Catchments.

Submission form on publicly notified – Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 – Waikato and Waipa River Catchments.

SubForm	PC12016	COVER SHEET	
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
		Submission Number	
Entered		Initials	
File Ref		Sheet 1 of	

FORM 5 Clause 6 of First Schedule, Resource Management Act 1991

SUBMISSIONS CAN BE	
Mailed to	Chief Executive, 401 Grey Street, Private Bag 3038, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240
Delivered to	Waikato Regional Council, 401 Grey Street, Hamilton East, Hamilton
Faxed to	(07) 859 0998 <i>Please Note: if you fax your submission, please post or deliver a copy to one of the above addresses</i>
Emailed to	healthyrivers@waikatoregion.govt.nz <i>Please Note: Submissions received my email must contain full contact details. We also request you send us a signed original by post or courier.</i>
Online at	www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyrivers
We need to receive your submission by 5pm, 8 March 2017.	

YOUR NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS		
Full name Thomas & Simone Bentham		
Full address 691 Manawaru Road, Manawaru		
Email simonelocke@kaimaifarms.com	Phone 021944939	Fax

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE OF SUBMITTER		
Full name Thomas & Simone Bentham		
Address for service of person making submission 691 Manawaru Road, R.D.1 Te Aroha 3391		
Email simonelocke@kaimaifarms.com	Phone 021944939	Fax

THE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 1 THAT MY SUBMISSION RELATES TO

*Please state the provision, map or page number e.g. Objective 4 or Rule 3.11.5.1
(continue on separate sheet(s) if necessary.)*

See attached

I SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE ABOVE PROVISION/S

(select as appropriate and continue on separate sheet(s) if necessary.)

- Support the above provisions
- Support the above provision with amendments
- Oppose the above provisions

MY SUBMISSION IS THAT

*Tell us the reasons why you support or oppose or wish to have the specific provisions amended.
(Please continue on separate sheet(s) if necessary.)*

See attached

I SEEK THE FOLLOWING DECISION BY COUNCIL

(select as appropriate and continue on separate sheet(s) if necessary.)

- Accept the above provision
- Accept the above provision with amendments as outlined below
- Decline the above provision
- If not declined, then amend the above provision as outlined below

Amend as follows:

PLEASE INDICATE BY TICKING THE RELEVANT BOX WHETHER YOU WISH TO BE HEARD IN SUPPORT OF YOUR SUBMISSION

I wish to speak at the hearing in support of my submissions.

I do not wish to speak at the hearing in support of my submissions.

JOINT SUBMISSIONS

If others make a similar submission, please tick this box if you will consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing.

IF YOU HAVE USED EXTRA SHEETS FOR THIS SUBMISSION PLEASE ATTACH THEM TO THIS FORM AND INDICATE BELOW

Yes, I have attached extra sheets.

No, I have not attached extra sheets.

SIGNATURE OF SUBMITTER

(or person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter)

A signature is not required if you make your submission by electronic means.

Signature Tom & Simone Bentham

Date 8 March 2017

Personal information is used for the administration of the submission process and will be made public. All information collected will be held by Waikato Regional Council, with submitters having the right to access and correct personal information.

PLEASE CHECK that you have provided all of the information requested and if you are having trouble filling out this form, phone Waikato Regional Council on 0800 800 401 for help.

Additional sheet to assist in making a submission

Section number of the Plan Change	Support /Oppose	Submission	Decision sought
Please refer to title and page numbers used in the plan change document	Indicate whether you support or oppose the provision.	State in summary the nature of your submission and the reasons for it.	State clearly the decision and/or suggested changes you want Council to make on the provision.

T & S Bentham
691 Manawaru Road
RD 1
Te Aroha 3391

Waikato Regional Plan Change 1: Healthy Rivers Submission

We are dairy goat farmers supplying the Dairy Goat Co-op (NZ) Ltd ('DGC'). Two of our properties border the Waihou River. We have been dairy goat farming for 3 years. We are a young farming couple and have just welcomed our first daughter into the world. We care about the environment and support the Healthy Rivers Plan Change 1 in principle. However, there are aspects of it that greatly disadvantage our particular farming system and also the efforts we have made to date to reduce our environmental footprint. Below we list the areas of concern we have and our reasons why:

1. We are relatively new to dairy goat farming. We converted our land to milking goats from dairy cows in 2014. We have steadily increased our milk supply over the last three seasons due to a graduating capped system for new suppliers to DGC. The contaminant levels that our business output in seasons 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 are not indicative of our farming operation going forward as these were development and growth years. We are concerned that any capping of a nitrogen reference point in these seasons may set our contaminant loss limits differently to our final business set up. This may also potentially affect our land value, which is the greatest asset in our business.
2. There is currently no accurate measuring or benchmarking model such as Overseer that gives a nitrogen reference point for the dairy goat farming 'cut and carry' system.
 - a. Our goats are housed in a large housing barn on one of our properties. We use a 'cut and carry' farming model to feed our goats fresh pasture and also silage. Our goat housing barn flooring is lined so the runoff (urine) is collected and spread back on the pasture along with our dairy shed effluent. This is spread over a reasonable area of land via piped hydrants.
 - b. The leftover feed and waste from our housing barn is composted on a compost pad with an impermeable surface. The leachate is also collected from the compost pad and spread back on the pasture. We consider this compost utilisation to be a main component of our fertiliser program.
3. We strive to maintain a biological farming practice on our land. We now apply very little nitrogen fertiliser to our pasture and we are working towards removing this completely. Our environmentally responsible methods of farming and capital infrastructure that we have put in place (as outlined in point 2) to reduce contaminant losses may disadvantage our business as we will be required to reduce these proportionally. This is not equitable.
4. Stock is not clearly defined. In Plan Change 1 Schedule C 'stock' is referred to as cattle, horses, deer or pigs but elsewhere it refers to livestock and stock without definition. Goats are not clearly differentiated. This needs to be made clear. We currently have no stock grazing our properties. From 1 June we will have stock grazing one of our properties, this will not occur within 200 metres of the Waihou River. Our properties boundaries with the Waihou River are all fenced and is either already planted or the grass is left to grow rank. We are planning

and budgeting on further riparian planting and maintenance for the coming season and future seasons.

In conclusion, we would like Healthy Rivers Plan Change 1 to be equitable to farmers like ourselves who have taken action to reduce environmental impacts of our business. It would be unfair for us to be required to do as much as those who have taken no action to date. We would also like dairy goat farming and the lack of a key reference tool such as Overseer to be acknowledged and an alternative given to our niche industry that does not disadvantage our current operations or future land uses.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas & Simone Bentham