

Hello Thank you for this opportunity to present our submission, we are Hayden and Susan Brooks and we are third generation farmers in the Matira Valley where we farm sheep and beef cattle on 1300 hectares of beautiful rolling hill country.

Along with my father and grandfather before me we have had a long history of diligent land use and continue this to this day. We have a stringent nutrient plan in place to minimize the adverse effect of fertilizer on land and water ways.

On the farm we have annual tree planting plan which includes at least 200 popular poles for both animal protection and erosion and recently some native tree plantings and have also been retiring land for pine tree planting for the last four years, our photos show evidence of this.

We are also very involved in keeping feral animals to a minimum.

We are part of the local RRMP Group and the Plan 1 Change Whangape Headwaters, Pepepe, Matira Sub Catchment Group along with others who care about their land and regularly get together to discuss best farming practice.

Our farm is more than just our livelihood, it is our home and where we spend so much of our time as a family. Our vision is to leave our two children with a productive farming operation which they can continue and be proud of.

The points of our ~~submission~~ submission are as follows.

Long Term Land Use

- We oppose this as we would like the right to change the land use in the future if the present land use become uneconomical
- This also creates potential for capital devaluation and unwillingness to invest in the future.

Nitrogen Reference Point

- We oppose this, we are already low emitters and this does not support those who have done the right thing by the environment and effectively rewards high emitters.
- This is a poor nutrient allocation process, this does not take into account the significant climatic variation that exists within a farming system over the course of a year nor does it take into account the significant flexibility that must remain for land based activities to remain viable.

Stock Exclusion

- We request for amendment to deadline date of 01 July 2026, we think that we require more time to plan and prepare to complete this job, and also the cost involved, there is no subsidy for the farmers to complete this requirement.

- We have no issues with fencing off water ways but our concerns are that there is no control over feral animals such as goats and deer that will make these buffer zones almost impossible to maintain.
- Reference information provided by the Waikato Regional Council states that stock exclusion fencing needs to be provided when the land is up to 25 degree slope where the National Water Accord only recommends that slopes up to 15 degrees should be fenced, we agree with this and feel is more practical.

Restricting Land Use

We oppose this because:

- This impacts on the potential value of our land into the future as we are restricted by what we are able to do with our land.
- As currently third generation farmers this restricts the ability for our future families to develop our farming business.
- It restricts our ability to react to changes in the market as well as climatic changes and adverse weather effects.
- It undermines the land owners rights to utilize their land with current best practice.

Farm Environment Plan

We oppose this because:

- This is too restrictive and binding, it does not take into account any changes which may need to be made due to the adverse weather conditions.
- These will discourage innovation and people trying new systems as farmers will be locked into a their Farm Environment Plan that has been signoff by a Certified Farm Environment Planner.
- We feel that the timing is unrealistic given how comprehensive and binding the plan is.

Contaminant Loss from Farm

We support :

- The contribution that Koi Carp make needs to be included in this proposed plan. The plan requires to be adjusted to certain rules for the elimination of the Koi Carp with any consequential amendments arising from the submission process. Outlined in our photos, our first creek photo is above our waterfall where there is no carp where the additional two photos show the outsides of the creek are eaten away by the carp.

Sub-Catchment Management Policy

- We support the policy of a sub-catchment approach this is a fairer way of governing problem areas within the catchment and promoting good catchment management.

Thank you for your time.

