

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

Introduction

AJ & BI Gill Limited

Our farm comprises 643 hectares, 1642 acers effective, contour rolling to steep, and is located at 496 Kihi Road in Oparau. The farm is fenced into 33 main paddocks and 4 holding paddocks. The location is 26 kms from Kawhia.

The farm was purchased 8 months ago and currently runs sheep and beef cattle. The farm was purchased predominantly as a family entity, and the intention is to see the farm remain within our family for generations to come.

The farm contains natural ponds and springs, with the Kihi, Te Kauri and Ngapohoi streams running through the property.

Working on current capacity on the scale of rural bank and agents, our property should be able to carry 6000 stock units, including lambs and weaner calves, with wintering rates being 4000 stock units. These figures have been used to base our budget on in terms of rural lending. If we are not able to carry these numbers, we will not be able to service our commitments to staff and lending institutions. I am almost 70 years old, and my wife is no spring chicken either, therefore we must rely on staff to run the farm for us. We could possibly afford between \$2500 - \$5000 per year, year dependent, regarding complying with your requirements re: healthy rivers.

I feel extremely disadvantaged by these proposed new rules, as I only purchased the farm in July 2106, therefore I don't have my own history to call on in terms of fertilizer history, stocking units etc, therefore will be set at a "default" level - which does not allow me to run my farm as I wish to.

I don't believe this is financially sustainable because if you are going to tell me how many stock units I can run, my income levels will suffer as a result. The only manure that has ever been used on this farm is Dicalic - no nitrogen.

Partially opposed to the fencing requirements. The cost of fencing our property would be huge. We have 2 stony-bottom rivers that, every year, will wash any fences put up away. It also seems unfair that all farms will not have to comply with this requirement, ie) Maori owned land - what is the difference between their land and my land?

Completely opposed to the gradient of the land. The majority of our farm is steep, and this rule will impact hugely on our stock numbers, and will likely make our farm unviable.

Completely opposed to needing a farm management plan, resource consent and to the proposed timeframes for the changes coming into effect. The cost of implementing a farming management plan for our farm is complete unrealistic. In the late 1950's - 1960's, farmers were asked by local government to clean up their waterways but removing trees and straightening up rivers to prevent flooding and care for the environment. So why are we now going to be landed with the unsustainable costs of fixing up this requirement? We believe that slowing the water flow down by leaving trees in the river will create major flooding issues again, and do the environment no good whatsoever - a fast running river stays clean.

The rivers on our farm have huge catchment areas and we fear that letting these waterways block again will cause more flooding, which in turn will cause more damage to the environment ie) trees falling in, dirt running off etc. In our situation, our rivers are partially tidal, therefore it doesn't matter what we do, at some stage the water is dirty due to the ebb and flow of the tide.

A resource consent shouldn't have to be purchased to tell us how we are able to farm our own land. Any restraints on diversification via a resource consent is limiting our income stream for future generations, and reeks of a dictatorship.

We refuse to let anyone on our land under the HSE Act and WorkSafe requirements - if EW or their representatives need to, by law, come onto our land, we need a date and a time fixed with 1 month's notice of this visit, to allow us to meet the requirements of the above Acts.

We don't mind working alongside Councils, as long as it is not turning into a dictatorship. We would like a collaborative approach, and the way we see this plan as it is presented, it seems to be more of a dictatorship, which we think is totally unfair. The process is so flawed, I don't know how any free country could allow this type of dictatorship to this extent - we were not informed by anybody when we bought this property that these changes were in the wind. Also, to give us a copy of these changes to read and try to comprehend, and then scrap that set of rules and give a revised set in such a short time is totally unbelievable. The process appears to have been un-consultative, farmers are generally older people who do not deal with this type of process every day - this seems to disadvantage this group of people, with no supports offered or provided by the Council to assist with this - this seems very wrong. The process is not a collaborative one, no matter how you try to dress it up. Meetings were held, but no-one was allowed to speak - how does this let our voices and opinions be heard?

We fear that with all of this over-burdening costs being pushed onto farmers, our social services will be depleted. Small farming communities and the towns that they support will be severely affected, in turn creating uncertainty for families.

There has been no mention made of compensation being paid for Environment Waikato retiring private land, or compensation for fencing, material and labour, therefore we state again that we feel that this is unsustainable in the present format.

Yours sincerely

AJ & BI Gill



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: Alan and Bonnie Gill		
Full address: 496 Kihi Road RD 2 Oparau 3886		
Email: rachmal@clear.net.nz	Phone 07 8710204 0211245677	Fax

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE OF SUBMITTER		
Full name: Alan and Bonnie Gill		
Address for service of person making submission: 496 Kihi Road RD 2 Oparau 3886		
Email: rachmal@clear.net.nz	Phone: 07 8710204 0211245677	Fax

TRADE COMPETITION AND ADVERSE EFFECTS (select appropriate)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I could / <input type="checkbox"/> could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
<input type="checkbox"/> I am / <input type="checkbox"/> am not directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that:
(a) adversely affects the environment, and
(b) does not relate to the trade competition or the effects of trade competition.
Delete entire paragraph if you could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

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.)*

3.11.5.2 4 C i. ii. pg. 40

Schedule C 4 a. b.

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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

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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.)*

Partially opposed to the fencing requirements as it will be huge money. We have 2 stony-bottom rivers that, every year, will wash any fences put up away. Weed control is going to be an issue within the fencing boundary with chemical used leaching into the water ways. It also seems unfair that all farms will not have to comply with this requirement, i.e.) Maori owned land - what is the difference between their land and my land? The time frame to implement schedule C 4 a. b. is unrealistic and financially unattainable, as we have any been farming for 8 months. Meeting these time frames will put us out of business.

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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

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Amend as follows:

We would like financial compensation from Regional Waikato to buy material and to pay labour cost to erect fences.

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.
3.11.5.2 4C. pg. 40	Oppose	Completely oppose this rule as most of our farm would have a slope more than 15 degrees. Again, this would put a huge strain on financial commitments. There would be no room to diversify and grow our business. Who will pay for the fencing that will be needed, and compensate us for loss of productivity?	
3.11.5.4 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. a. b. c. d.	oppose	We are opposed to having to purchase a Farm Management Plan to tell us how we are able to farm our own land. Any restraints on diversification via a resource consent is limiting our income stream for future generations, and reeks of a dictatorship. Waikato Districts Council wants complete control over a business that I purchased. They are going to dictate to me how I will run my business and what my income will be. (Dictatorship).	
Schedule B a. b. c. d. e. f. g. i. ii. iii. iv. V. vi. Nitrogen Reference Point	oppose	This is a system that requires data entry. How will you be monitoring processes and advisors to ensure that the NRP on farms is accurate and fair? I don't have much confidence in a system like this that is going to determine how much stock, thus income. I can put on my land.	

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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



Date:

05.03.2017

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.