

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

**Submission Form**

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

**On:** The Waikato Regional Councils proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 –  
Waikato and Waipa River Catchments

**To:** Waikato Regional Council  
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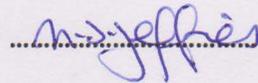
We are not a trade competitor for the purposes of the submission but the proposed plan has a direct impact on our ability to farm. If changes sought in the plan are adopted they may impact on others but we are not in direct trade competition with them.

**We wish to be heard in support of this submission.**



.....dated 28/2/17

**Gary Jeffries**



.....dated 28-2-17

**Joy Jeffries**

***To Whom It May Concern***

Gary and I have been farming in Mahoenui within the West Coast Catchment of the Waikato Region for the past 17 years.

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

We are very fortunate to farm a 2200 acres farm of diverse country with the Awakino River running through the middle of our farm. We love where we live and feel very protective of the environment that supports our livelihood.

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

The Awakino River is a very recreational river with our family and friends enjoying its many benefits. Raising a young family, many happy summers have been spent swimming, kayaking and fishing in

the Awakino River. Each year we also have several fishermen arrive at our farm to fish for trout. We therefore want to preserve the river as best as we can for future generations to enjoy as we have. However, we have a business running alongside the riverbanks and feel that this plan if enacted will lead to severe financial hardship for our business.

We purchased our farm in 2000 believing it had great potential. Before takeover it ran mainly ewes and cows. The cow's water supply was via large dams and access to the Awakino River.

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 the running of the farm and with many more plans and goals in this area as our cash flow allows.

- No longer do any stock have access to the Awakino River, with the entire river bank fenced
- A well-established trough system has made the dams redundant, our water system is entirely gravity fed therefore not requiring any electronic pumps. This water supply is also used by the neighbouring farm
- All tomos are fenced

We are proud to say that upon testing, it was found that our water from our streams in the hill area of our farm is clean drinking water for ourselves, should we want to.

With regards to the proposed plan there seems to be a great deal of uncertainty which is going to lead to havoc in the farming industry. The repercussions of this will not only affect farmers, but will also impact our communities now and in the future.

We feel this plan is too intensive and is trying to change everything at once. We propose the focus needs to be reduced and smaller steps be taken in order to minimise financial impact and to be practical.

We need to farm land in a good environmentally way yet to be financial. Farming is not just a business, it our lives. We 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.

Therefore we seek that the plan in its current form be **declined**.

*The specific provisions of the proposal that this submission relates to and the decisions it seeks from Council are as detailed in the following table. The outcomes sought and the wording used is as a suggestion only, where a suggestion is proposed it is with the intention of 'or words to that effect'. The outcomes sought may require consequential changes to the plan, including Objectives, Policies, or other rules, or restructuring of the Plan, or parts therefore, to give effect to the relief sought'.*

## PROVISION

### THE VISION AND STRATEGY:

#### Rules 3.11.1

*We support this because:*

- Healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, and all it embraces, for generations to come.

*We seek that the provision is **Retained** as proposed*

## PROVISION

### CONVERSION FROM FARMING TO FORESTRY:

#### Objectives 1, 3 and 4

#### Policy 5 and 7

#### Rules 3.11.5.3-3.11.5.5

#### Schedule 1

*We oppose this because:*

- 80 year period is very big to make big decisions now
- Science is developing all the time and within even 10 years science can make big developments
- We have science now that is able to make human waste into water – why can't we keep our rivers clean with science?
- No certainty from this plan for the future of farming, investment and management decisions
- Financially this isn't viable
- Tree's won't be harvested before 30 years, no income to the farmer in this time

*We seek that the provision is **Amended**.*

*As an alternative we propose:*

- Plan for the next 80 years, not 10 as there is no certainty
- Concrete science/scientifically based is used
- Realistic goals as unachievable plan

**PROVISION**

**RESTRICTING LAND USE CHANGE:**

**Policy 6**

**Rule 3.11.5.7**

*We oppose this because:*

- Huge impact on value of our land
- Will affect our rates, less money available to Waitomo District Council and Waikato Regional Council and to the local community
- 2 dairy farms right next door to us, yet we can't change our farming policy which has the potential to be further intensified by the next generation, we wonder if the sheep&beef farm also next door, that recently was for sale didn't sell because of the uncertainty of this proposal?
- No flexibility for the next generation, they may be financially stretched when buying land so to take dairy graziers on won't be allowed if not farmed like this earlier
- No potential to intensify land in the future
- Restricting land use i.e. cropping

*We seek that the provision is Deleted in its entirety*

**PROVISION**

**NITROGEN MANAGEMENT:**

**Objectives 1 and 4**

**Policy 2 and 7**

**Rules 3.11.5.3-3.11.5.7**

**Schedule 1**

*We oppose this because:*

- Overseer has a high error rate
- No flexibility
- Due to a trading stock regime the actual stock rate at any given time varies considerable throughout the year with a significant increase carried over the summer months i.e. not to stock numbers as per Balance sheet date ending June ....
- Stock bought in July/August for many reasons i.e. weather, expensive market don't show on Balance sheet date ending June .....
- Graziers aren't included in stock numbers as per Balance sheet as not owned by farmer
- Unable to develop paddocks with cropping if not already doing this
- Unable to help farming friends in another area suffering from drought conditions by carrying their stock for them
- Unable to follow stock market, change stock class because of climate change
- No certainty for future planning

*We seek that the provision is Deleted in its entirety*

*As an alternative we propose:*

- Use the FEP to measure land use to land capability

**PROVISION**

**FARM MANAGEMENT PLANS**

**Policy 2**

**Rules 3.11.5.3-3.11.5.7**

**Schedule 1**

*We oppose this because:*

- What is/are there an expiry date of each individual FEP?
- Not enough specialised people in FEP's – time frame unrealistic
- Security at WRC with our business information
- Privacy intrusiveness
- FEP's are expensive and take a lot of time to do

*We seek that the provision is Amended.*

*As an alternative we propose:*

- LEP's with good farm management
- Community buying into Wetland/Riparian area's

**PROVISION**

**STOCK EXCLUSION**

**Policy 2**

**Schedule C**

**Table 11-2 priority sub catchments**

**Rule 3.11.5.1-3.11.5.4**

*We oppose this because:*

- Unrealistic to be completed within 3 years
- Financially and labour intensive
- Impractical in steeper areas
- Fencing can cause erosion
- No science to show pressure on waterways with low stock numbers
- Loss of income/pasture quality
- Weed issues with fencing which then brings in chemical spraying near waterways
- Dam's not permanent water flowing – definition not clear
- No certainty of cost subsidy

*We seek that the provision is Amended.*

*As an alternative we propose:*

- Follow the FEP of each individual farm
- Definition of what water has to be fenced