



The C. Alma Baker Trust
PO Box 324,
PUKEKOHE 2340
Phone: 09 238 9219
Email: calmabakertrust@ct.co.nz

Mr VRJ Payne
Chief Executive
Waikato Regional Council
Private Bag 3038
Waikato Mail Centre
HAMILTON 3240

Councillor Alan Livingstone ONZM
Chairman
Waikato Regional Council
Private Bag 3038
Waikato Mail Centre
HAMILTON 3240

17 February 2017

Dear Sirs

THIS SUBMISSION FROM THE C. ALMA BAKER TRUST (NZ) LTD IS IN RESPONSE TO THE HEALTHY RIVERS WAI ORA PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 1. IT RECOMMENDS THE WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMISSION AND FUND A COST /BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 1 RULES ON THE LIMESTONE DOWNS CATCHMENT.

Limestone Downs is a 3,219 ha costal hill country farm owned by the C. Alma Baker Trust. It comprises; a recently established 540 ha dairy unit, a 2,000 ha sheep and beef farm and 400 ha of retired native bush. The Trust operates as a charitable organisation directing funds to its aim of "the furtherance of the science of agriculture. " Through a long standing collaborative relationship with Massey University, on-farm research projects are undertaken at Limestone Downs which has a respected leadership reputation within the New Zealand agriculture and scientific community. Many far reaching industry developments have benefited from this on-farm field trialling.

The Waikato Regional Council Wai Ora initiative is a bold response to addressing the complex problem of water quality in the Waikato and Waipa Rivers. While the initial focus is on these rivers it is expected other Catchment Zones will later come under the same rules. This will include the West Coast Catchments, which comprise 426,000 ha (1,050,000 acres) or 17% of the Waikato Region. Its rivers and streams drain a large number of catchments to the Tasman Sea stretching from Port Waikato in the North to the Mokau River in the South.

The Kaawa Stream, into which most of the Limestone downs drains, is one such catchment. While not a large catchment it is typical of other West Coast catchments. My Board believes the Limestone Downs catchment presents the WRC with an opportunity to undertake a cost/benefit analysis. The costs will include; fencing off the springs, waterways and wetlands, the planting and maintenance of retired areas – protected by necessity from feral goats, deer and pigs The installation of reticulated stock drinking water will also require a significant investment.

In parallel with the diary conversion, the Trust commissioned a research project by ecologists, KesselsEcology. The resulting stream health and water quality information would be made available to your Council. Updated data from samples yet to be taken of the present levels in the Kaawa of the four key contaminants to water: pathogens as measured by E. coli, sediment, phosphorus and nitrogen, will be of wide interest to west coast farmers and residents. Bankers who will be requested by clients to provide funds for the significant costs associated with the Wai Ora proposals will also see considerable value in your cost/benefit analysis findings. The Trust will be able to provide a history of Kaawa stream flooding events and the development of Limestone Downs over the past 90 years.

Limestone Downs wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

Yours faithfully



Dame Margaret Millard
Chair of the Board of Directors



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1 March 2017

Dear Sirs

THIS SUBMISSION FROM THE C. ALMA BAKER TRUST (NZ) LTD IN RESPONSE TO THE HEALTHY RIVERS WAI ORA PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 1.

Further to your email dated 21 February 2017 we can confirm the following:

- Limestone Downs will not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
- Limestone Downs requests to present their submission independently of other submitters.

We trust that the above answers your queries and look forward to receiving a formal letter acknowledging receipt of our submissions.

Yours faithfully

Dame Margaret Millard
Chair of the Board of Directors