

# PROPOSED WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN CHANGE 1 WAIKATO AND WAIPĀ RIVER CATCHMENTS



Mandatory questions form for submissions on Proposed  
Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 – Waikato and Waipā River Catchments.

Important: Save this PDF to your computer before answering. Please check or update your software to allow for editing. We recommend Acrobat Reader.

FORM 5, Resource Management Act 1991

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

## THIS FORM 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 <b>Please Note:</b> if you fax your submission, please post or deliver a copy to one of the above addresses
Emailed to	healthyivers@waikatoregion.govt.nz <b>Please Note:</b> Submissions received by email must contain full contact details.
Online at	www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyivers

## YOUR NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS - please ensure these details match those on your original submission

Full name: A.D & R.L. Hicks  
 Full address: 46 Torehape West Rd.  
R.D. 1 Ngatea  
 Email: rhicks@farmside.co.nz  
 Phone: 078677264 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

## TRADE COMPETITION AND ADVERSE EFFECTS (select appropriate)

- I could /  could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
- I am /  am not directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that:
- (a) adversely effects the environment, and
- (b) does not relate to the trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

## 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.

## SIGNATURE OF SUBMITTER - note you can also type your name to certify the above information is true and correct

Signature: Rh Hicks Date: 4/4/2017

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.

## Submission to the Healthy Rivers Plan

From A D and R L Hicks

46 Torehape Road West R D 1 Ngatea

### The Compulsory Use of Consultants to Prepare Farm Environment Plan

As a Steep hill country dry stock farmer of 40 years' experience I have never employed a consultant, yet the BNZ used our farm as an Industry benchmark for many years.

My Concerns with having to use a consultant are;

- 1 The money would be more wisely spent directly on farm environmental issues.
- 2 The FEP could be done by farmers themselves as the consultant will be relying on information provided by us.
- 3a Because there is very little precise science around the knowledge of sediment movement between classes of stock relative to soil types, topography and nutrient movement we will be exposed to emotional and visual interpretations of different consultants and this is **not good enough**.
- 3b If the science was precise there would be no need for an expert to review it?
- 4 Should the WRC not have the expertise to handle a farmer generated plan then they should employ more experts and share the cost with all those who benefit rather than the farmers having to meet all costs.
- 5a Because many hill country farmers put on no, or low levels of fertiliser the nutrient transfer will be negligible.
- 5b Those farmers who do put on regular fertiliser have access to nutrient budgets and overseer and will be able to do their own FEP.

6 Should the FEP need to be so detailed that only an accredited consultant can write it, then no farmer will follow it and what is the point of that?

**Concerns Around Requiring Resource Consents for Change of Land Use and Stock Policy**

Having farmed through many Govt policies..... Muldoon, Lange etc., many economic cycles, industry calamities and adverse weather events, all out of our control, we have learnt the key to economic survival in the hill country dry stock industry is to be flexible, able to read markets and to be able to move stock policy quickly should the need arrive .

Would an accountant who wishes to grow his client base have to apply for a consent or the corner dairy who wants to change stock policy have to apply to WRC to do so?


So why should a farmer have to apply for consent to change stock policy or stock ratios in order to keep up with the market.

This draconian part of the plan has the potential to kill Hill Country farming by having bureaucrats and policy makers dictate how we run our business.

This goes back to the days when the government run banks set farm policy.

This part of the plan needs to be thought about very carefully as bureaucrats have a bad habit of being slow and wrong and leave the farmers who are left behind to pick up the pieces and pay the price.

**If farmers are not profitable there will be no way that we can enhance the environment.**

Signed AD Hicks .....RL Hicks.....