

**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

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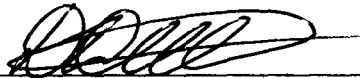
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I am not a trade competitor for the purposes of the submission but the proposed plan has a direct impact on my ability to farm. If changes sought in the plan are adopted they may impact on others but I am not in direct trade competition with them.

I wish to be heard in support of this submission.

If others make similar submissions, I would consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing.

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 02-03-2017
Signature date

Signature date

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Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Waikato Regional Councils proposed Plan Change 1.

My name is Dale Constantine and my wife Gillian and I have lived in the Waiterimu community for close to five years. Having previously been involved in a 400ha property in Naikē with my parents I purchased this 21.43 ha property in April 2012.

The property has a balance of contour with approximately half being flat to rolling and half medium to steeper hill. These contours are split by the Mangapiko stream which runs through the property. During my ownership of the property I have undertaken a number of fencing projects to fence areas of Manuka and native trees as well as waterways from cattle access. This has been for both environmental and animal management control purposes. I have further fencing of smaller waterways planned for completion in the near future.

My income from the property is from the sale of cattle grown with 20-30 animals being sold each year.

The small community of Waiterimu is largely supported by farmers and families and is reliant on their participation and contribution for its sustainability.

I also contract work for farmers in the area helping them with a variety of general farming duties as well as casual work for the local Farmlands store in nearby Huntly.

This forms the basis of me completing a submission as I rely on a sustainable hill country farming economy to provide for my wife and I.

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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 thereof, to give effect to the relief sought.

The specific provisions my submission relates to are:	My submission is that:		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:
	SUPPORT / OPPOSE	REASON	RELIEF SOUGHT
<p><i>Land Use Change Provision and Restrictions</i></p> <p>Restricting Land Use Rules 3.11.5.6 3.11.5.7 And any further amendments as a result of this submission process.</p>	I oppose	<p>I submit that hill country farming is a business requiring constant revision of policies and practices due to it's integral reliance on weather and economic conditions. To remove the flexibility of land usage to maximise these conditions would be to the detriment of farmers and their surrounding communities. I would lose the ability to grow crops for dairy support and or supplementary feed for my own cattle without a lengthy and costly consent process which would likely be refused by authorities.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety.</p> <p>As an alternative I propose</p> <p>Farmers retain the right to make changes to their farming practices to ensure they remain a viable and sustainable business for generations to come.</p>

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The specific provisions my submission relates to are:	My submission is that:		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:
<i>Permitted Activity Rules Small and Low Intensity Farming Activities</i>	I Oppose	Small land holdings have less farming options available than large scale operations and also potentially have less effect on environmental conditions.	Increase property size requirement to 20ha (effective). Stocking rate <12SU
<i>Stock Exclusion From Waterways</i>	I oppose	Due to the geographical nature of my property I would effectively lose the ability to farm half of my farm as stock would be restricted from crossing the stream. A certified stock crossing structure would likely be expensive and provide no cost benefit.	Allow stock to be herded across stoney bottomed waterways without a consented stock crossing structure where herd number is less than 30 and frequency no greater than twice weekly.
<i>Stock Exclusion From Grazing Land >25 degree Slope</i>	I oppose	Due to the geographical nature of my property I would effectively lose the ability to farm half my farm as the contour would be too steep. This would have a severe impact on financial return I could receive from my land.	Allow cattle to be grazed on land with a slope >25 degrees with a lower stocking rate than on flatter contour, say 8-10SU.

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The specific provisions my submission relates to are:	My submission is that:		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:
<i>Partial Withdrawal of Proposed Plan Change 1</i>	I Oppose	Waikato Regional Council MUST treat all it's members as one and stop the one rule for one and a different rule for others approach.	Withdraw the whole plan until an acceptable agreement to treat all parties as one is achieved.

Yours sincerely

Dale Constantine

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A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

02-03-2017

Signature

Date