

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

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

THIS FORM CAN BE

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

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

Full name: _____
 Full address: _____

 Email: _____
 Phone: _____ 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: _____ Date: _____

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 ON PLAN CHANGE 1

The main point of my submission is that Plan Change 1 should be withdrawn. There are several reasons why this should happen.

1/ The withdrawal of part of the catchment that is under the jurisdiction of Hauraki iwi and the subsequent negotiations with these iwi, is an open ended process without a fixed end point. Splitting the catchment into two sections will lead to uneven and inequitable outcomes for farmers. Until these negotiations are concluded, PC1 should be suspended.

2/ The recent announcement of freshwater rules by MFE is due to undergo a submission process. Again PC1 should be withdrawn until notification of the final version of these rules, and these should be the basis of rules applying in the Waikato. It would be inequitable that rules in the Waikato should be substantially different or more stringent than nationally applied rules.

3/ PC1 uses imprecise science in the form of the nitrogen leaching assessment tool, Overseer, and the unknown rates of attenuation in the movement of nitrogen between farm subsoil and waterways, to produce legal outcomes that affect the livelihood of farmers. This is grossly unfair. The rules for reduction of nitrogen outputs should follow those proposed by Horizons Regional Council, requiring a farm nutrient plan and introduction of best practice. This will require a complete revamp of a major section of PC1, and a withdrawal of the plan would be necessary to allow time for these changes to be developed. The grandparenting provisions of PC1 are also especially detrimental to drystock farmers who may wish to increase productivity or change land use. This may lead to perverse outcomes, such as incentives to subdivide land for residential use or into sections of less than 4.1H. The preservation of high quality land for agricultural use may be severely comprised by these perverse incentives under this plan. There is no point in maintaining high quality land if it cannot be made productive. In the long term this may undermine the rating base in the Waikato for local authorities.

4/ PC1 is the first stage in a multistaged approach in achieving water quality objectives for the Waikato region. This introduces major uncertainty to farmers, as investment in achieving improved water quality in the first stage, such as fencing of waterways on hill country, may be wasted if subsequent stages have even more stringent rules which are impossible to comply with. The use of a staged approach should be discarded.

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