

Submission:

Schedule 1

I support the overall vision to improve water quality and requiring all citizens to be responsible around the resources available, I submit that the approach being taken by the Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 has not been developed logically nor has any economic plan or base line been outlined to fund the proposed plan.

In the rural sector this will create distrust amongst the farming community and a reaction against the Waikato Regional Council. The will result in defiance of the rules and deliberate on-compliance to any proposed remedies required to make any plan work for the benefit of all.

A bureaucracy will be required to implement the plan that will be unsustainable and become a burden on the ratepayers in the region.

The Plan Change 1 controls on farm management systems will limit the productivity of the agricultural base of the region that is the region's economic base.

The proposed plans costs to the individual farmers will be excessive in many instances where waterways are required to be fenced off and the newly created wasteland managed by the farmers, with no financial benefit to these farmers.

Schedule 2.

Use of the Overseer programme for the definition of a reference point as a basis for a Farm Environment Plan (FEP)

The Overseer Programme was never designed for this use, the version we have today is vastly different than what we had available in the past. What will we have in 5 or 10 years time and how will it relate to the decisions/plans the WRC wants the property owners to work to now.

Schedule 2 cont

Overseer can be manipulated to suit a particular requirement and I predict that this will be the case if the proposed plan goes ahead. If Overseer was done on this property today before the 2 to 3 days rain forecast and then in 10 days time Overseer was done again there would be two very different results.

I support the development of the FEP's and ask why can't the data now used/held on each property for that property be used to develop a plan for the property to meet catchment plan for the area.

A base line of required data will be needed for each and every property in the catchment ie from 4 hect to x hect.

Yes this will create costs for the 4 hect lifestylers but they can and do contribute to the contaminants that flow into the water courses.

I am not suggesting that the FEP's be done and reviewed every year, but that a programe be established that covers 40 hect and up with river boundaries every 5 years to 4 hect lifestyle every x years once the FEP's are in place, for example..

When we have marginal farms or Organic or alternative type properties who have never used Nitrogen or have only used low levels of Nitrogen who are next to a high Nitrogen user the " 75 percentile rule " as laid out currently is going to create direct conflict in any given catchment area.

Using the FEP's for each catchment area we need to establish a median level for N/P/Sediment& Pathogens for the whole catchment, then those under the median levels have room to plan to come up to the median level if they want to and those over the median levels have to plan to come down to the median levels over a specified time period.

Schedule 3.

Discharge of contaminants over an adjoining property.

As a land owner who has 8 adjoining titles, ranging from 4500 sqm to 60 hecets, who discharge contaminants onto our property which because of the contour will finish up in the river at the rear of our property, why and how are we to meet our contaminant requirements at the discharge points into the river.

Schedule 4.

Sediment in the Opuatia river at the rear of our property.

I have requested 4 times in the 28 years I have owned this property for assistance from the relevant Waikato Authority to have the Willows removed from the centre of the Opuatia river and from some of the key positions on the bends, where they are doing damage to the river banks and as yet haven't had any action at all.

Further to this for X years we had someone come in once or twice a year to harvest the Carp and the Eels, but since the ownership of the Waikato river changed this has stopped.

This has resulted in the Carp numbers increasing along with their size increasing which has resulted in the damage to the Opuatia river banks being significantly greater, and the sediment level is considerably up on what it used to be.

Finally I have got to say as a small dairy farm who has had a very tough period because of the payout, and who has set aside a Queen Elizabeth Trust block and a Conservation Area of native plantings, is surrounded by Lifestylers, Sheep & Beef & Bull farms, if the plan is confirmed as it is set out at present, we will not be able to carry the costings, and meet the requirements of this proposal.

I know that the WRC will take a risk based approach to this plan as set out at present, but based on our dealings with WDC & WRC over the last 3 to 4 years there is never any common sense or logic applied to any thing these entities do and no recognition of the costs involved or any need for there to be a benefit to the property owner.

Therefore I am asking that the WRC takes a step back from this plan and take the time to get it right, because the Waikato agricultural community and all the people of this area cannot afford to have what we see going on in other regions of New Zealand.

Submitter.
Geoff C Hooker
P.O.Box 26
Tuakau
2342

Ph 092328490