

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

**To:** Waikato Regional Council  
401 Grey Street  
Hamilton East  
Private bag 3038  
Waikato Mail Center  
HAMILTON 3240

Complete the following

**Full Name:** Peter Nichol.

**Phone (Hm):** 09 2334311.

**Phone (Wk):**

**Postal Address:** R.D. 1, Tuakau 2696 .

**Phone (Cell):** 0274433942 .

**Postcode:** 2696 .

**Email:** ffps @ farmside . co . n . z .

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.** ✓

P. R. Nichol.                      17/2/17.  
Signature                                      date

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<p>The specific provisions my submission relates to are:</p> <p>State specifically what Objective, Policy, Rule, map, glossary, or issue you are referring to.</p>	<p>My submission is that:</p> <p>State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• whether you support, or oppose each provision listed in column 1;</li> <li>• brief reasons for your views.</li> </ul>	<p>The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:</p> <p>Give:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• precise details of the outcomes you would like to see for each provision. The more specific you can be the easier it will be for the Council to understand the outcome you seek</li> </ul>
<p>Provision Objective 1: Long term restoration and protection of water quality for each subcatchment and freshwater management unit.</p>	<p>I support/oppose/ and for each whether or not you wish to amend</p> <p>The reasons for this are:</p> <p>I support this objective provided my other points in this submission are taken into account.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety/ Retained as proposed/ amended as set out below</p> <p>As an alternative I propose</p>

## Introduction.

This introduction is a brief overview about ourselves, our farm and how we operate.

The farm is a family farm owned by Peter and Anita Nichol. The property is in two titles that total 125 hectares and they boundary one another. Contour is varied and ranges from flats to gentle fattening country, medium hill and a small amount of steeper country.

The farm fattens beef steers and heifers and also grazes dairy heifers. The average cattle numbers carried would be around 300, but can vary from 150-400 depending on season, cattle markets etc.

Around 2002-2003 we voluntarily fenced two areas of native bush to exclude the cattle with no assistance from Councils. These two areas are also the start or headwaters of two small creeks.

We like to think we are environmentally aware of the affects our operation has on the environment and support improvements in water quality but these improvements must be able to be implemented practically and affordably.

Thankyou.

Peter Nichol.

P. R. Nichol.

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Provision	I support / <u>oppose</u> and for each whether or not you wish to amend	I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety / Retained as proposed / <u>amended</u> as set out below
<p>Policy 1: Manage diffuse discharges of Nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and microbial pathogens.</p>	<p>The reasons for this are: Why only these 4, ie Nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and microbial pathogens. What about runoff from roads, both urban and rural. The other pollutants include petrol, diesel, car wash chemicals to name a few.  As proof that agriculture is not the only polluter, Hamilton lake is one of the most polluted lakes in the country with no farms any where near. Game birds are the polluters here, nobody seems to care!!</p>	<p>As an alternative I propose  <u>More Research</u> by Council and or Central Government into other non agricultural pollutants entering waterways.  <u>Education of urban folk</u> ie wash your car on the grass not the concrete so chemicals don't go down the drain into waterways.</p>

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<p>Policy 16: Flexibility of development of land returned under Te Tiriti o Waitangi settlements and multiple owned maori land.</p>	<p>The reasons for this are: Don't agree with this at all. If the Plan goes ahead with the Policy 16 intact all the good work of other landowners will be negated if more large tracts of pine forest and gorse scrub land are converted into dairy farming with its accompanying increase of nitrogen leaching.</p>	<p>As an alternative I propose  Not sure of the answer on this one, perhaps conversions allowed but with lower stocking rates along the lines of what has happened in the Lake Taupo catchment More research needed!</p>

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<p>3.11.4.3. Farm Environment Plans.</p>	<p>The reasons for this are: For me, this will be an expense that is unacceptable. The cost of preparing a FEP has been estimated by industry experts at anywhere between \$2000 and \$5000. This is a lot of money for our small farming operation. Combine the cost of a FEP with the cost of the required Resource Consent and the total cost becomes even more unpalatable.</p> <p>The detail required in the FEP plan is too comprehensive and time consuming.</p> <p>If this requirement gets the go ahead the data base that will be created and the accompanying work load will be far too much for the present Council staff to handle and will require a massive increase in rates to pay for extra staff to handle the work load.</p>	<p>As an alternative I propose</p> <p>Amended to a simplified FEP that is not so costly.</p> <p>Delete the requirement for a Resource consent.</p>

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<p>Schedule B. Nitrogen Reference Point.</p>	<p>The reasons for this are: This sends the wrong message by penalising farming operations with low stocking rates, low fertiliser use and therefore low N leaching and rewards operations with high stocking rates.</p> <p>For the farmers with already low stocking rates this rule "<u>steals</u>" future potential for the farm.</p> <p>Further, the method proposed to the NRP being "<u>Overseer</u>", everybody knows the lack of accuracy of this tool.</p> <p>This policy is also highly likely to cause our farm and other farms to devalue in price by leaving no future potential for productivity increases to drive profitability</p>	<p>As an alternative I propose</p>

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<p>Schedule C. Stock Exclusion from waterways.</p>	<p>The reasons for this are: I foresee huge future problems with this as from experience once streams or rivers are fenced all manner of weeds take over the riparian fenced strip, the main ones being blackberry, gorse, bracken fern and various creepers. I have personally seen this in many places along riverbanks that have had stock excluded with my 30 plus years of trout fishing. Areas of the river that once provided great fishing can no longer be accessed due to chest high blackberry etc.</p> <p>On my own farm this will present problems for me with steeper and undulating areas being difficult and expensive to fence.</p>	<p>As an alternative I propose</p>



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<p>Provision</p> <p>Objective 1 (continuation).</p> <p>Long Term restoration and protection of water quality for each sub catchment and freshwater management unit.</p>	<p>I support/ <u>oppose</u> and for each whether or not you wish to amend</p> <p>The reasons for this are: The objective of the Waikato and Waipa river being swimmable all year round is plainly ridiculous. Nobody swims in the winter especially after heavy rain. Even rivers in pristine native bush catchments become dirty, discoloured and unswimmable <del>at</del> after heavy winter or even summer rain.</p> <p><u>Carp</u>: Until the carp issue is dealt with or a plan made to deal with carp, the objective of removing sediment from waterways will not be met even if all other parts of the plan are successful. The public perception will be that the waterways are still dirty which will be visually obvious for all to see.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety/ Retained as proposed/ <u>amended as set out below</u></p> <p>As an alternative I propose</p> <p>Scale back this objective to swimmable during normal or lower flows!</p>
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**WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL PROPOSED WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN CHANGE 1 - WAIKATO AND WAIPA RIVER CATCHMENTS**

Yours sincerely

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Signature

Date

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