

**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(s):** Selina Rutherford  
Hamish McMullin &

**Phone (hm):** 078278059.

**Phone (wk):** 078278059.

**Postal Address:** 446 Brunskill Road, R.D.4. Cambridge

**Phone (cell):** 0272333388  
0272737704

**Postcode:** 3496

**Email:** hsmcmullin1@gmail.com

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.

~~(This to be removed to support of this submission)~~

**Comment [1]:** If this is a group submission everyone must include their details and sign the form, unless the group is a legal entity.

To help the council the group could give itself a name ie collectively referred to as the .... group.

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**Introduction**

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

My name/ We are .... and I am a/ we are sheep and beef farmer(s) in the X catchment. My family and I have been farming this property for X years, etc

Hamish McMullin and Selina Rutterford are sheep and beef farmers in the Karapiro Catchment where we have farmed for over 12 years. We farm a 70:30% ratio of cattle to sheep.

Prior to farming full time we were both Soil Conservators with a passion for protecting and preserving the environment.

So during our time in the Upper Karapiro Catchment we've carried out many kilometers of Retirement Fencing, planted up waterways and installed stock crossings, thus ensuring all stock except sheep are excluded from these waterways. Approx 20 hectares of bush has been retired under a QEII covenant.

We have been finalists in the Waikato Ballance Farm Environment Awards and are very pro-conservation.


We welcome the opportunity to comment and submit on The Waikato Regional Plan Change 1.


**Comment [12]:** Keep this section really brief. It is not imperative to your submission, but does help set the scene in relation to telling the council a little bit about your business and community.

Types of information include:

- Where you are farming (catchment)
- What type of farm
- Stock class and ratio and whether or not this changes overtime
- How long has the property been in your family and how long have you been farming the property
- Property under development - future aspirations?
- Environmental Ethos? ie actively planting riparian strips or allowing native regeneration, QEII covenants, Plantation Forestry, Manuka, Wetlands or lakes etc

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 25/02/17  
Signature date

 25/2/17  
Signature date

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Our provisions relate to Rule 3.11.5.3.

Provision	I support/ oppose/ and for each whether or not you wish to amend	I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety/ Retained as proposed/ amended as set out below
<p>A Nitrogen Reference point is produced for our property using overseer.</p>	<p><del>This provision:</del>  <del>The reasons for this are:</del>          Overseer is open to manipulation giving a huge variability in results for Nitrogen leaching. Also it does not take into account other nutrients, pathogens and sediment losses which are of more relevance to drystock farms.</p>	<p><del>As an alternative I propose</del>          Amended as below:          Remove Overseer and design a model that works properly and takes into account these other parameters.</p>
<p>The Nitrogen Reference point is based only on a 2yr average from 2014 to 2016.</p>	<p><del>We oppose this 2 year average</del>          This "Grandparenting Approach" rewards the polluters and punishes the low nitrogen leaching farmers by reducing the flexibility within their farm systems to improve farm profitability. This 2yr period in time is insufficient and inflexible to cater for the everchanging dynamics of a farming business.</p>	

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<p>Provision The Nitrogen Reference point is based only on a 2yr average from 2014 to 2016</p>	<p>I support/ oppose/ and for each whether or not you wish to amend</p> <p>The reasons for this are:  An example of changing dynamics occurred on our farm as follows:-  Prior to 2014 and on the advice of an "expert" we decided to greatly reduce our Breeding cow numbers which we had for 30yrs. Instead trading in store heifers. However the strong store market meant very few animals to be had at realistic prices. It change back to our original system saw us still under-stocked at the 2014-2016 average!</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> <p>There needs to be allowances made on a case by case basis.  The appropriate Farm Environment Plan should implement good management practices to control Nitrogen leaching which will be based on the land Use Capability.</p>
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Stock (except sheep) to be excluded from water bodies.	The reasons for this are: Stock exclusion will greatly reduce the sediment and nutrient loading on a waterway and stream bank erosion caused by heavy stock. We find sheep are a great weed control tool and have few weed problems.	Investments into Biological weed control could be helpful, especially with cattle only systems.
3 year Time frame for exclusion of stock from waterbodies once a Farm Environment plan has been provided	We support this provision in principle However in practice economics will dictate how quickly a farmer can achieve this, especially an extensive hill country farm.	we seek to amend this provision. The Farm Environmental Plan should be designed to attend to the most critical sources of contamination first. Followed by positive management and action as finances allow.



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Provision	I support/ <del>oppose</del> / and for each whether or not you wish to amend	I seek that the provision is: <del>Deleted in its entirety</del> / Retained as proposed/ amended as set out below
<p>The implementation of a Farm Environment Plan</p>	<p>The reasons for this are: The F.E.P. is a great starting point in helping farmers understand where they are at and how they can better manage their farms in an environmentally sustainable way.</p>	<p>As an alternative I propose We would like to see more recognition to landowners for any environmental work done. This may be in the form of rates rebates, and help with plant &amp; pest control in retired areas. Producers actively implementing a F.E.P. should be rewarded by the consumer and user.</p>

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Provision	I support/ <del>oppose</del> / and for each whether or not you wish to amend	I seek that the provision is: <del>Deleted in its entirety</del> / Retained as proposed/ amended as set out below
Restricting land Use Change	The reasons for this are: To avoid a sudden increase in conversions and land use changes which could negate a lot of the environmental good this plan change is trying to achieve.	As an alternative I propose
Provision has been made for some flexibility of land use for maori land. that has not been developed due to historic and legal impediments	we oppose this allowance. Just what does this flexibility mean?? There has to be one rule which is fair and equitable for all. There has to be a united approach in order to obtain intergrated catchment management.	We seek that this provision is deleted. If there are special circumstances surrounding maori land non development then they should be treated the same as any other landowner in similar circumstances.

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Yours sincerely

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Signature

Date

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Next Healthy Rivers Plan Change in 10 years time	<p>The reasons for this are: we support the idea of initiating a range of practices now to meet the goals of the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato and Waipa Catchments. We do wonder what the next plan change in 10 years will bring. But we do have to start somewhere and take these first steps so we can see where to go next!</p>	<p>As an alternative I propose</p> <p>We see that a constant flow of communication needs to be maintained between the Waikato Regional Council and the farming families, their communities and all other sectors working towards addressing our environmental issues. This way with each forward step, a constant exchange of ideas will lead to problem solving more problems will be created too, but with a "steady as you go" approach we should be looking forward positively in 10 years time</p>

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Yours sincerely

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Signature

Date