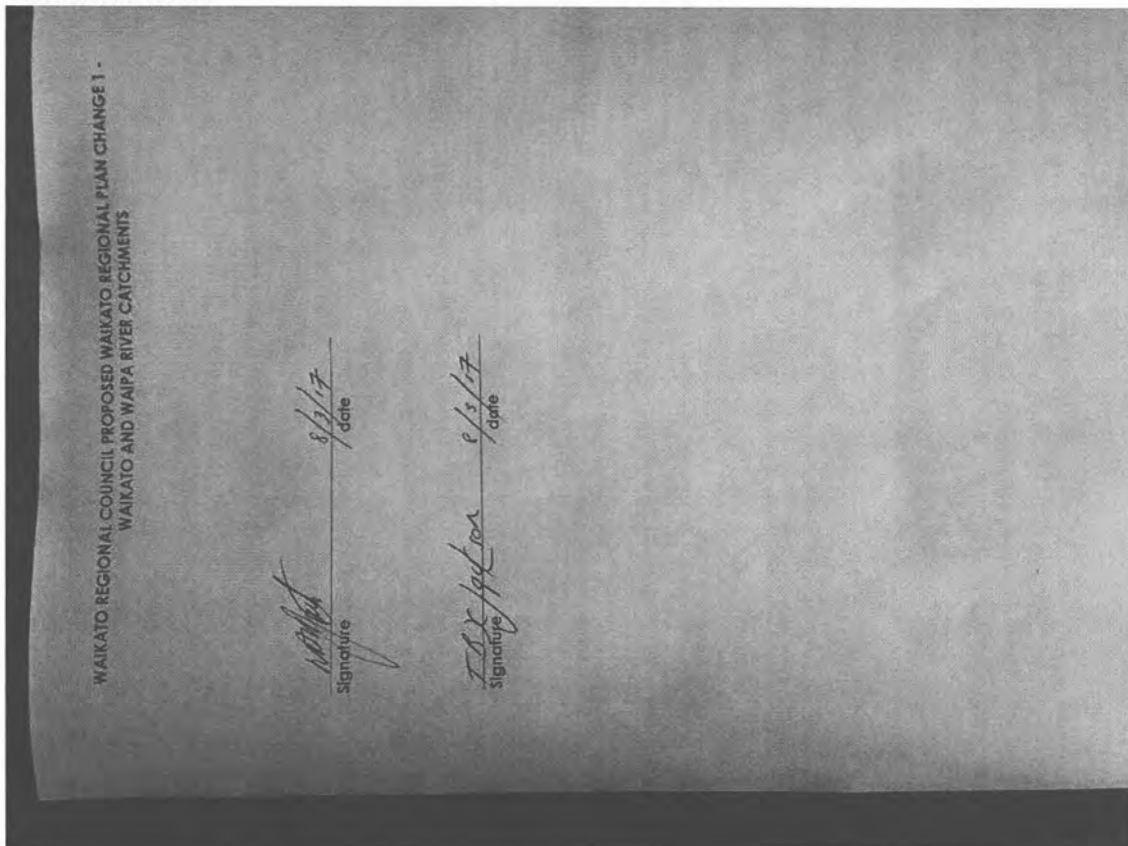


From: William Jackson
To: Healthy Rivers
Subject: Regional plan submission piquet hill farms ltd
Date: Wednesday, 8 March 2017 4:28:18 p.m.

Good afternoon I have enclosed the submission for our opposition to the proposed regional plan changes. I would also like to present my submission in person when the time is allocated.

Yours sincerely

William Jackson



WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL PROPOSED WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN CHANGE 1 -
WAIKATO AND WAIPA RIVER CATCHMENTS

Introduction

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

My name is Will Jackson. I farm with my brother Tom at Te Aroha. Our family has been farming here for 60 years. My grandfather came to Te Aroha after the war and purchased a ballot block and raised his family. That property has now grown to over 1800 hectares and 21000 stock units. I consider myself a keeper and protector of the land. If the land that I raise my stock on is healthy then the stock that it produces are healthy and I'm able to pay my mortgage. I would consider myself as being amenable to the process and I believe many farmers feel the same way because we feel no matter what concerns we have with proposed regulatory reforms our opinions won't be taken into account. This attitude is exactly why the proposed regional plan in its current form is not approved of by such a large proportion of the farming community. I am not against making the water cleaner and improving the environment for future generations but bureaucratic overreach must be avoided. Farmers are industrious and hardworking people and I believe most farmers would like to see their farms managed in a responsible manner.

There are some major points in the proposed law that I am opposed to.

Having nitrogen reference points for farms.

It would be fair if all farmers were treated the same when it came to nitrogen restrictions. How is it fair that some are being rewarded for their high use of nitrogen with an ability to continue the practice which we are trying to avoid while others who may have been more conservative in their farming practices are now shackled by the proposed law. Wouldn't it be easier to have everyone trying to work to the same goal, making it easier to implement and much easier to enforce. For example all farms are restricted to 60 units of nitrogen per year per hectare. And if they wanted to increase this usage they would need to apply for a resource consent. Simply.

Stock exclusion zones

What non farming folk don't understand is that a range of stock classes are essential to hill country farming. Grazing management of cattle on hill country is essential for high production sheep and Vis veas. On every farm you have a raised grass growth curve in spring and quality is lost as you move into the summer months. Most farmers use older cattle to improve to quality of the pasture so that when grass growth improves again there is good quality feed for your stock. If you were only allowed sheep on steeper hill country then it would become uneconomic. Farmers wouldn't be able to realise the production potential under the proposed rules. The other benefit of different classes of stock are the animal health benefits of cross grazing which reduce worm burdens on pastures. In an industry where anthelmintic resistance is a real issue this is only going to worsen the current problem. The main cause of run off on steep hills is heavy or over stocking which I believe would be only represented by a small proportion of farmers. So a solution would be to work with these people on a case by case basis to improve the grazing management.

WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL PROPOSED WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN CHANGE 1 -
WAIKATO AND WAIPA RIVER CATCHMENTS

Policy 16

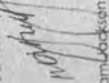
I am opposed to rules being put in place for farmers to improve the environmental impact of their operations but other stakeholders such as Tairāwhiti and other multiple Maori owned holders effectively being made exempt from the rules that they had firstly championed. Why should there be one rule for some and another for others. I believe the changes that we are making here should be made collectively and equally.

Flexibility of land use

I have major concerns over the stringent use of land use that are being imposed in this plan. Farmers are not allowed the flexibility to change their land usage. This is basically a blanket measure that hasn't been thought through at all. What if I had grown maize for twenty years prior to 2014 and then decided because the price was to low not to grow. Then due to the proposed restrictions not being allowed to change back to growing maize again. This makes no sense. Clearly the one size fits all approach is not the way forward.

Though I am pessimistic of my views being listened to I believe they should be voiced and be put in the public record.

Yours sincerely



William Jackson

8/3/2017

WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL PROPOSED WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN CHANGE 1 -
WAIKATO AND WAIPA RIVER CATCHMENTS

Submission Form

Submission on a publicly 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): William and Thomas Jackson

Phone (hm): 07 8254480

Phone (wk): 027399939

Postal Address: Private bag 540 Te Akou.

Phone (cell):

Postcode: 3793

Email: w.a.h.jackson@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 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.

--

William Jackson
Director
Piquet Hill Farms Ltd
(07) 825-4480
(0277)399939