

Submission to;

**Proposed Change 10 (Lake Rotorua Nutrient Management) to the
Regional Water and Land Plan.**

Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

From;

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YES I wish to be heard before the Council in support of my submission.

I have over 33 years farming experience and 18 years advocating on behalf of rural people.

I appreciate many of you weren't involved with the initial work between landowners and Council a decade and a half ago.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my submission.

1, Don't rule an industry out, buy it out if you want it gone!

Everyone's entitled to a dignified exit.

The Lake Taupo example saw landowners paid a fair price for changing land use.

If you want dairying out of the catchment, then buy their farms remove the ability to dairy on it and then sell that land back into the market place.

This rule change seems unfair, punishing a generation, unfocussed and overly complicated.

Correct me if I'm wrong but I'm getting rumours that the Rotorua Lakes Council is about to approve a rule that restricts subdividing farms to blocks no less than 40 ha? A submission put forward by Fonterra to ensure dairying survives land use change. If this is so, then I and many other farmers can not consider a dignified exit by subdividing to small blocks essentially turning the catchment into a farm park. This is economical evolution but if the Council is ruling this option out in a catchment with a sinking nutrient lid then I'm being set up to fail.

The New Zealand Government has a track record of running people off their land by changing the rules I suppose nothing has changed.

Where's the fair deal?

2, What evidence do you have that Rotorua residence want a catchment planted in commercial forest?

These rule changes will drive land use not to its most economic but that that is allowed, forestry, as what happened in Taupo. In Taupo no one asked the people of Taupo if a catchment of pine trees was what they wanted? But that was what they now have. Where's the democracy in that. Are we about to repeat this in Rotorua?

Facts are now showing us that it is no longer N that should be the focus nutrient but P. (Yet Council seems to be charging forward blinkers on.) By

ruling forestry as the default land use, forestry will pulse P into the catchment far quicker than any changes made to land use now. This could be catastrophic.

3, Maori are hugely disadvantaged.

Timing will see Maori ruled out of opportunities with their land.

All ready I hear calls from those insensitive members of the public who say “if they can’t look after their land then take it from them”.

Will these rules leave many land owners with little options but to grow black berry and become prickly farmers? (While we focus on gorse I see black berry choking our lake edges, gullies and forests.)

My understanding is that Maori haven’t made it rich from growing trees in the past, what has changed?

4, Land use change symposium.

A land use change symposium held nearly a year ago was well attended by everyone except the target audience. A lack of working examples with financials was noticeable while to some it was another chance to crucify the accused.

I know those that ran the symposium meant well and they ran a very good symposium logistically. But failed.

If you want me to voluntarily change my land use, then I need good successful working examples.

There were none!

Is this then the truth, there are no financially successful options under the new rules?

5, Break the lake catchment into stream catchments with individual stream catchment plans, combining to form the total Lake Rotorua Catchment Plan.

Self-explanatory.

6, NZ's worst example.

Having been present at the beginning it needs to be said that this has to be the best example of how not to do it!

I say that for all sides farmers, politicians, residents, LWQS etc.

I'm not proud about it as I've been involved. This whole Rotorua thing has been a dogs' breakfast and an embarrassment for us all.