

Submission on Proposed Plan Change 10

(Proposed Lake Rotorua Nutrient Management)

To The Chief Executive

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

P.O.Box 364

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I am an individual submitter and I wish to be heard as an individual as the proposed plan change has a direct impact on my ability to farm my land, survive on my land and for my future to stay on the land.

I have attended several meetings over the past 2 years; in Halls, around our own kitchen table and around conference tables in your buildings trying to have discussions over the Lake nutrient levels; none of these proposals or ideas and suggestions have ever been followed up. There appears to be a group of people in the regional council intent on rail-roading restrictions and compliance costs onto a small group of Farmers expecting them to wear the costs of improving Lake water quality. I support finding a solution for a cleaner lake but EVERYBODY living in or visiting the catchment area is responsible for its welfare.

1: I do not support the nitrogen discharge allowance that will be forced onto land owners.

2: I do not support having rules for land owners over 40 Hactares, another set of rules for landowners less than 40 Hactares and then no rules for the large group of landowners with 10 Hactares or less.

3: I do not support the need for landowners to under-go Farm management plans to be presented to Council Staff. Projecting a Plan out to 16 years time, what a joke!

4: I do not support BOP Council workers micro managing my farming business.

5: I do not support BOP Council workers dictating what I do in my own backyard.

6: I would like to see group discussions or farm workshop sessions on best farming practises held and supported by BOP Council. I challenge the BOP Council to work with the land owner to make a more lucrative farming enterprise with a whole lot of positives for the environment.

7: I do not believe 1 Computer programme (Overseer) can dictate the varied farming practises for what individuals can and cannot do in the catchment. It is a tool, not a Bible.

8: I would like to see BOP Council working with landowners in smaller groups of the different catchment areas within the Rotorua Basin to help them understand the implications of their Farming practises on their specific area. They all have different soil types, micro climates, land contour and proximity's to streams feeding the Lake.

9: I believe the side effects of de-stocking Farms will create a bigger set of issues and costs that can't be met by the Land owner, one example is rank grass becomes a fire hazard. Not a good position to be in when neighbouring Forestry is on 40% of your Boundary.

10: I have concerns over the actually current accuracy or evidence of Lake Nutrient levels. It seems the Lake is already at target levels but BOP Council is still trying to push Rules onto us. Is this to provide job security for their future?

11: Basics. There is increasing costs to operating a Farm, such as Fertiliser, Shearing, Wages, Contractors, Diesel, replacing Machinery, Electricity, general Farm Maintenance and Council Rates. None of these are static but BOP Council expect us to reduce Stocking numbers thereby reducing our income. How does this off-set rising costs?

12: There are too many unanswered questions: Nitrogen versus Phosphorus, current Lake nutrient levels, alum dosing, floating wetlands, City sewerage, discharge from Forestry, social and economic effects on the local community, Capital Value lost on rural properties, who set and why did they set Nutrient levels at that amount, are they obtainable in that time frame, Environmental footprint Motel chains catering for the Tourists are having on our lake, the Health and Social effects this is having on individual Landowners.

Regards

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