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Submission to Horizons Regional Council—Plan change 2.

Date 18/10/19.

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I write this submission in support of the plan change and wish to speak to it.

Summary of reasons.

Unable to get consent to farm under current rules—stressful.

Economic.

Social.

Effect on district.

Farm one—

Kane Family trust—269 Hokio Beach road Levin.

This farm is in the high priority catchment zone of Lake Horowhenua.

It has a consent under current rules which is fair and workable because it allows for N leaching of target 28.

It has the advantage of class one and two soils and a lower rainfall.

To get its consent we had to use no nitrogen from May to August, winter half the cows off farm and use best farm practice.

This dropped our N loss from 36 to 28 and was economically viable.

Good common sense.

It would not be possible to achieve this with new overseer programme and strict criteria of 21 N loss.

Farm two.

Ruby Farm. Top Grass road Dannevirke.

Address 115 Ross road,

Dannevirke.

A partnership between Geoff and Cynthia and Matt and Alex Feethan.

A true family farm bought in 2014 and having to use base figures of previous owner—2013.

A 100 hectare farm milking 270 cows. Run by a young couple as first farm.

This farm lifted production to meet targets from 90,000 kgs Milk solids to 120,000 kgs.

To do this it increased bought in feed, replaced pastures, used chicory as a crop and good farm management.

Adam Duker did the base figures for this farm and with changing management practices we can bring base N leaching from 52 down to 36.

These practices include spreading effluent when dry, no winter N. wintering cows off, reducing PK, direct drilling pasture and crops, and careful farm management that includes fully feeding cows and no pugging.

Alex and Matt are the sort of couple that we have to do everything possible to help achieve their goals.

Young, passionate, part of community in playcentre and school and community and creating jobs and wealth in the district.

A sound economic family farm is still the basis for a healthy district.

What is the problem.

High rainfall combined with fast flowing streams and class 3 and 4 soils mean leaching and overseer gives high figures.

Best farm practice can only bring these down so far and overseer that was 21 is now 36.

This is the minimum figure needed.

If we cannot get a consent at this level then this farm becomes uneconomic and walking off a real possibility.

Cows would have to drop to 200, N application stop completely, Mortgage commitments could not be met and then school and playcentre, mental health and all other ramifications happen.

By not having a clear path to get consent we do not know what management practices to adopt.

A feed pad creates problems with high energy use in tractors and carbon footprint,

Runoffs just shift the problem.

Changing land use is not an option over whole area.

Thankyou for allowing this submission and in conjunction with other organisations I look forward to finding a way that balances all parties.

I just wish to say at this point that I support the submission of Fed. Farmers and DairyNZ that gives another pathway for those that cannot achieve base figures but can achieve a 10% drop.—75<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Geoff Kane