

Hearing Stream 3

I fully concur and endorse the recommendation of the Section 42a author which puts forward the opinion that the entire suite of rules relating to small farms should be scrapped.

Our community is once again disappointed that the Greater Wellington Regional Council does not appear capable of acting in a rational and well thought out fashion. There appeared to be an underlying atmosphere of urgency with very little meaningful consultation with the Rural community which would have highlighted the numerous difficulties that the 42a report makes clear.

These proposals were put forward at the end of 2023 and submissions needed to be made just prior to Christmas. To our mind this demonstrates a lack of empathy. We are lay people with personal lives that get extremely busy at that time of year. The number of submissions is indicative of how people were impacted by the proposals.

We have lived for 18 months with the genuine concern regarding the impact of these proposals and how our community would cope with the demands they would have.

Within the Upper Hutt catchment there are less than 800 Rural properties and an even smaller number that fall in to the 4 to 20 hectare size. Meaningful consultation would have stopped much of this process in its tracks and saved a lot of unnecessary expenditure.

GW staff repeatedly make the assumption that everyone has the same level of knowledge that they have. Assumptions are made in respect of the way in which “smaller” blocks are used. It is normal practice for supplementary feeding to take place, especially with horses and this can make a nonsense of Stock units. Jody Sinclair will expand on this.

GW also make assumptions that the Rural Community has been aware of the work of the Whaitua. The majority will have no idea and no understanding of what was being considered and how it might affect them. Say Whaitua and you will meet a blank stare response.

GW appear to have little understanding regarding effective communication. They believe that all they need to do is to put an entry on their website but fail to grasp that very few will know that it exists and an even smaller number will look at it.