

I'm Laurie Voigt the landowner & this is Dominique Zivkovich-Brady, a local horticulturist who happens to be my niece. My property at 59F Riddell Road appears to be the largest area of rural production land designated to be re-zoned into horticulture.

I have had a land use capability report undertaken by Bob Cathcart of AgFirst Northland. He is an independent agriculture & horticulture consultant, who is an expert on northland soils and was involved in the original mapping of land resource inventory and land use capability data across the region. He is a supporter of protection of land for primary production throughout the northland region and Auckland.

We fully support The Far North District Council's objective of protecting high quality soils within the supply district of the Kerikeri Irrigation Scheme.

Unfortunately, the mapping database used by the Far North District Council to identify land suited for horticulture is not of a suitable scale and is in some areas inaccurate.

As AgFirst Consultant Bob Cathcart explains in the report he prepared for us:

The electronic soils database used by the Far North District Council is at a scale of 1:50,000, at which scale, the minimum area which can be separately identified is 10hectares, and the maps should not be enlarged beyond that scale. That is, it is indicative only and too coarse to separately identify small areas of land.

This has been used to identify land suited to horticulture within the Kerikeri Irrigation Scheme supply area.

Because most of our land is mapped as having volcanic soils and assessed as Class 2s1 and Class 4e2, some of this land is also, legally, 'highly productive land' under the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land and subject to land use controls throughout the Far North District;

Unfortunately, the database is inaccurate in some areas around Kerikeri, in this case recording the wrong soil types and therefore wrongly assessing the land use capability of our land.

Land on our property at 59F Riddell Road, Kerikeri, has been identified as having volcanic soils, which would be assessed as 'highly productive land' under the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land and land within the Kerikeri Irrigation Scheme supply area as suited to horticulture. I have farmed this property now for 32 years and know it well. From my own knowledge and experience of farming this property, and as Mr Cathcart's report explains, the land does not have volcanic soils and is not suited to horticulture. Most of it is clay hill country, with gumland soils on easier slopes.

The flats on the land, while in some areas having patches of darker soil with a gravelly subsoil layer, and having established bamboo shelterbelts, has not been

developed for horticulture and is only used for grazing. Parts of it are wet for much of the year, too wet for winter grazing of cattle, despite open drains to cut off water from higher slopes.

Bob Cathcart carried out a walk-over survey of the property, inspection of soil profiles, recording of other land based resource features, as well as discussion around livestock grazing policies. The investigation revealed that no soils which could be considered 'highly productive land' or land suited to horticulture were identified on the property.

We emphatically would like our property to be excluded from being re-zoned to horticulture based on the historical and current soil investigations which clearly show that it is not suitable as such.

Thank you for your time.