

TARANAKI / WHANGANUI CONSERVATION BOARD

TE TAI HAU-A-URU

SUBMISSION ON DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY

13 March 2020

To: Ministry for the Environment

Contact information

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The Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board has powers bestowed upon it via Section 6n of the Conservation Act 1987

4. Board Functioning

4.2. Powers of the Board under Section 6n of the Conservation Act

8) a) *Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process*

The Board has included in all its most recent annual plans provision to participate in decision making via written and oral submissions, should the need arise, with particular emphasis on our rohe.

In summary:

The Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board has reviewed the DRAFT National Policy Statement Indigenous Biodiversity, and in principle support the document.

We would however like to make the following comments and observations;

Objective 1: to maintain indigenous biodiversity:

We would prefer that the objective said: to maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity.

We agree that **a policy** should be included “*To recognise the connection a community has to the natural environment, providing for community group involvement in the management of indigenous areas.*”

This would reflect **Objective 6: of the document:** *to recognise the role of landowners, communities and tangata whenua as stewards and Kaitiaki of indigenous biodiversity by*

- a. *Allowing people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing now and into the future; and*
- b. *Supporting people and communities in their understanding of and connection to nature*

Our communities work hard, mostly in voluntary capacities, to restore, enhance and care for the natural environment in which they live. A policy that *empowered* a whole of community approach to maintaining AND enhancing indigenous biodiversity would assist Local Authorities and communities to collaborate on biodiversity maintenance, enhancements and protection.

- We also have some general unease with the ability of the DRAFT National Policy Statement being able to be applied consistently alongside other statutes; Conservation Act, National Parks Act
- And that it also reflects the across Government work being done to take a 'whole of government approach' to address the issues raised by the WAI 262 claim.



Vicky Dombroski
Chairperson
Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board