

Re: Draft National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity

- 1) First of all, I object to the title and scope of this NPS: our biodiversity is made up inseparably of both indigenous and exotic species and cannot be treated in any other way. Each is important to the make up of New Zealand as a whole. Remove the word Indigenous from the title.
- 2) Remove all references to the “principles of the Treaty of Waitangi” see p15. There are none. By no stretch of the imagination do the three simple clauses of the treaty contain any references to any aspect of protecting only indigenous biodiversity.
- 3) The NPS is addressed to all New Zealanders, for whom the normal language of communication nationwide is English, and the name of the country is New Zealand. There is no reason to introduce names or terms in a language foreign to all but a few, terms emanating from and coined by that small minority, which are charged with undefined emotional, spiritual and divisive overtones, and which are able to be reinterpreted at will, as required in 3) above. There are many on pp8-10, for example the “degradation of mauri”; or the now changed in meaning and politically charged word “taonga” - a word specifically used in the Treaty of Waitangi as “things [taken by] the tau (=spear; ie things currently owned)”. For example on p10: “the historical, cultural or spiritual relationship of tangata whenua with their taonga”. Remove these manipulable terms entirely. Stick to unemotional science and its well understood terminology.
- 4) Clearly the underlying and ultimate purpose of the Bill, as in Policy 1 on p15, is to transfer to unelected Maori / tangata whenua as a separate entity the control of our entire flora and fauna, including the power to decide on what basis which species shall live and increase, and which shall die or be physically removed. This is racist nonsense.
- 5) Throughout, this NPS prioritises and aims to protect “native” species only, to the disregard, devaluing and relegation of exotic species ie those individual species introduced historically by people other than Maori - who themselves, of course, introduced some from elsewhere in the Pacific or beyond, eg the kumara, and were probably not the first to do so.
- 6) Define “pest”, in relation to vegetation or fauna. No definition is given that I can find. This means the classification is purely subjective, and in the context of this NPS means by default anything that is not indigenous. This gives outrageous power to destroy at will, for example, the magnificent exotic trees that were or still are growing on Auckland’s volcanoes. Is this one of the factors behind the disgraceful inadequacy and bias of this NPS? It’s the Trojan Horse, which will legitimise for example the removal of any or all non-native trees, nation-wide? And encourage utterly unscientific techniques, based on superstition, like “planting” thousands of new young native plants above ground, by suspending each one in a loop of number 8 wire (nothing indigenous about that), where of course they all die? And did.
- 7) On p8, in fundamental concepts, and undefined “we” are said “to have a role as stewards or kaitiaki of indigenous biodiversity”. Yet In part 3, p17, it states that every local authority must early ie first consult

tangata whenua as kaitiaki regarding all plans and actions covered by the NPS. Clearly that is where the power is directed. This is discrimination and segregation and must be removed. All are equal before the law, national and local, and the whole community must be included equally in all consultation. No exclusive meetings with one preferred racial group.

- 8) Finally, who is going to pay for the separate work one ethnic group would be doing under this racist system? All actual tax or ratepayers? Who else? What will be the annual budget? Like the Tupuna Maunga Authority, the originally generous budget has exploded year on year, more than [REDACTED] having been spent over just a few days in recent months, killing and helicoptering away dozens of mature exotic specimen trees. No consultation took place with the general public, who are paying for every cent.

People, this NPS is a farce and must be withdrawn.

Yours truly

[REDACTED]

14 March 2020