

Submission on the publicly notified draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.

On: Ministry for the Environment – draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.

To: Ministry for the Environment

Company name: [REDACTED]

Given names: [REDACTED]

Surname: [REDACTED]

Region: Banks Peninsula

Email: [REDACTED]

- Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity. Our family farm which has been in the family for 6 generations is located in the most [REDACTED]. We farm [REDACTED] with a mix of sheep, cattle and tourism. The farm is rolling too steep with about [REDACTED] of native bush fenced off with the help of the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust.
- We feel we farm with as little impact on the environment as possible and take great pride in our land, stock and the environment we call home and hope our children will be the 7th generation to farm here.
- I support the overall goal of the proposals that recognise the value of indigenous biodiversity to New Zealand, its people, and communities, and to ensure that Indigenous Biodiversity is protected, and where it has been significantly lost is restored.
- New Zealand farmers have retained 2.7 million hectares of indigenous habitat within their farms which is testament to the value farmers place on indigenous biodiversity. A total of 24% of New Zealand's total indigenous habitats occurs on the 8.8 million hectares covered by sheep and beef farms, with over 47% of QEII covenants being on sheep and beef farms. The area of indigenous habitats formally protected by QEII, and other covenants is growing.
- I support provisions which recognise that for conservation actions to be enduring, they require landowner and community support and leadership. Policies need to recognise that people are critical to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity, and acknowledge the importance of respecting and fostering the contribution of landowners as custodians and Kaitiaki to these habitats and species.
- However, I oppose provisions which seek to '*lock up indigenous biodiversity*' and in so doing penalise those landowners who have done the most to protect indigenous biodiversity. We have fenced off [REDACTED] of native bush with the help of the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust to keep stock out and let the area regenerate to its former glory. I seek changes to the policy to ensure that indigenous biodiversity can be integrated within pastoral based land uses and activities, and which recognise these can co-exist for mutual benefit.

Indigenous biodiversity should be considered as an asset to the farming business, and communities, and not as a liability. Subtle but significant changes to the NPSIB are required to ensure that existing conservation efforts are rewarded, and ongoing conservation is supported and incentivised. The

recognition of the values of indigenous biodiversity as part of pastoral based landscapes and farming businesses is required to ensure that these values, habitats, and species, are sustainably managed.

- I am deeply concerned about the potential impacts of these proposals on my farm in relation to areas being identified as Significant Natural Areas (SNA's), areas identified as being important for the protection of SNA's which may include land adjacent to SNA's, and the identification of highly mobile species, in relation to the impacts this may have on my farming business and its resilience and viability. We need to run profitable business to give our children a chance of being the 7th generation to care for the land. The provisions could be interpreted as precluding the ongoing grazing of animals adjacent to and within these areas, which means that those that have done the most to protect indigenous habitats and species within their farming businesses could shoulder the greatest costs including restrictions to their farming businesses.
- The compliance costs of the various proposals are likely to be significant and include the identification of these habitats and species, fencing of these habitats (could require deer fencing to manage wild populations), and ongoing pest management. As currently proposed, it is unclear where these costs fall. Financial, technical, and human resourcing support should be provided to assist landowners to continue to protect and restore indigenous habitats and populations within their farming businesses and communities. Support should be provided to not only areas where indigenous biodiversity is being restored, but also to where it currently exists.
- I am concerned that New Zealand does not currently have the extent of technical expertise available to assist regional and district councils to identify SNA's and mobile species across their territorial areas within the next five years, to ground truth this work, and to work with farmers. The requirements on regional and district councils including timeframes should ensure that the identification of these habitats and species is robust, and is undertaken in a way which engages landowners and communities, builds understanding and knowledge, and which empowers local conservation efforts.

Thankyou for the opportunity to express our views.

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