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

To: Ministry for the Environment

Personal Information

** indicates required fields*

Company name:

Given names*: [REDACTED]

Surname: [REDACTED]

Contact person: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Region*: King Country

Phone: [REDACTED]

Submission

- Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.

Background about my farm Why am I making this submission?

- *We are farming in partnership with our eldest son. We have [REDACTED] other sons on the land. The land has a mixture of hill, rolling and flat.*
- *Sheep and Beef;*
- *We have farmed here for 53 years, brought up on farms in the Waikato and Wairarapa where families still farm the properties*
- *we would like to think future generations will be involved in farming.*
- *WE have had environment plans since around 1980. we have planted for erosion f. for stock feed, timber. We have also planted wet lands, fenced off waterways and planted numerous flaxes and fenced off*

Section A: General responses to the proposals:

- 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.

- 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. 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.

I am concerned for our young farmers at the moment, we have been in a severe dry period and it is about looking after our animals and land, the time needed to make submissions is unavailable. I am 76 years old and feel my husband and our family have done a great job of looking after the land (this is an on going job). I feel at the moment regulations are overpowering the next generation of farmers. From where I am coming from it seems some of the proposed legislation is from "sitting in an office" and not readily able to be applied to the land. Legislation that works on one type of land or area does not necessarily work elsewhere.

Community groups are able to show what works in their area also provide support to under stress farmers. Having a member from these groups on regional council to ensure policies are workable.

Section B: Impacts and implementation:

We have fenced off considerable areas

- and I am concerned that some of areas we have marked on the maps are not SNA's but from satellite photos look like it, also areas that need thinning and attention to maintain will be unable to be attended to without resource consent. This vegetation needs looking after and by the time AN RESOURCE CONSENT COMES THROUGH ARE A MUCH LARGER JOB Resource consents are slow now and the costs prohibitive, new regulations need more trained personal and more money
- I wish that the criteria for SNA classification be narrowed to ensure that not all native biodiversity is in the proposal.
- Costs and time frame seem to me to be very restrictive, local councils do not have sufficient of personal or money to ensure safe regulations

Conclusion

- . I/We welcome the opportunity to further discuss any of the points above with the Ministry for the Environment and the Department of Conservation, should you wish for more information.

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Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

