

Draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

It is with a heavy heart I am called on to write another submission.

I want to bring before you our legitimate concerns of what your proposal would mean for our farms if implemented without much thought.

Our requirement for local councils to administer these proposals are a sneaky way to tax the land owner with additional costs. It may also be compared to a land grab for the government.

One of our farms has already had tenure review and gave up significant areas of native so that we can continue to farm in the freehold manner that most NZ farmers adhere to. These included large areas of native tussock and Kanuka. We still farm significant areas of both today.

If someone in an office looks at a map and decides that our farm still has area that could be determined as areas of Natural Significance, what then.

The whole idea of tenure review is to allow freedom of the individual to farm and develop productive and sustainable farms. Costs associated with farming are sky rocketing and the council are going to be caught in a very difficult situation. They will have to employ more staff to implement this proposal and who pays for them, the rate payer or the land owner.

The public are looking for low cost food not high cost that only the rich can afford. We want to produce food at a reasonable price.

These areas of Significant and Natural areas are going to be open to all sorts of interpretation. Are we going to be restricted in our farming operation When we have already spent large sums in development. Who will look after these areas. I suggest farmers already do and a much better job than our neighbour DOC who only react after the horse has bolted.

Weed and pests are prevalent in their land and without considerable investment they are regressing.

Wild stock such as deer, possums, pigs, stoats, rats and mice live in the land DOC manages and is a huge problem to us. Wild pigs damage much land and DOC contribute nothing to the control of these pests while we are doing our best to stop them increasing in number. We already have a problem with poaching and just two weeks ago we had two vehicles on our land without permission. The home of these pests is in the native areas.

Shutting up areas of native only creates other problems, one for us is the fire hazard, which is very high on our vulnerability as farmers with DOC boundaries. Light grazing of these areas would help in lowering the potential ecological disasters that fire cause.

We think we do a very good job of protecting and utilizing the areas of native within our boundaries. Why muck that up?

These proposals have serious implication for the land owner and especially for the ones who have been proactive in protecting the landscape. Looking after native areas in their land but also producing a sustainable farm for the next generation for our current number one export and income earner for New Zealand.

Once completed, email your submission to indigenusbiodiversity@mfe.govt.nz.

DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY

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

Personal Information

** indicates required fields*

Company name:

Given names*: [REDACTED]

Surname: [REDACTED]

Contact person:

Address:

Region*: Otago

Country:

Phone:

Email*: [REDACTED]

Submission

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

Background about my farm

(Keep this section brief. It is not required for your submission, but does help set the scene)

- *Where you are farming (catchment) and type of country you are farming (flat, rolling, hill);*
- *Has your family been farming your land for multiple generations? If so, how many?*
- *What type of farm;*
- *Stock class and ratio and whether or not this changes overtime;*
- *How long has the property been in your family and how long have you been farming the property;*
- *Property under development – future aspirations and motivations?*
- *Describe your environmental management? Are you actively planting riparian strips or allowing native regeneration, do you have QEII covenants, plantation forestry, manuka, wetlands or lakes?*

Why am I making this submission?

- *Why this is important to you in the big picture, the contribution you make to your natural environment and economic environment (employer, using local contractors etc.),*
- *Your values and aspirations for your area, community, catchment and family as they relate to indigenous biodiversity*

Section A: General responses to the proposals:

Outline here your high level feedback on the proposals. Do you support them, do you have any concerns?

Section B: Impacts and implementation:

Outline here what biodiversity you may have on your farm and the potential impacts the proposals could have. What are the practical and financial implications of the proposals? What would it cost you?

- The specific provisions of the proposal that this submission relates to and the decisions it seeks are as detailed in the table in Section C below.

Section C: Specific responses to the proposals:

Specific Provision in the Proposed Plan	Submission	Decision sought
<i>The specific provisions my submission relates to are:</i>	<i>My submission is that:</i>	<i>The decision I would like MfE and DoC to make is:</i>
<p>Hutia Te Rito (Discussion document on a proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity, page 23)</p>		
<p>3.7 Social, economic and cultural wellbeing: (Discussion document, page 45)</p>		
<p>3.8 Identifying Significant Natural Areas: (Discussion document page 31)</p>		

3.9 Managing adverse effects on SNA's

(Discussion document, page 42)

3.12 Existing activities in SNA's

(Discussion document, page 49)

3.13 General rules applying outside SNA's:

(Discussion document, page 51)

<p>3.15 Highly Mobile Fauna: (Discussion document, page 38)</p>		

CONCLUSION

- Final or summarising comments.
- Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. 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. For any inquiries relating to this feedback please contact [*name of person or yourself who will deal with any enquiries*] on [*number, email address etc.*].

Yours faithfully,

[*Signature*]

[*Name*]

[*Date*]