

**INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSION
ON PROPOSED NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
FOR INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY**

TO: MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
indigenousbiodiversity@mfe.govt.nz

DATE: 13th March 2020

Submitter's Name and Contact Details

Name	Phone Number	Address AND EMAIL ADDRESS
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] <i>Note: no cell coverage where we live</i>	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Introduction

Background about our farm:

We are 2nd and 3rd generation sheep and beef farmers farming on the [REDACTED] in the South Wairarapa.

Our farm is [REDACTED] and is [REDACTED] divided by the Crown for return servicemen after [REDACTED]. Tora Station original holding was [REDACTED]

The land is best described as [REDACTED] hard hill country [REDACTED] steep, [REDACTED] hills with the remaining [REDACTED] flats which are adjacent to the Pacific Ocean. No cropping due to too many rocks and we buy in a small amount of conventional small bales of hay as supplement.

All Rivers and tributaries flow directly into the Pacific Ocean.

We also run a [REDACTED] classes, a host site for [REDACTED], and until recently employed to collect seaweed.

Stocking: 70 percent Sheep 30 percent Beef

Historically and at present Stocking rates do not exceed [REDACTED] when set stocked and we operate under a rotational grazing system.

We have decreased our stocking numbers from the 70's due to the decline in income from Wool which used to [REDACTED] our annual income, for the past two years wool has crossed to the other side of the ledger and now headed Animal Health Expense.

It appears that the government and general population prefer to use synthetics for carpet, insulation and clothing.

Most young livestock is sold as store with Lambs in November and calves in March.

We have a KNE, an area of bush behind the main homestead and have been actively working alongside Greater Wellington Regional Council addressing sediment and planting for erosion control. We have challenges with fencing due to the identified "slow moving" nature of the property and so these fences need constant attention .

We have always taken and heeded the advice from the Crown and the Regional Councils Land Management to best manage our land for future generations.

Biodiversity on OUR farm

WE rely on the rushes and cutty grasses to provide shelter from the harsh southerlies for both our ewes and cows, especially at lambing and calving times in the Spring along our coastal flats. These are not wetlands. We periodically spray and cut these rushes and cutty grasses as they multiply and cover our best ground.

We also have a number of Manuka stands which we value for shade and shelter and to provide honey for our bee keepers.

The same cannot be said for Tawhini, which we spray standing and occasionally cut small areas. This scrub does not provide any benefits and causes our wool to be down graded due to its seedy nature. We have an on going scrub removal eradication programme to managed this. We oppose any further regulations to hinder our ability to manage this.

We also spray for thistles and weeds using approved sprays and we would like to continue to include this as part of our annual farm plan to keep our pastures healthy.

We also have a [REDACTED] on our property behind the main homestead which we enjoy looking at and hearing all the bird song in every day, all day.

How the NPS will impact our farm

One size does not fit all approach is not the best or only option. The rules must be workable and affordable to ensure a positive outcome.

Landowners should be allowed to enhance their property to ensure that it is economic viable and that any restrictions placed upon them are absolutely necessary.

WE need to be able to continue to spray our weeds and remove tawhini from our property so that we may be able to sustain a living and pass our business onto to the next generation in good health them to be able to continue on farming sheep and beef and honey to feed our urban based population and not be forced to sell to overseas buyers to plunder the pasture to plant trees in the wrong places for carbon credits.

Conclusion

We are pleased that the government is embarking on a national strategy for bio diversity however very mindful that regional authorities will have the final say into what one can and cannot do on ones own property. Some of the statements are excellent others unworkable and unfair to our situation.

We support the Federated farmers Submission

I/We thank the Ministry for considering our views .

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]