



Submission to Proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

[Redacted text block]

My submission is as follows:

I agree with all clauses and elements of this NPS. Very admirable and some good searching analysis.

However I have reservations about reaching a worthwhile outcome in time to save many of these species.

Given the dearth of resources available for this work and the lack of interest and involvement of many land owners, the explosion of pest predators and the sudden and immediate effects of climate change, some pragmatic steps will need to be taken now. These include:

1. Triage. Some species may be lost at the expense of others. So some tough calls will have to be made, especially about the eventual loss of some species due to climate change.
2. Rewards and penalties. There are land owners, NGO's, Communities and Local Bodies performing at a high level to maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity. These individuals and groups should be rewarded in some way. It may be through recognition, tax or rates relief, premiums on their produce at market or some other inducement. Conversely, individuals and groups degrading biodiversity should be penalized. This is not as desirable but can wake people up to a common need.
3. All current consultation documents have become too complex. We are in an urgent situation now and have to cut to the chase. The reason for threat to indigenous biodiversity is quite clear to me and my family. We have over extended our use of

natural resources beyond safety. Apart from the problem of pest plants and animals predators, that must be controlled, we can improve fresh water, protect and add to wetlands and remnant forests and monitor marine harvest more strongly

How to:

a. Water quality and farm run off pollution.

Extend riparian strips, create a motivation for farmers to protect and increase wet lands and water storage sites, and to decrease stocking levels and find ways to create pasture growth which doesn't require massive volumes of water, while improving the carbon capacity of soils. Our current farming methods are destructive of both the land and the natural biodiversity. This has to change now and National Government, Regional Councils and the RMA tools have to ensure this.

b. Marginal Land.

Land in the high country and the great vast dry plains should be retired from farming as in many cases it is only the administration of fertilisers and water that sustain them commercially. Many Regional Council and Local Body mistakes were made here. These farms cannot support a natural biodiversity under these input stresses. Perhaps in the future natural fibre where only a few livestock will put less stress on the land can again be run.

c. Forest.

There should be a moratorium on all shrub land and forest clearance now. The biodiversity will return with habitat.

Final:

Natural biodiversity has been lost because of diminishing habitat, and predator and plant pests. Let us deal with the loss of habitat and degradation of fresh water immediately by using RMA tools appropriately. Essentially if we loose our biodiversity we are also doomed as a species. Kia kaha. Be bold be tough.

Thanks

