

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

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

DATE: 14th March 2020

Submitter's Name and Contact Details

Name	Phone Number	Address
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <i>Masterton 5881</i>

Introduction

I am [REDACTED] and I farm with my husband [REDACTED] on a sheep and beef farm in the Wairarapa in the Tararua foothills. We have [REDACTED] farms. [REDACTED] has been in my family since 1859. We are fortunate that when the land was being cleared a [REDACTED] acre block was not cleared. Some of this area of native trees has been fenced off long ago to protect it and some was fenced about 10 years ago. In the last 10 years we have also fenced off [REDACTED] wetland areas. We have about [REDACTED] ha in total fenced off. We aim to restore these areas with planting, weed and pest control. However all of these activities are both money and time consuming and need to be balance against what is needed to run a profitable farming business.

Our land is owned by a family trust and our two key principles are to continue to restore areas of native diversity as we can and to keep the land in the family for future generations to enjoy. This is whilst maintaining an operational economically viable farming business.

Biodiversity on my farm

As mentioned above we have [REDACTED] ha of SNA (self identified) that we have fenced and started planting. This has been with the financial and practical support of QE II and the financial support of Greater Wellington regional Council. We would not have been in a position to protect these areas with out this support.

We have other areas of native trees and wet areas around our farm. The trees are scattered in paddocks and provide essential shade for our stock. Over time we plan to fence more wet areas off as is practical.

The challenges we currently face in improving the areas we have are time and money for fencing, planting and caring for the plantings. We have a problem with deer who just love to eat the young plants. The very dry years also make survival difficult for new plantings.

How the NPS will impact my farm

It is my hope that the draft NPS will not impact on our current way of farming. However if further areas of native trees or wet areas are identified as SNA that then have to be fenced off, planted and pest protected it will have a major impact on the way we can farm our land. We will lose areas of shade for stock, essential for their welfare in the warming climate. We will have to fence not only the SNA areas but also potentially shift other fences so paddock shapes and sizes remain effective. We will lose grazing areas meaning we would have to run less stock and would our business still be profitable? This is a double whammy the cost of protecting the SNA areas and the loss of income from areas fenced off and re aligning paddocks, tracking etc.

With the increasing dry summer's we are experiencing we have considered making a large on farm dam for water storage. The best site for this would include flooding an area that may be considered a SNA. In fact we have many springs and wet areas on our farm and any site would potentially include a SNA area. If the policy would not allow us to build a dam we may not be able to continue farming without the stored water. This year many of the springs and creeks we have, have dried up so reticulating water to more of the farm is likely to be necessary in the future. Where do we get that water from?

Conclusion

In conclusion we support the intent of the NPS but we are concerned that it needs to be implemented in conjunction with farmers and not 'done to farmers" We are some of your biggest advocates for protecting biodiversity already. However we still want to farm the land in an economically viable way as well as environmentally viable. The retirement of any SNA's should be jointly agreed and the costs of the retirement, fencing, enhancement and maintenance of these areas borne by the crown. It currently feels like the crown is taking our land.

We thank the Ministry for considering our views .

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