

He kura koiora i hokia: a discussion document on a proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity. (NPSIB).

Submission by: Hurunui Natives Plant Nursery (Individual)

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Our general submission is to oppose the National Policy Statement Indigenous Biodiversity.

For the past 20 years Hurunui Natives has helped hundreds of landowners to protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity. It is immensely rewarding work. While the Hurunui and Kaikoura districts are our main places of work, we are now helping with projects right throughout Canterbury. Native bush, wetlands and riparian projects are our main focus. We also advise and help with weed and pest control, erosion control planting options and provide environmental consultancy. We work closely with QEII Trust and many of the recent covenants have come from our work with landowners.

Our biggest concern with the NPSIB is it is completely on the wrong track in achieving indigenous biodiversity outcomes. Many farmers fear large areas of their farms being 'locked up', loss of property values and more unnecessary regulation. The way that indigenous biodiversity regulation unfairly penalizes the most conservation minded farmers is a national disgrace. For many it turns indigenous biodiversity into more of a liability and makes it so much harder for practitioners, like ourselves, to encourage landowners to undertake projects that benefit indigenous biodiversity.

There has been a huge positive attitude change among landowners towards the natural environment. Sure there is still the odd landowner that brazenly destroys the natural environment but these are getting less all the time. And the role of policy makers is not to try and stop one or two bad landowners but what will be the most effective overall.

For these reasons we oppose the NPSIB and request that it be withdrawn. A new policy needs to be developed that allows councils flexibility to develop their own biodiversity policies, for landowners proactive in conservation not to be penalised and for indigenous biodiversity to be valued as an asset, not a liability

Jamie McFadden & Linda Dodds

Hurunui Natives