

SUBMISSION

Proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

Date: 13 March 2020

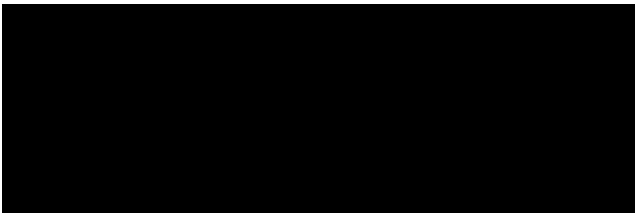
Name of Submitter: [REDACTED]

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Introduction

We run a [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] There are three SNA registered over the property at the moment and numerous wetlands. The property is also boundaries the Waiau River, which in itself is a significant waterway.

Narrative submission

1. I recognise the need to improve and maintain our indigenous biodiversity and unique ecosystems. I support the intent behind the Policy Statement however the consultation document is vague and unclear at various points and creates considerable discretion for its application on regional authorities.
2. I **support** the submissions of Amuri Irrigation Company Limited and Jamie McFadden for the Rural Advisory Network.
3. The criteria for assessing significant natural areas are really broad. It seems to cover every single indigenous habitat irrespective of its threat status. This needs to match the stated intent – which is to capture the truly significant. The criteria must be appropriate to ensure they only capture the truly significant.
4. There is potential for our entire property to be classified as SNA as it is largely covered in tussockland, wetland and steep rocky outcrops with native bush cover. We are stewards of the land and farm in a way that works with our natural environment without placing undue pressure on it, through conservative stocking rates and sensible farming decisions.
5. In implementing this policy, care needs to be taken to allow for viable farming. If the biodiversity currently exists, it will continue to exist within the farming environment and so there should not be a national directive to lock this land up to protect it from farmers. We are already doing that.
6. We also own an area of irrigated land. There are existing uses of land that will be in previously wet areas of farmland that have been drained for many years. The use of the term “former wetland” creates significant uncertainty and provides too much discretion to Regional Councils.
7. Potentially this document could create a significant burden on our farming operation. We ask that you carefully consider the implications on farmers who are working in a challenging environment to run small businesses.

Your faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]