

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Indigenousbiodiversity](#)
Subject: Fw: Submission on National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity
Date: Friday, 13 March 2020 1:23:08 pm

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Firstly I support the Beef and Lamb submission and agree with it's arguments.

We farm a [REDACTED] property in the [REDACTED] of which approximately [REDACTED] is native bush. When we purchased our land we had to buy the native bush which had a monetary value despite it not being productive farmland. We enjoy our native areas and spend significant time enjoying horse riding and biking in these areas and love having easy access to these lovely spots with many visitors enjoying them also. Our farm is a very productive unit despite being mostly very steep and I believe this is mainly because we see ourselves as stewards of the land and have developed it in a respectful way and also being mindful of the safety of ourselves, employees and visitors to our property.

We value the SNA's on our property. However it would be impossible to fence our SNA's to a stock proof level due to the contour and our extreme weather conditions at certain times of the year. In my opinion and through observation the biggest threat to flora and fauna in our area is the rapidly rising population of magpies, which we have observed killing native birds, and the uncontrolled increase of weeds in the DOC reserves. Our local authorities do an amazing job controlling possums on our private land but we continue to be invaded by possums from Government land i.e. DOC and we are very aware possums are the biggest threat to native flora and fauna than anything else.

To me the policy is vague and far too broad in many aspects and has an imposing feel on the personal lives of people who are already doing their very best to make a living and care for SNA's. It is also flawed and contradictory e.g. saying it values culture but promoting policy that threatens the very essence of farming and community culture. There doesn't appear to be much understanding of how dependent rural communities are on each other and many of the policy's would make it untenable for farmers to continue to farm causing depopulation of rural communities. There is already undue pressure on many farming families. Many

of the policies are onerous and farmers and local council will be put under extreme financial pressure on top of coping with day to day pressures like climate challenges and market fluctuations. Especially small rural councils, of which we are a part, who have lesser income from rateable citizens will be extremely challenged to fulfil the obligations under the expectations set out in the policy.

In conclusion I believe we, and others in our district, are already farming with best practice showing great respect to our SNA's, so adding further pressure through interference into our private lives is offensive to responsible and respectful NZ citizens.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature block]

Matiere