Kia ora

I support the desire to protect our significant indigenous biodiversity however I have concerns around

- the definition of SNA which is too broad and not sufficiently defined; and
- the proposals are so vague it is difficult to determine the exact effect on our farming operation.

We have of native bush and tussock land and if this was compulsorily retired from the resulting 55% loss of land would have a significant impact on the balance of our hill country operation and it’s profitability. Added to this loss any requirement to manage pests, weeds & fencing would be prohibitive and likely large areas across the country would become a fire hazard. All this would also have a significant and direct negative effect on annual tax payments.

I suggest the proposal only needs to capture the truly significant flora & fauna. Lack of certainty around these and other farm related proposals are making investment decisions difficult and conservative in the current farming environment.

I strongly suggest the government invest in undertaking serious costings of its proposals around Carbon, Waterways & now Indigenous Biodiversity to ascertain the effectiveness of these policies in addressing the perceived issues; and the flow-on effects through communities and to the Government’s revenue stream.

Nga mihi.