> On 11/03/2020, at 7:39 PM, Round Away wrote:
> 
> From
> I have farming properties which have native bush of [redacted] and that I farm separately to the remainder of the properties. I periodically lightly graze these areas as a means of controlling weeds, eg blackberry, ragwort, gorse and rank grass reducing the extent of non-native understory to manage fire risk. Managing fire risk is important because the Roundaway bush area adjoins a public road.
> 
> The native bush areas are classified as SNAs in the Central Hawkes Bay District Council’s District Plan.
> I greatly value the native bush on my land and that is why I only undertake periodic light grazing. The grazing is not something that I do lightly and my existing grazing practice was initiated some time ago following discussions with our local Central Hawkes Bay District Council regarding the need to manage the fire risk. Feral Deer roam freely through all the natives bush areas in the district, and cause continual damage to the bush. On my Rimu property there is a Feral deer, goat and pig problem.
> I am not an ecologist, but I know the landscape well, and do not think the periodic grazing of the bush areas degrades their value. If anything, the bush areas always look better to me with the weeds and rank grass grazed down.
> 
> Looking at the Draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity I note that section 1.7(4)(g) lists pest vegetation incursions as an adverse effect on indigenous biodiversity. I agree, and that is why I undertake the light grazing practice outlined above. I also see our practice as giving effect to Policy 7 insofar as I genuinely think it helps to maintain the native bush areas of my farm. Continuing that practice is consistent with Policy 10 insofar as I see it as being “appropriate existing activities that have already modified indigenous vegetation.
> Despite the provisions referred to above, I am not sure if section 3.12 “Existing activities in SNAs” would allow our existing light grazing practice to continue.
> So, the point of my submission is to ask that the NPS be amended so that it clearly enables me to continue to manage my bush areas in the same way that I have for many years.
> To that end I specifically request amendments to the Biodiversity NPS that will allow the continued periodic grazing of areas of indigenous vegetation (whether or not they are classified as SNAs) by sheep for weed control and fire risk suppression purposes where that practice currently exists. The provisions that I seek be amended in this manner are:
> SECTION 3.9(4)
> SECTION 3.12
> I also request any other consequential amendments that may be required to give effect to my request.
> Sent from my iPad