

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Indigenusbiodiversity](#)
Subject: RE: submission for draft NPS for indigenous Biodiversity Submission
Date: Saturday, 14 March 2020 11:22:27 am

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Ruapehu
New Zealand
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To Ministry for the environment.
Submission for draft National Policy Statement for indigenous Biodiversity

We run a [REDACTED] sheep and beef hill country farm in Taumarunui .
We have [REDACTED] of original native bush which is retired and a pleasure to have on the property.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. These were specifically retained for stock shade and shelter from the weather, when the farm was originally developed over a hundred years ago. On a hot summers day and in the drought we are currently experiencing , all our stock can be found sheltering under these trees. The Hall's Totara are prolific growers and a spreading tree which needs to be trimmed or occasionally removed to control the area they inhabit. It is critical that such grouping of trees are not fenced off from an Animal Welfare consideration, and allowed to be trimmed or cut down to control their size. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It would cost [REDACTED] to fence these all off, if we were forced to do so, and dramatically reduce the pasture available to graze [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which would result in us making a loss for several years)

Mustering the paddocks would also become a nightmare.

We are concerned that these small area of trees could be seen as SNAs simply because they are a native tree.

For this reason we would like Provision 3.8: "Identifying Significant Natural Areas" to be amended so that such areas are identified and are a reasonable size, so as not to include every small grouping of vegetation, such as our own .

For example "threatened" is 0.25ha or greater , "rare" is 0.5ha or greater and "at risk" is 1ha or greater, and all of which are contiguous.

We also believe it is unreasonable to expect that local authorities are made to make these assessments within 5 years and to also fund this from ratepayer funds. There are much more

pressing activities to spend rate payers money on. We wonder if there is enough expertise available in New Zealand to make these assessments in a fair and robust manner, in such a short timeframe.

our paddocks lead into the of bush .The sheep in these paddocks use the edges of the bush for shelter in the heat of summer and wet cold weather in winter. They rarely venture into the bush itself, which is already partially fenced. There is an abundance of bird life present in the bush. The sheep keep the edges free from noxious weeds. The opossums are being kept under controlled (a previous TB problem area in Taumarunui) and the deer and goats successfully managed This is a balance created over decades of careful management. We are assuming this bush will be identified as a Significant Natural Area simply because it is still there .It is critical that we are able to continue grazing our stock around its edges and be able to manage pests and noxious weeds within and around it. It would be a significant cost to fence all of this bush off ()and result in the explosion of noxious plants (blackberry, gorse, willow weed etc)in the buffer zone. This would also result in loss of shelter for the stock and reduced grazing available.

For these reasons we would like Provision 3.12 :“Existing activities in SNA” to support and provide for the existing activities within and around the SNA, specifically the grazing of productive animals, pasture renewal ,cultivation and vegetation clearance. We have maintained the bush on our property for over 28 years in conjunction with grazing the edges, along with other New Zealand farmers. We see no reason for this to be changed.

We support the goal of protecting and maintaining the our indigenous biodiversity. We would like the term “stewardship” in Huitia Te Rito provision 3.2 to be replaced with “custodianship”. This term we feel better reflects how we feel about and have so far cared for, the native bush on our property. This then flows on to the relationship and responsibility that we have with all of the land which we farm.

We would simply ask that all these recommendations and subsequent actions be done in a fair, constructive and common sense manner. These being done over a reasonable time frame and in a manner which is economically sustainable and practical for everyone involved, especially those of us who are the current custodians of the land.