

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Indigenousbiodiversity](#)  
**Subject:** Individual Submission on Proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity  
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March 3 2020  
[REDACTED]

#### INTRODUCTION

I farm [REDACTED] in the north Wairarapa, and White Rock, [REDACTED] on the south Wairarapa coast.

[REDACTED] has been in the [REDACTED] family for 107 years. It is New Zealand's [REDACTED] provider, with around [REDACTED] to farms all over the country. It employs [REDACTED] people. The [REDACTED], with ownership of a farm in [REDACTED] via joint ventures.

[REDACTED] is owned half by the [REDACTED] and half by descendants of [REDACTED], who walked around the coast from Wellington in 1844, 176 years ago, and took up farming at [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] involvement began in 2002, with five years of substantial investment spent on restoring productivity into pastures and livestock.

#### BIODIVERSITY ON THESE FARMS

WAIRERE: My father started to fence off bush remnants in 1969, with some assistance from the local Catchment Board. In 1987 three bush blocks were placed under QE2 Covenant, with two more covenanted since. Other scrub/bush remnants have been fenced off or retained in gullies. Woodlots, mostly pine, cover more than [REDACTED], and substantial space planting has been done with willows and poplars. Some of the main stream has been fenced off from stock. Over the past fifty years there has been a substantial improvement in biodiversity. A number of new bird species have become established: bellbirds, rosellas, white fronted herons, spur winged plovers, whiteheads, welcome swallows. This has been aided by 1080 poison drops from 1986, which have markedly reduced the possum population, and have killed rats as a bycatch. The number of native pigeons has increased dramatically, and the NZ falcon has reintroduced itself, having been a victim of DDT use fifty years ago. A bat colony was discovered in one QE2 covenant, when Genesis Energy was seeking resource consent for a wind farm.

One contra to biodiversity is the effect on what used to be a permanent stream, because of a [REDACTED] pine forest on our southern boundary, with planting starting in 1975. Those pines have dried up the stream in summer, and the once abundant Koura population has disappeared. The logging of that forest in 1999-2003 also put a lot of sediment into what used to be clear water streams out of sandstone country.

[REDACTED] won the [REDACTED]. I am [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] for the region.

[REDACTED] Redevelopment of existing pasture took place from 2002-2007, including some development of scrub covered country into pasture. The scrub development all stopped when the shareholders purchased 500 beehives for Manuka honey production in 2005. [REDACTED] and I initiated Manuka honey company [REDACTED] in March 2004, growing it to win the [REDACTED] Fast 50 in 2008. [REDACTED] is currently [REDACTED] of pasture and [REDACTED] of regenerating bush, open river bed, and coastal sand and rock.

[REDACTED] is adjacent to the Haurangi Forest Park, which has reverted to native bush after sheep farming ceased fifty years ago. [REDACTED] has seven kilometres of coastline, and boasts a large seal colony, 6-700 seals, with many young reared each year. Banded Dotterels are common on the coast, and also on river beds up to fifteen kilometres inland.

The GWRC has part subsidised a SNA, fencing off a shallow lagoon near the sea. Discussion has been had around fencing off a large area of open river bed, but that would appear to be a huge cost with little if any benefit. There may be GWRC assistance to fence off a couple of small wetland areas in future.

#### HOW THE NPS WILL IMPACT MY FARMS

I hope that there will be very little impact. Most of our fenced off regenerating bush areas at [REDACTED] have

livestock once per year, so continue to grow towards mature native forest.

It concerns me that a bureaucracy is being set up around biodiversity. Once these positions are established, the incumbents have to show that they are doing something, and will continue to push for conservation areas when none may be justified. And someone has to pay these people.

Farming has shrunk hugely over the past thirty years, in area and in the number of livestock. Pasture, including dairying, now covers only 37% of NZ. Urban and lifestyle blocks cover 6%, dairying 7%. With horticulture at 2% of land area, we already have 55% of NZ in plantation forestry, native forest, mountains and natural cover. If this weird scheme to convert farm land to pine trees continues, and takes up three million hectares, and our population continues to expand by 100,000 per year to reach 13 million by 2100, then the area available per person for food production will shrink from 2.3 hectares today to 0.6 hectares.

The engine room of the NZ economy has always been farming, with food exports underpinning our standard of living. Perhaps this Coronavirus crisis will show up the poor policy decisions around shafting the farming sector while promoting tourism (with all the GHGs of long distance air travel) and plantation forestry? Carbon sinks are contra to the Paris Accord, which prioritises food production. And it is strange behaviour for a country so well endowed with water to waste land under trees or more conservation. The natural balance of land use is close to being attained. Subsidising the planting of trees is an artificial change which will be a big cost to all NZ citizens, except those rich enough to buy land and benefit from subsidy income. [REDACTED] most of them sawn into boxing timber for concreting, used once and then burnt. So much for sequestering carbon!

#### CONCLUSION

I oppose the NPS for indigenous biodiversity. New Zealand had 196 species of birds until Maori arrived. Of the 196 species, 32 became extinct before Europeans settled here, 16 species since. To my knowledge there have been no extinctions since the Huia in 1912. So what are we trying to achieve, given that farmers have already gone to big expense and effort to preserve biodiversity?

There is also confused thinking about fresh water ecology. In Africa, where huge animals like hippos live in rivers and lakes, bringing nutrient into the water, there are 1,279 species of fresh water fish. In NZ the water in many streams and rivers is so pure that there were only 58 species of native fresh water fish. And some of those species are at risk from introduced trout and salmon. Perhaps there should be a concerted effort to eliminate introduced fish from half of NZ's rivers? Perhaps Canadian geese should be persecuted? And the Mallard, which has outcompeted the native Grey Duck? There is fresh evidence that waterfowl are fouling rivers with E Coli, where farming used to be blamed.

I thank the Ministry for considering my views.

[REDACTED] March 3 2020.

Sent from my iPad