Submission Indigenous Biodiversity ... closes 5pm 14th March 2020

- What is the matter? We had [REDACTED] of our sheep and beef farm fenced off and covenanted with the QE11 National Trust before we turned [REDACTED]. We could scarcely afford to do this at the time (1993) but this did achieve on our own account and with some financial assistance toward the cost of fencing so we could better manage the movement of stock on the farm along with protecting the native stands of forest. We didn’t need anybody telling us we had set aside areas of land with indigenous flora and fauna. If you are born in this country and have been given a childhood to play, experience, marvel and understand the natural world around us then you very much care and realise we are only here on planet earth as caretakers and in our DNA is our overwhelming desire to care for and endeavour to make better our natural surroundings that we live alongside. With proper understanding and education of our NZ natural environment then we know what is native and obviously needs protecting and caring for and that we do (without being told) to the best of our ability.

- We don’t need anyone turning up here telling us what to do and what needs protecting. Every minute of every day of our lives we live in this remote King Country environment and always do our very best when it comes to caring for the soil and landscape, eradicating weeds in a careful and considerate manner and carrying out predator and pest control from feral pigs to wasps and everything in between.

- What we do need to do is to ensure we have strong biocontrol at all our borders and airports with no expense spared.

- We appreciate people who turn up here to help us with biological control methods such as the release of the ragwort weevil and the californian thistle beetle but we don’t need to be stood over and heaved. We know to be careful with the soil when it comes to disturbing the ground or planting a crop. We appreciate the pest control people who turn up here to rebait bait stations around the perimeter of the QE 11 reserves to poison possums and we also appreciate friends and family who spend some of their time off spot lighting paddocks at night to shoot rabbits, feral cats, possums etc or by day to shoot feral goats, cats, pigs, rabbits or set traps for rats and mustelids which in turn proliferates in a most healthy way all things indigenous.

- If intervention is required to force our population and land owners into protecting our natural world then we have failed in all matters educational, immigralional and in our understanding of our natural world and who we are as kiwis. It is in this area of education and interaction with our indigenous environment that we need to concentrate all our efforts and understanding and then all else to do
with protection of our natural indigenous world will follow.