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**To:** [Indigenousbiodiversity](mailto:Indigenousbiodiversity)  
**Subject:** Submission : Draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity  
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## **Submission : Draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity**

### **Introduction:**

I am a semi-retired farmer living on [REDACTED] at Ngatapa, near Gisborne, raising prime beef cattle for slaughter. Here at Ngatapa we experienced severe flood damage in 1985 and again in 1988 during Cyclone Bola.

**Submission:** I support the retention and development of habitats for our indigenous flora and fauna. Much of this has already been undertaken by farmers as finances have permitted and I believe this process is accelerating. This has been a voluntary process. Generally speaking, when change is needed, incentives have much more productive outcomes than dictates from authorities!

Landowners with years of experience on their farms are more aware of opportunities and risks for their land than people removed from their environment. One only has to become familiar with the recent extensive flooding in Southland to appreciate the practicalities of fencing of water courses, where the results of hard work and good money can be destroyed in a flash!

Once "SNAs" are fenced off from stock, a habitat is created for weed pests as well as predators, requiring additional funds to manage.

The proposals might also restrict current and future farming activities on land adjacent to "SNAs", this is an important concern!

In the Gisborne district it is difficult to find labour for fencing steep hill country, there are practical difficulties with fencing in shallow soils and land slides during storms burying fences etc. Maintenance costs might be significant. There might be additional costs at supplying water to stock, if they are excluded from a natural source.

Many district and regional councils already have policies in place for mapping and regulating "SNAs". It would seem to be a waste of resources, creating staffing problems as well as a burden for ratepayers if existing work has to be repeated. Any time limit imposed needs to be extended, 5 years is a very short time span, when having to deal with other constraints, eg market downturns, floods, droughts etc.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
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