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Attention: Indigenous forests feedback

Dear Sir/Madam

Indigenous forests feedback

This letter expands on the information contained in Greater Wellington Regional Council's feedback form.

Greater Wellington Regional Council (the Council) is a major landowner in the Wellington area. A considerable part of its land is indigenous forest set aside as existing and future water catchments. Other indigenous forest is in the regional parks. Some lesser forest areas are on land set aside for conservation purposes.

In the Council's Regional Policy Statement, objective 3 of the Ecosystem section is "the area and quality of indigenous ecosystems in the regions is increased". The Council is therefore fully supportive of retaining indigenous forests.

It is submitted that if pre-1990 indigenous forests were included in the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme, there would be a disincentive to harvesting forest areas as they would attract a carbon liability. This would mean that both pre-1990 indigenous and exotic forests would be treated in the same way.

The Council also supports a free allocation of 8.1 million tonnes of NZUs to indigenous forest owners in the same way that pre-1990 exotic forest owners are receiving an allocation.

Please note that the feedback from the Council is pro forma. Because of the local government elections on 13 October, it has not been possible to have this submission approved by the Council. This will be undertaken in due course.

Yours faithfully

Murray Kennedy
Divisional Manager
Water Supply, Parks and Forests