

Proposed Natural Resources Plan:

Submitter:

Ian Jensen

Submitter Number:

S176

September 25, 2015

Proposed Natural Resources Plan.

GWRC:

Email: regionalplan@gw.govt.nz.

Submission:

Ian Jensen

182 Te Hapua Road,

RD1

Otaki 5581

Email: iandesign@xtra.co.nz – 06 3643263 – 0274 436517.

I previously submitted on the Draft Natural Resources Plan on November 30, 2014.

I wish to be heard in relation to my Submission.

I will give consideration to joining with others who have similar Submissions.

I make this Submission in the capacity as a private landowner and believe that I will not gain a professional economic advantage of doing so.

Aspects covered in the Submission

- 1) My alliance with the sites generally covered, but not limited by this Submission.
Previous meetings with GWRC staff.
 - 2) Section 32 Report.
 - 3) Objectives.
 - 4) Policies.
 - 5) Rules.
 - 6) Methods.
 - 7) Reasonable access/use, in part within & adjacent to ecological sites.
 - 8) Restoration and Management plans.
 - 9) Mapping.
 - 10) Overview.
-
-
-

1 Site alliance

- 1.1 I have had an association with all of the Te Hapua (Ngawhakangutu) and associated Wetlands on adjoining properties to immediately to the North and the South of more than 55 years and have owned, lived, restored and maintained a part of the Te Hapua Wetland for over 25 years.
- 1.2 I am familiar with parts of the eastern shore of Lake Wairarapa (Wairarapa Moana Wetlands) in the vicinity of Judd and Parera Roads, 'Pearce Wetlands' and 'Wario Wetlands'.
- 1.3 I have carried out and assisted former landowners of parts of the Te Hapua Wetlands in Wetland Restoration projects on at least six wetland areas that make up the now, 'Outstanding', 'Significant' and 'Natural' wetlands in the Te Hapua wetland area.
- 1.4 I have been involved with Wetland restoration in the 'Wario Wetland' area of Lake Wairarapa.

1.5 Previous Meetings attended.

- 1) Paraparaumu Library 2-9-13
- 2) Paraparaumu Community Centre 14-4-2014
- 3) Waikanae Community Centre 5-8-14
- 4) Paraparaumu Library 2-10-14

Points of note from those meetings;

- 1.5.1 a) Restoration of Wetland areas should be simple.
- 1.5.2 b (Sites of significance) We think this place is special and the Regional Council would like to work with you to protect its values.
- c) Rigorous criteria have been used to ensure that the values of a place are indeed significant.
- d) Listing of a site does not provide an automatic right of public entry.
- e) Need to confer with landowners where places are on plan.
- f) Iwi representative – Values that Tanga Whenua hold, check all site info is correct.
- g) Encourage Wetland Restoration.
(Subsequently Map 3 from "Wakahuia Carkeek's" Book, from the 'Mangone stream in the north to south of the Hadfield/Te Kowhai steam was provided.
- 1.5.3 h) Management / Restoration Plans.
- i) GWRC & KCDC to look at Eco site boundaries for consistency.
- j) Iwi agreed to name special areas.
Fact Sheet;

- k) "The primary tool will be the "Restoration and Management Plan".
- l) "Outstanding Wetlands" GWRC will work with landowners and others to develop a plan to restore (where necessary) and manage the water and biodiversity of the Wetlands.

1.5.4

- m) Key environmental management outcomes.

2. – Section 32 Report.

2.1 While there is an underlying theme for the restoration, rehabilitation for wetlands in the report,

Page 6 – to enhance ecology of wetlands, improve recreational and economic opportunities for everyone.

Page 9 – WRC has identified the maintenance of ecosystem health and function as a priority.

Page 15 – direct restoration and rehabilitation.

Page 16 – rehabilitate and restore natural character –

Page 20 – control use of land to maintain and enhance wetland ecosystems.

Page 23 – Policy 4.2.27 encourages the restoration or rehabilitation of fresh water including the establishment, - The creation of new wetlands is described as "highly desirable".

Page 26 – 6.1.3 Preferred Objectives - the inappropriateness of doing nothing – protection of Outstanding natural wetlands.

Equally the report lists that degradation occurs when,

Page 7 - supply of water is altered from its natural state – Areas of wetland are dug-out to create open water where open water does not normally occur- degraded wetlands provide poor quality habitat for indigenous flora and fauna.

I believe that the report errs in a general sense in its assumption that degradation occurs due to excavation, as in the restorative work of my involvement, in all cases, were set against excavation to provide a critical climate for the re-introduction of indigenous biodiversity and re-instatement of water levels due to the reduced ground water levels as a result of historical drainage, seemingly supported by Councils as a status quo as a result of historical drainage and when new road culverts have been Consented.

3. Objectives.

3.1 I support the following Objectives.

Objective 09, 028, 031, 035

4. Policies.

4.1 Policy P4: Minimising adverse effects.

This Policy is supported as it clearly sets down a possible practicable path to follow as it is recognised, that in some cases the avoiding of an activity may not be a practicable outcome.

The long term economic potential of the land coupled with restoration activities and or off-setting, that when initiated and complete will have a positive flow on effect on the surrounding features that are being considered, that in most cases there is already a modified environment and not with-standing the actual use and development of a large portion of the feature is not envisaged, just a relaxation to a level that would allow a land owner reasonable use and economic value of the surrounding land that may otherwise be excluded.

4.2 Policies P36, P37 and P38, are supported.

4.3 Policy P39

While in a true sense the thrust of this Policy can be understood, if in fact all of the Te Hapua Wetland complex 'A' , or the areas of the eastern shore of the Wairarapa Moana, as previously tabled are actually, 'Outstanding Water Bodies'.

The reference here to the significant values as identified in schedule 'A' do not recognise the inherent irregularities within the designated sites, that large parts of these areas at best could be only designated as a 'Natural Wetland', with some of the designated areas clearly rough pasture and or grazing land.

Relief sought:

There is a high need for re-evaluation of these sites, that the boundaries be clearly defined.

4.4 Policy P42 (c)

There needs to be consideration of adequate buffers.

Relief sought:

Have a determination as to how an adequate buffer is determined.

5. Rules

5.1 Rules R 107 & 109

The listed controls are above those necessary to ensure an acceptable level is attained.

That restoration needs to be simple for Land Owners to even consider undertaking such activities. With controls set too high as an initial thrust, this will possibly stymie progress well before the consideration of a 'Restoration Management Plan' is undertaken.

Relief sought:

Reduce from 'Discretionary' status to 'Restricted Discretionary' status.

5.2 Rules R108 & R110

The listed controls are above those necessary to ensure an acceptable level is attained.

The very activities that are described as 'Non-Complying' are activities that have contributed a large input to the restoration of these wetlands.

That Landowners looking at the possibility of carrying out restorative work will not proceed on a 'Non- Complying' activity, therefore the level of proposed control in my view will have a potential long term negative effect.

Relief sought:

Reduce from 'Non Complying' status to 'Discretionary'

5.3 Rule 110 (b, c & d)

The listed controls are above those necessary to ensure an acceptable level is attained.

The very activities (b & d) that are described as 'Non- Complying' are activities that have contributed a large input to the restoration of these wetlands.

Activity (c) needs to be assessed on an individual basis, in some cases a 5m² structure could possibly be inappropriate and in other cases a 30m² structure could be an appropriate activity for both the use and the site location.

Relief sought:

Reduce the requirement for (b, c & d) from 'Non – Complying' status to 'Discretionary'.

5.4 Rule 121 (j [i & ii], k & l)

These are impracticable rules.

Relief sought:

Remove these rules.

6 Methods

6.1 Method M20: Wetlands.

All aspects of this method are supported.

7 Reasonable access/ use, in part within & adjacent to ecological sites.

7.1

Where reasonable access is denied by the presence of a Natural, Significant , Outstanding Wetland or an Ecological site, either in part or in whole, for economic sustainability of the land there is a need, coupled with a positive outcome for the particular site to allow for off-setting as the case may be.

Relief sought:

New Rule:

Provide reasonable access to parts of a site that may be denied by the presence of a Natural, Significant, Outstanding Wetland, or an Ecological Site, using the principals of Policy P4 and in particular (a, b & e). –‘Discretionary Activity’

- (a) Consider how other points of access may be implemented.
- (b) Minimise the parts of the site that may be affected.
- (c) Position the access if possible to the margins of the site.
- (d) Allow for areas of ‘Off-setting’ that firstly can be undertaken on the site and secondly off site but as close as practicable to the site.
- (e) That the Off-Set’ areas are equal to a minimum 150% of the affected part of the site.

8 Restoration and Management Plans.

8.1

I support the thrust that is laid out within the documents for the restoration and management of all wetland sites, it is clear that the intention is that they will be worked through with the land owner

In achieving this however, there is a need to set guide lines that will provide incentives for land owners to approach this activity with confidence, they must be set so it is clear for both Landowners Consultants, along with GW staff as to how these Plans may be approached.

8.2

To date within the documents there are multiple points where activities are *'appropriate if they are undertaken as part of a restoration management plan ,'* but it is not clear in the proposed plan how this will be implemented.

The setting of levels of appropriateness, so that clear determinations can provide certainty to give landowners and consultants a clear guide line as to requirements.

9 – Mapping

9.1

Site determinations of the current Wetland site boundaries, it is noted that there are numerous areas where it appears that the ecological site/Outstanding Wetland site boundaries do not fit the actual site, both positively and negatively.

There is an urgent need to have accurate delineated boundaries

Relief sought;

Have mapping that reflects a true site boundary.

Have determinations to all ecological site boundaries.

9.2

There are anomalies within the documents in regards to provided co-ordinates.

Te Hapua Wetland Complex A 'Outstanding significant wetland', in part is also classified as Te Hapua Swamp Complex D, 'Significant natural Wetland.

10 - Over View.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to this very important document. I look forward to continuing my involvement with GWRC towards a conclusion that not only meets the needs of the environment and the wider wetland in general but also the economic well- being of the land owners along with managers of the very diverse land structures involved.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Jensen.

