Hearing statement for Shar McDonald

Good morning, my name is Shar McDonald, I live on Katherine Mansfield Drive. Where I have lived for 9 years.

I would like to say this is my first time here infront of you sadly but here we go again.
The first time I spoke here, I was in shock with what Greater Wellington had told our community that they intended to push the idea of our community to become a wetlands.

I have spent the last 2 years since then fearful for their idea to come to plan.

Our home was our dream come true, a place dreamt of to raise our children in a safe environment, teach them to live off the the land, nurture and care for it in everyway possible, plant life and watch it grow. All the best lessons in life. Our dream came true, our 2 boys have started their lives in the best way possible in nature.

BUT all of this is over shadowed over and over again where we seem to have to fight for our land.
Are we not doing enough? Have we not given enough as the caretakers of our land?

We now wonder why? Why bother? Why plant more trees, why look after it when we are repeatedly being told "we will do anything to get your land"
I thought after the court case for the sections down the street that we would be left to live our lives but I was told otherwise, Al cross told me he would come for our land on a individual basis regardless of what the court case results would be. That if he didn't get it as a wetland then he would get it as peat.

This starts to take its toll on you and it's soul destroying.
But do you know what?, what we have created is worth fighting for, because we made this, we made this land what it is today by caring for it because that's our passion, that's our reason we chose to live here.

I ask can we please be left with peace of mind in the future? To carry out our incredible work we are already doing?
Living in fear can't carry on, that's why I ask you to please remove the reference to peatland from the regional policy statement change 1.

Thank you for your time and I would welcome any questions.