

Online submission

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Submitter is contact	Yes
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Wish to be heard	Yes
Joint presentation	Yes
Trade competition	I could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
Directly affected	N/A
Withhold contact details?	No

Submission points

Plan section	Provision	Support/oppose	Reasons	Decision sought
Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity	Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity	Amend	<p>The West Coast economy and wellbeing is supported entirely by the services provided free of charge by the Coast's indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity. These services include maintaining the quality, humidity and composition of the air, waters, and soils, as well as providing important spiritual, cultural and recreational sustenance, beyond any monetary value.</p> <p>Most particularly, the identification of SNAs must include those on privately held, owned or leased land and water. The characteristic ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity of much lowland area of the Coast is poorly or not protected, especially that on privately held land. Although around 85% of the Coast is mountainous, unsuitable for farming and forestry, and is Public Conservation Land (PCL), the remaining 15% contains lowland ecosystems and biodiversity poorly represented on West Coast PCL, so these values require assessment and protection.</p> <p>While some landowners may be aware of the ecological values and biodiversity on their properties, and wish to protect it, not all will, so the Plan must be robust and even-handed.</p> <p>The contribution of SNAs to mitigating climate change and reducing NZ's net emissions through carbon sequestration and retention cannot be understated. Climate change knows no national frontiers, so there can be no scope for parochialism and buck-passing. Globally, we are all in this together, and there can be no room for parochialism and nationalism, if we are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p>While I support the intention of this section I request that throughout all the Plan's objectives, policies and rules, the health, integrity and life-supporting properties of indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity are comprehensively protected, supported and enhanced, such that all other objectives, policies and rules are overridden by those of the indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity.</p> <p>Throughout the West Coast, SNAs must be mapped through recent (within the past 3 years at most) on the ground assessment by qualified, specialised and independent ecologists, and not through aerial/satellite studies and other remote desktop practices, prior to the Plan becoming operative.</p> <p>In particular, leaving identification of SNAs in Westland, to when a resource consent is applied for is completely unacceptable because it relies on local authority capacity and appropriate expertise, as well as the applicant's honesty and/or ability to recognise a potential SNA on their property. The integrity of SNAs in Westland is gravely compromised in the Plan as it stands.</p> <p>In identifying an SNA, its contribution to mitigating climate change must be taken into account. That value must be included in this section of the Plan.</p> <p>Identification of SNAs should be funded by Central Government, so as to not impact on the rates of Coasters.</p> <p>Landowners with SNAs on their properties must receive recognition and financial relief for any proven loss of income caused by the SNA.</p>

Documents included with submission

None