

Inger Perkins BSc (Jt Hons), DMS

(personal statement)

Before I start, I wanted to share the experience of a friend of mine who will never submit herself to these kind of hearings again. She expected to sit around a table and contribute. This central lonely position for speakers felt to her like being on trial.

Just wanted you to know that, and perhaps there is a better way to prepare submitters or manage this process.

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As described in the introduction to this chapter, it is all about ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity, and their maintenance, protection and enhancement.

The WWF Living Planet Report 2024<sup>1</sup> highlights a global biodiversity crisis and demonstrates a decline of 73% in wildlife populations in the 50 years to 2020.

It found that habitat loss and degradation followed by overexploitation and invasive species are the key threats to wildlife populations.

The report concluded that transformational action is required in terms of conservation efforts, addressing threats to nature, and food, energy and finance systems.

The climate crisis affects every part of our planet and every one of us. People and nature are feeling the effects. The impacts of the breakdown in the climate we have taken for granted until now are critical for biodiversity. There are options that should be included in TTPP that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support healthy thriving ecosystems.

This District Plan process has been difficult, complicated, drawn out and exhausting.

I therefore want to keep this brief and to the point.

I want to appeal to your consciences where you have discretion and ask you to consider the impacts of your decisions on nature for generations to come.

How will you ensure that TTPP protects indigenous habitats and species.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://livingplanet.panda.org/>

How will you ensure there is no loss over time.

How will you ensure that TTPP is clear, easily understood and implemented, and will succeed in the requirements set out in the introduction to this chapter?

How will you ensure that this theme extends across TTPP?

How will you ensure that the climate is incorporated so that future generations – of people and wildlife – will not suffer following decisions made to finalise and then implement this plan?

These are the kinds of questions I have raised from the outset and I hope they will be achieved in the final plan.

One of my jobs is to manage the South Island Kōkako Charitable Trust. I am faced with the threat of extinction of another precious indigenous species every day, and I work with others on 'Lost Species' more broadly – species on the edge of extinction, if not functionally extinct or extinct already.

I encourage hope in others and I try to keep it alive in myself – that our collective actions have not doomed the South Island kōkako and other precious species to history books and museums.

Others with more experience and time have put their energies into the specifics of TTPP and the opportunities to do better for our ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity, and I urge you to take their recommendations on board.

It is the responsibility of all of us to do what we can to prevent further losses.

I would ask whether you must you stick to rules or can you treat rules as a minimum standard and do better?

Where you do have discretion, I urge you to consider the long term view.

Thank you.