

Proposed Regional Policy Statement
Greater Wellington Regional Council
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WELLINGTON 6142

SUBMISSION – PROPOSED REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT

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POLICY 3 – Discouraging development in areas of high natural character in the coastal environment

We object to the principal in this policy. Policy 3 states that the RMA does not preclude appropriate use and development in the coastal environment.

We find it astonishing then that the Wellington Regional Council sees fit to actually discourage development in the coastal environment. New subdivisions are a natural part of progress – as the population grows new home owners should have the same opportunities to take advantage of the outstanding views around Wellington’s coastal environment. Indeed there are currently subdivisions still being built on the hilltops of the Wellington side of the harbour.

Councils should be encouraged to consider new subdivisions and developments that blend in and enhance the coastal location.

We note that the draft policy did not use the words “discourage”.

POLICY 4 – Identifying the landward extent of the coastal environment.

If the Wellington Regional Council requires District plans to include policies and/or rules to identify the landward extent of the coastal environment, then those landscapes involved should be formally identified by way of survey. This will alleviate any problems for current landowners and/or prospective landowners.

POLICY 24 – Identifying outstanding natural features and landscapes.

We object to the criteria in Policy 24.

(b) Aesthetic values

These are values that relate to scenic perceptions of the landscape. Councils in the Wellington region own a great deal of land held in the form of parks and reserves. If the Council wants to preserve additional outstanding features and landscapes, then it should identify formally the landscape that is held in private ownership and the landowners should be compensated.

With regard to the Wellington harbour, the combination of housing blending in with the landform surrounding the entire harbour will give continuity to the overall character of the landscape.

Cont.

POLICY 52 – Public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers.

We object to this policy where it includes all waterways.

Public access has always been taken along rivers and lakes when application for resource consent/subdivision has been made. This was common understanding to New Zealanders.

Reserve strips have never applied to all waterways.

The recent Labour Government tried to acquire public access to all rivers and lakes but this was resoundingly denied by the public vote. The Labour Government did not even attempt to include all waterways, so we find it difficult to understand how the Wellington Regional Council could be advocating this.

It appears that the Wellington Regional Council endeavours to “steal” peoples’ land every 10 years by deeming certain land to be “naturally significant” and every ten years the public who are affected have to put in submissions to reject this proposal. When will the Council realise that landowners will not give up their land without a fight.

We wish to be heard in support of this submission.



Julie and John Martin
28.5.09