



greater WELLINGTON
THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Submission on proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington region, 2009

Pursuant to Clause 6 of the first Schedule and Section 79 of the Resource Management Act 1991

Submission can be:

Posted to: Freepost 118112
Proposed Regional Policy Statement
Greater Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 11646
Wellington 6142

Delivered to: Ground Floor Reception, 142 Wakefield Street, Wellington

Faxed to: 04 385 6960

E-mailed to: rps@gw.govt.nz

Submissions need to be received by 25 May 2009 at 4pm

Your name and contact details:

Full name: Pamela Joy Meekings-Stewart

Full postal address: 'The Woolshed'
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Contact person: Pamela Meekings-Stewart

Address and telephone no. (if different from above)

Submission

1. The specific parts of the proposed Regional Policy Statement that my submission relates to are as follows:

Attached - 3 pages

(Clearly indicate which parts of the document you support or oppose, or wish to have amendments made to. Please continue on separate sheet(s), if necessary)

2. My submission is that:

Attached

(State the reasons for your submission. Please continue on separate sheet(s), if necessary)

I wish Greater Wellington to make the following decision:

Attached

(Give precise details. Please continue on separate sheet(s), if necessary)

Please tick applicable box(es)

- I do wish to be heard in support of my submission (This means that you wish to speak at the hearing)
- I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission (This means you have elected not to speak at the hearing)
- If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing

Signature: PT Neill Stewart
 (Person making submission, or person authorised to sign on behalf of person making submission)

Date: 24th May 2009

Submission 1:

1. The specific parts of the proposed Regional Policy Statement that my submission relates to are as follows:

Policy 23: Protecting indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values – district and regional plans - amend

Policy 25: Protecting outstanding natural features and landscape values – district and regional plans - amend

2. My submission for **Policies 23 and 25** is that:

(i) Policies need to be in place that encourage partnership with landowners over protection of ecosystems and landscape values - policies which not only acknowledge and thank the very real protection and preservation work which landowners are already doing but perhaps also look at rewarding landowner initiatives which meet and go beyond requirements.

(ii) I have given permission in principle to Te Araroa Wellington Regional Trust for The Long Pathway to cross my land. I support the idea in principle but have major reservations about whether my right to privacy will be respected, whether denial of access during lambing and calving times will be respected, whether my streams (and therefore my drinking water) will be polluted, whether protected environments will be encroached upon, whether walkers will keep to the pathway and whether my property will be used as a public toilet and dumping ground for rubbish. Here again support of, and partnership with, the landowner is essential.

Unfortunately, many landowners have horror stories to tell of walkers and trampers flouting all rules of commonsense and the right to privacy.

3. I wish Greater Wellington to make the following decision:

(i) **That Policy 23 and 25** be amended to include encouragement of partnership with landowners over protection of ecosystems and landscape values and that those landowners who comply and/or exceed regulatory requirements be acknowledged in some way including the possibility of rates relief.

(ii) That landowners who allow public access to Te Araora have legal protection from vandalism, pollution and nuisance so that their rights to privacy and sovereignty are not diluted.

Submission 2:

1. The specific parts of the proposed Regional Policy Statement that my submission relates to are as follows:

Policy 3: Discouraging development in areas of high natural character in the coastal environment – district and regional plans. Amend.

2. My submission for **Policy 3** is that:

Change of Use or Resource Consent regulations could have some simple rules for sustainability, ecological protection and the 'community good' built in to them that would ensure a process that was simple, straight forward and affordable.

Too often the landowner receives a great deal of criticism and a firm 'No' from

regulatory bodies when he or she wish to change the use of their marginal rural land. This builds resentment and non-cooperation. The landowner who wishes to ecologically, environmentally, socially and spiritually improve their land has no regulatory support or framework within which to act. Nor, unlike a Developer, do they have the money to weather the Change of Use or Resource Consent process which must ensue. For instance, regulations such as minimal building on ridgelines, protection and preservation of existing native forest, sustainable building standards, and commitment to further plantings would ensure that parties with extreme, uninformed views could not subvert important ecological and sustainable initiatives.

3. I wish Greater Wellington to make the following decision:

That **Policy 3** be amended to include flexible criteria, taking into account sustainability, ecological protection and 'community good' when assessing development in areas of high natural character in the coastal environment to ensure the process is simple, easily accessible, straightforward and affordable particularly for 'low level' or 'mini' developments.

Submission 3:

1. The specific parts of the proposed Regional Policy Statement that my submission relates to are as follows:

Policy 54: Maintaining a compact, well designed and sustainable regional form – consideration.

Policy 55: Managing development in rural areas – consideration.

Policy 67: Maintaining and enhancing a compact, well-designed and sustainable regional form – non-regulatory.

2. My submission for **Policies 54, 55 and 67** is that:

The mid- to long-term future for wholly sustainable, low level or 'mini' eco-communities with environmentally appropriate dwellings requires acknowledgement, inclusion in long term planning, and support of a number of bodies including the Greater Wellington Regional Council and Porirua City Council. Global warming and diminishing resources require forward thinking by all concerned, thinking which supports and encourages innovative initiatives that protect holistic environments. The number of global sustainable eco-communities is growing by the year and there are already several operating in New Zealand. I encourage the Greater Wellington Regional Council to be a leader in incorporating the best practices of these existing initiatives into its Regional Policy Statement for the future and to show the way in sustainable change management rather than change resistance

3. I wish Greater Wellington to make the following decisions:

- (i) To require all regional, local and administrative bodies to incorporate into their plans new rules for a new future – one in which the land, our communities, our buildings, ourselves and our children participate in commitment to a healthy, sustainable future.
- (ii) That sustainable eco communities be designated as appropriate subdivision and supported in the Regional Policy Statement.
- (iii) That the document developed under the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable

Management Fund, for Standards New Zealand, *New Zealand Handbook, Subdivision for People and the Environment, SNZ HB 44:2001* which addresses all aspects of the 'built environment' in great breadth and depth be included as an important document for all policy relating to Policies 54, 55 and 67.