

Submitter ID:

File No:

Further Submission

on Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region



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Clause 8 of Schedule 1, Resource Management Act 1991.

Please complete this form to make a further submission on the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region (**PNRP**). All sections of this form need to be completed for the submission to be accepted.

A further submission may only be made by a person representing a relevant aspect of the public interest, or a person that has an interest in the PNRP greater than the interest that the general public has, or the Wellington Regional Council itself. A further submission must be limited to a matter in support of, or in opposition to, a submission made on the PNRP.

For information on making a further submission see the Ministry for the Environment website:

www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/everyday-guide-rma-making-submission-about-proposed-plan-or-plan-change

Return your signed further submission to the Wellington Regional Council by post or email by 5pm Tuesday 29 March 2016 to:

Greater Wellington Regional Council
Further Submission on Proposed Natural Resources Plan
for the Wellington Region
Freepost 3156
PO Box 11646
Manners Street
Wellington 6142

Regionalplan@gw.govt.nz

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FreePost Authority Number 3156



FORM 6: FURTHER SUBMISSION FORM

This is a further submission in support of, or opposition to, a submission on the PNRP.

A. DETAILS OF FURTHER SUBMITTER

FULL NAME

G.W. de Lisle

ORGANISATION (* the organisation that this submission is made on behalf of)

Birds New Zealand (Ornithological Society of New Zealand)

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE (INCLUDING POSTCODE)

244 Blue Mountains Road,
RD1
Upper Hutt, 5372

PHONE

04 5279029

FAX

EMAIL

osnzwelly@gmail.com

Only certain people may make further submissions

Please tick the option that applies to you:

- I am a person representing a relevant aspect of the public interest; or
 I am a person who has an interest in the PNRP that is greater than the interest the general public has.

Specify below the grounds for saying that you are within the category you have ticked.

I am the Wellington Regional Representative for Birds New Zealand. The aims of Birds New Zealand are listed in our website, <http://www.osnz.org.nz/aims.htm>. Birds New Zealand is devoted to all aspects of ornithology.

Service of your further submission

Please note that you must **serve a copy of this further submission on the original submitter no later than five working days after this further submission has been provided to Wellington Regional Council.**

If you have made a further submission on a number of original submissions, then copies of your further submission will need to be served on each original submitter.

Signature:

Date:

Signature of person making further submission or person authorised to sign on behalf of person making the further submission. A signature is not required if you make your submission by electronic means.

Please note

All information contained in a further submission under the Resource Management Act 1991 becomes public information. All further submissions will be put on our website and will include all personal details included in the further submission.

B. APPEARANCE AT HEARING

Please select from the following:

- I do not wish to be heard in support of my further submission; or
 I do wish to be heard in support of my further submission; and, if so,
 I would be prepared to consider presenting this further submission in a joint case with others making a similar further submission at any hearing.

G.W. de Lisle
Wellington Regional Representative,
Birds New Zealand (OSNZ)
244 Blue Mountains Road
RD1
Upper Hutt, 5371
23/2/2016

osnzwelly@gmail.com

Details of the submission you are commenting on.

Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, *Ngā Kairauhi Papa*
PO Box 3341
Level 4, 138 The Terrace
Wellington 6140

Original Submission number, S157

Position, Support

Parts of the Submission you support

Support the submission of the QE11 National Trust to the Greater Wellington Regional Council's Natural Resource plan to elevate the status of Taupō swamp from "Significant Wetland" to "Outstanding Wetland".

Reasons

Taupō Swamp is a relatively large (30 ha) representative example of a topogenous lowland freshwater mire, a wetland type characteristic of lowland New Zealand. The swamp is one of only a few lowland topogenous mires in the Wellington Region that have retained a largely indigenous vegetation cover. Taupō Swamp was formed by uplifting of the seabed during an earthquake, which is an unusual way for wetlands to form. This type of habitat is the favoured site for a group of wetland birds which are increasingly becoming scarce in New Zealand. They include bittern, fernbird, spotless crane and marsh crane.

In the latest review of the conservation status of New Zealand birds, Robertson et al., (2012) classified these birds as follows

Australian bittern – Nationally endangered – A (1/1)

Fernbird – Declining

Spotless crane – Relict – A*

Marsh crane – Relict – A*

*Have undergone a documented decline within the last 1000 years, and now occupy <10% of their former range. 5000-20,000 individuals, population stable.

The above classifications were established on a national rather than regional basis. Recently, Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and the Department of Conservation ran an exercise

and applied DOC's national threat classification system criteria to Wellington region bird populations (N. McArthur pers communication). A key result of this exercise was that a number of birds were more highly threatened within the Wellington region than they are nationally. Importantly, spotless crane was one of those species that was assigned as *Regionally Critical* (the highest possible threat ranking), whereas at a national scale they are ranked as *At Risk, Relict*. A regionally critical threat ranking is one where the regional population is small (est. <200 birds for spotless crane) and very sparse and localised distribution. The change in threat status most likely reflects the major loss of suitable habitat in the Wellington region.

A targeted survey of Taupo Swamp was carried out by Delia Small in September / October, 2015 to determine the presence or absence of the wetland species, bittern, fernbird, spotless crane and marsh crane. Spotless crane were observed through their calls on three different occasions. No evidence was found for the presence of bittern, fernbird or marsh crane. Given the difficulties of gaining access to some areas of Taupo Swamp to adequately survey the area and the cryptic nature of these birds one cannot be certain of their absence. Furthermore, some of these species such as bittern may only be present at Taupo Swamp at certain times of the year. Historical records have identified bittern at the Taupo Swamp (Parish, 1984). The recent improvements in the ecology of Taupo Swamp, including some predator control, make it increasingly likely they will be observed in this wetland. The recent bird survey by Delia Small highlighted the need for further bird monitoring of the Taupo Swamp, especially considering the cryptic nature of the wetland birds.

The importance of the above information on birds of the Taupo swamp response relates to criterion 4, Under Rarity, Indigenous Fauna and Flora, used by GWRC in schedule 3, Criteria for identifying natural wetlands with significant indigenous biodiversity values. Under this system, Taupo Swamp rates a B for criterion 4 just on the basis of the birds known to have occurred in this wetland. Further investigations of the Taupo Swamp are likely to confirm its importance for wetlands birds, especially those which are either classified as Nationally or Regionally Critical.

The information of birds recorded in the Taupo Swamp are supportive of the submission of the QE11 Trust to have its status elevated from "Significant Wetland" to "Outstanding Wetland".

References

Parrish G. 1984: Wildlife and wildlife sites of the Wellington Region. *Fauna Survey Unit Report No. 38*. New Zealand Wildlife Service, Wellington.

Robertson HA et al., (2012) Conservation status of New Zealand Birds, 2012. New Zealand threat classification series 4, Department of Conservation, ISSN 2324–1713 (web PDF)