



14 December 2023

Greater Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 11646
WELLINGTON 6142

ATTENTION: The Hearings Advisor

RE: Proposed Plan Change 1 To The Natural Resources Plan For The Wellington Region

I write in response to your request for submissions to your proposed plan changes.

My property is 5.5443 ha in size, two thirds of it is basically flat land except for the back part of the property which is about 1.6 hectares which is very steep and mostly covered in gorse and blackberry at present. The purchase of this extra land back in 1994 gave access to a very small stream which comes down from the Mangaroa Forrest onto which the property backs. This stream flows down the back boundary and into the neighbours' property and then back into mine. It eventually flows out under the intersection of Flux, Colletts and Mangaroa Roads and goes down Colletts Road to I assume, join the Mangaroa River at some point. It is more like a farm drain in reality. At the point where the stream enters my property, there is a collection tank which gives the property water supply for stock.

I also believe that the proposed changes are not suitable for lifestyle blocks of under 10-20 hectares.

If you insist on fencing off waterways on properties, would this not increase the chance of fires from tall grass and scrub that would then grow, creating a significant safety risk? Especially if climate change brings drier conditions to New Zealand. I try and keep my property in good condition and have spent a lot of money and time trying to clear the gorse and barberry from it. The hilly section of 1.6 hectares is the last area being worked on.

I am approved by Inland Revenue Department as a small cattle farm as I purchase steers when they are between 4-7 months old and fatten them for sale to Taylor Prestons as two and a half year old cattle. As I have also been checked out by the Ministry for Agriculture and approved, I ascertained that the meat from my cattle is sent to European markets as they are naturally fed with only grass and baleage. I do not see why I need another authority telling me what I can and can't do with my property and would certainly not pay for that action.

I believe the new National-led Government is to make changes to the Resource Management Act and I believe that the Greater Wellington Regional Council should not be making any changes until this Act has been revamped.

Another point I wish to make is where was the notification of these proposed changes? I was told at a meeting I attended, that you placed an advertisement in The Post but really? How many people read that newspaper these days? I believe a letter should have been sent to every property owner who may be affected by these proposed changes, stating in plain English what your proposed changes are. I certainly do not either have the time nor would understand most of your lengthy document.

I was also told at that meeting that the proposed plan changes would even affect the choice of materials used on our property driveways and you would charge for driveways being kept in good condition! I completely reject that proposal. You cannot tell or force landowners what to do with their own property or even believe that you could charge for this maintenance on top of what we already pay to maintain our properties.

I have noticed that since the Mangaroa Forrest has been harvested the amount of water coming off the hills has significantly increased. That is the cycle of a forest and no doubt that run-off will affect the quality of the water going into the Mangaroa River. As it is being replanted (like many other forests in rural Upper Hutt), this will be cyclic and no amount of legislation can change that. New Zealand is still an agricultural country reliant on all forms of agriculture/farming for its survival. To think otherwise is naïve.

One of the last points I would like to make is that I would like to know who, of the members making up the Greater Wellington Regional Council is a qualified agricultural specialist, that you think you have a right to tell us what to do? These proposals are definitely regulatory over-reach and hopefully the new Government will put a stop to this nonsense.

I do not wish to present at the submission hearing.

Yours faithfully

Marilyn Sally Kean