

Proposed Change 1 to the Wellington Regional Policy Statement

Hearing Stream 6 – Indigenous Ecosystems

Speaking Notes – Emily Levenson on behalf of Horticulture New Zealand

Wednesday, 21 February 2024

Introduction

1. Kia ora, my name is Emily Levenson, and I am an Environmental Policy Advisor at Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ).
2. Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you about HortNZ's submission for Hearing Stream 6: Indigenous Ecosystems.

Key issues and outcomes sought

3. As we've established in previous hearing streams, HortNZ's key interest is that the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land is implemented to the extent practicable to ensure balanced direction throughout the Regional Policy Statement.

Response to Section 42A Report – Topic: Indigenous Ecosystems

4. For the Indigenous Ecosystems chapter, the Section 42a author Pamela Guest agreed with our submission to include a clause about identifying highly productive land in Method 32 (discussed in para 472 iii of the Section 42a report). This amendment is well-suited to Method 32, which provides direction for identification and protection of significant values, including highly productive land.
5. Ms. Guest's recommendation to insert this clause necessitates a definition of highly productive land to support it, as HortNZ has suggested in previous hearing streams and our original submission.
6. As Ms. Guest determined that this amendment was in scope, other amendments throughout the plan related to highly productive land should also be in scope to implement the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land as soon as practicable.

Conclusion

7. HortNZ welcomes the recommended amendment to Method 32 for identification of highly productive land and seeks a supporting definition.
8. HortNZ recognises that GWRC intends to fully implement the NPS-HPL through another Plan Change within the timeline laid out in the NPS-HPL. PC1 can do the initial work of recognising highly productive land in advance of an upcoming, dedicated Plan Change.

9. Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Emily Levenson

21 February 2024

Additional Information

Table 1: Summary of HortNZ submission interests

Provision	Summary of HortNZ interests	HortNZ Response to S42a
Method 32	HortNZ sought a new subclause (f) identify areas of highly productive land.	HortNZ supports the position of the S42a author to include this clause.