

National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

Roadshow 2020



1. **Biodiversity Collaborative Group & development of the National Policy Statement (NPSIB) on Indigenous Biodiversity**
2. **NPSIB process including implementation through Regional and District Plans**
3. **Review of the main points for farmers to consider**
4. **What are B+LNZ & Federated Farmers seeking**
5. **What is B+LNZ & Federated Farmers doing and how farmers can have their say**
6. **Where to go for more information**

BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP



1. Stakeholder-led Biodiversity Collaborative Group formed in 2017 by previous National Government
2. Group Members: Federated Farmers, Forest and Bird, Forest Owners, Environment Defence Society (EDS), Extractive/Infrastructure industry rep, Iwi Chairs + Central Government Observers
3. Federated Farmers consulted with primary sector organisations
4. Report released in October 2019 incorporated:
 - Draft NPS
 - Background report to draft NPS
 - Proposed Complementary and Supporting Measures (this was key to Feds support)

WHAT IS INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY?

And why is it so hot right now?

- Biodiversity describes the variety and diversity of all life on land, in fresh water and in the sea.
- Indigenous biodiversity includes that life which is native to New Zealand.
- It includes ecosystems such as tussock grasslands, forests, wetlands, sand dunes, lakes.
- The NPSIB covers Terrestrial habitats and species and wetlands.
- There is cross-party support for a National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB).

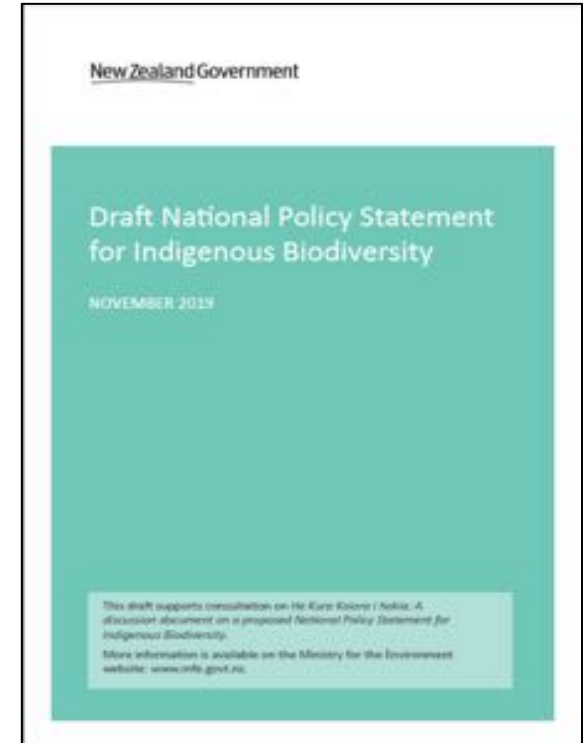


WHAT IS THE NPSIB & WHY SHOULD I CARE?



- Sets out how Regional and District Councils will identify and manage indigenous habitats and species
- With over 2.8million hectares of indigenous vegetation on sheep and beef farms it could have significant implications for how you manage your land and what you can do with your land
- Covers more than just an area identified as a Significant Natural Area (SNA's) but also areas around these
- Includes management of mobile species and their associated habitats
- Includes restoration targets (10% urban, 20% rural)

Identify (map) → Maintain (lock it up) → Restore



OPPORTUNITIES IN A NUTSHELL

Provides some opportunities...

- Consistent criteria for identifying Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)
- Recognises existing use rights
- Good recognition of role of landowners as custodians and managers
- Could be used as a platform for landowners to add value to their farming business:
 - Connect with consumers;
 - Underpin Country of Origin Branding & markets;
 - Climate Change Mitigation;
 - Resourcing assistance



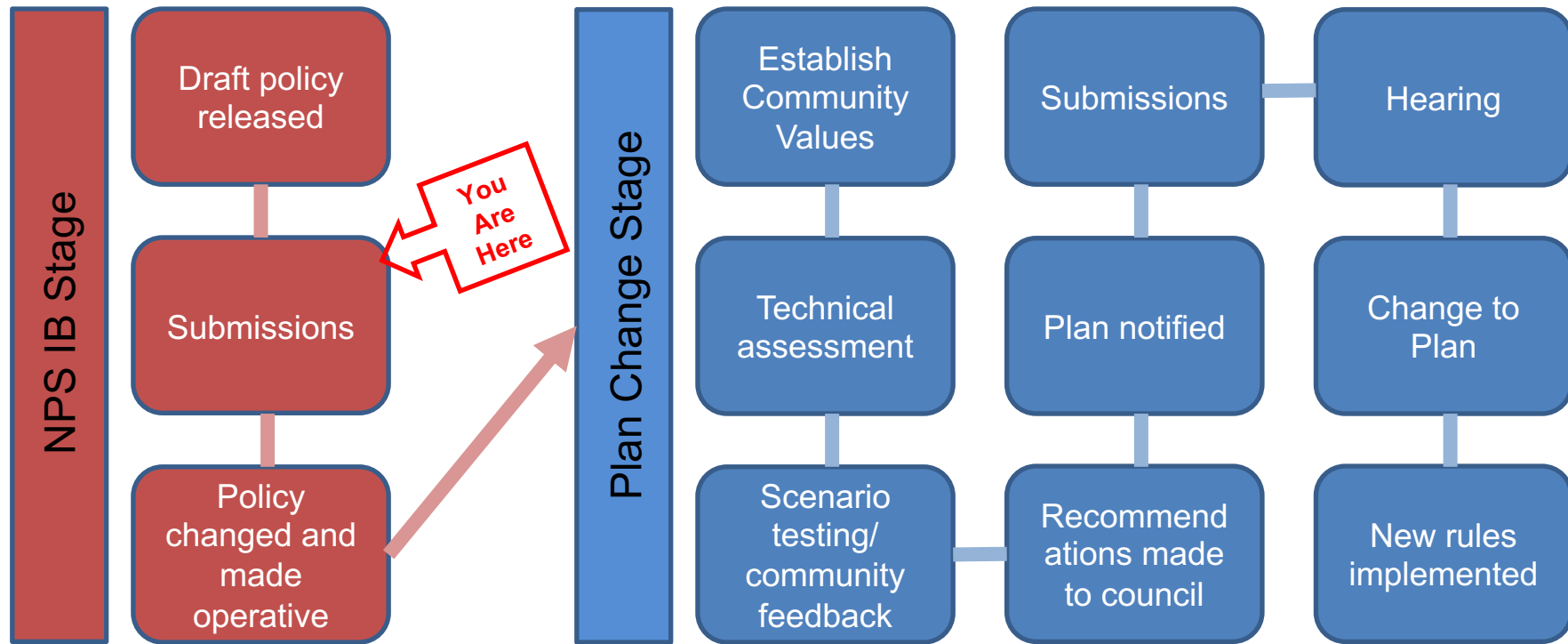
ISSUES IN A NUTSHELL

Some issues...

- Widening of “significant criteria” could capture most indigenous vegetation and exotic vegetation that hosts indigenous animals
- Protect areas around SNAs (3.13)
- Practical challenges with implementation e.g. 3.15 (mobile fauna)
- Could constrain existing activities and likely to preclude new/ future activities within and adjacent to these areas



THE PROCESS FROM HERE



Key topics we will cover:

1. Why is the NPSIB unclear sometimes ‘precautionary principle’
2. Some good stuff – recognition of people as important, social and cultural wellbeing
3. What are we managing ‘Significant Natural Areas’
4. How are we managing these ‘existing vs new activities’
5. What else? ‘areas around SNAs’ and ‘mobile species’
6. Do we have to put stuff back ‘restoration’

3.6 PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH



- Authorities must take a precautionary approach to proposed activities where the effects on biodiversity are uncertain, unknown, or little understood; but potentially significant.
- Most of NZ biodiversity little understood, undescribed, unknown.
- Therefore effect of activities on that biodiversity uncertain.
- Can affect consent applications for unrelated activities, especially discretionary and non-complying activities

3.7 SOCIAL, CULTURAL, ECONOMIC WELLBEING (Page 19)

- People are critical to maintaining and enhancing indigenous biodiversity
- Respect and foster the contribution of landowners as stewards and kaitiaki
- Maintaining indigenous biodiversity doesn't preclude use and development
- Ties into Objective 6: Allow people to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing now and in the future (Part 2.1 page 15)
- Ties into Hutiā Te Rito 3.2(2) health of the people linked with health of IB and the environment.



3.8 IDENTIFYING SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS (SNAs)

- Standardise the process of SNA identification
- New criteria may result in most indigenous vegetation being identified as significant
- The criteria (Appendix 2, pp37-39):
 - Representativeness;
 - Rarity & Distinctiveness;
 - Diversity and Pattern;
 - Ecological Context



Desktop analysis – Ecologist to confirm (Appendix 1) – Access can be compelled

3.8 IDENTIFYING SNAs – Please Note

- Councils are already required to protect SNAs.
- Proposed that all councils identify & map SNAs, within 5 years unless extension sought. Help to some councils available.
- NPS describes principles that should apply during the identification process, including the need for partnership with landowners, transparency about how information will be used.



3.9 MANAGING EFFECTS ON SNAs

- Applies to **new** subdivision, use, development.
- **New** activities must avoid loss, disruption, fragmentation, reduction in population size or occupancy.
- Manage means manage. Avoid means don't do it.
- **New** activities (that you've never done before) are unlikely to be allowed in SNAs unless their effects are very minor.
- Identifying existing uses and activities will be key
- Strong direction for exclusion of livestock.



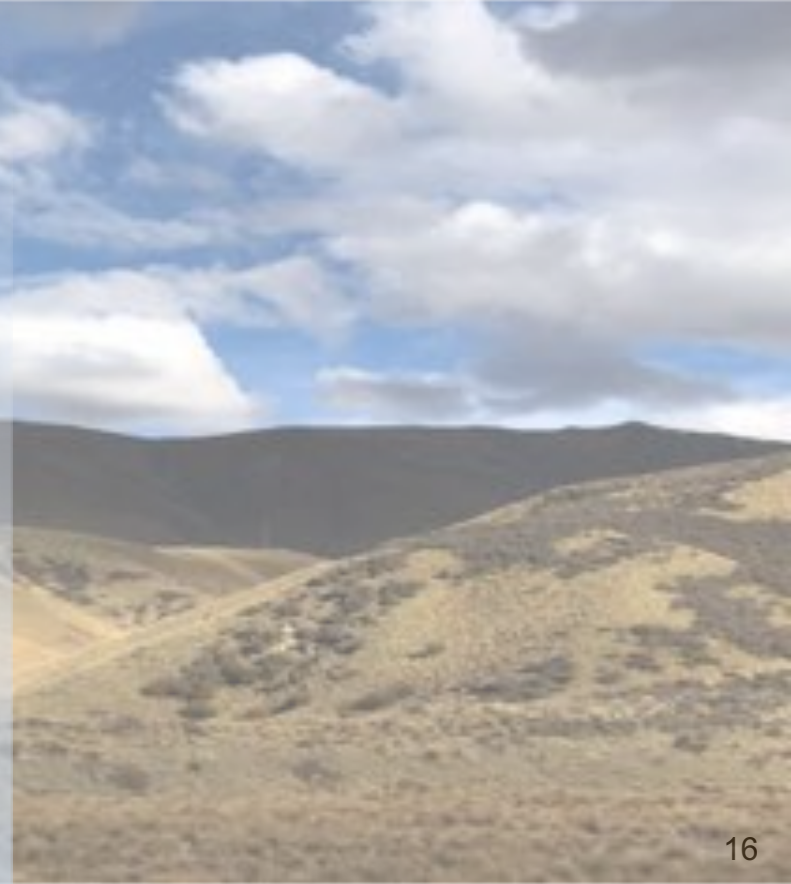
3.12 EXISTING ACTIVITIES IN SNA



- Existing activities already have some protection (sections 10 and 20) **if** they remain the same **character, intensity & scale**
- Councils can specify where, how and when other existing activities (outside ss10,20) are provided for
- Existing activities **must not** lead to the **loss** (including cumulative loss) or **degradation** of the SNA's '**ecological integrity**'
- Can't change the scale of what you do now compared with what you have done in the past with regards to clearance.

3.13 AREAS AROUND SNAs

- Controls on subdivision, use, development in areas outside SNAs to maintain biodiversity
- Offsetting and compensation can be considered when applying the '*effects management hierarchy*'
- Area outside of SNA can become treated as if an SNA
- This can cross property/farm/sector borders.
- How big an area around SNA needs to be is not defined



3.15 HIGHLY MOBILE FAUNA



“Survey and record areas outside SNAs where highly mobile fauna have been, or are likely to be, sometimes present”

- Council to record location of highly mobile fauna areas in district plan or map.
- Council must also provide information to communities about the fauna and best practice for managing adverse effects. You may need a plan to protect mobile fauna during farming activities.
- This is resource intensive; and
- This can cross property/farm/sector borders.

3.17 INCREASING VEGETATION COVER



- If an urban area or a rural area has less than 10% in indigenous vegetation cover – the Regional Policy Statement must include a target to increase indigenous vegetation cover;
 - For urban areas, the target must be 10% or higher – councils then set a timeframe for when they want to achieve that target
 - For areas outside urban areas (rural/conservation) where there is less than 10% indigenous cover, the council chooses a target they want to meet (doesn't need to be 10%) and a timeframe for achieving that
 - As it is a plan process, you get to submit to those targets and timeframes.
- Potential for recognition of climate change benefits through He Wake Eke Noa

POTENTIAL ISSUES



- Language suggests restoration initiatives become legal obligation to maintain biodiversity;
- This potentially gives grounds for imposing requirements on farmers to actively manage pests and weeds, fence off SNAs, perhaps even retire land altogether;
- Restoration initiatives should be non-regulatory and should focus on supporting local conservation efforts;
- Concerns been raised that the NPS treats communities and some activities differently in relation to indigenous biodiversity and its management;

POTENTIAL ISSUES



- Significant new costs for Councils under the NPSIB e.g. mapping of SNAs, surveys of highly mobile fauna, monitoring;
- Lack of expertise in New Zealand, combined with tight timeframes means Councils likely to resort to desktop mapping tools rather than ground-proofing (although this is discouraged unless landowner access refused);
- Cost-benefit analysis is light on costs to landowners of implementing the NPS. Government is relying on the submission process to fill this gap;
- Impact on rates for Councils with large geographic areas and small rate-payer bases is a particular concern. Government acknowledges help will be needed in this regard.

B+LNZ AND FEDERATED FARMERS POSITION



The Why

- Fairness
- Certainty
- Recognition
- Farmers Empowered
- Resilient Communities

Overarching Position

Policy that recognises, rewards, and incentivises biodiversity work on farm.

B+LNZ AND FEDERATED FARMERS POSITON - Our Goals



- To ensure that biodiversity on private land is a POSITIVE for landowners.
- Protection and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity is enabled within pastoral based landscapes.
- Benefits provided by Indigenous Biodiversity are realised by farmers (offsetting GHG emissions, social license, Country of Origin Brand is underpinned, market access and development)
- Integrated Landscapes - biodiversity within productive profitable pastoral based systems

WHAT ARE B+LNZ AND FED FARMERS DOING? WHAT CAN YOU DO?



B+LNZ & Federated Farmers

- Roadshow to explain the proposals and hear from farmers
- Working with DairyNZ and other TeamAg where possible
- We will each make a submission, with research into impacts of policy proposals
- Once policy in place, focus will be on extension and tools and ensuring Government delivers on complementary measures \$\$\$\$\$
- Webinars, live-streamed workshops, podcasts



WHAT ARE B+LNZ AND FED FARMERS DOING? WHAT CAN YOU DO?



What can farmers do?

Get informed and make a submission!

- Attend B+LNZ & Federated Farmers roadshows
- Make a submission **CRITICAL** ! *We will provide you information*
 - Include case studies of what you have been doing and impacts on you
- Contact your local MP, District and Regional Councillors



WHERE'S THE INFO?



Ministry for the Environment website

<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/biodiversity/upcoming-government-biodiversity-initiatives/developing-national-policy-statement>

Federated Farmers/B+LNZ Fact Sheet

https://www.fedfarm.org.nz/FFPublic/Policy2/Policy_Factsheets/Indigenous_Biodiversity.aspx

Beef+Lamb New Zealand Website

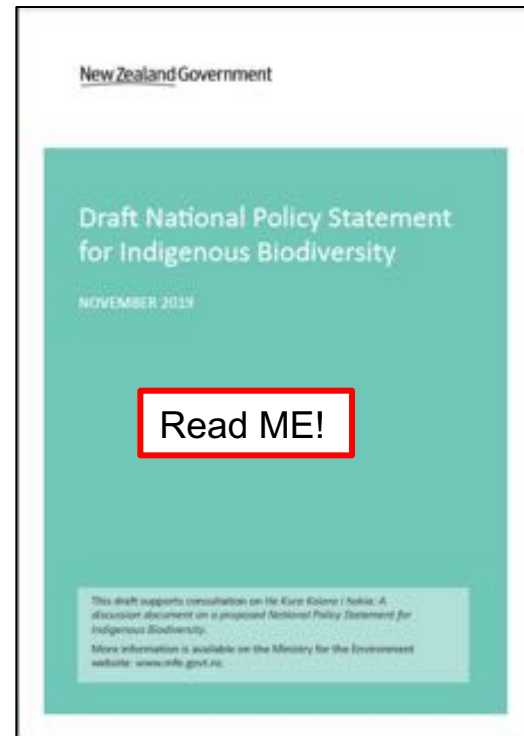
<https://beeflambnz.com/>

The Draft NPS Indigenous Biodiversity

<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/biodiversity/draft-national-policy-statement-indigenous-biodiversity>

Submit on line

<https://submissions.mfe.govt.nz/consultations/proposed-national-policy-statement-for-indigenous-biodiversity/make-a-submission>



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