

Environmental Policy,
Greater Wellington Regional Council

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ATT. Hearing Advisor

By email to regionalplan@gw.govt.nz

Submission on 'Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan '

Submitter; Peter Kiernan. [REDACTED]

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Submitted by; Peter Kiernan Email diana@kiernan.net.nz

I wish to support in full the submissions of the New Zealand Farm Forestry Association Inc, and the New Zealand Farm Forestry Association's Wellington branch, on the proposed Plan Change 1.

My wife and I own a small forest located on the Kapiti Coast and although we understand that this proposed plan change covers Wellington and Porirua and not the Kapiti Coast, we consider this proposed plan change affects us, because much of what is decided after due process is quite likely to be rolled out in a very similar way on the Kapiti Coast.

For the last couple of years, we have been trying to find a contractor to harvest our small forest. All the financial projections to date make the harvesting marginal economically. If Plan Change 1 goes ahead as proposed our forest will almost certainly become uneconomic to harvest. It will be uneconomic to harvest because of the extra cost as a result of paying consultants to apply for a resource consent and prepare the other documents required by the proposed rule changes. We consider that the proposed forestry rule changes are so serious that our forest land will be incapable of reasonable use, and so we are also challenging those rules in accordance with Section 85 of the RMA.

Therefore, we object to all the new proposed provisions in the plan that replace the current national standards in the operative plan. We ask that the plan reverts back to harvesting being a Permitted Activity provided that the national standards are followed.

Although I have not found time to read every detail of the document, I have a major concern that I could not find any local data from scientific studies regarding sedimentation of streams and rivers from forestry land. I believe WRC approach has been to assume that Wellington hills erode in a similar fashion to say Hawkes Bay's hills. Wellington / Porirua / Kapiti Coast is predominantly weathered greywacke derived soils and therefore very different from the soils in other parts of New Zealand that have recently caused substantial damage from slips, sediment and slash.

Without the local scientific studies of sediment runoff from exotic forest in the Wellington / Porirua / Kapiti area, the WRC's onerous changes to the forestry rules are not justified.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Regards

Peter Kiernan



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