

8th July 2009

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Attention Joan Allen - Chairperson, Proposed One Plan General Hearing – Landscapes and Natural Character

**Wellington Fish and Game's Tabled Evidence in response to the Officers
Supplementary Recommendations for Landscapes and Natural Character -
Proposed Horizons One Plan**

Madam Chair,

1. Wellington Fish and Games original submission on Landscapes and Natural Character generally supported the content of the Proposed One Plan. Only the wording around Natural Character, and Naturalness, was contended, along with ensuring that the One Plan protected natural Character and provided provisions for restoration of natural character if degraded.
2. The concerns raised by Wellington Fish and Game in our original submission have been largely addressed in the Officers supplementary recommendations on Chapter 7 and Schedule F, and we wish for these recommendations to be retained, as outlined below.
3. Where Wellington Fish and Game expresses concerns regarding wording, we ask that our recommended amendments are adopted in full, as discussed below.
4. **7.1.3 Landscapes and Natural Character** – Officers recommendations as outlined in the Track Changes document 18th May 2009 are generally supported. To provide the setting to include further policies or methods regarding restoration or rehabilitation Wellington Fish and Game requests that Paragraph 6 be amended by adding “*and restore, and rehabilitate natural character where appropriate*” following “*The approach of the One Plan is to maintain the current degree of the natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, rivers and lakes and their margins by....as described elsewhere in this plan*“. Paragraph 7, sentence 2 delete “*where this is reasonable*“. The preservation of Natural Character should always be considered, as a matter of national importance, under section 6(a) of the RMA (1991).

5. **Issue 7-2a** Officers recommendations as outlined in the Track Changes document 18th May 09 supported.
6. **Issue 7-2b** reword to read "*The natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins can be adversely affected by land use activities, and development, particularly new river works, drainage and subdivision*". The addition of the wording "*in areas with a high degree of natural character*" is unnecessary, and in the opinion of Wellington Fish and Game incorrect. Even in modified systems including rivers, streams and wetlands components of natural character eg channel sinuosity, pool/riffle/run components, riparian vegetation can be maintained, even if they have been reduced to some extent. These systems may not retain a high degree of naturalness, however they can still be significantly impacted by further activities which may degrade their natural character further and to the extent that their life supporting capacity is significantly affected.
7. **Objective 7-2 Landscapes and Natural Character** (a) and (b) Officers recommendations as outlined in the Track Changes document 18th May 09 supported.
8. **Objective 7-2 Landscapes and Natural Character.** Wellington Fish and Game in our original submission requested that provisions for remedial works be included where natural character was degraded (pg8). In this aspect we share the concerns raised by the Department of Conservation in Mr Watts evidence. Wellington Fish and Game supports the Departments recommendations to include the addition of subclause (c) "*the natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, and rivers, lakes and their margins and the characteristics and values of outstanding landscapes are restored or enhanced*" or the alternative (Watts, 2009, sentence 29).
9. **Policy 7-7(a)** Officers recommendations as outlined in the Track Changes document 18th May 2009 supported.
10. **Policy 7-7(b)** Officers recommendations as outlined in the Track Changes document 18th May 2009 supported.
11. **Policy 7-8 Natural Character** Officers recommendations as outlined in the Track Changes document 18th May 2009 fully supported. These recommendations provide appropriate policy to address Wellington Fish and Games concerns regarding adequate protection for the Natural Character of Rivers, lakes and wetlands.
12. **Policy 7-9 Public access** Officers recommendations as outlined in the Track Changes document 18th May 2009 supported.

13. **Method 7-7 District Planning – Natural Features, Landscapes and Habitats and Natural Character, and Method 7-7a Consistent Landscape Assessment** Officers recommendations as outlined in the Track Changes document 18th May 2009 fully supported.
14. **7.5 Anticipated Environmental Results** Wellington Fish and Game supported 7.5 AER in our original submission, however, it may be beneficial to omit “*Schedule F Table F1*” and add “*or enhanced/rehabilitated if appropriate*” following “*will be in the same state*”, to the AER on Landscapes and natural features. These changes would enable subsequently identified Regionally Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes (as identified under policy 7-7b) to be included in this assessment.
15. **7.6 Explanations and Principal Reasons – Natural Features and Landscapes** Officers recommendations as outlined in the Track Changes document 18th May 2009 supported.
16. **7.6 Explanations and Principal Reasons –Natural Character (a) and (b)** Officers recommendations as outlined in the Track Changes document 18th May 2009 fully supported. Subclause (c) omit “*important*” following “*by actively protecting and managing biodiversity*”. All wetlands and lakes (as discussed in Wellington Fish and Games hearing evidence on Biodiversity), and rivers, as described in other parts of the Proposed One Plan, should be protected and managed.
17. **Schedule F Regionally Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, and Table F1** – Officers recommendations as outlined in the Track Changes document 18th May 2009 supported.

Taking into account the above, I do not plan on attending the General Hearing, but would be happy to make myself available should the Committee have any questions regarding the contents of this statement.

Yours sincerely



Ms Corina Jordan
Environmental Officer
Wellington Fish and Game