

# SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS – TO MAP OR NOT TO MAP?

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# COMMON APPROACH

- ▶ Managing SNAs commonly involves identification and mapping
- ▶ Planning framework based on managing vegetation removal
- ▶ Downsides include
  - ▶ Tension between landowners rights and the 'greater good'
  - ▶ Landowner resistance
  - ▶ Cannot require active management



# MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

- ▶ Combined Plan – only marine areas & wetlands mapped
- ▶ Terrestrial biodiversity threats
- ▶ Focus on voluntary partnership with landowners
- ▶ Backed by on-the-ground initiatives




# MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL


## ▶ Key benefits:

- ▶ Targets ‘protection’ of these area beyond traditional RMA approach
- ▶ Has a proven track record at protecting biodiversity values
- ▶ Landowner support
- ▶ Results in active protection of significant areas





**Significant Natural Areas Project—Newsletter**  
July 2016

<p><b>SNA Project Numbers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>302</b>—the number of properties in Marlborough assessed for the presence of significant natural areas since 2001</li> <li>• <b>708</b>—the total number of sites that have been identified covering about 45,000 hectares of land</li> <li>• <b>88</b>—the number of protection projects, covering 1870 hectares of land in total, that have been carried out since 2003 – about 12% of the sites identified and 4% of the area identified</li> <li>• <b>38</b>—is how many of the 88 protection projects covenanted through the QEII National Trust</li> <li>• <b>2.1 million dollars</b>—the total budget for all these projects since 2003. Council's share is about \$700,000, landowners about \$550,000, QEII about \$75,000 and the Central Government Biodiversity Fund \$800,000.</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$\$ Funding to help Landowners Protect SNA and Wetland Sites \$\$</b></p> <p>Council funding is available to help landowners to protect identified SNA or wetland sites. We can help with advice about site management and funding of fencing, weed control and native plantings. Together, we have completed over 85 projects since 2003, but there are plenty more sites that would benefit from active protection to safeguard them for the long term.</p> <p><b>Waima/Ure Valley - Old Mans Beard Control Project</b></p> <p>The Waima/Ure Valley catchment of approximately 16,000 hectares has Old Mans Beard (OMB), present on both public and private land. In 2005 efforts stepped up to control OMB on several private properties in the catchment. The Waima Valley Ecological Restoration Society (WVERS), was established by local landowners in 2010 and a management plan for the eradication of OMB was prepared in 2012. This plan divided the catchment into eight project management areas and set goals and timelines for control works extending out to 2020. This is an ambitious project with the goal to:</p> <p><i>“eradicate Old Man's Beard from the Waima/Ure Valley so that areas of regenerating indigenous vegetation on private land, and the mature forest and social vegetation of isolated Hill Spacing Reserves, can flourish.”</i></p> <p>Some funding support has been provided through Marlborough District Council's Significant Natural Areas Landowners Assistance Programme but the group has also been able to get more substantial funding from other sources (mainly the Biodiversity Fund and Lotteries Fund), over several years. Landowners have also contributed significant resources into the project. Experienced contractors have carried out the work. If the flowering and seeding cycle of Old Man's Beard can be interrupted, and regenerating seedling growth prevented from re-seeding, Old Mans Beard control is feasible within about a ten year period. The methods of control have included larger scale chemical control both aerially by helicopter and gorse gun on the ground, as well as ground based knapsack and cut and paste methods at a finer scale.</p>  <p><small>PEGGIE'S LANDOWNER Susan King and Council Bioscience Coordinator John Underwood look over part of the Waima/ Ure catchment</small></p>
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# HURUNUI DISTRICT COUNCIL

- ▶ Significant tensions resulted from first generation plan.
- ▶ Second generation plan - biodiversity working group approach
- ▶ Provisions include 'Biodiversity Management Plan' approach.



# HURUNUI DISTRICT COUNCIL



- ▶ Key benefits:
  - ▶ Provides for consideration of wider land management not just a focus on vegetation clearance
  - ▶ As a result can include consent conditions/management measures focussed on more than just vegetation clearance.



# DOWNSIDES

- ▶ Hurunui - Plan has been operative for a year and no-one has applied yet
- ▶ Marlborough - Approach was challenged through submissions, may not be favoured by Hearings Panel
- ▶ Alignment issues with documents that assume mapping



# PROPOSED NPS FOR BIODIVERSITY

- ▶ Prepared by Collaborative Group (but no total consensus)
- ▶ Recognition that NPSIB is not in itself the complete solution – series of other methods identified
- ▶ NPSIB is preferred method to ‘maintain’ what is left, with enhancement to be primarily achieved through nonregulatory measures
- ▶ Objective of maintaining indigenous biodiversity proposed is by identifying and protecting SNAs.
- ▶ Proposed Policy 4 requires mapping

## Report of the Biodiversity Collaborative Group

### Incorporating:

- Background Report for the Biodiversity Collaborative Group's Draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity
- The Biodiversity Collaborative Group's Draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity
- The Biodiversity Collaborative Group's Complementary and Supporting Measures for Indigenous Biodiversity

Embargoed until 25 October 2018

BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP  
New Zealand



# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- ▶ Does the direction in the NPSIB override the local test of what is most appropriate way to achieve RMA's purpose?
- ▶ Can downsides and limitations of alternate approaches be overcome?
- ▶ What happens in areas like Marlborough and Hurunui where the community has been through the process of taking an alternate approach?

