

VERBAL SUBMISSION by GERARD PATRICK to the HEARINGS PANEL (328)
for the Proposed District Plan [9.35am Tuesday 15 March]

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT ON THE PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN

I DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET AT HOME AND HAVE BEEN TOO BUSY WITH WORK TO COME INTO TOWN BEFORE NOW TO GO TO THE LIBRARY OR WHEREVER TO LOOK AT THE SECTION 42A REPORTS.

SO IF WHAT I HAVE TO SAY HAS ALREADY BEEN INCORPORATED IN THOSE REPORTS, THEN ALL WELL AND GOOD.

IF NOT, THEN I HOPE I CAN PERSUADE YOU TO INCORPORATE MY IDEAS INTO YOUR FINAL DRAFT.

I ASSUME YOU HAVE SEEN MY WRITTEN SUBMISSION (#28) BUT WHAT I WANT TO DO HERE IS RE-ITERATE MY IDEAS ABOUT SNA'S AND SAF'S IN PARTICULAR.

(a) I LIVE AND WORK IN THE RURAL COMMUNITY; LIKE ME, YOU ARE PROBABLY AWARE THESE TWO ACRONYMS ARE JUST MORE "RED HATS TO A BULL" TO MANY ^{RURAL LANDOWNERS} ~~FARMERS~~ AND MORE EXAMPLES OF WHAT ORGANISATIONS LIKE "GROUNDSWELL" FEED ON

IF THE DISTRICT PLAN WAS DRAFTED TO ALLOW FOR THE LAND INVOLVED IN SNA'S AND SAF'S TO BE RATES FREE, HOWEVER, THEN I AM SURE THE FARMING COMMUNITY WOULD SUDDENLY HAVE A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE AND WOULD SEE THERE IS MERIT IN SOME RESTRICTIONS BEING IMPOSED ON THEIR PREVIOUS PROPERTY RIGHTS, AFTER ALL,

THERE IS A PRECEDENT WITH THIS IDEA WITH Q&I TRUST LAND

AND WHY SHOULD THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY SUBSIDISE THE LOSS OF RATES INCOME BY THE COUNCIL? BECAUSE, IN MY OPINION, THE PRESENCE OF THESE AREAS BENEFITS THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

AND IN THIS DAY AND AGE OF GPS MAPPING, IT WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY THE AREAS THAT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED

(b) THE OTHER AREA OF MY WRITTEN SUBMISSION THAT I

WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RE-ITERATE IS IN RESPECT TO THE FACT THAT SOME AREAS ARE QUESTIONABLE AS TO THEIR BIODIVERSITY VALUE, THE PART OF SNA 151 ON THE WESTERN FLANK OF THE WAIPAWA RIVER, FOR EXAMPLE, IS, MOSTLY A TANGLE OF BLACKBERRIES, WILLOWS, AND LUPINS.

I SUBMIT THERE NEEDS TO BE SOME EASY WAY FOR LANDOWNERS TO HAVE SUCH AREAS EXCLUDED FROM A SNA OR SAF WITHOUT THE HUGE EXPENSE OF ENGAGING BIOLOGISTS, LAWYERS, AND SO ON; PERHAPS A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL STAFF COULD ACTUALLY GO OUT AND LOOK RATHER THAN JUST RELY ON A DESKTOP SURVEY

(C) AN AREA IN REGARD TO SNA'S THAT I HAVE BECOME AWARE OF SINCE MAKING MY WRITTEN SUBMISSION, IS THE FACT THAT COUNCIL DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE THE RESOURCES TO MONITOR SNA'S AND SAF'S.

THE PREVIOUS OWNER OF LAND NEAR WHERE I LIVE, FOR INSTANCE SPRAYED THE MARGINS OF PART OF SNA 123 BUT NO ONE HERE AT THE COUNCIL KNOWS ABOUT IT SO HAS NOT DONE ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

I SUBMIT COUNCIL STAFF NEED TO BE RESOURCED TO BE MORE PRO-ACTIVE IN PROTECTING THESE COMMUNITY-GOOD AREAS.

SO IN SUMMARY, I SUBMIT THAT THE LAND INCLUDED IN SNA'S AND SAF'S NEEDS TO BE RATES FREE

(B) THAT THERE NEEDS TO BE SOME SIMPLE AND INTERPRETING WAY OF EXCLUDING SOME AREAS FROM THEM WHERE THERE IS NO BIODIVERSITY VALUE

AND (C) COUNCIL STAFF NEED TO BE RESOURCED TO MONITOR THEM.

THANK YOU.