

Submitter 92 - SNA hearing presentation

Pairatahi Holdings Limited, Gary Leslie

Good morning / afternoon Commissioners. My name is Gary Leslie, our farm is located in the foothills of the Ruahine Ranges, west of Ongaonga. Consisting of approximately 1300ha of rolling to steep country. We have owned the property since August last year and have run up to 1000 cattle while converting part of the property into plantation forestry.

This includes a neighbouring and adjoining property purchased earlier this year that includes SNA 119.

I would like to have all SNAs removed from my property, as per submission S92.001, Pairatahi Holdings Ltd.

I also support the recommendation of the S42A Report to remove some SNAs from my land, at the very least, I would like the areas that have been previously sprayed and are productive and utilised by stock for grazing and/or suitable for production forestry to be removed.

Additionally I am seeking the removal of SNA 119 on the recently acquired land, for the same reasons.

REMOVAL OF ALL SNAs FROM MY PROPERTY

I believe the submission I lodged to the PDP was a general objection to the SNA designations effecting our farm property at 15 Alder Rd, Hinerua. I had formally requested to be heard at Hearing 1 but I was steered away by a planning officer at CHBDC, saying that my objection was a mapping issue and Hearing 6 was where I needed to be.

I would still like to address the wider issues. All proposed SNA designations on our property effect the use and future use of our land, and our property rights in relation to that land. This has various implications, more serious, long term and unpredictable in nature as policies are reviewed and changed over time.

Notwithstanding, reserving my rights to challenge and appeal, I am presenting here my bottom line compromise that I could live with which is acceptance of S42A recommendations AND additionally removal of SNA 119 from the recently acquired adjoining property for similar reasons.

THE REMOVAL OF SOME SNAs FROM MY PROPERTY

The Section 42A report recommends accepting the removal of some or part of SNAs identified on my property, but not all. Various reasons include areas primarily grazed, exotic pastureland, exotic tree land, areas without risk or threat to indigenous fauna species regularly using these areas, indigenous vegetation which is dead and areas which have low biodiversity values.

I commissioned Forbes Ecology, Dr Adam Forbes, to undertake an ecological assessment of SNA123 and a portion of SNA1 prior to the S42A report being released. This report dated 22 February 2022, is attached as Appendix 1 however Dr Forbes had a narrower brief to that portion of the SNA's that were spray effected and didn't go as far as Gerry Kessels and the S42A recommendations and I make it clear that I accept the S42A Report and its recommendations and reasons. Namely:

I support the removal of the v-shaped polygon of SNA123 as set out in the s42A Report.

I support the removal of part of SNA1 as set out in the s42A Report.

A neighbouring property was purchased in July 2022 containing SNA119 being 3.3ha of

primarily grazed, exotic pastureland, exotic tree land, areas without risk or threat to indigenous fauna species regularly using these areas, indigenous vegetation which is dead and areas which have low biodiversity values.

Additionally I have assessed SNA 119 against CHBDC ecological significance criteria also leaning heavily on my learnings from Dr Adam Forbes earlier report prior to my purchasing the adjoining property. My assessment and report is attached as Appendix 2.

Given the low rankings for criteria 2, 3 and 7, the non-significance of the remaining criteria and the effect of previous accidental spraying, it is recommended that the triangular-shaped polygon of SNA119 be deleted from Council's SNA network.

I am asking for the removal of the triangular shaped SNA 119 from the Council's SNA network.

CONCLUSION

While I would like to see all SNAs removed from my property, I support the s42A Report's recommendation to remove part of SNA1 and SNA 123. I also recommend and request that SNA119 is removed.

Submitter 92 – SNA hearing presentation Appendix 1

22 February 2022
By E-mail

Gary Leslie
15 Hinerua Road
Ongaonga 4278
New Zealand



Forbes Ecology

Dr. Adam Forbes

0223672326

adam@forbesecology.co.nz

www.forbesecology.co.nz

Attn: Gary Leslie

Dear Gary,

Re: Ecological Assessment of Two Significant Natural Areas

INTRODUCTION

Forbes Ecology Limited was engaged by Gary Leslie to assess the qualities and ecological significance of two Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) on land owned by Mr Leslie located at 15 Hinerua Road, central Hawke's Bay (CHB).

METHOD

A site visit was undertaken by Dr Adam Forbes on Monday 7th February 2022 in the presence of Gary Leslie. SNAs were accessed using a 4WD vehicle and on foot. Weather conditions during the site visit meant drone imagery was collected on a later date in February.

The existing central Hawke's Bay District Council (CHBDC) SNA digital polygon layer was reviewed, and the current quality of vegetation and habitats were assessed against these existing boundaries and against the recommended ecological significance assessment criteria for determining SNAs in the central Hawke's Bay District (Kessels 2020)¹. The assessment of ecological significance was conducted in accordance with the qualifying thresholds and attribute assessment guidance in Kessels (2020).

SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site A is an approximately V-shaped polygon demarcated as an SNA on CHBDC's digital planning maps (Fig. 1). The polygon is one of several in this vicinity with the reference

¹ See Appendix 1 of this document <https://www.chbdc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/District-Plan-Proposed/Review-Documents/District-Plan-Significant-Natural-Area-Review-May-2020.pdf>

SNA123. The mapped SNA is 8.85 ha in extent and is located at 15 Hinerua Road Extension: Legal Description Lot 3 DP 447312. The SNA is located at WGS 84 39°51'6.70"S 176°12'46.14"E.

The slope aspect is generally southeast, with elevations ranging from 640-840 m a.s.l. The site is unfenced and used for cattle grazing. The predicted potential vegetation for the area is rimu-broadleaved-beach forest². The vegetation cover within the SNA as of February 2022 was predominately dead standing (sprayed) indigenous tree species over exotic grass. The unsprayed area of the SNA features 1.88 ha of mature Putaputāwētā (*Carpodetus serratus*) which forms a semi-continuous canopy over Mingimingi (*Cyathodes fasciculatus*), *Coprosma rhamnoides*, and exotic grass (Fig. 2). One young tōtara (*Podocarpus totara*) tree was noted in this area. Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) occurred in isolated patches.

The indigenous vegetation of this polygon of SNA123 is limited to species that are unpalatable to ungulates (i.e., hooved animals) and the composition is representative of the long-term detrimental effects of ungulate browsing. This 1.88 ha of woody vegetation is all that remains of indigenous vegetation and associated ecological values in the SNA, with the balance of 6.97 ha having been destroyed by spraying (Fig. 3).

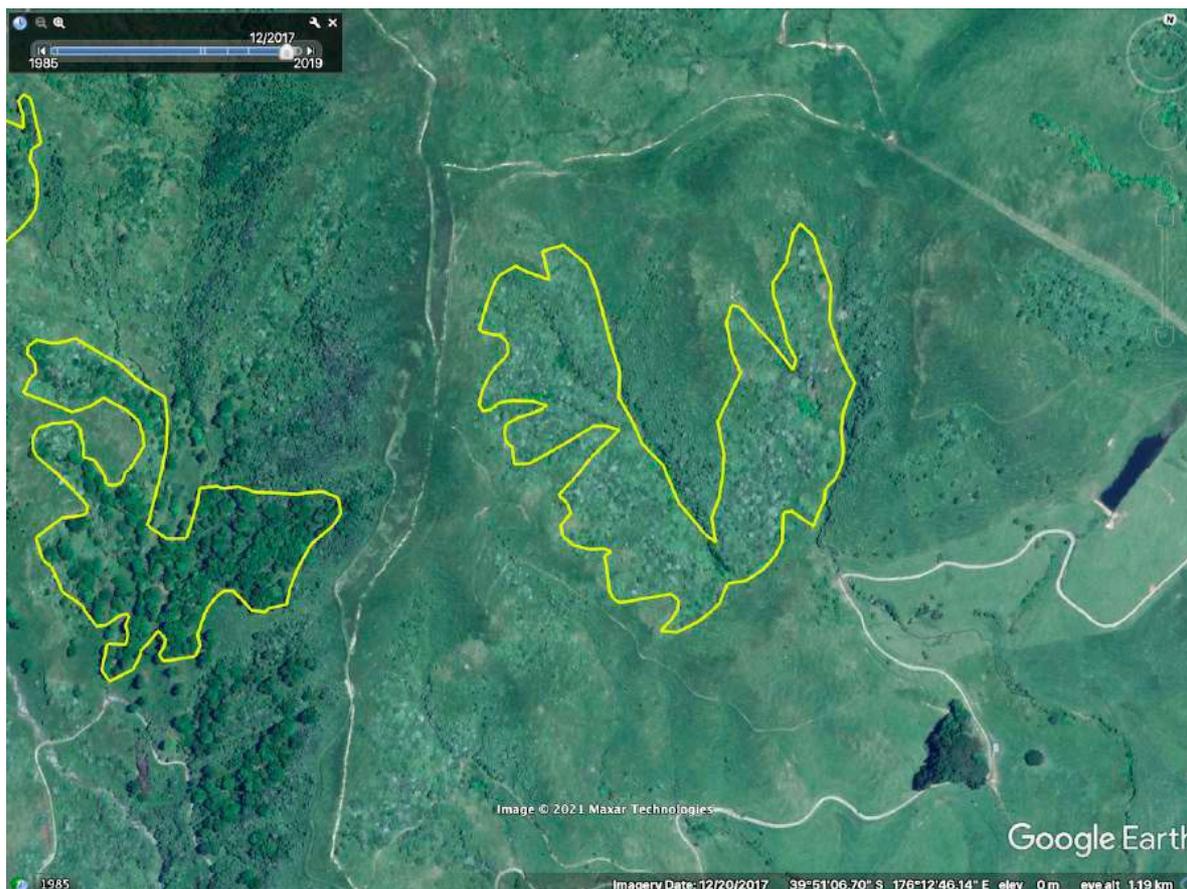


Figure 1. Site A is a V-Shaped polygon of SNA123. Google Earth Imagery Date December 2017.

² See https://ourenvironment.scinfo.org.nz/maps-and-tools/app/Habitats/lenz_potnatveg.



Figure 2. Example of mature Putaputāwētā, mingimingi, *Coprosma rhamnoides* with intervening exotic grassland within SNA123. Date 7 February 2022; location 39.85310 S 176.2135 E.

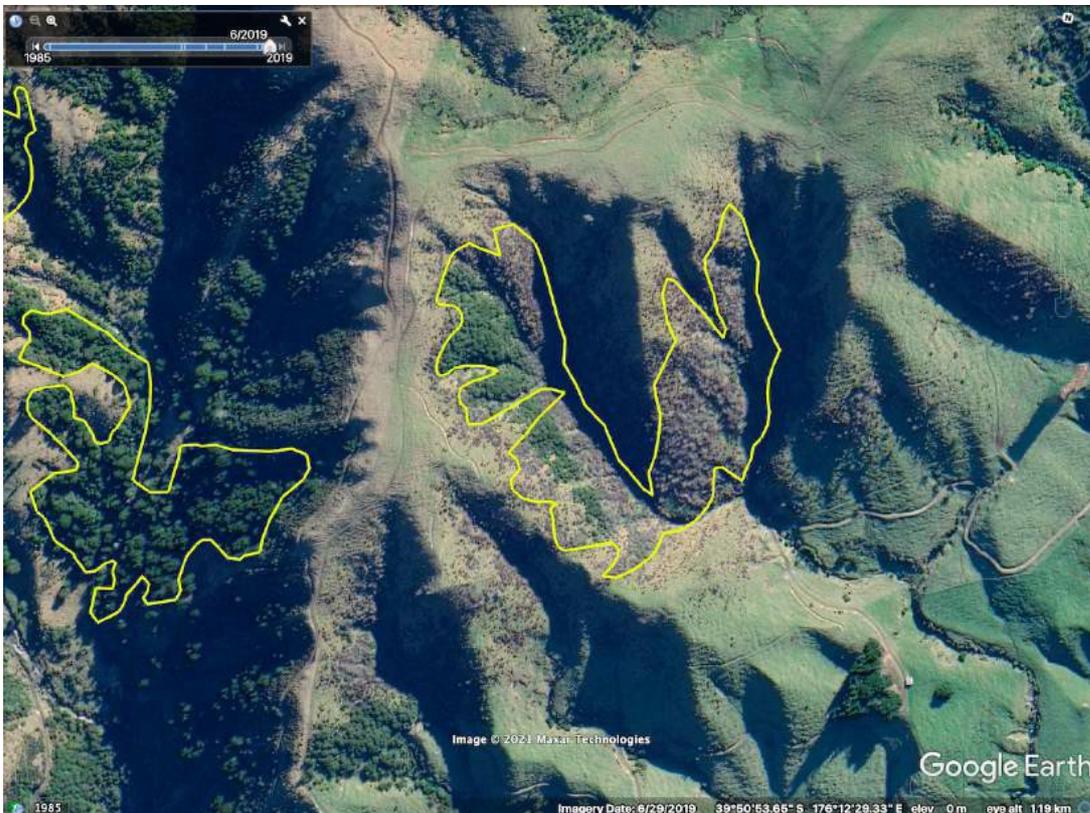


Figure 3. V-Shaped polygon of SNA123 showing the 1.88 ha extent of the 8.85 ha polygon mapped as the SNA boundary. Google Earth Imagery Date June 2019.

Site B is contiguous with the Ruahine Forest Park and is a polygon demarcated as an SNA on CHBDC's digital planning maps as SNA1. The mapped SNA is part of the SNA covering the Ruahine Forest Park, meaning the SNA is greater than 15,000 ha in extent. The portion of the SNA being assessed is located at 15 Hinerua Road Extension: Legal Description Sec 2 Blk V Makaretu SD (WGS 39°53'6.32"S 176°10'53.44"E).

SNA1 at 15 Hinerua Road Extension features east-south-east descending ridges with a variety of northern, eastern, and southern slope aspects (Fig. 4). Elevations within this portion of SNA1 range 520-800 m a.s.l. Historical vegetation³ of the area has been predicted as rimu-broadleaved-beech forest grading to beech forest at higher elevations. Vegetation is secondary, comprising kānuka and other common scrub hardwood indigenous trees and shrubs.

Comparison of satellite imagery between August 2018 (Fig. 4) and February 2019 (Fig. 5) shows 12.22 ha (an area of 8.8 at the SNA edge, see red polygon in Fig. 6; & 3.42 ha on a ridge inside the SNA, see blue polygon in Fig. 6) of vegetation within the SNA having been destroyed by spraying and showing as dead standing (Fig. 7 & 8). Land areas where vegetation was sprayed have reverted to exotic grassland and the ecological values have been lost. In addition a large area of exotic grassland is located within the SNA boundary (see grassland marked with red dot in Fig. 9).

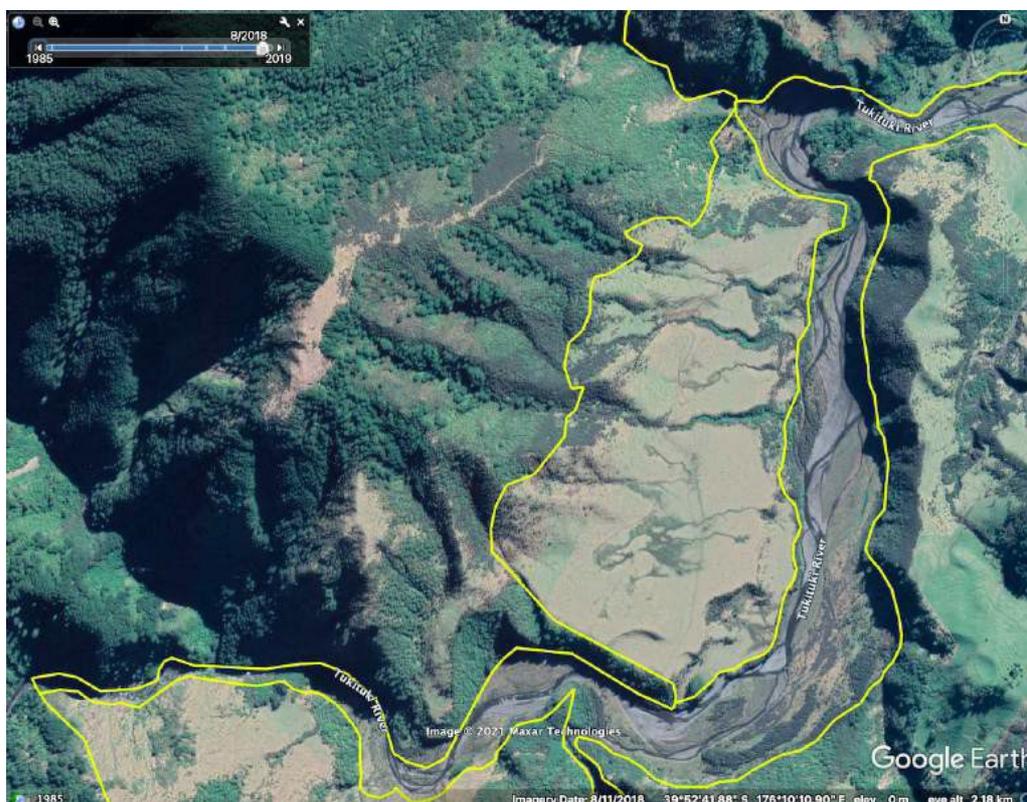


Figure 4. Portion of SNA1 located at 15 Hinerua Road Extension. Google Earth Image date August 2018.

³ See <https://ourenvironment.scinfo.org.nz/maps-and-tools/app/>



Figure 5. Portion of SNA1 located at 15 Hinerua Road Extension. Google Earth Image date February 2019.

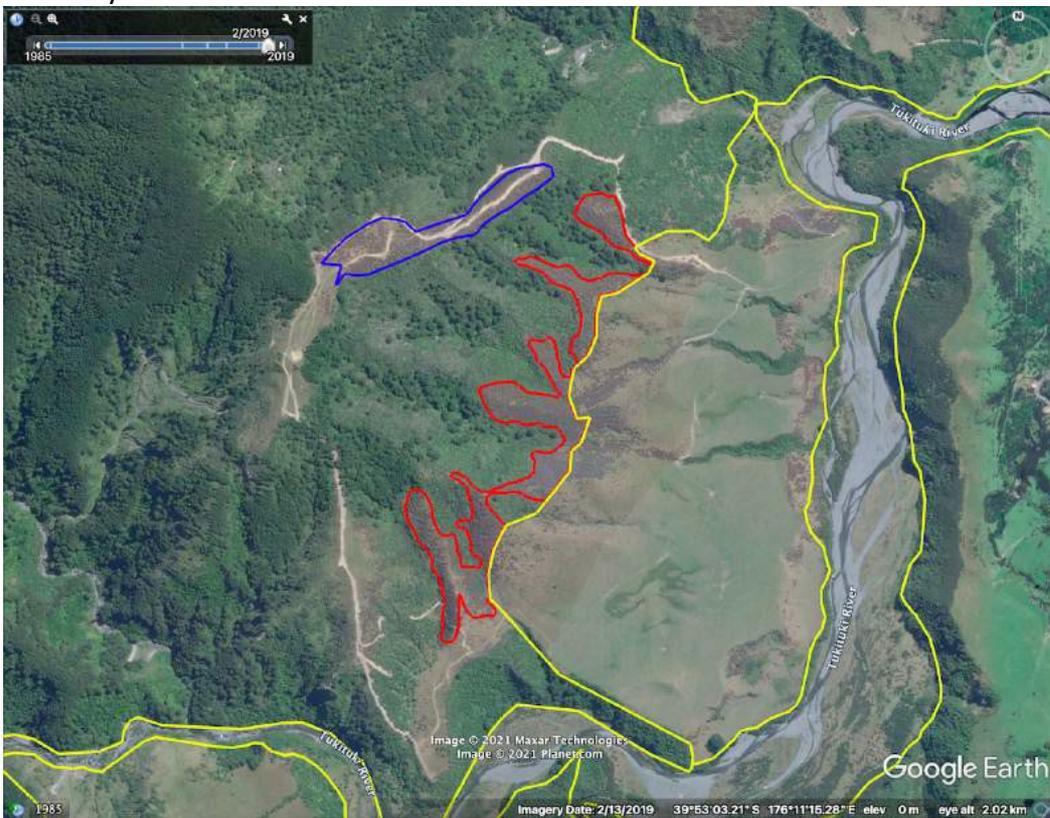


Figure 6. Extent of sprayed areas within SNA1. Red polygon at SNA edge 8.8 ha of sprayed and dead standing vegetation. Blue polygon shows the 3.42 ha of sprayed and dead standing vegetation within SNA1.



Figure 7. Area B, part of SNA1 (part of the red polygon in Fig. 6) provides an example of sprayed vegetation at the SNA edge. Photograph location Lat -39.886670498° Long 176.181973399° ; photograph date February 2022.



Figure 8. Area B, part of SNA1 (part of the blue polygon in Fig. 6) provides an example of sprayed vegetation within the SNA. Photograph location Lat -39.886002063° Long 176.183350338°

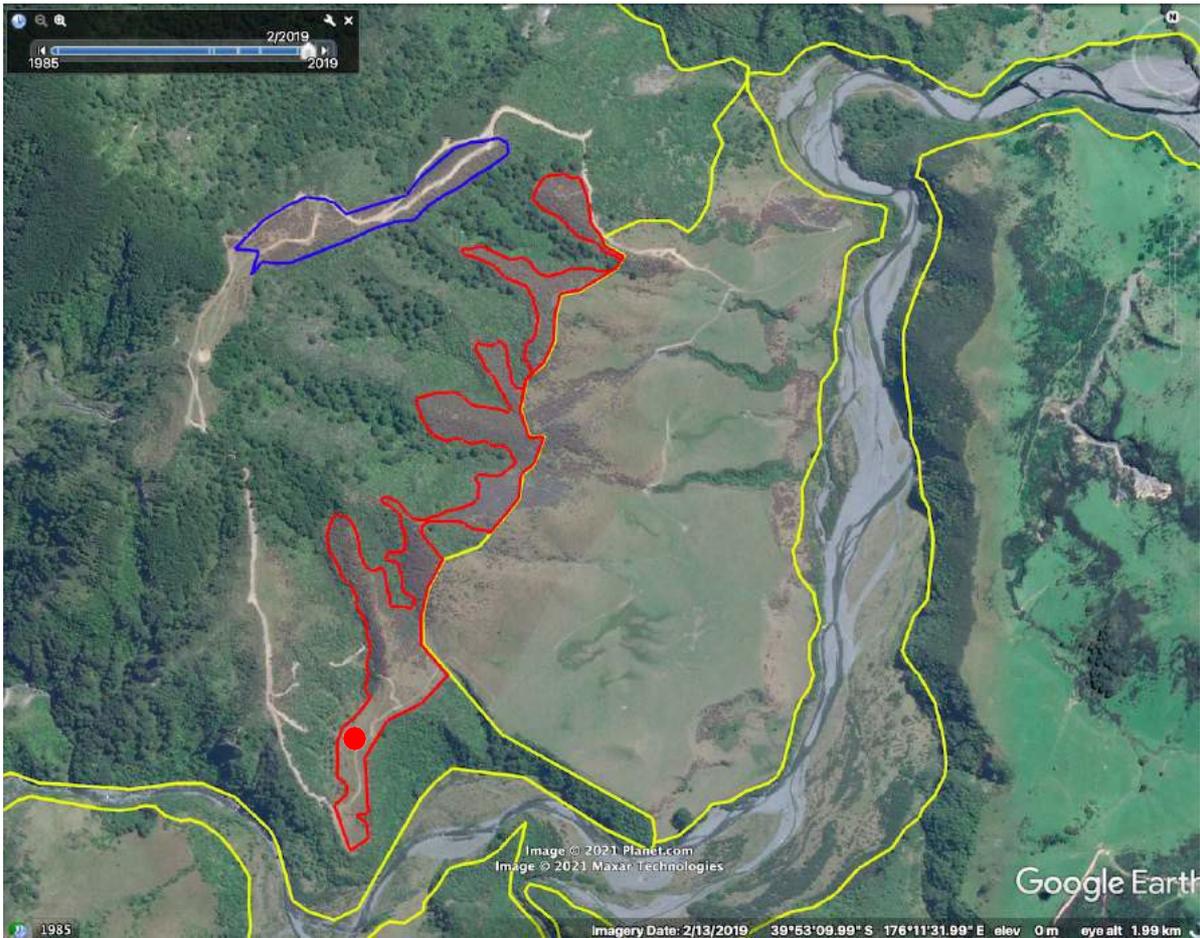


Figure 9. Area B, part of SNA1 (part of the blue polygon in Fig. 6) is exotic grassland as generally indicated by the red dot.

ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION FOR SNA123 AND SNA1

The following section presents an assessment of (part) SNA123 and SNA1 against CHBDC ecological significance assessment criteria.

Table 1. Assessment of Ecological Significance for (part) SNA123 and SNA1.

CHBDC Ecological Significance Assessment Criteria	Area A/SNA123	Area B/SNA1	
		Wider SNA1	Sprayed/dead vegetation within SNA1
<p>CRITERION 1 Protection Status</p> <p><i>It is indigenous vegetation or habitat for indigenous fauna that is currently, or is recommended to be, set aside by Government statute or covenant, or by the Nature Heritage Fund, or Ngā Whenua Rāhui committees, or the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Board of Directors as an Open Space Covenant, specifically for the</i></p>	No	Yes - the wider SNA is a Forest Park)	On private land not legally protected

<p>protection of biodiversity, and meets at least one of criteria 2-7.</p>			
<p>CRITERION 2 Representativeness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna that is highly typical or characteristic of the indigenous biodiversity in in the Hawkes Bay Region or an Ecological District within the Central Hawkes Bay District, or nationally. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is habitat that forms part of an ecological sequence, that is either not common in the Hawkes Bay Region or an Ecological District within the Central Hawkes Bay District, or is an exceptional, representative example of its type at a national level. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is habitat that supports a typical suite of indigenous fauna and flora and that is characteristic of the habitat type in an Ecological District within the Central Hawkes Bay District. 	<p>No/Low – the vegetation/habitat is not highly typical or characteristic</p> <p>No – there is no ecological sequence</p> <p>No – the composition is not typical; it has been heavily modified by browsing animals and vegetation clearance</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>The vegetation has been destroyed</p>
<p>CRITERION 3 Diversity and Pattern: It is an area of indigenous vegetation or habitat of high diversity (for its type) that forms ecotones, gradients, or sequences.</p>	<p>No/Low – The diversity is low due to a long history of ungulate browsing, homogenous landform, absence of abiotic gradients or patterns.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>The vegetation has been destroyed</p>
<p>CRITERION 4 Rarity – Species: It is vegetation or habitat (including exotic vegetation or braided river bed for highly mobile fauna species), that is currently regularly utilised habitat for indigenous flora or fauna species or associations of indigenous flora and fauna species that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> classed as nationally Threatened or At Risk by the Department of Conservation, or endemic or uncommon to the Hawkes Bay Region, or at the limit of their natural range. 	<p>No – there is nothing to indicate that the 1.8 ha of putaputāwetā forest is regularly utilised by species fitting these descriptions</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No - The vegetation has been destroyed</p>
<p>CRITERION 5 Rarity - Ecosystems: It is indigenous vegetation or habitat that is, and prior to human settlement was nationally uncommon.</p>	<p>The site is not a naturally uncommon ecosystem.</p>	<p>The SNA would contain naturally uncommon ecosystems</p>	<p>No naturally uncommon ecosystems are present, and the vegetation has been destroyed</p>

<p>CRITERION 6 Distinctiveness:</p> <p><i>It is indigenous vegetation, habitat or an ecosystem type that is under-represented (30% or less of its known or likely original extent remaining) in an Ecological District, or Ecological Region, or nationally.</i></p> <p>OR</p> <p><i>It is wetland, sand dune, braided river or estuarine habitats, or a distinctive assemblage or community of indigenous species habitat for indigenous plant communities and/or indigenous fauna communities (excluding exotic rush/pasture communities) that has not been created and subsequently maintained for or in connection with:</i></p> <p><i>O waste treatment;</i> <i>o wastewater renovation;</i> <i>o hydroelectric power lakes;</i> <i>o water storage for irrigation; or</i> <i>o water supply storage, including stock water storage.</i></p>	<p>The site is not a Threatened Environment under the Threatened Environment Classification. The site is classified as: “> 30% left and > 20% protected. As for the above category, with > 20% of the area legally protected from clearance. Indigenous vegetation cover is still vulnerable to threats such as pests, weeds, logging and other extractive land uses.”</p> <p>The site is not a wetland, sand dune, braided river, estuary, or similar.</p> <p>The site does not feature distribution limits for indigenous vegetation types or ecosystems, type localities, local endemism, relict distributions, or special ecological or scientific features.</p>	<p>Areas of the wider SNA may hold Threatened Environments</p>	<p>The site is not a Threatened Environment. It is classed as “> 30% left and > 20% protected”.</p>
<p>CRITERION 7 Ecological Context:</p> <p><i>It is an area of indigenous vegetation or naturally occurring habitat that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>is moderate to large, well buffered and is a compact shape, in the context of the Ecological District it is found in, and which contains all or almost all indigenous species typical of that habitat type.</i> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>is critical to the self-sustainability of an indigenous flora or fauna species within a catchment of the Hawkes Bay Region. In this context “critical” means essential for a specific component of the life cycle and includes breeding and spawning grounds, juvenile nursery areas, important feeding areas and migratory and dispersal pathways of an indigenous species. This includes areas that maintain connectivity between habitats.</i> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>is a site that provides a full or partial buffer to, or link between, other important habitats or significant natural area(s) and/or is important for the natural functioning of a freshwater or coastal/estuarine system.</i> 	<p>Low – The site is isolated and degraded with no obvious buffer or linkage values. The site has no obvious habitat value for indigenous fauna through one or more life cycle stages.</p>	<p>High - Vegetation clearance has not affected the Ecological Context of SNA1.</p>	<p>The vegetation has been destroyed</p>

The ecological significance assessment outcome for SNA123 is Low significance for Criteria 2, 3 and 7 (Representativeness, Diversity & Pattern, & Ecological Context)⁴. The remaining criteria are not significant (Table 1).

The ecological significance assessment outcome for the wider SNA1 is High significance for criteria 2, 3 and 7. Significant for all other criteria (Table 1). Portions affected by spraying/exotic grassland are not significant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the Low rankings for criteria 2, 3 and 7 and the non-significance of the remaining criteria, it is recommended that the V-shaped polygon of SNA123 be deleted from Council's SNA network.

Given that vegetation clearance effected by spraying has destroyed indigenous vegetation areas within SNA1 (located at 15 Hinerua Road Extension), the significance status of cleared vegetation should be altered to "not ecologically significant". Where vegetation clearance has occurred at the boundary of the existing SNA polygon, the SNA boundary should be altered in accordance with the red line shown in Fig. 9 to reflect the new extent of the SNA following vegetation clearance.

⁴ The guidance on assessing SNAs in the CHB District provided in Kessels (2020) does not specify whether those criteria determined to be Low are or are not significant. It appears that sites that do not meet the criteria should be allocated a Low classification, which indicates Low does not trigger statutory ecological significance. I suggest CHBDC clarify this point in their guidance document.

Appendix 2

NORTHERN FOREST PRODUCTS LIMITED
PO Box 4419, Kamo, Whangarei 0141



NORTHERN FOREST PRODUCTS LTD

8 November 2022

Re: Ecological Assessment of proposed SNA-119

INTRODUCTION

Pairatahi Holdings Ltd purchased a property containing a proposed SNA-119 in July 2022. This report is an assessment of the qualities and ecological significance of SNA-119 by Gary Leslie. Gary Leslie has an honours degree in Forestry Science from Canterbury University where he studied at a graduate level Forest Ecology and Botany. Gary also has a Bachelor of Commerce and a double MBA from the London Business School and Columbia University. This report leans heavily on an earlier report by Forbes Ecology dated 22 February 2022 for Gary Leslie in relation to SNA123 and SNA1.

METHOD

The SNA was assessed on foot with photography of the vegetation and under canopy habitat along with the destructive sampling of six trees to obtain discs to assess the age of the reversion.

The existing central Hawke's Bay District Council (CHBDC) SNA digital polygon layer was reviewed, and the current quality of vegetation and habitats were assessed against these existing boundaries and against the recommended ecological significance assessment criteria for determining SNAs in the central Hawke's Bay District (Kessels 2020)¹. The assessment of ecological significance was conducted in accordance with the qualifying thresholds and attribute assessment guidance in Kessels (2020).

SITE DESCRIPTION

SNA-119 is a triangular shaped polygon demarcated as an SNA on CHBDC's digital planning maps (Fig.1).

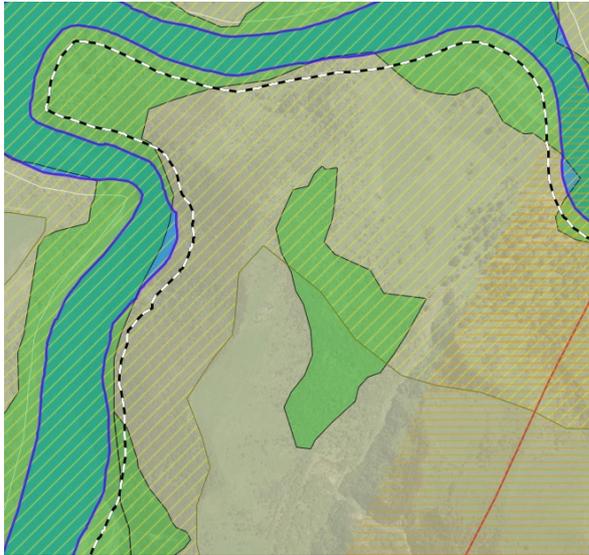


Figure 1. The triangular-shaped polygon of SNA119. Imagery from CHBDC Proposed District Plan.

The mapped SNA is 3.3 ha in extent and is located at 25 Hall Road, Ashley Clinton: Legal Description Pt Sec 1 Blk VII Makaretu SD. The SNA is located at WGS 84 39°53'00.44"S 176°11'47.71"E.

The slope aspect is generally northeast, with elevations ranging from 440-500 m a.s.l. The site is unfenced and used for cattle and sheep grazing. The predicted potential vegetation for the area is Rimu-Tawa-Kamaha forest². The vegetation cover within the SNA as of October 2022 was predominately young reversion Manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) and Kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides*) over exotic grass with intermittent Mingimingi (*Cyathodes fasciculatus*), and Ribbonwood (*Hoheria sexstylosa*) over exotic grass (Fig 2).

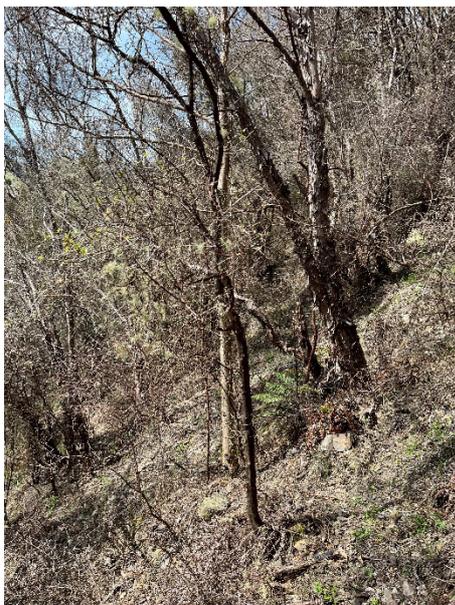


Fig 2

¹ See Appendix 1 of this document <https://www.chbdc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/District-Plan-Proposed/Review-Documents/District-Plan-Significant-Natural-Area-Review-May-2020.pdf>

² See https://ourenvironment.scinfo.org.nz/maps-and-tools/app/Habitats/lenz_potnatveg.

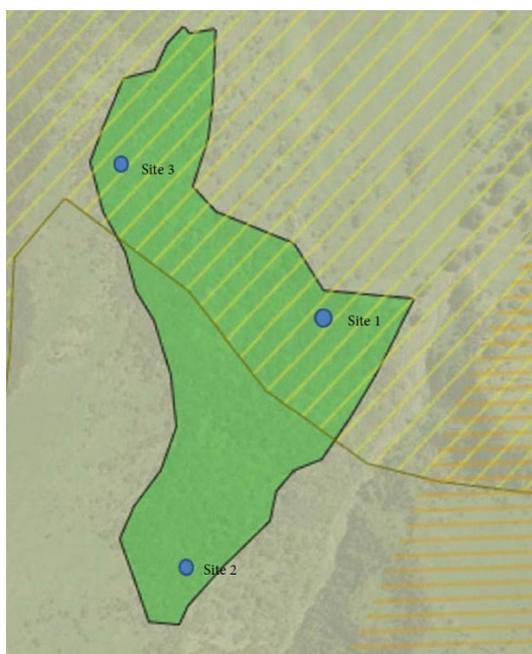
The indigenous vegetation of the undercanopy of this polygon SNA 119 is limited to species that are unpalatable to ungulates (i.e., hooved animals) and the composition is representative of the long-term detrimental effects of ungulate browsing. This 3.3 ha of woody vegetation is also showing the effects of spraying (red circle in Fig 3).



Fig 3.

EVIDENCE OF REVERSION AGE

Three sites were assessed by destructive sampling to establish the age of the indigenous reversion within SNA119.





Site 1

Reversion predominantly younger than 13 years large isolated individuals up to 23 years.



Site 2

Reversion predominantly younger than 10 years large isolated individuals up to 20 years.



Site 3

The largest isolated kanuka 18 years, with reversion predominantly up to 10 years including isolated Whiteywood.

HISTORICAL PASTURAL LAND USE OF SNA119

The previous owners were consulted as to the history of the land use and management practice of SNA119. Chris Hardy states *“To the best of my knowledge the property was purchased by Lime Terrace in the early 1980’s primarily as an extensive beef cow calving block with ewes grazing in the summer months. The property has been farmed reasonably extensively in this manner until the recent sale. The mapped SNA in question is recent regrowth scrub with no particular special significance that would justify it being included in an SNA. It should be removed.”*

ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION FOR SNA119

The following section presents an assessment of SNA119 ecological significance assessment criteria.

Table 1. Assessment of Ecological Significance for SNA119.

CHBDC Ecological Significance Assessment Criteria	SNA119

<p>CRITERION 1 Protection Status</p> <p><i>It is indigenous vegetation or habitat for indigenous fauna that is currently, or is recommended to be, set aside by Government statute or covenant, or by the Nature Heritage Fund, or Ngā Whenua Rāhui committees, or the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Board of Directors as an Open Space Covenant, specifically for the protection of biodiversity, and meets at least one of criteria 2-7.</i></p>	<p>No</p>
<p>CRITERION 2 Representativeness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>It is vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna that is highly typical or characteristic of the indigenous biodiversity in the Hawkes Bay Region or an Ecological District within the Central Hawkes Bay District, or nationally.</i> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>It is habitat that forms part of an ecological sequence, that is either not common in the Hawkes Bay Region or an Ecological District within the Central Hawkes Bay District, or is an exceptional, representative example of its type at a national level.</i> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>It is habitat that supports a typical suite of indigenous fauna and flora and that is characteristic of the habitat type in an Ecological District within the Central Hawkes Bay District.</i> 	<p>No/Low – the vegetation/habitat is not highly typical or characteristic</p> <p>No – there is no ecological sequence</p> <p>No – the composition is not typical; it has been heavily modified by browsing animals and vegetation clearance</p>
<p>CRITERION 3 Diversity and Pattern: <i>It is an area of indigenous vegetation or habitat of high diversity (for its type) that forms ecotones, gradients, or sequences.</i></p>	<p>No/Low – The diversity is low due to a long history of ungulate browsing, homogenous landform, absence of abiotic gradients or patterns.</p>
<p>CRITERION 4 Rarity – Species:</p> <p><i>It is vegetation or habitat (including exotic vegetation or braided river bed for highly mobile fauna species), that is currently regularly utilised habitat for indigenous flora or fauna species or associations of indigenous flora and fauna species that are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>classed as nationally Threatened or At Risk by the Department of Conservation, or</i> • <i>endemic or uncommon to the Hawkes Bay Region, or</i> • <i>at the limit of their natural range.</i> 	<p>No – there is nothing to indicate that the 3.3 ha of manuka/kanuka reversion is regularly utilised by species fitting these descriptions</p>

<p>CRITERION 5 Rarity - Ecosystems:</p> <p><i>It is indigenous vegetation or habitat that is, and prior to human settlement was nationally uncommon.</i></p>	<p>The site is not a naturally uncommon ecosystem.</p>
<p>CRITERION 6 Distinctiveness:</p> <p><i>It is indigenous vegetation, habitat or an ecosystem type that is under-represented (30% or less of its known or likely original extent remaining) in an Ecological District, or Ecological Region, or nationally.</i></p> <p>OR</p> <p><i>It is wetland, sand dune, braided river or estuarine habitats, or a distinctive assemblage or community of indigenous species habitat for indigenous plant communities and/or indigenous fauna communities (excluding exotic rush/pasture communities) that has not been created and subsequently maintained for or in connection with:</i></p> <p><i>o waste treatment;</i> <i>o wastewater renovation;</i> <i>o hydroelectric power lakes;</i> <i>o water storage for irrigation; or</i> <i>o water supply storage, including stock water storage.</i></p>	<p>The site is not a Threatened Environment under the Threatened Environment Classification. The site is classified as: “> 30% left and > 20% protected. As for the above category, with > 20% of the area legally protected from clearance. Indigenous vegetation cover is still vulnerable to threats such as pests, weeds, logging and other extractive land uses.”</p> <p>The site is not a wetland, sand dune, braided river, estuary, or similar.</p> <p>The site does not feature distribution limits for indigenous vegetation types or ecosystems, type localities, local endemism, relict distributions, or special ecological or scientific features.</p>
<p>CRITERION 7 Ecological Context:</p> <p><i>It is an area of indigenous vegetation or naturally occurring habitat that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>is moderate to large, well buffered and is a compact shape, in the context of the Ecological District it</i> 	<p>Low – The site is isolated and degraded with no obvious buffer or linkage values. The site has no obvious habitat value for</p>

<p><i>is found in, and which contains all or almost all indigenous species typical of that habitat type.</i></p> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>is critical to the self-sustainability of an indigenous flora or fauna species within a catchment of the Hawkes Bay Region. In this context "critical" means essential for a specific component of the life cycle and includes breeding and spawning grounds, juvenile nursery areas, important feeding areas and migratory and dispersal pathways of an indigenous species. This includes areas that maintain connectivity between habitats.</i> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>is a site that provides a full or partial buffer to, or link between, other important habitats or significant natural area(s) and/or is important for the natural functioning of a freshwater or coastal/estuarine system.</i> 	<p>indigenous fauna through one or more life cycle stages.</p>
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The ecological significance assessment outcome for SNA119 is Low significance for Criteria 2, 3 and 7 (Representativeness, Diversity & Pattern, & Ecological Context)³. The remaining criteria are not significant (Table 1).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the Low rankings for criteria 2, 3 and 7, the non-significance of the remaining criteria and the effect of previous accidental spraying, it is recommended that the triangular-shaped polygon of SNA119 be deleted from Council's SNA network.

³ The guidance on assessing SNAs in the CHB District provided in Kessels (2020) does not specify whether those criteria determined to be Low are or are not significant. It appears that sites that do not meet the criteria should be allocated a Low classification, which indicates Low does not trigger statutory ecological significance. I suggest CHBDC clarify this point in their guidance document.