



Online submission

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Submitter is contact	Yes
Email	
Wish to be heard	Not Stated
Joint presentation	Yes
Trade competition	I could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
Directly affected	N/A
Withhold contact details?	Yes

Submission points

Plan section	Provision	Support/oppose	Reasons	Decision sought
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT VALUES	ECO – Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity	Oppose	Please see attached.	Significant Natural Areas and rules relating to these- strongly oppose.

Documents included with submission

Document name Detailed Report HBRC and QEII

File [motuotaraiaadocfrom2005.pdf](#)

Description

Document name Map showing areas described in report

File [motuotaraiaaerialview2005.jpg](#)

Description

Document name SNA- oppose-reasons

File [motosnacouncilsubmission.docx](#)

Description

CONTACT

Motuotaraia, Murphy Property, Hiranui Road, Central Hawke's Bay

Visits by Neil Faulknor, Hawke's Bay Regional Council land management officer on April 6 2005, with owner Di Murphy, manager Simon Wilson and trustee John Armstrong; and with Marie Taylor, QEII National Trust regional representative on May 9 2005 and September 12 2005

The Murphy property encompasses the Certificate of Title HB M3/149, and is mainly a forest of kanuka and manuka, as well as associated scrub.

It is a series of gullies in steep argillite hill country, with gullies clothed in either kanuka or manuka, or a mix of both, and rounded hill tops which are grazed.

Most of the soils are argillite based, with a little bit of sandstone on the tops. A few fault lines show crushed argillite. The soils grade into Wanstead mudstones at the northwestern edge of the block. This is estimated to make up about 5% of the land area, and is the only area subject to any erosion of any consequence or mass movement.

Most of this land is not erosion prone. There are a few exposed faces where the rock weathers, forming argillite screens on the extreme faces. These are relatively stable and subject to erosion from wind, but not significantly.

Depending mainly on the slope, the canopy varies from 2 to 10m high. In some areas tall kanuka forest is present, and in others the canopy is a mosaic with emergent kanuka.

There are broadleaved species emerging from the canopy in many places. In some parts the understorey is dense, in others, it is grazed out with only pasture remaining. This mainly depends on the slope, with the easier slopes grazed out and few understorey or groundcover species remaining.

Birds present during the inspection included: ducks, Australasian harrier hawk, grey warbler, tui, magpie and fantails.

The area has been described in the Eastern Hawke's Bay Ecological District report published in June 1993 by the Department of Conservation. It is ranked as a Recommended Area for Protection, and listed as number 18.

Its significance is described as medium to high. *“This is a relatively large area of forest and scrub. It is the largest area of native vegetation on the range of Whangai argillite north of Wanstead which corresponds approximately with one of four temperate bioclimatic zones in the ecological district. It best represents the various patches of native vegetation on this range that are dominated by kanuka and/or manuka.”*

Currently farmed sheep and cattle have free access to all the bush areas. There is also a population of feral goats within the block. Possums are now controlled as part of a HBRC possum control area.

The proposal from the landowners is to spray by helicopter and farm the areas of kanuka and manuka on the easiest country, and to protect the rest in a progressive fencing programme, working in conjunction with the Hawke’s Bay Regional Council and the QEII National Trust.

As part of this process the authors visited the property for a day on September 12, 2005 to assess the possibilities for protection and farming.

Please refer to the associated aerial photo for descriptions of the vegetation in various parts of the property. Some areas of vegetation outside of the areas marked as RAP are also discussed, some of which are worthy of protection.

In general, our recommendations are to protect the vegetation on the steeper slopes, and to spray areas of kanuka and manuka, which are either very short regrowth scrub, or on very easy country suitable for farming. The slope of the land dictates the scope of this.

Fencing out and using a covenant to protect the steep gully systems and tall forest will mean a huge area of the RAP will be protected in perpetuity, giving significant conservation gains. This is a much better outcome than is currently the case where the whole property is open to grazing and is being constantly degraded in the process.

Using the current map, the RAPs total approximately 324ha, and of this some 119 ha is estimated as possible for clearance, leaving 205ha for protection by covenant. See Table 1 for a breakdown of these areas block by block.

Table 1: Summary of Motuotaraia bush blocks

Area	Total	To clear
Wildling Pine	61.5	37.5
Lunch/Kowhai	35.0	11.6
3 small areas	1.5	1.5
3 RAPs above quarry	4.8	4.8
Bottom of Arm	23.2	6.1
Italy to middle track	36.0	0.0
Mudstone zone block	36.8	20.3
Big North Area	125.3	37.0
Totals	324.1	118.8

The lines delineating areas on the maps for clearance should be checked on the ground before final operations.

The next step is planning a staged fencing and funding application process in conjunction with the landowner's priorities.

Vegetation Descriptions

1. Tree Ferns: Area too small to protect effectively. Leave the taller vegetation inside the RAP, but can spray areas of low regrowth on easier slopes. The tree fern area itself is too steep to spray.
2. Back Boundary Gully outside of RAP: worth fencing especially valley area after other RAP areas are fenced. Regenerating totara, some tree ferns, putaputaweta and *Pittosporum tenuifolium*. Could fence on ridge or include the south facing slope in the fenced area.
3. Top end of RAP on back boundary: here it is easy to identify the definite change of slope. Many emergent totara with a canopy of kanuka, *Pittosporum tenuifolium*, mahoe, *Olearia paniculata*, lancewood, putaputaweta, and an understorey of *Coprosma propinqua* and *C. rhamnoides*. Totara generally 5-6m tall, and good condition because of possum control. Dense canopy and significant regeneration. Suggest limited clearance to edge of steep land.

4. Looking across into west-facing slopes at lower end of gully by stream boundary block: titoki, kahikatea, lacebark, ngaio and kowhai. Retain lower edge of this, easier slopes at the top of this could be cleared to edge.
 5. Similar to view from 4. Halfway up hill looking at west facing slope by back boundary: few wildling pines present; goats noted. Suggest the fence will go half way down the slope on the west-facing slope.
 6. Panorama. Noted tui and magpie.
 7. Looking across to easier country with no emergents through the kanuka. The hatched area on the map able to be cleared.
 8. Looking from 8 to
 9. This is easy country underneath the trig. Vegetation above the wildling pine able to be cut.
 10. Looking southwest: can cut upper gully of regrowth kanuka and *Coprosma rhamnoides* understorey which is around the base of the oval area; Looking north and northeast could cut above level of wildling pines at change of slope, altitude above this has been much cut previously, with no other emergents and no totara present.
 11. Lunch Block: Panorama here: lower two thirds is almost all short regeneration but part of RAP. Our recommendation is to protect as much as possible but could spray easier sites on east side above change in slope.
- K . Kowhai fence to include kowhai and its steep backdrop.
12. Arm block: dense kanuka with tree ferns at the top end: fence to the slope.
 13. Wildling pine block: approximately 30 wildling pines. Photopoint: fence to creek: four photos in sequence looking northnortheast from right to left. On easy country below fence to creek. Can cut kanuka, no emergents. Pasture beneath kanuka, no understorey.

14. This is part of the Italy block. This is very steep, class 7 mainly kanuka, no emergents, too steep for pasture, not worth clearing for pasture. Move existing fence running down ridge to bush edge. There is significant regeneration of rewarewa in the top of the block, with a few wildling pines there also. Protect this whole area.

The northern dam block with *Carex secta* in the middle. Easy land with kanuka, no emergents, can cut and spray around dam area, fence dam off and include the few cabbage trees within the fenced area.

15. Panorama here of three photos into steep gully on northern pond block. Too steep to cut, remain in protected area.

North of this area is the mudstone zone: this area is problematic. While its vegetation is not spectacular and worth saving in its own right, the soil type means that if the area is sprayed, erosion control works such as pole planting of poplars or willows and some drainage would be needed. Recommend this area is developed last.

16. Bottom block: all low regrowth, some small totara, scrappy with gaps. Easier slopes 6e8 and 6e. Also many wildling pines, few steeper bits, most of it 15 to 18deg, a lot of flat areas of rolling knobs. Suggest this could all be cleared because it is on much gentler land than most of the rest of the block, and this is all low.

Areas in eastern corner of property north of the quarry: hatched areas could be cut because they have few tall kanuka, and are mostly regrowth manuka. There is blackberry, and very few *Coprosma rhamnoides* or *Leucopogon fasciculatus*. One *Pittosporum tenuifolium* and a small amount of mahoe was noted.

Discussion

This bush area is classified as having a medium level of representativeness compared with other areas of indigenous vegetation in the ecological district. This could be because it has been modified by grazing stock and possums over a long time.

There are few covenants or protected areas nearby - the closest reserve is a scenic reserve on Matai Moana, 4km southeast along Hiranui Road. This is 36ha of alluvial podocarp forest of kahikatea/matai/titoki and tawa forest at grid reference V23 182116.

There is also a major series of covenants through the Huatokitoki catchment 7.5km to the south. These covenants, both with DoC and the National Trust cover broadleaf podocarp forests in the main, and few areas of kanuka and manuka are protected.

The area has a medium to high level of naturalness, depending upon when it was last cut over. The deeper gullies and steepest faces have not been cut over and this is where the greatest diversity of species is found, for example there are significant stands of rewarewa and regenerating totara present in some of these areas.

Stock have opened up the forest understorey and scrub in some parts, especially the less steep areas near forest and scrub margins. It is these areas which have most recently been cut over and regrown, and which have the lowest levels of diversity, which could be cut to allow more pastoral grazing.

Overall, the trends for the block look very promising once a series of steps is committed to:

- Protection with a covenant
- Fencing the steepest and most biodiversity rich areas to exclude stock
- Eradicating the goats
- Cutting out the wilding pine trees
- Continuing with the possum control under the HBRC PCA programme

Removing these plant and animal threats has to be considered at the same time as the fencing is organised.

When this process is put in train, recovery of the fenced areas should be quite rapid.

ends

MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

The mudstone zone: the soil type here means that if this area is sprayed, it will need erosion control works.



MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

K. Kowhai stand in the lower Lunch Block to be protected along with the steeper slopes of the previous panorama.



MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

The northern dam block with Carex secta around the dam. This is easy land with kanuka. Recommend fencing off the dam and surrounding cabbage trees.



MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

1. Tree ferns: too small to protect cost-effectively. The tree fern area is too steep to spray, but areas of low regrowth on surrounding easier slopes can be sprayed.



MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

2. *Back Gully outside of RAP: worth fencing, could fence on ridge or include the south-facing slope in the fenced area. Includes regenerating totara and tree ferns, putaputaweta and Pittosporum tenuifolium.*



MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

3. Top end of RAP on back boundary: Limited clearance here only to the edge of the steep land to the left of the photo. The boundary is on the right.



MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

4. Looking across into west facing slopes at the lower end of the gully by the stream and boundary block: this is one of two areas where kowhai is dominant in the canopy. Retain this area but easier slopes at the top could be cleared to the edge of the steep country.



MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

5. This is similar country to that of photo 4. A few wildling pines are present, and goats were noted. Suggest the fence goes halfway down the slope.



MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

6. *Panorama looking north into area to be protected. Only easier top slopes can be cleared. (see aerial photo for site)*



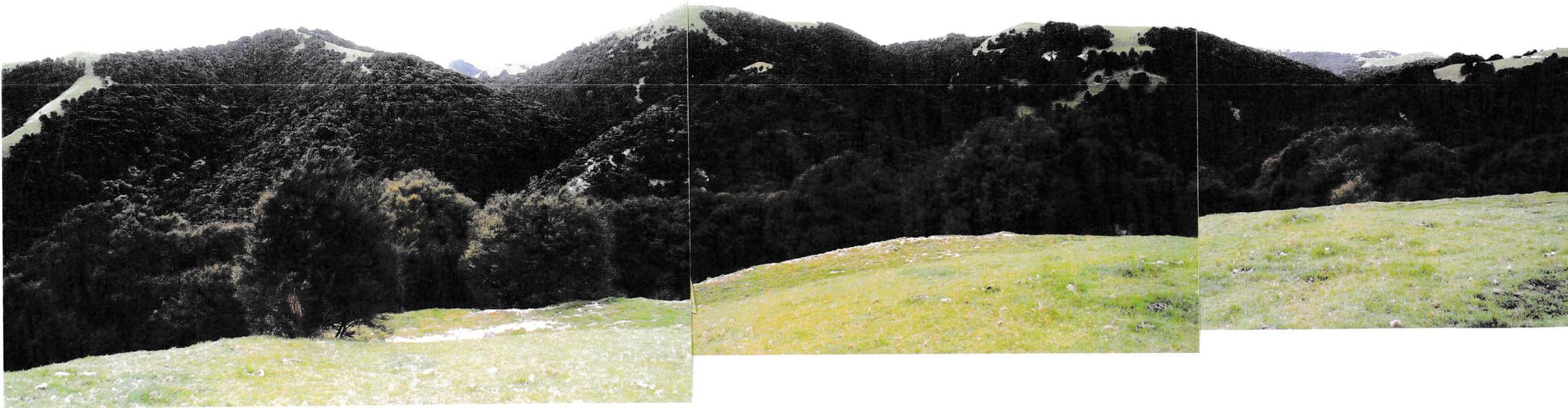
MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

7. Looking across to easier country with no emergents through the kanuka. The hatched area is able to be cleared. This is to the west of the Italy block.



MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

8. *Easy country beneath the trig. Along the ridges vegetation able to be cut. This sequence joins up with # 9.*



MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

9. *Easy country beneath the trig. Along the ridges vegetation able to be cut. This sequence joins up with # 8.*



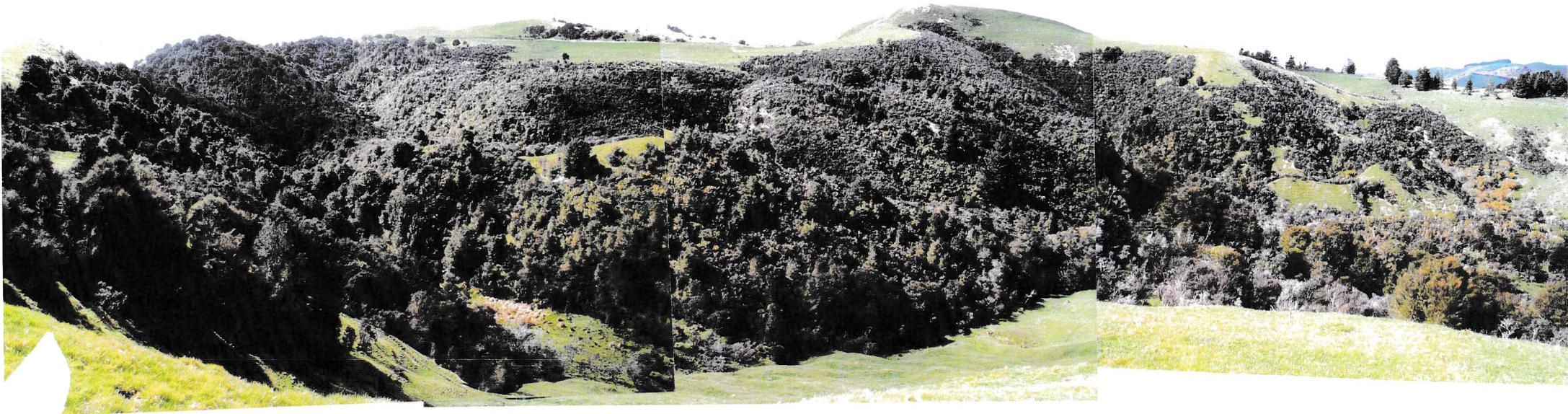
MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

10. Looking southwest. Easier slopes able to be sprayed.



MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

11. Lunch Block panorama: upper area on steep slopes to be protected while easier slopes lower down can be sprayed but kowhai must be kept in fenced area and slope behind it.



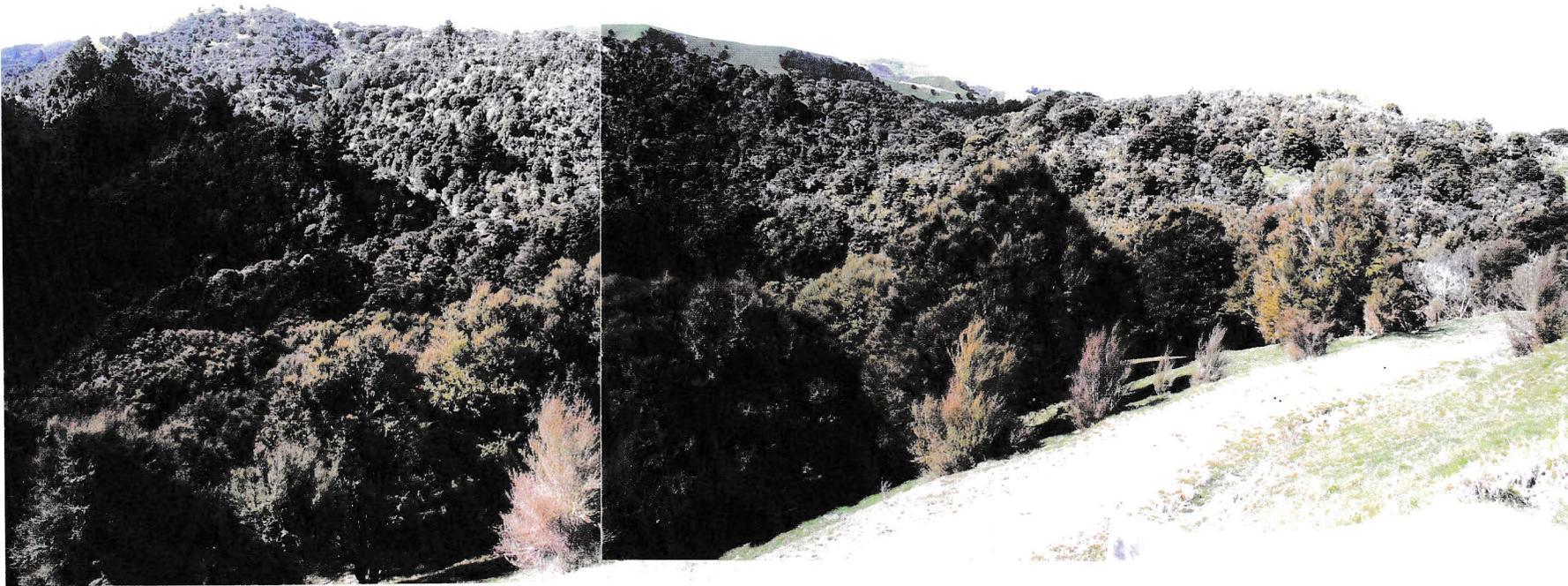
MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

12. *Arm Block: dense kanuka with trees ferns at the top end: fence to slope.*



MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

13a. (joins previous 2 photos) Wildling Pine Block: about 30 wildling pines. Fence to creek on this side, no emergents, no understorey.



MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

13. Wildling Pine Block: about 30 wildling pines. Fence to creek on this side, no emergents, no understorey.



MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

14. This is part of the Italy block: very steep class 7 country to be protected.



MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

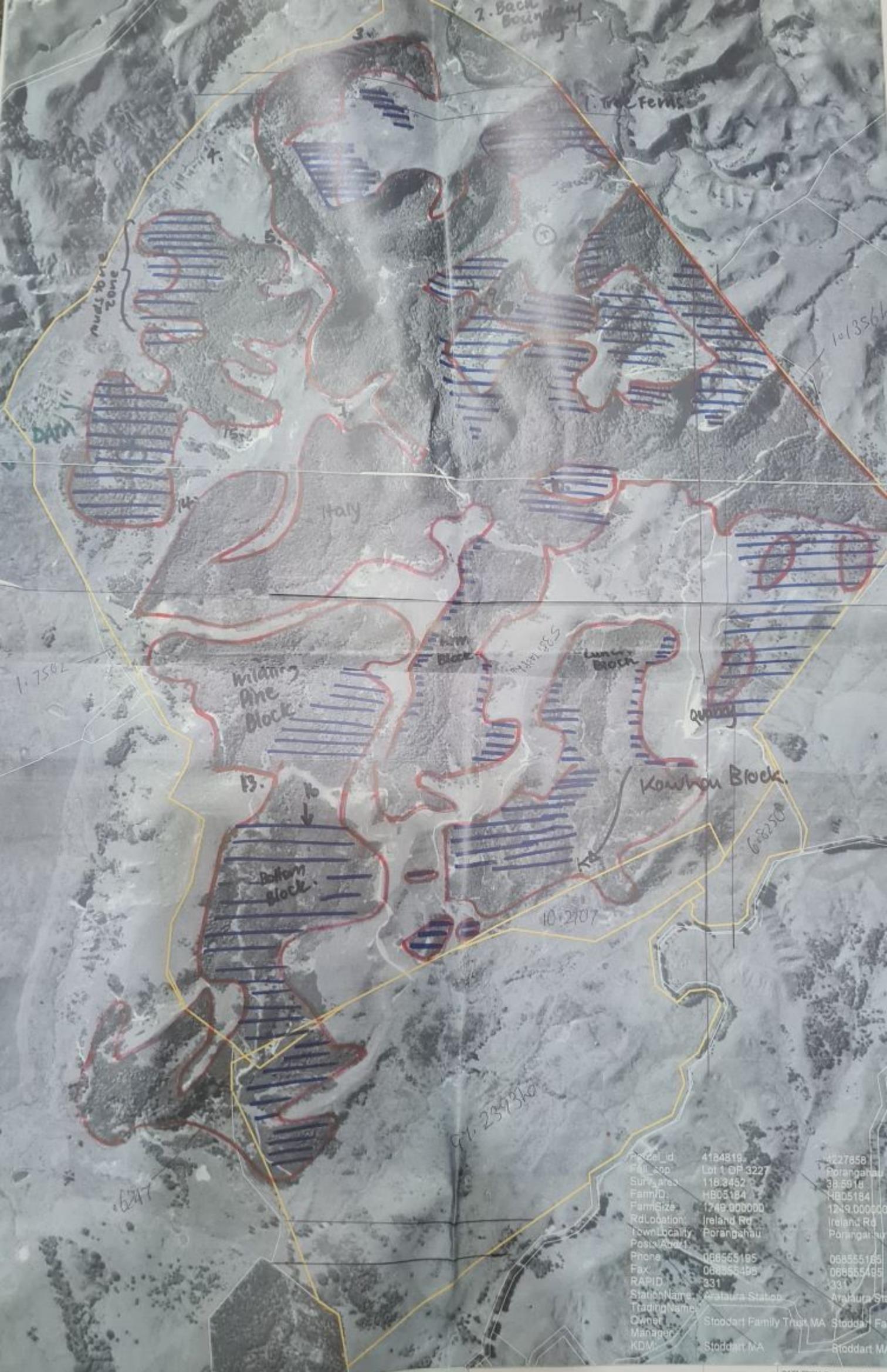
15. Panorama of three photos into steep gully on northern pond block. Too steep to spray, this area is to be protected.



MOTUOTARAIA PHOTOPOINTS: 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

16. Bottom Block is all low regrowth and we suggest it could all be cleared as it is on much easier land than most of the rest of the block.





OEII / RAP Areas

- Open field
- Existing Dist. remnant
- Forest



DATA FROM: Cadastral and topographic information obtained from Land Information New Zealand. THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS, WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE COPYRIGHT HOLDER. DISCLAIMER: The Hawke's Bay Regional Council does not warrant the data shown on this map.

We strongly oppose the CHB Proposed District Plan regarding Significant Natural Areas (“SNAs”) and rules relating to these.

A. Reasons:

1. Owners of the land should be able to do as they wish as it is their land.
2. Government/Council should not be able to unilaterally make rules and place obligations on landowners, as this can be detrimental to farming business both in the ability to graze, develop and also economically if landowners are expected to meet these obligations. They may be relatively light now but they could change and become more stringent as time goes on.
3. However, if SNA’s are to be adopted then each SNA needs to be looked at on a case by case basis, as each SNA will be unique and needs to be carefully considered with the landowners interests at the forefront. Site visits are an absolute necessity, and the governing body must be able to use its discretion while working with the landowner, Regional and District Councils and other environmental experts.

B. As the landowners and operators of a farming business at:

HIRANUI ROAD, WANSTEAD known as MOTUOTARAIA.

4. Our land contained in Record of Title HBM3/149 is approximately 650ha of which the majority has been flagged with SNAs. From the mapping tool provided on the CHB District Council website there are approximately 22 SNAs (click the link below to view map):
 - <https://eplan.chbdc.govt.nz/draft/#/Property/4233230>
5. We oppose these as a lot of the areas are areas made up of sparse scrub. It has been agreed in the past in consultation with the Regional Council and representatives from the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust (“QEII”) that these were not significant and could be cleared for grazing (detailed report and map **attached**). From this report it was agreed as to what could be protected and the areas which could be sprayed to clear for grazing. Although the spraying did not work as intended if a site visit were undertaken a lot of the smaller SNAs we believe would be removed and boundaries changed.
6. This block indeed has some significant bush areas which we are presently working with QEII to protect. It is not necessary to have the areas both QEII covenanted and flagged as SNAs.
7. We have already undergone an intensive possum eradication programme with the Regional Council which has led to no sightings or signs of possum in the area for some time now.
8. The rules need to allow for clearance for safety, fencing, stock crossings, tracks, pest/weed control.

9. We are pro-active in protecting natural areas, have created a wetland area and are in the process of creating a second wetland which will include deer fencing and planting.
10. We believe in the case of our land the SNAs need to be taken in context of the block as a whole, rather than tagging everything, it is clear there are several large areas of significant bush with many smaller areas being less significant that should not be included.
11. If SNAs are to be identified and rules attached then these need to be done with absolute care and discretion to each area taking into account the landowners interests, what they are doing including what they have done in the past, what they are doing at present and what they have planned for the future with regards to protecting these areas while continuing to be able to operate their farming business without adverse restrictions.

Claire & Joe Murphy