

6th August 2021

Submission on the CHB District Council Proposed District Plan 2021

Emailed to districtplan@chbdc.govt.nz

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My submission is confined to a proposed policy;

NFL-P5

To recognise the regional social and economic significance of water storage within ONF-4 (Mākāroro Gorge).

I oppose this policy and request that it be deleted.

I wish to speak in support of my submission.

Background

I am a CHBDC resident and ratepayer.

I have visited the Mākāroro gorge and river many times. I have undertaken day trips, mountain bike cycling, tramping and predator trapping in this beautiful area and am pleased it is recognised as an Outstanding Natural Feature. Every one of these activities will either be much more difficult or removed altogether if this gorge were flooded for water storage.

Rich in history and magnificent in nature, the Mākāroro deserves the highest levels of protection.

Policy NFL-P5 is an anomaly.

It is difficult to understand why this policy has been proposed as there is no evidence provided around the 'social and economic significance' of water storage in this particular area as opposed to any other area.

The assumptions around which this policy is premised are shaky at best.

The Initial Section 32 Scoping Report 2017 states;

“The future of the RWSS is now less certain – not only due to the Supreme Court decision above (which would appear to require legislative change and possibly a fresh application to reverse), but also given the change in the Regional Council political climate and community concerns, which has led to a major rethink by the current Regional Council.”

“Therefore, a ‘wait and see’ approach in terms of the current District Plan Review is considered appropriate and low risk in the short term, on the basis that if the RWSS proceeds, it’s implications can be readily worked through and appropriately addressed during the next District Plan Review cycle.

Implications for this District Plan Review: - The implications of the RWSS for Central Hawke’s Bay are not expected to be felt over the 10- year life of the next District Plan. - Therefore, it is considered low risk to take a ‘wait and see’ approach, in the knowledge that there will be a substantial lead-in time and ability to respond in a timely manner during the next District Plan Review cycle, whatever the outcome of the RWSS.”

Given this scoping information; why is it necessary to include NFL-P5 and what is its purpose? There is no additional information about this policy in the Section-32-Natural-Features-Landscapes-Report-May-2021. This makes it very difficult to understand its purpose.

I request that this policy be removed from the District plan.