

SUBMISSION on PROPOSED REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT for the WELLINGTON REGION, 2009

By Thomas Glendwr Gardner (Glen) Evans and The Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc.

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**1. The specific parts of the proposed Regional Policy Statement that our submission relates to are as follows:**

The provisions relating to the abstraction of water for community use /regional use; and the need to ensure that, in any decision on the source, method and quantity of abstraction, the effects on fishing and recreational values are sufficiently taken into account.

**2 Our submission is that:**

- (a) While there are numerous provisions that relate to the need to protect the quality of rivers and river environments e.g Policy 42 and Appendix 1 (which relate to the Hutt River and relevant recreational values) - and see also Objective 12 - there is an important potential or actual conflict between those provisions and Policy 19, and any regional plan provisions which may apply that Policy. The "Explanation" for Policy 19 uses the words "provided there are no adverse effects on the environment", but this may have no statutory force, and may in any case be overlooked or down-played in future relevant regional plans.
- (b) It is not appropriate that the same priority is given to the abstraction of water by public authorities as to the reasonable domestic needs of individuals and/or their animals. Individuals have far more limited choices.

**We wish Greater Wellington to make the following decision:**

To delete (a) and (b) in Policy 19 and make it clear that the taking of water, by entities that do so under statutory authority, should indeed be subject to the proviso that there are no adverse effects on the environment, and also that the choice made for any bulk water supply is specifically accepted as one that requires an evaluation of alternatives and has regard to all the other provisions of the Regional Policy Statement and complying regional plans; and there should be no special reference to or analogy with a water supply for individual property owners. If community supplies are to get special treatment, these need to be defined as communities that rely on a local water supply and not on a metropolitan or regional supply.

We do wish to be heard in support of our submission.

Signed by T.G.G.Evans for himself and as agent for The Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc.

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24<sup>th</sup> May 2009