

24th May 2009

Greater Wellington Regional Council
142 Wakefield Street
PO Box 11646
WELLINGTON

Proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region, 2009.

Please find enclosed the Wellington Fish and Game Council's submission on the Proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Corina Jordan', written in a cursive style.

Corina Jordan
Fish & Game Environmental Officer

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

TO: Greater Wellington Regional Council

SUBMISSION ON: Proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region.

SUBMISSION BY: Corina Jodi Jordan (Fish and Game Environmental Officer) on behalf of Wellington Fish and Game Council.

ADDRESS: Wellington Fish and Game Council
292 Featherston Street
P O Box 1325
PALMERSTON NORTH

Pursuant to Clause 6 of the first Schedule and Section 79 of the Resource Management Act 1991, I Corina Jodi Jordan, Fish and Game Environmental Officer, Wellington Fish and Game Council hereby **submit** on the Proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region.

1. Wellington Fish and Game Statutory Mandate:

The Wellington Fish & Game Council is a statutory body set up under the Conservation Act (1987). Under Section 26 of the Conservation Act 1987, Fish & Game Councils have a statutory obligation to:

*“manage, maintain and enhance the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters;
assess and monitor the condition and trend of ecosystems as habitats for sports fish;
advocate the interests of the Council, including its interests in habitats;” and
“represent the interests and aspirations of anglers and hunters in the statutory planning process.”*

The Specific parts of the Proposed Policy Statement that Wellington Fish and Games submission relates to are as follows:

Point of clarification: Where we state our support for an issue, objective, policy, method, AER, it is implicit that we also wish that matter to be retained.

General

Wellington Fish and Game **supports** the whole of catchment approach promoted within the Proposed Policy Statement.

Wellington Fish and Game **supports** the identified regionally significant resource management issues.

Air Quality

Wellington Fish and Game **supports** the issues, policies and methods relating to the maintenance of air quality throughout the Greater Wellington Region.

2.3 Coastal Environment

Wellington Fish and Game **supports** the issues, policies and methods relating to the maintenance of the Coastal Environment throughout the Greater Wellington Region.

2.4 Energy infrastructure and waste

Wellington Fish and Game **supports** the issues, policies and methods relating to Energy infrastructure and waste.

2.5 Freshwater

Wellington Fish and Game **opposes** the introduction to Freshwater and issues raised. Our concerns can be addressed by noting the impact on water ways due to increasing sediment loads as a result of some land uses.

Wellington Fish and Game **supports** the regionally significant resource management issues for freshwater

Objective 12 **Opposed**. Our concerns can be addressed by adding eg (d) “*is maintained to meet recreational values*” to this objective.

Policies and methods under objective 12 **opposed**. Our concerns can be met by adding “(c) *enhance or maintain river suitable for contact recreation*” under Policy 11, and including a new policy (42), along with methods, which addresses the issues of non point source pollution from agriculture and horticulture, on freshwater resources.

Objective 13 is **supported**. I presume this also includes, stream and creeks.

Policies and methods under Objective 13 are generally all **supported**, except for Policy 17 where the term “*significant*” is **opposed**. The term “*significant*” should be omitted from this policy.

Objective 14 is **supported**

Wellington Fish and Game **opposes** the specification of “*non regulatory*” standards as it applies to Policy 65.

Objective 8, and Policy 52 **supported** along with methods.

AER opposed. The Policy Statement should allow for numerical standards to be set for water quality to protect ecosystems, including DRP, SIN, DO, periphyton, and macroinvertebrate indices etc. The inclusion of an AER which specifies that “*eighty percent of residents perceive that water pollution is not a problem*” is not sufficient to ensure that freshwater resources are not degrading. A numerical target standard should also be set ie water bodies shall be maintained or enhanced, which shall be established through State of the environment reporting.

2.6 Historic Heritage

Wellington Fish and Game **supports** the issues, policies and methods relating to the maintenance of Historic Heritage throughout the Greater Wellington Region.

2.7 Indigenous Ecosystems

Wellington Fish and Game opposes this section of the Proposed Policy Statement, including AER. All ecosystems and biodiversity values should be protected including trout spawning values and all wetlands, including man made.

2.8 Landscape

Wellington Fish and Game **supports** the issues, policies and methods relating to the Landscape chapter in the Proposed Regional Policy Statement.

2.9 Natural Hazards

Wellington Fish and Game **supports** the issues, policies and methods relating to the Natural Hazards chapter of the Proposed Regional Policy Statement.

2.10 Regional form, design and function

Wellington Fish and Game **supports** the issues, policies and methods relating to the Regional form, design and function chapter of the Proposed Policy Statement.

2.11 Resource Management with tangata whenua

Wellington Fish and Game supports the issues, policies and methods relating to resource management with Tangata whenua.

2.12 Soil and Minerals

Wellington Fish and Game **supports** the issues, policies and methods relating to Spoils and minerals in the Proposed GWRC Policy statement.

2.13 Appendices

Appendix 1 **opposed** not all significant (>100 days) recreational angling waterbodes are identified eg the Ruamahanga River is the most highly visited river in the Wairarapa Region, and it is not included in appendix 1. Please find attached a spreadsheet listing the main trout fishery rivers in the region, noting that this information may change as feedback from anglers is currently being sought.

Table 16 **opposed** trout spawning values have not been identified, and the list does not identify all wetlands worthy of conservation, nor biodiversity values.

2. Relief Sought

That the application in its current form be declined.

I wish to be heard in respect of this submission.

Dated in Palmerston North this 24th day of May 2009.



Corina Jordan

Fish and Game Environmental Officer
Wellington Fish and Game Council
P O Box 1325
PALMERSTON NORTH