

Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan
Response to Minute 37 of the Hearing Panel
Wetland Site Visit

From: Peter Hamill

1. Minute 37 arose after the hearings in relation to the mapping of the boundaries of wetlands. Submitter James Collet supported proposed wetland W793 on planning map being mapped as significant, but sought amendment of its boundaries, asserting they were too large. Specifically the submitter requested, “My decision requested is to further define the boundaries of W793 to a smaller and more realistic and practical size as the current overlay as presented on the map is close to three times the actual size of the wetland”.
2. I visited the site and assessed the wetland boundaries on 13 November 2018. I was to meet Trustpower representative Ron Sutherland on site however, he forgot about the site visit on the day and gave me verbal permission to conduct the assessment without him being present.
3. I walked around the boundary of the wetland and recorded my route on my GPS unit. It is my assessment that the wetland meets the significance criteria through both the Representativeness and Rarity criteria as set out in Appendix 3 of the pMEP. It is a catchment delta associated wetland that has large areas of swarding sedges associated with discrete areas of flax and *Carex secta*. Several pools within the wetland had large numbers of juvenile upland billies present which indicates that permanent surface water is present in the wetland.
4. The image below shows the boundary as notified in the pMEP in pink and the track from the GPS where I walked around the boundary of the wetland in yellow. There are certainly areas that were identified in the pMEP on the western margins of the wetland that do not have wetland plants present and are dominated by rank pasture grasses.



5. I agree with the submitter that the boundaries should be amended to a smaller more realistic and practical size as and my recommendation is that the shape of the wetland be reduced to more appropriately align with the wetland boundaries as identified during my site visit. The proposed amended boundary is shown in green in the following image.



Photos of Wetland W793









