

Indigenous Biodiversity S42a – Errata

1. Paragraph 3, page 32 I state that there are 708 SNA sites protected. This is incorrect, there is 708 SNA sites identified, and a smaller group have had active protection. As noted on page 18, to date:

'88 protection projects have been instigated through the programme, including a mix of fencing, re-vegetation, weed control and wetland restoration'.

2. Para 2 on page 47: I discuss DOC's submission point (479.197) relating to the clearance of indigenous vegetation as a permitted activity within 50 metres of a commercial or woodlot forest or shelterbelt. I then discuss the Plantation Forestry NES, and I make a recommendation to delete '*commercial forestry*' on page 54.

I understand that the Council is about to embark on an alignment exercise in terms of the content of the MEP relative to the Plantation Forestry NES. As such, I consider that consideration of the submissions on this standard should be treated as 'on hold', subject to this alignment exercise.

3. On Page 48 of the s42a Report, I state that I agree with the following exemptions:
(f) where the clearance is associated with operation, maintenance, upgrade and development of the National Grid.

(g) where the clearance is associated with the maintenance of existing network utility operations and existing electricity generation activities.

However, in the tracked change recommendations on page 54 I suggest the following amendment:

'where the clearance is associated with operation and maintenance of the: National Grid, existing network utility operations, and existing electricity generation activities'.

The tracked change recommendation on page 56 reflects my recommended position.

4. On page 54 I recommend the deletion of the standard relating to the Threatened Environments - Indigenous Vegetation Site overlay (x.3.x.3(a)). I note that there is also reference to the overlay in x.3.x.2(e). If the overlay is to be removed, then all references to the overlay in standards should also be removed, as follows:

x.3.x.2. - *The clearance of indigenous vegetation in the following circumstances is exempt from Standards x.3.x.3 to x.3.x.6 (inclusive):*

.....

~~*(e) where the clearance is on a Threatened Environments – Indigenous Vegetation Site and the clearance is within the curtilage of a dwelling.*~~

5. On page 61 I recommend that Rules x.3.x.3(b) are amended to excluded three ESMS's. The proposed exclusion repeats site 7.15. The final reference was intended to refer to site 8.1 as follows:

(b) on land above mean high water springs that is within 20m of an Ecologically Significant Marine Site, but excluding Sites 2.17, 7.15, and 7.15 8.1.

6. On page 62 of my report I have recommended the addition of new rules x.3.x.5(a) and x.3.x.6(a). The intent of this recommendation was to create a rule framework similar to Rule x.3.x.4, so that any clearance that is located within the 'Extent of the coastal environment' layer is half that of areas outside the 'Extent of the coastal environment' layer.

However, the Coastal Environment Zone, the Lake Grassmare Salt Works Zone, and the Port Zone are all wholly contained within the 'Extent of the coastal environment' layer. As such, instead of including additions to these chapters, I recommend that Rules x.3.x.5 and x.3.x.6 within these zones are amended as follows (within the Coastal Environment, Lake Grassmare Salt Works, and Port Zones):

x.3.x.5. Clearance of indigenous forest within the coastal environment must not exceed 4,050m² per Computer Register in any 5 year period.

x.3.x.6. Clearance of indigenous vegetation within the coastal environment, per Computer Register, must not exceed:

- (a) 21,000m² in any 5 year period where the average canopy height is between 3m and 6m;*
- (b) 405,000m² in any 5 year period where the average canopy height is below 3m, except for the following species where clearance in any 5 year period must not exceed:*
 - i. 500250m² of indigenous sub-alpine vegetation;*
 - ii. 40050m² of tall tussock of the genus *Chinochloa**

~~*x.3.x.5(a) - Clearance of indigenous forest within the coastal environment must not exceed 4,050m² per Computer Register in any 5 year period.*~~

~~*x.3.xx.6(a) - Clearance of indigenous vegetation within the coastal environment, per Computer Register, must not exceed:*~~

- ~~*(a) 21,000m² in any 5 year period where the average canopy height is between 3m and 6m;*~~
- ~~*(b) 105,000m² in any 5 year period where the average canopy height is below 3m, except for the following species where clearance in any 5 year period must not exceed:*
 - ~~*i. 500250m² of indigenous sub-alpine vegetation;*~~
 - ~~*ii. 10050m² of tall tussock of the genus *Chinochloa**~~~~

7. On page 61 I recommend amendments to standards x.3.x.4. Following a discussion with Councils technical experts, I understand that sub section:

(c) coastal flaxlands

can be removed as it is duplicated in sub section:

*(d) coastal vegetation dominated by (making up >50% of the canopy cover) ~~wharariki/coastal flax~~ (*Phormium specoekianum*)*

In terms of scope for the amendment, Forest and Bird (715.400) considered that the standard does not cover all areas that are important as habitat and protected under Policy 11 NZCPS. As such, any change to clarify or include species that are listed in Policy 11 NZCPS are consider within the scope of the submission.

8. Mr Caddie of the Clova Bay Residents Association notes that Site 3.14 appears to have been omitted from the list of Category B sites in the Appendix to Chapter 8 of the MEP. He seeks that the site be included within the MEP. Steve Ulrich at the MDC has confirmed that this site should be included within Rule 16.7.5.

9. In page 38, I recommended that Policy 8.2.9 be deleted. Evidence has been provided which has highlighted the need for this policy, particularly in the marine environment. Rather than deleting this policy, I consider that a better solution would be to amend the policy to better reflect the language used within Policy 14 of the NZCPS as follows:

Promote the maintenance, enhancement, or restoration of ~~Maintain, enhance or restore~~ ecosystems, habitats and areas of indigenous biodiversity even where these are not identified as significant in terms of the criteria in Policy 8.1.1, but are important for:

- (a) the continued functioning of ecological processes;*
- (b) providing connections within or corridors between habitats of indigenous flora and fauna;*
- (c) cultural purposes;*
- (d) providing buffers or filters between land uses and wetlands, lakes or rivers and the coastal marine area;*
- (e) botanical, wildlife, fishery and amenity values;*
- (f) biological and genetic diversity; and*
- (g) water quality, levels and flows.*

Andrew MacLennan

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