

**NZ OUTDOORS PARTY SUBMISSION TO MINISTRY FOR ENVIRONMENT Dated 14 March 2020
ON Draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity**

Publication date: November 2019

Publication reference number: ME 1471

Prepared by Sue Grey LLB(Hons), BSc, RSHDipPHI and Michael Kay Regenerative Farmer Manukau

Contact: Sue Grey suegreylawyer@gmail.com Ph 0226910586

NZ OUTDOORS PARTY is a registered NZ political party with a rapidly growing and active membership, whom enjoy the New Zealand outdoors for a range of activities. These include food growing and gathering, recreation, caring for the environment and promoting healthy thriving connected communities. Its vision is for a diverse, inclusive, connected society where all people, Tikanga and environment thrive.

NZ OUTDOORS PARTY promotes self-sufficiency for individuals, communities and New Zealand and learning from the inter-generational knowledge of our people to promote individual, community and environmental wellbeing and to help New Zealand thrive for ourselves and for our future.

More information is available on www.outdoorsparty.co.nz.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The NZ Outdoors Party supports the vision of the Biodiversity Strategy:

Nature is part of our everyday lives as we enjoy the great outdoors of Aotearoa New Zealand with our families. Our native trees, plants, birds, animals, insects, and the places they inhabit are all part of who we are. Native biodiversity helps provide clean water, nutrient cycling, mahinga kai (food provisioning) and materials for other purposes such as raranga (weaving) and rongoā (medicinal uses).

HOWEVER, the Biodiversity Strategy as currently worded overlooks critical factors necessary to achieve the vision.

CHANGES REQUIRED BY THE NZ OUTDOORS PARTY TO THE DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT

Important missing objectives which must be added and provided for in the NPS Indigenous Biodiversity include:

- 1) The need for a more holistic approach to promote and provides for community and cultural diversity and wellbeing as well as indigenous biodiversity. New Zealand is special and unique and visions and strategies must provide for New Zealand to retain its special “Kiwiana” character and freedoms and connection with the OUTDOORS and nature that (used to) make New Zealand special, so we can create a thriving New Zealand for ourselves, our children and our children’s children.
- 2) Identifying and addressing all critical elements and all threats to biodiversity, including the importance of soil health and micro-and macro-biota.

- 3) Reducing, discouraging and where possible ending, the use of poisons and other contaminants. The precautionary principle of “do no harm” must apply. No poisons or other contaminants should be allowed on public or private land at least unless and until it is established that these poisons and contaminants, and the breakdown products of these poisons have no adverse effects on soil, microbe or macro-invertebrate health AND until natural alternatives have been considered.
- 4) End the “Predator-Free 2050 Strategy” as this distorts decision-making and undermines the biodiversity strategy and the wellbeing of New Zealand and New Zealanders, as:
 - a) It is used to justify the chemical contamination of our land, water, forests and soils.
 - b) Poisons ‘dilute life’ reducing the biomass and biodiversity of ecosystems and ultimately selecting for fasted adaptor- which tends to be species such as rats and cockroaches.
 - c) Predators are an essential part of all ecosystems and include many native species such as kea, weka, ruru, falcons and humans.
 - d) The policy was based on political whim and founded on claims about harm from some species of predator that are not supported by evidence.
 - e) It undermines the value of trappers, possum fur and wild foods limiting opportunities for rural communities.
 - f) The ongoing accidental poisoning of farmed stock from misplaced deadly poison baits puts our economy at risk.
 - g) 1080 use is associated with stillbirths, miscarriages and foetal abnormalities in humans, sheep, cattle and other species¹. A single bait can kill a toddler. There have been several near deaths from accidental exposure to 1080 in recent years.²
 - h) The so called “biodegradable products of 1080” are all toxic include fluorocitrate, sodium fluoride and the greenhouse gas “Freon” (Methyl Fluoride) depending what bacteria are present. Sodium fluoride, one of the “fluoride salt” breakdown products from 1080 poison caused 47 deaths in Oregon after it was accidentally added to scrambled eggs³.
 - i) There is considerable and unsustainable bykill of iconic native species such as kea, blue ducks and weka and other native species, often in breach of the Wildlife Act. DoC has admitted this in the past and created a Kea Code of Practice, however the poisoning of up to 50% of kea per 1080 operation continues⁴.

¹ <https://www.pce.parliament.nz/media/1548/1080-poisoning-of-livestock-omaka-aerodrome-marlborough-nov-1994.pdf>

² <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/113428313/worker-poisoned-at-pest-control-warehouse-in-christchurch>
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/100121634/first-botulism-tests-negative-for-waikato-family>. The family later received ACC for accidental poisoning after eating wild pork. The first and only “live” suspected cause was 1080.

³ <https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2017/11/18/oregon-state-hospital-poison-causes-47-deaths-1942/874550001/>

⁴ <https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/82491117/benefits-to-kea-from-1080-operations-uncertain>
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/119962609/environmentalists-fear-hundreds-of-kea-have-died-doc-says-1080-is-saving-them>
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/119962609/environmentalists-fear-hundreds-of-kea-have-died-doc-says-1080-is-saving-them>

- j) The current landscape scale poisoning used to try to implement the Predator 2050 Strategy condones animal cruelty, and breaches of the Wildlife and Animal Welfare Act. The condoning of cruelty and violence by the state creates a poor role model for a country that has a significant domestic violence problem and which claims to promote kindness and compassion.
- 5) Lets instead develop (through consultation with diverse community interests) a more balanced pest management policy based on values, reason and evidence, not dogma. This policy must reflect the views and values of local communities and recognise that different communities will have different solutions.
- 6) Recognise that many exotic species (including plants and animals) are established in New Zealand and add to the biodiversity and quality of life for New Zealanders, and that these species can coexist in many parts of New Zealand.
- 7) Ensure the biodiversity strategy enhances the quality of life of all New Zealanders and particularly those who live on the land and who enjoy nature for food gathering and/or for recreation and physical and/or mental wellbeing.
- 8) Value and protect all species that may be used for food gathering to help promote food sovereignty and self-sufficiency of individuals, communities and New Zealand. Ensure that excess number of any species are offered first as food, before they are culled.
- 9) Ensure all information which affects decisions on biodiversity including information about proposed poison use and alternatives for the management of public land, information about the adverse effects of poisons and their breakdown products, any relevant legal or expert advice (and the qualifications and independence of those giving the advice) and the reasons for decisions are transparent and readily accessible well before the poisons are used.
- 10) Ensure best Regenerative Organic practices are adopted on public land and are encouraged and supported on private land. We recognise the considerable financial and ecological value to expanding biodiversity and regenerative organic practices to our agricultural sector which uses a large part of our land. The current corporate farming with intensification, monoculture and high chemical input undermines biodiversity and the quality of our environment, whereas Regenerative Organic practices will enhance biodiversity and help communities and nature to thrive.
- 11) Ensure far better and earlier access to information and engagement with communities including those who have alternative views, to understand what is important to people and to find win:win solutions that will re-connect New Zealanders with nature and the land; value and build on traditional knowledge; and promote thriving rural communities to help grow a thriving and self-sufficient New Zealand.
- 12) Recognise, support and celebrate farmers who are excellent guardians of land, water, soil and biodiversity and help share their expertise. Celebrate rather than regulate these farmers.

The NZ Outdoors Party welcomes the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these objectives further. Thank you.

Sue Grey LLB(Hons), BSc(Biochemistry & Microbiology). RSHDipPHI Co-leader NZ Outdoors Party