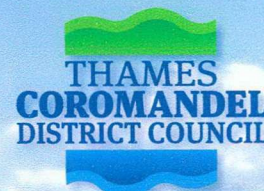


Proposed Thames-Coromandel District Plan



Submission Form

Form 5 Clause 6 of the First Schedule to the Resource Management Act 1991

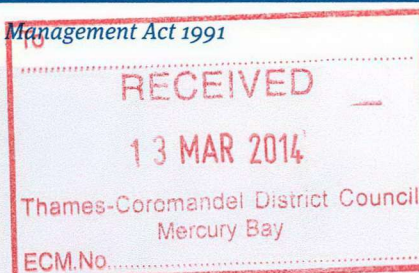
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Submitter Details

Full Name(s)	Gilbert John Bannan	
or Organisation (if relevant)		
Email Address	gilbert.bannan@taia-cornz	
Postal Address	31 George Ross, Kakei, RD1 Whitianga 3591	
Phone no. <small>include area code</small>	(07) 8662144	Mobile no.

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PRIVACY ACT 1993

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Signature of submitter  Date 12 March 2014

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PROPOSED THAMES COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL DISTRICT PLAN

Submission on behalf of: GJ & CM Bannan

Ratepayers: 35 Grange Road, Hahei Beach

Reference: Part 3C – Consultation

From reading the proposed changes to the TCDC District Plan, it does appear that the drafters have either not considered or adequately reflected the views of the Hahei community as incorporated in the detailed submissions and report originally prepared and submitted to Council under the document:

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The proposed rules also provide that the two hectare allotments can with adoption of a structure plan and appropriate resource consent approvals be reduced further to a minimum of 600 square metre building site. The proposal as such: is to rezone this land based on the existing rules and create the opportunity for further intensive residential development without appropriate regard being given to provision of and addressing essential infrastructure elements as identified above. The long term potential of this land for future development under the proposed "*rural lifestyle*" zoning could well then provide up to a further 200 building allotments which will place further demand and constraints on the existing infrastructure services with particular impact on: sewage disposal/treatment, stormwater run-off, water supply, available parking within the existing village area and future utilisation of the beach, particularly with additional tractors, boats and motorised transport.

Submission

It is our submission that:

- Any further intensive residential development within or adjoining the Hahei Village area should not proceed until Council has undertaken a comprehensive investigation and report on the essential infrastructure requirements for the existing and any planned future development.
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The suggestion of a draft Concept or Structure Plan being considered and incorporated as a part of the "rural lifestyle" zoning change, is in the submitters' view a totally inappropriate mechanism to be considered or adopted by Council when addressing the prospects for future development of land so zoned. The current proposal as suggested by the existing owners is in our respectful submission arguably an attempt to enhance the value of this land for the possible eventual sale to an independent third party who could in the same manner as the present owners then likely use the Structure Plan or Concept Plan as the base negotiating document for further potentially more intensive development.

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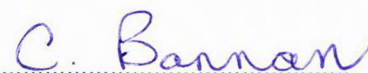


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G J Bannan

13 March 2014

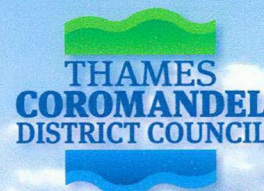
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Submitter Details

Full Name(s)	CHRISTINE MARIEANNE BANNAN	
or Organisation (if relevant)		
Email Address	christine.bannan@tra-co.nz	
Postal Address	35 GRANGE ROAD, HAKEL, RD 1, WHITIANGA 3591	
Phone no. <small>include area code</small>	(07) 866-3144	Mobile no. 0974 530 012

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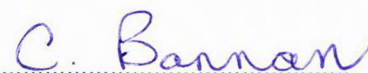


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13 March 2014

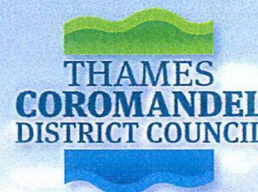
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Submitter Details

Full Name(s) Michael Smith & Joan McGuire
or Organisation (if relevant) _____

Email Address _____

Postal Address as attached

Phone no. 07 866 4331
include area code

Mobile no. _____

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Signature of submitter

[Signature]

Date

13/11/14

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☐ N

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8 Otama Beach Rd
RD2
Whitianga 3592

13 III 14

Chief Executive officer

TDC

Private Bag

Manawatu

Dear Sir

Submission on TDC Proposed
District Plan 2013

1.0 Proposed zones & overlays.

1.1 Planning map 13, 13D & 13E Otama

We support the zones & overlays as shown, in particular the Coastal Living & Rural Zone, as shown on the planning maps.

2.0 Section 14 - Mining Activities...

2.1. We recognise that the environment is our economy and hence request a strengthened and expanded protection against any mining, and a strengthened & expanded protection of the existing ecology, landscape, character & amenity of this District.

2/5. Submission 662
2.2. We ask that TDC objectives and policies reflect the Crown Minerals Act and prohibit mining activities within the areas set out within ~~Schedule 4~~ Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act.

2.3 delete 14.2.2. It is not correct that mining will enhance the ability of the District to provide for its social economic and cultural wellbeing.

2.4 Introduce objectives and policies that prohibit mining within the identified outstanding Landscapes, Amenity Landscapes and National Character areas.

2.5 Remove "or compensate" from Objective 1b, Policy 1b & Policy 1f. The Act requires adverse effects to be avoided, remedied or mitigated, not compensated for.

2.6. Change "are minimised" to "shall be avoided" within Policy 3b.

3.0 Section 37 - Mining Activities Rules.

3.1 We support all ^{of} the areas shown as prohibited activities within Table 1 and request they are retained unchanged.

3/5.

3.2 We ask mining (surface & underground), mineral processing and waste rock / tailings storage (mining activities) be shown as a prohibited Activity in the Outstanding, Austerity & Natural character overlays. As Council has informed the District, the landscape assessment was undertaken to support prohibition of mining in these areas.

3.3 The PDP provisions need to be consistent with the Crown Minerals Act. Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act prohibits mining activities within the coastal area & DOC land. We ask the rules for mining activities reflect this and a stated as a ~~prohibited~~ prohibited Activity within the Coastal Environment and the Conservation zone.

3.4 Due to the scale of effects resulting from mining activities, we ask these be a non-complying activity within the Rural Zone & Rural Lifestyle Zone.

4/5

4.0 Section 43 - Conservation Area

4.1 We request all the permitted activities shown within Rules 1-14 are removed. Many of these activities are not suitable for high value areas of the DOC estate.

5.0 Section 53 - Recreation Passive Zone

5.1 We support sections 53.1 (Zone description) and 53.2 (Zone purpose) unchanged.

5.2 Rule 1 - request the removal of "Temporary Living Places" as a permitted activity. Due to the high amenity value and sensitive nature of many reserves (especially those in Otanga) this activity may result in significant effects on landscape, character & amenity values.

6.3 Indigenous biodiversity is maintained restored or enhanced at the time of subdivision use & development.

We ask that this objective be realized in all cases.

5/5

8.3 Archeological sites; maori cultural sites.

We ask that all 3 objectives be integrated in planning & realized in practise.

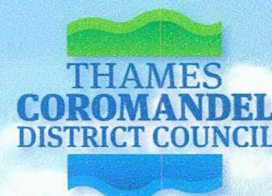
9.3 objective 1 : outstanding landscapes remain outstanding and their values & characteristics are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use & development & resulting adverse cumulative effects.

We ask too that objective 2, 3 and 4 be strongly reinforced & realized in practise.

Yours faithfully MDSmither
Michael Smither CNZM


Ian McGregor B.A.; B.Sc.

Proposed Thames-Coromandel District Plan



Submission Form

Form 5 Clause 6 of the First Schedule to the Resource Management Act 1991

Your submission can be:

Online: www.tcdc.govt.nz/dpr
Using our online submissions form

Posted to: Thames-Coromandel District Council
Proposed Thames-Coromandel District Plan
Private Bag, Thames 3540
Attention: District Plan Manager

Email to: customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz

Delivered to: Thames-Coromandel District Council, 515 Mackay Street, Thames
Attention: District Plan Manager (or to the Area Offices in Coromandel, Whangamata or Whitianga)

THAMES-COROMANDEL
DISTRICT COUNCIL

13 MAR 2014

RECEIVED BY:

2:39 pm Tui

Submitter Details

Full Name(s) Carl Jensen
or Organisation (if relevant) _____

Email Address cjensen@xtra.co.nz
Postal Address PO Box 219
Thames.

Phone no. include area code 7 868 2501 Mobile no. 027 290 8228

Submissions must be received no later than 5 pm Friday 14 March 2014

If you need more writing space, just attach additional pages to this form.

PRIVACY ACT 1993

Please note that submissions are public information. Information on this form including your name and submission will be accessible to the media and public as part of the decision making process. Council is required to make this information available under the Resource Management Act 1991. Your contact details will only be used for the purpose of the Proposed District Plan process. The information will be held by the Thames-Coromandel District Council. You have the right to access the information and request its correction.



Your Submission

The specific provisions of the Proposed District Plan that my submission relates to are:
(please specify the Objective, Policy, Rule, Map or other reference your submission relates to)

NZTA 4
Road Widening at Teaurua Bay

My submission is:

(clearly state whether you SUPPORT or OPPOSE specific parts of the Proposed District Plan or wish to have amendments made, giving reasons for your view)

I support ☐ oppose ☒ the above plan provision.

Reasons for my views:

Need To delete Road Widening Plan From District Plan.

The decision I seek from the Council is that the provision above be:

Retained ☐ Deleted ☒ Amended ☐ as follows:

Proposed District Plan Hearing

I wish to be heard in support of my submission. ☒ Y ☐ N

If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing. ☒ Y ☐ N

Signature of submitter  Date 13/3/14

Person making the submission, or authorised to sign on behalf of an organisation making the submission.

Trade Competition

Please note that if you are a person who could gain an advantage in trade competition through the submission, your right to make a submission may be limited by Clause 6 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

I could gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission. ☐ Y ☒ N

If you could gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission please complete the following:

I am directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that –

- a) adversely affects the environment; and ☐ Y ☐ N
b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition. ☐ Y ☐ N

If you require further information about the Proposed District Plan please visit the Council website www.tcdc.govt.nz/dpr

Proposed Thames-Coromandel District Plan



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**THAMES-COROMANDEL
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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Attention: District Plan Manager (or to the Area Offices in Coromandel, Whangamata or Whitianga)

13 MAR 2014

RECEIVED BY:

Tani
2:39 pm

Submitter Details

Full Name(s) Hauraki Prospectors Association Inc
or Organisation (if relevant) _____

Email Address cjensen@atra.co.nz

Postal Address PO Box ~~278~~ 219
Thames

Phone no. include area code 07 868 2501

Mobile no. 027 290 8228

Submissions must be received no later than 5 pm Friday 14 March 2014

If you need more writing space, just attach additional pages to this form.

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Your Submission

The specific provisions of the Proposed District Plan that my submission relates to are:
(please specify the Objective, Policy, Rule, Map or other reference your submission relates to)

Minning Provisions
Small under-ground mining up to 20 mt/day
Should be a permitted, non-notifiable
Activity in all areas of the TCD.

My submission is:

(clearly state whether you SUPPORT or OPPOSE specific parts of the Proposed District Plan or wish to have amendments made, giving reasons for your view)

I support ☐ oppose ☒ the above plan provision.

Reasons for my views:

Economic Considerations
Activity already regulated under mining
RMA.

The decision I seek from the Council is that the provision above be:

Retained ☐ Deleted ☐ Amended ☒ as follows:

As Above

Proposed District Plan Hearing

I wish to be heard in support of my submission. ☒ Y ☐ N

If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing. ☐ Y ☒ N

Signature of submitter

[Signature]

Date 13/3/14

Person making the submission, or authorised to sign on behalf of an organisation making the submission.

Carl Jensen President RMA

Trade Competition

Please note that if you are a person who could gain an advantage in trade competition through the submission, your right to make a submission may be limited by Clause 6 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

I could gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission. ☐ Y ☒ N

If you could gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission please complete the following:

I am directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that –

a) adversely affects the environment; and

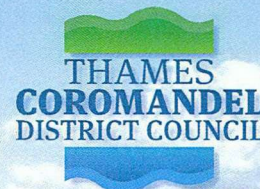
b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

☐ Y

☐ N

If you require further information about the Proposed District Plan please visit the Council website www.tcdc.govt.nz/dpr

Proposed Thames-Coromandel District Plan



Submission Form

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Attention: District Plan Manager (or to the Area Offices in Coromandel, Whangamata or Whitianga)

THAMES-COROMANDEL
DISTRICT COUNCIL

13 MAR 2014

RECEIVED BY: *Thi*
14 2:23pm

Submitter Details

Full Name(s)	<i>Dennis Wing President of.</i>	
or Organisation (if relevant)	<i>Coromandel Peninsula Branch of Motel Assn of NZ.</i>	
Email Address	<i>info@rollestonmotel.co.nz</i>	
Postal Address	<i>P.O Box 228</i>	
	<i>Thames.</i>	
Phone no. <small>include area code</small>	<i>(07) 8688091</i>	Mobile no. <i>021 164 2054</i>

Submissions must be received no later than 5 pm Friday 14 March 2014

If you need more writing space, just attach additional pages to this form.

PRIVACY ACT 1993

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Your Submission

The specific provisions of the Proposed District Plan that my submission relates to are:
(please specify the Objective, Policy, Rule, Map or other reference your submission relates to)

Part VIII - Zone Rules Section 54.4 Permitted activities
Rule 1 Visitor Accommodation.

My submission is:

(clearly state whether you SUPPORT or OPPOSE specific parts of the Proposed District Plan or wish to have amendments made, giving reasons for your view)

I support ☒ oppose ☐ the above plan provision.

Reasons for my views:

as attached page.

The decision I seek from the Council is that the provision above be:

Retained ☒ Deleted ☐ Amended ☐ as follows:

Proposed District Plan Hearing

I wish to be heard in support of my submission. ☒ Y ☐ N

If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing. ☒ Y ☐ N

Signature of submitter D. E. W. J. Date 12/3/14.

Person making the submission, or authorised to sign on behalf of an organisation making the submission.

Trade Competition

Please note that if you are a person who could gain an advantage in trade competition through the submission, your right to make a submission may be limited by Clause 6 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

I could gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission. ☐ Y ☒ N

If you could gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission please complete the following:

I am directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that –

- a) adversely affects the environment; and ☐ Y ☐ N
b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition. ☐ Y ☐ N

If you require further information about the Proposed District Plan please visit the Council website www.tcdc.govt.nz/dpr

THAMES-COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL
Private Bag, 515 Mackay Street, Thames 3540
phone: 07 868 0200 | fax: 07 868 0234
customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz | www.tcdc.govt.nz



We the Coromandel Peninsula Branch of the Motel Association of New Zealand support the rule as stated in the district plan.

Part VIII- Zone Rules Section 54.4 Permitted Activities.

Rule 1 Visitors Accommodation

We however submit that an increase in the number of Tariff paying visitors to over and above 6 staying onsite in an existing dwelling or minor unit must obtain a Resource Consent.

The reasons for the need for this consent is to mitigate problems around,

Noise, Parking, Rubbish and Amenity Values

In what is a residential area with permanent residents alongside.

We don't have a problem with baches, that are let out over the 6 week Christmas period, as has happened for many, many years.

However when a bach is on a website for rental 90% of the year, we would insist that it requires a Resource Consent for a restricted activity for the very reasons we submitted earlier, noise, parking, rubbish and amenity values.

Sent: Friday, 14 March 2014 4:31:01 p.m.

To: TCDC General Mail Address

Subject: DISTRICT PLAN submission

I do wish to be heard

Reihana Robinson

Port Charles

RD4

Coromandel

07 8666620

Submission:

Point one: Overall opposition to PDP. The whole document is anachronistic.

Point two: Total opposition to landscape/natural/significant overlays. The document fails those living on the Coromandel right now and it poisons the future for children and children yet to be born. We all know the Coromandel has nearly 50% of available land already legally protected. We have protected land of nearly 99,000 ha with QE11 covenants on 1,929 ha, DoC with 91,119 ha, TCDC scenic reserves, 224 ha, Nga Whenua Rahui, 2,277ha and 3,373 ha in TCDC/landowner covenants. What this means is that nature in all her rich variety is covering our peninsula and we all like it that way.

Point three: Dramatically obvious is the absence of serious commitment to sustainable, traditional, organic food production. Without healthy food and clean water we are nothing. The PDP could have been a tract for a hopeful future. Where is the protection of healthy soil? clean water? creative industries for young and old?

Point four: One regulation I would support is a Dark Skies initiative such as that in Sanibel, Florida where the purpose of this law is to protect the natural beauty of Sanibel's night skies as well as the habitat for our nocturnal and crepuscular species that would work very well for our native wildlife. What are the basic Requirements of the Dark Skies Ordinance? "The City of Sanibel's Dark Sky Ordinance

does not prohibit lighting but rather regulates the types of fixtures & lights to minimize light pollution on our Island. Specifically, the City of Sanibel's Dark Sky Ordinance prohibits "up lighting". The ordinance does permit "down lighting" which means all outdoor lighting fixtures, including display signs, building, parking lot and aesthetic lighting must utilize fixtures which shine downward." Simple, pulls you attract astronomers and amateur star gazers.

Point five: Caring for land is more than caring for native flora and fauna. It is about creating a healthy, safe, creative place for future generations. What is not protected or seriously addressed is our ability to grow food. This document appears to be all about subdivision, more buildings to house more people with no emphasis on adequate infrastructure and the ability of ratepayers to pay, no recognition of sustainability as terms such as 'organic' or 'permaculture' or 'hunting, trapping and cyanide to control wild animals'. No mention of rain harvesting, solar and wind power. What are you afraid of? And here I would like to address Mark Farnsworth who has appeared in our area on another payroll, that of the intensive, toxic business of cage fish farming. The majority of submissions come from people who are on no payroll, they are taking time out of their busy productive lives to contribute. Your credibility is on the line Mr Farnsworth as are your colleagues. Should our communities be ignored through this time-consuming process we will ensure that future generations have the appropriate history. The same will go for your ability to listen and respond and to help create a stunning, different and relevant document for a part of the country that is unique in terms of its inhabitants and its landscape. Please act with integrity for our future.

Submission 666
Your role is immensely important given that how we care for this segment of Aotearoa is in your hands. The employees who crafted and copied this document are just that, they are employees. Our rates pay their wages, they must create documents that reflect the healthy desires of our communities. Please pay particular attention to the submission from Hahei (John North et.al) Full support for the submission written by John North on behalf of the Hahei village community on all the relevant issues (subdivision, walkway, infrastructure, consultation). Please toss out nonsensical overlays. Ensure that landowners caring for large areas of land to produce food are entitled to an automatic new title for sale of for family for every 20ha owned. Should the ability of farmers and large land owners who kaitiaki more than a section in town find that thanks to those who do live in town their ability to survive on the land is compromised then those town dwellers who wish to impose such restrictions must pay. The way this is done is by paying the farmer to keep the land in pastoral, horticultural, garden production without the need for subdivision. THIS INCENTIVE SUPPORTS EVERYTHING ONE COULD HOPE FOR IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

Please call me on 07 8666620 or email reihana.robinson@xtra.co.nz for information on how this plan works successfully in other parts of the so-called developed world.

Point six: We need to take a good look at what a healthy population could be and what they all could be doing. We do not want to be purely a tourist destination. We need economic development both in the tertiary sector and in support for home craft and industry. Please read

(<http://www.fccdc.org/about>) regarding this small town's Food Processing Center that has as" its Mission to promote economic development through entrepreneurship, provide opportunities for sustaining local agriculture, and promote best practices for food producers...and here is one of those programmes" One programme they have run is called " Extend the Season Farm to Institution"

"Since 2001, The Western Mass Food Processing Center has helped growers and food entrepreneurs add value to food grown in our region. In 2009, the FPC launched the Extended Season program in order to increase our region's capacity to lightly process fruits and vegetables (freezing and canning) in order to make local food accessible year-round. In addition to adding new equipment to our processing line, we are working closely with farmers and wholesale and retail purchasers to develop a regional value-chain for frozen and canned products that offers a fair price to farmers and a competitive price to purchasers.

Our first, and perhaps most important, purchasers have been local schools and hospitals, as we believe that healthful food should be accessible to everyone. We have been working closely with Massachusetts Farm to School program to build on their successes. We also work with local CSAs to process produce for winter shares and markets.

With assistance from The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, CISA, MDAR, and USDA Rural Development, we have purchased new, efficient equipment specifically designed for freezing fruits and vegetables. We anticipate freezing up to 100,000 lbs of regional produce for schools and hospitals annually.

Our Services: Helpful Solutions for Food Producers and Entrepreneurs

- **Value-Added Farm Products**

Support and training for agricultural producers and growers making value-added products or preserving harvests for retail and wholesale.

- **Specialty, Organic, Natural, and Retail Products**

Technical assistance, business planning, product development, distribution resources and manufacturing space for specialty and organic food producers. Our facility supports bottled and shelf-stable prepared foods, acidified foods, fresh-pack or frozen, dry mix, and bakery operations.

- **Retail Operations**

Facilities and support for catering, special events, mobile food service, and other direct-to-consumer food production.

- **Copack Solutions**

Copack, or contract manufacturing, services are available through our

program. We will work with you to develop commercial production quantities of product under your label.

- **Professional Development**

Classes, workshops, and seminars designed to help start your business and expand your capabilities as a food entrepreneur."

Waikato Biodiversity Forum

Vol Section 5 subsection 5.4 (Methods) number 4 re. Waikato Biodiversity Forum:

Change requested:

No financial support for WBF. Deletion of Method 4.

Rationale:

TCDC must keep ratepayer money on the peninsula. Support local innovation.

Wild animals and plant pests

Change requested/New Rule:

With regard to wild animals, where there is a concern for indigenous vegetation, crops or human life, wild animals may be killed by hunting, trapping or use of cyanide.

Rationale

We all agree that mother nature needs protection from human and animal behaviour. There are plenty of rules in the draft District Plan aimed at curtailing human activities and thorough mention of biodiversity. I would like to suggest that where there is an expectation to protect mother nature in all her explanations in this document (significant, natural, outstanding, amenity — as if somehow they are different with that difference a semantic delight for future case law) that it is to be carried out humanely.

TCDC policy must be humane. TCDC rules must ensure our communities are supported and our environment well cared for.

Intensive farming

Change requested/New Rule:

With regard to definitions and applicable segments of the draft:

Change requested:

There be no intensive farming of animals, birds or fish within the TCDC boundaries.

GE

Change requested/New Rule:

TCDC become GE-free

The precautionary GE objective, and methods and policies to achieve that objective are important to our community

The PDP needs to actively support local protection against the significant risks of outdoor use of GMOs and take a precautionary approach to prohibit GMO releases, to provide an additional tier of protection against risks of outdoor use of GMOs, on top of what is required by the HSNO Act.

The concerns of Local Government NZ, the Auckland/Northland member councils of the ICWP on GMOs, and other councils around New Zealand about the serious deficiencies in the national legislation means we must also act with our own PDP. (see additional support material at end of submission)

Organic farming

Change requested/New Rule:

1/TCDC aim to be Organic by 2020 and support subdivision that encourages small farming/homesteads,

2/ Maintain or enhance the values of the soil resource through organic landuse.

3/ Encourage a local tertiary industry to include organic, non-chemical farming diplomas/degrees.

Rationale

The chemical industry that promotes its own products, be they pesticides or herbicides or insecticides are not caring for mother earth and are not contributing to a sustainable future for our mokopuna. Encouraging farmers to the traditional, non-chemical future must be a part of DP to give real meaning to the genuine concerns of our communities to care for our land and make sense of the language of the DP where the promotion of sustainable management of natural and physical resources seems paramount.

The September 2007 **Evaluation of the Waikato Regional Policy Statement** shows the main contaminants of interest are cadmium, fluorine, uranium, zinc, copper and DDT.

Cadmium

Cadmium enters the food chain because it is taken up by crops (such as vegetables and grains) and by grazing animals. An estimated 8.3 tonnes of cadmium is currently applied to Waikato soils each year mostly as a consequence of the application of superphosphate fertiliser.

Testing of 227 representative properties in the Waikato indicate that 10% of the

region's soils may now exceed the recommended level. This represents 175,000 hectares. Submission 686

Uranium is the other trace element in superphosphate fertiliser. Although not particularly radioactive compared to other natural sources, it does give off radon-22 gas which is potentially hazardous.

WRC research has shown that uranium levels in agricultural soil are more than double natural levels.

There is a significant amount of monitoring information on soil contamination. That information suggests that, with the exception of DDT, the levels of all main contaminants are *increasing* in the Region's soils.

Because of its toxicity and the widespread nature of contamination, cadmium is of the greatest concern.

Results for the monitoring carried out between 1998 and 2005 show the following.

- 50% of dairy pasture sites contain soils that are experiencing unsatisfactory compaction (macroporosity). 20% of dairy soils have mineralised N higher than the target and 19% have total nitrogen higher than the target (indicating excess nitrogen fertiliser use).*
- 40% of drystock (sheep and beef) farms have Olsen P levels higher than the target range and 38% do not meet the macroporosity target.*
- 46% of forestry sites had Olsen P levels below the target. 42% had low bulk density and 31% had high macroporosity.*
- 26% of horticultural/cropping land has Olsen P levels higher than target. 18% have macroporosity below the target and 9% have low total carbon.*

Overall 34% of dairy, 47% of drystock, 15% of forestry and 2% of horticultural/cropping land is of concern because of its failure to meet soil health targets.

At the regional scale, about one third of all sites meet all soil health targets meaning that two thirds do not meet at least one indicator targets.

Rainwater

Change requested/New Rule:

Rationale

The policy currently reads:

Detain storm water on-site to enhance ground water replenishment and/or to provide an alternative source of non-potable water for a range of uses including fire fighting and irrigation.

Presumably the word 'detain' is supposed to read 'retain'. This is a step in the right direction but there is no reason why the water should remain "non-potable" nor should it be restricted to rural subdivision.

Article follows to elucidate a problem that would not have been so dire had citizens in Gisborne had water tanks.

Fyi: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/9599611/Gisborne-water-pipe-repaired>

Gisborne water pipe repaired Aimee Gulliver 11/01/14

A major repair job has seen Gisborne's main water pipe reconnected four days after it first broke, but it needs to be stabilised before it will be ready to carry water again, the council says.

The pipeline from the North Island east coast city's Mangopoike Dams broke early on Tuesday morning, and a major repair job has been underway since, involving staff and contractors working around the clock, Gisborne District Council deputy chief executive Peter Higgs said.

The broken pipe was buried by six metres of material and had to be dug out.

Large quantities of dirt and vegetation were removed to unearth the pipe, extensive work completed to stabilise the site and gazebos were erected so that pipe welding could continue in the rain.

The broken pipe has now been joined but is not ready for water yet, Higgs said.

"The area where the pipe broke is steep and has never been particularly stable due to extensive bush felling prior to 1940.

"The area is regenerating. Trees were planted to increase stability but the risk of slips will always be an issue."

Piles being entrenched into the steep slope will be used to support the pipe where the break occurred, Higgs said.

Submission 666
"Only then will we start testing the repairs by allowing a small amount of water to be gravity fed down through the pipe. This is likely to happen early next week."

The water saving efforts of the Gisborne public had been inspirational and water rationing was looking less likely, he said.

"We have had examples of businesses volunteering to stop services that use a lot of water, many people contacting us with water saving tips, neighbours working together to ensure all in their area know about the water situation and don't use their hose.

"We will be meeting with the major industrial water users next week to thank them for their efforts and discuss how we can work together to meet our water usage targets."

Water consumption in the city was down by a third again yesterday, which had increased storage in Gisborne's reservoirs.

And now the work with regard to land designations:

Change requested:

Maintain current rules in current District Plan.

Inappropriate, vague, relative, ambiguous and subjective criteria mean that all the overlays need to be outside the DP and not referred to at all.

There should be no reference to the WRC criteria for the following reasons:

The criteria will not work. They have been honed by consultants who use the WRC data—Wildlands, Kessels, Natural Solutions, Red Admiral Ecology, and Stephen Brown with Graeme and Dahm in 2008 for TCDC “identifying priority areas for restoration of ecological natural character”. Naturally this “requires further work.” Consultants like researchers are very good at identifying “further work.” Should the demand for “ecologist report” be sustained in the final DP this individual should be employed by TCDC on a half salary.

The Kessels 2010 report, Significant Natural Areas of the TCDC: Terrestrial and Wetland Ecosystems shows a clear bias and sees all human activity as degrading and appears to advocate a reversion of ecosystems to some prior undefined state. Would this be a state prior to the extinction of moa, a tall browsing bird whose role may not have been at all dissimilar to that of deer or goats today? Would it be a state where burning off forests to harvest food is the goal? It is not appropriate for our largely rural district.

The WRC criteria will not work in our region. Throughout the Waikato we are socially, ecologically, culturally, different. Protecting one hectare of indigenous native forest on a farm in Hauraki surrounded by thousands of hectares of dairy

paddocks is a worthy contender for the title “significant” or “outstanding” or “natural” assuming people from that area concur. Submission 666

However on the Coromandel where nearly 50% of available land is already legally protected it is nonsense. We have protected land of nearly 99,000 ha with QE11 covenants on 1,929 ha, DoC with 91,119 ha, TCDC scenic reserves, 224 ha, Nga Whenua Rahui, 2,277ha and 3,373 ha in TCDC/landowner covenants.

The question that must be addressed is on the Coromandel what objectives are not being met currently?

The 11 criteria may well work for the Hauraki plains and industrial dairy landscapes in much of the Waikato, but on the Coromandel?

Biodiversity? The district is tops for biodiversity.

Corridor for native species? The whole peninsula is a corridor.

There is general agreement our landscapes are beautiful. That is the major reason there is a flourishing tourism industry based here. But it is no reason to impose risky policies, restrictive rules and unnecessary costs.

Locals cherish their environment and work hard, mostly at their own expense and on their own time to protect and enhance it. The health and scenic beauty of our bush and landscape are a testament to their success.

By automatically adopting WRC criteria (that is yet to be adopted) you will be threatening to unravel the rich fabric of rural and farming life that tens of thousands of kiwis and foreign visitors share with us each year.

I appreciate that much of our original submission has been acknowledged, however the concern remains that if a 70 year old dry stock farmer wants to cut off two sections, one for his offspring and one to help pay rates and keep food on the table why should he or she be forced to pay 30\$K for an ecological survey just because there is some regenerating bush on the property?

The criteria are ambiguous and they are vague. They talk of “memorability”! What about if your memory is bad? Whose memory are we talking about? Someone who lives in Auckland? A resident? A tourist?

Just as with the later discussion regarding the interpretation of “safety” and “efficiency” it depends on who is doing the defining. To quote from the strike-through version of the WRS Regional Policy Statement (RPS) on criteria for Natural Character assessment:

“Experiential attributes: related to the sounds, smells and the appreciation of other sensory attributes that contribute to the feeling of being at the seaside, within an area dominated by natural elements and processes.”

Overlays based on statements such as these are unreliable and it is irresponsible to place them in the DP. As Stephen Brown (\$70,000 TCDC Landscape survey, 2004/5 you may recall where photos of coast and forest and farm were given to residents for comment in order to identify the preferential hierarchy of landscapes) states when giving evidence in proceedings on behalf of Mighty River Power Limited (Mighty River Power) at the Board of Enquiry for

22. “Section 6(b) of the Resource Management Act identifies “The protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development” as a matter of national importance. **However, there has been considerable debate about how to implement such management.** For the most part, landscape assessment directed towards strategic policy and decision-making has adhered to the expert assessment paradigm, with the criteria employed in such work ranging from relatively simple geo-physical ‘descriptors’ to factors that have their origins in the psychology of human environmental perception.

23. **The one component missing from much of this work has been input from the New Zealand community.** (Added emphasis)

Our current DP includes criteria that fulfill requisite statutes and other National Policy Statements.

One of the documents provided to the committee in January 2010, paid for by ratepayers entitled Coromandel Peninsula Ecological Assessment of Natural Character is a perfectly adequate compilation of information however it recommends policy be developed to “**protect the identified areas of high ecological natural character**” and to “**restore critical ecosystems where they are degraded, to the extent that this is practical and appropriate**”. It is clear we have adequate policy.

Of interest to our debate is information in Appendix A that lists National Legislation, Appendix B, listing Regional Legislation and Appendix C, District Legislation.

Specific to our discussion Appendix C is lists from the existing TCDC District Plan Section 2

Significant Resource Management Issues,

212 Landscape and Natural Character

212.3 Objectives

2 To recognise, protect or, where appropriate, enhance the natural character of the District.

212.4 Policies

1 .1 To ensure the outstanding natural features and landscapes of the District are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, particularly where significant landscape change may result. (The key landscape elements for the District identified on Maps and in the Background to the Issue comprise the outstanding natural features and landscapes of the District).

2. .2 To protect outstanding landscape values within the coastal environment and to encourage and provide for appropriate development, which will remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of past land uses and enhance the natural character and amenity values of the coastal environment.

3. .3 To promote the restoration and enhancement of existing degraded landscapes and ecosystems.

It would appear we have perfectly adequate policy in the current District Plan.

“Incentive provisions” as mentioned on P40 of Focus Management’s Coromandel Peninsula Ecological Assessment of Natural Character report could be a good step for areas of potential interest.

Where there is a conflict TCDC could lobby government for funds to purchase of land for the public good. Instigating a regime of tradeable ecosystem rights could possibly work.

I object to the old permitted activity of 5m³ of manuka/kanuka firewood being removed from the Plan because no evidence of its effect on biodiversity loss has been given, and, it breaches S85 of the RMA pertaining to reasonable use. I/we consider firewood use to be reasonable

The provision for the construction of a farm track 50m long and 2m wide has been removed from Rule 3, j:

Indigenous vegetation - the current plan allows for 2m clearance beside a fence for maintenance. This this may be important to be able to access with a tractor or bulldozer. The PDP only allows for 1m either side of a fence. Please adjust to 2m

Regarding the Colour Palette - Appendix 5. Nature includes all colours adjust accordingly

The harvestable amount of kanuka or manuka should be at least 10 m³ per household, so for a farm with 3 houses it should be 30 m³. That's the easy one. (This is another option to consider).

Pastoral land needs protecting for its economic and open space amenity values. If the community wants further enhancement they should come to the party on that with incentives rather than rules.

Existing use rights would also cover for instance firewood. All landowners should be able to cut firewood on their property for their own personal use. There is no cost/benefit analysis showing there is insufficient kanuka or manuka in the district.

We need buffer zones between dairy farms and medium to high density residential or industrial land. We need no intensive dairy farming on the Coromandel.

Rural lifestyle blocks need to be called for what they are, small farms. Productive use of land for food should be a goal for this plan. Submission 000

In the landscape, biosecurity and ecological values are components of the environment that have been given preferential treatment through the creation of the natural character overlays at the expense of the economic and social values of our rural communities.

SNA of the sea/trawling

I hope that Mark Farnsworth can represent sustainable seas and oppose the dirty industry of cage-fish farming given his "hearing" role last time around or are appointments to such groups dependent on maintaining status quo and big business interests with government providing the necessary rubber stamp?

Change requested/New Rule

1/The Firth of Thames to be declared an SNA

2/Trawl fishing to be allowed beyond the Hauraki Marine Gulf Park

Rationale

When contemplating the concept of SNA's in the coastal zone the rules do appear conflicted given landowners must continue to protect the existing perfection they have maintained by not subdividing or destroying in some manner but that the sea is open slather for dirty business. While it is recognized TCDC approved a coastal zone change to allow an industrial park to be developed right at the entrance to charming Coromandel town rather than expect developers to purchase land away from the coast, it may be hoped that as we go forward such decisions are handled with a high regard for what is currently defined as coastal zone. The sea fulfills all criteria for natural, outstanding, amenity and significant. If we limit our DP to land we are ignoring the main feature that tourists most enjoy, the east and west coasts of the Peninsula.

Apart from anything else, the inability to secure even the most highly engineered net systems from the effects of adverse weather, and the consequent release of genetically limited stock into the wild appears to be downplayed. The seafloor degradation is intense elsewhere, and insufficient attention has been paid to the tidal dispersion into the Gulf, that may eventually combine with the outflow of

effluent at the southern end from the Waihou and Piako Rivers, and exacerbate existing adverse conditions at the head of the Gulf.

Submission 666

Regarding TCDC's compliance with cage fish farming in the Firth of Thames, I state TCDC should in fact declare the Firth of Thames a Significant Natural Area thereby attaining the ability to ban the dirty industry of cage fish farming.

Of interest is the only piece of research carried out after the Coromandel 'weather bomb' by Auckland University town planning lecturer Marjorie van Roon Ecologist and Senior Lecturer, Planning Department, University of Auckland, December 2003. van Roon states in her paper Managed Flooding Integrated Catchment Management Needed to Avoid Flooding and Pollution in Coromandel :

“A heart-breaking scene: an inflated holiday weekend population (high sewage load), two days of continuous heavy rain (up to 30mmperhour), flood waters flowing through up to 30 houses depositing silt and sewage..., an influx of firemen pumping out houses, yards and sewers, then house contents strewn through yards and over fences.

“This Easter 2003 storm was the second to hit Coromandel township in less than 12 months. Even after a thorough scrub-out some of these houses were unfit for habitation. The impact was aggravated by previous decisions on town layout and drainage infrastructure.”

The report ends as follows:

“Some or all of the following actions may prevent a repetition of Easter 2003: Management of activities upstream to minimise peak storm flows. This might be achieved by, increased forestry and construction of storm water retention basins and rain-gardens in the catchment. This would provide both source control and gradual release of stormwater after storm events. Relocation or storm proofing of the sewage treatment facility. Halt all future expansion of urban use within the lower catchment floodplain including expansion of the retirement village on parts of the land at Allman Drive and Courthouse Lane that *are* low lying, and of permanent or holiday housing along Hauraki Road. Increase the height of the dyke between the river and the retirement village.

In addition it may be necessary to decline further marine farm applications for leases in Coromandel Harbour or shellfish processing plants dependent on harbour waters for processing, in the vicinity of the river mouth near Hauraki Road.”

(added emphasis).

To think that these multi-million dollar businesses are receiving a free ride on the backs of ratepayers (not to mention the NZ Trade and Enterprise funding) is nothing less than absurd. Sealord's after-tax net profit on total revenue being \$573.5 million, paying dividends in 2010 of \$22.8 million, this company of course being half owned by the Japanese firm Nippon Suisan and half by Te Ohu

Sanfords market capital is between \$300 million and \$600 million, a fact mentioned in their decision to raise director's fees to over half a million dollars. Eric Barratt explained in his Investor Presentation in May 2012 that "some capital expenditure on automation of the Havelock mussel processing likely," makes one wonder about how many "local jobs" will result in the expansion of aquaculture in the Firth of Thames. He also states that aquaculture profits are down as they were "affected by lower mussel prices as NZ producers compete for market share" and that "Pacific oysters faced competition from Australia." So here on the Coromandel we will intensify shellfish farming for lower returns? How does that make sense?

If Sanfords moves into cage fish farming in the Firth how do we regard their plaintive cries concerning how mindful of the sea they will be when their boat the San Nikunau faces US pollution charges for emptying its oily bilge waste into the sea? Is it just a matter of "trust us?" Aotearoa Fisheries that hold a 50% share in Sealord had profits of \$22.8 million at 30 September 2011. None of these industries like the fact that Regional Council's have a role in deciding their allocations. However Sanfords have an option I understand of 75 ha in Wilson's Bay's Area B.

It is stated that per capita supply from Aquaculture rose 6.9% from 1970 to 2006. If all the public funding given over the years to aquaculture had been diverted to organic farming think of the enormous rise and think how healthy our communities would be and imagine how many people would be working to produce food that New Zealanders could eat!

Aquabusiness

Change requested/New Rule

2/Marine water quality is maintained or enhanced by exclusion of cage-fish farming.

A valid perplexing question remains with the conflict over interpretation. This matter was raised by Ian Munro and afflicts many aspects of the DP. To some cage fish farming means "economic development" for our region, to others this industry violates council's role to "protect the environment". The latest damning report by WRC's own staff on the issue of cage fish farming, the conclusion of which reads "Fish farming can have substantial effects on the environment, and, if poorly managed can have disastrous environmental consequences."

The report however signs off in support of the process as does the Ngati Maru Runanga Maori Values Assessment for the WRC Aquaculture October 2008 sign off on a "pilot project". It is not to be forgotten that economic development can have consequences we cannot manage. Witness and remember Tui Mine. How and what we wish to leave behind for the sustenance of future generations is the backbone of the DP.

“He seamlessly integrates the decline of wild fish with the rise of fish-farming, noting rightly that humanity is in the process of domesticating the oceans, as we long ago tamed the land, and that eliminating all but a few primary food species is a natural consequence.”

The latest study presented to WRC's Environment Committee on the 25th January 2012, signed off by Hilke Giles and Dominique Noiton that states “Fish farming can have substantial effects on the environment and if poorly managed can have disastrous environmental consequences.” It covers drugs, sediment, pests, escapees, reiterates that “fish aquaculture still consumes more animal protein than it produces” and the costs of managing monogenean parasites are a major impediment to the expansion of kingfish farming in Australia.

What follows are a selection of local submissions opposing the aquabusiness proposal for the Firth of Thames in support of my suggested rule change for our District Plan.

Submission to the AQUACULTURE MINISTERIAL ADVISORY PANEL on the Proposed Coromandel Marine Farming Zone under the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan AND THE AQUACULTURE DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES by Reihana Robinson:

“Increasing intensification of land and aquatic use patterns and primary production will put more pressure on ecosystems and may lead to greater pest management risks....New types of pests will emerge, such as more invertebrates, reptiles and new diseases. Marine pests will take a greater focus.” Think Piece on the future of pest management in NZ Main Report, Hellstrom, Moore, Black, 3 October 2008, P 17

“The NZ public is increasingly urbanised and opposed to the use of chemicals in the environment.” (ibid P6)

This document quotes a CEO of one regional council as reminding the group that the “sea bed is owned by the Crown, therefore the Crown should be responsible for pest management of the water above it.” (ibid P 62)

The Tui Mine owners, New Zealand's Cable Price Downer together with Canadian and US based companies were able to declare bankruptcy and go on to further business deals leaving the rate payer and the tax payer to clean up a toxic nightmare.

Unless this legislation demands contracts where investors pledge to pay for all clean up we are heading down another disastrous road. (Rule Y) Unless new consents are required for the use of new toxins to deal with disease outbreaks the public will remain unaware of the poisons entering our waters and food. RMA section 36 allows levys that are “actual and reasonable”, what if the disaster is unreasonable? Who pays? Where is the stated Code of Practice for cage fin fish farming? Rule 2 must require a bond that requires rehabilitation of site and this is not required under current legislation but “eight years was given as an example that allows benthic recovery.” Working Group notes June 10, 2008. Eight years! And this figure is based on what?

By the way-- the Firth is a Significant Natural Area.

In the same notes “industry mooted an idea of proportional and tradable rights”. So here we have it, sell off industrial dirty cage fish farming to overseas profiteers and watch the destruction of our environment. Already the minimum clearance of a paltry 10 metres is being opposed and “will be reconsidered by EW”. Working Group Notes 18 May 2009. The Zeldis report Exploring the carrying capacity of the Firth of Thames for finfish farming: a nutrient mass balance approach I have not located. Do you have the relevant statistics causing concern at the meeting? Where are the depositional impact statements?

As the Working group noted on 7th July 2008, “much more work needed on effects of the proposed chemicals on other similar estuarine ecosystems.” Where is the work? In the same paper under the title Sustainability of fishmeal feed supply (Over-fishing) we read that the “biggest issue is customer perception—need training.”

I don't think anyone fully understands what hundreds of acres of sea filled with structures that interfere not just with fish life, but bird life and human/boaties navigation will actually look like. The “conservative limit of 4000 tonnes over 20 hectares” of kingfish is discussed, the nitrogen discharge is around “240-300 tonnes and is equivalent to 7.6%-9.4% of the riverine input into the Firth.

“The preliminary decision is to approve the full size of the Area (520 farmable hectares within the 1072 hectare footprint).

Our current Coastal Plan prohibits experimental finfish aquaculture. Why not support that plan?

With all the money from taxpayers going to fund this huge “trial” (14 March 2008 Working Group notes) why not invite those of us who live on the Coromandel to

the discussion of how we would like to see our youth employed and businesses developed such as a possum industry, a tertiary institution with a bush craft focus and organic farming developed right here. Submission 866

Encouraging an industry that will pour even more nitrogen into the Firth is criminal. Of course this cage fish farming should not go ahead in clean green Aotearoa however this miniscule façade of consultation is just that. We all realise that the struggle is over. Industrial cage fish farming is on the plate whether we want it or not, whether the environment can absorb its consequences or not. No one in their right mind would choose farmed fish and that is another problem for future investors. The palate is not high end diners. This is an example of the race to the bottom. NZ producing yet another commodity. There is nothing sustainable about this plan with its conversion rate of 4-6 tonnes of wild fish to 1 tonne of farmed fish. We note that the working group is concerned about how this will be perceived and this is dealt with by choosing to use the term “fed aquaculture” rather than the reality of industrial cage fish farming. The Local Government Act requires EW to provide for the wellbeing of the community. This is definitely not providing for the wellbeing of our community. Feed stock sustainability remains on the table and is an unresolved issue of increasing public concern.

All the studies that have been undertaken at ratepayer expense (I have yet to see the various funded, peer-reviewed “cultural assessment reports” at least two were underway at 15 August 2008 with three other runanga in the wings) raise warning bells, in particular Shane Kelly’s study of ecological effects. Disease treatments and feed additives that can have significant deleterious effects on seabed microbial communities Footprint Estimates for Potential Finfish Farms in the Wilson Bay Area of the Firth of Thames by J Oldman. Have you read the details of this piece of research? Have you read the Cultural Assessment reports? Have you read any DHI modelling of waves and currents on industrial cage fin fish farming? (15 August 2008 Working Group reference). Please share today.

As you will note much rate payer monies have been spent on meetings with interest groups and on research both by in-house scientists at EW and by consultants from government departments and private business.

High levels of DDT and arsenic exist in the sediment Firth of Thames From the Mountains to the Sea, Supplement to the proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement 2010 P 70, we are not told of the levels of cadmium, mercury, zinc, and other toxins. What is also not published here for general consumption are any statistics for heavy metals and toxins in fish caught in the Firth. The general health of this water way appears to be severely compromised by our land Page 2845

Submission 006
occupation, past and present. If the current planning is accepted this population, and land use will increase the ill health of the Firth. The Waihou is currently the third most polluted waterway in the country. We should consider referring to the Firth as the Filth of Thames or even the Sewer of Thames given the low-lying waste water treatment plant in Coromandel that overflowed into the harbour during the 2002 'weather bomb'.

So we all agree that the Firth is a shallow embayment, approximately 36 degrees 44' S latitude, between 175 degrees 11' and 175 degrees 31' longitude, it is between eleven and fourteen nautical miles wide and reaches a maximum depth of 35 metres near its northern limits. "About 95% of the Firth is less than 30 metres deep." Muddy Feet, Firth of Thames Ramsar Site Update P 2. This document goes on to state "Wind and tidal currents cause a net retention of a great volume of sediments brought into the southern half of the Firth by rivers and streams." This infill is coming mostly from the Waihou and Piako rivers.

What impact this is currently having on our diet we don't know. There is no information provided to assure citizens of the health and safety of current intake of kaimoana.

The project should not proceed until all scientific data is publicly available. A referendum of the people of this country should be taken to ascertain whether industrial cage fish farming is a future we want for our mokopuna rather than this fast track highly conflicted plan.

SUPPORTING MATERIAL FOR SUBMISSION TO DEMAND TCDC
DISTRICT PLAN SUPPORT SIMILAR WORDING TO BAY OF PLENTY
REGIONAL COUNCIL WITH REGARD TO ADOPTING A
PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH TO GE AND TO BAN ALL GE PLANTS
ETC FROM THE REGION.

It is entirely possible, if not probable, that GMO's can potentially permanently infect people with potentially harmful, genetic material.

Mainstream Media (FOX News) Admits GMOs Are a 'Real Safety Issue'

Christina Sarich

[Natural Society](#) / Video Report

Published: Sunday 22 December 2013

After Monsanto, and multiple large corporations spent millions to defeat a GMO labeling bill in Washington just weeks ago, perhaps they are finally getting the hint that GMO activists aren't going to back down.

The following may just be one of the most hard-hitting GMO (danger) reports ever aired by the mainstream media. Who would have ever thought [Fox news](#) would admit the dangers of GMOs? After all, the mainstream media (MSM) have all but done a complete shut-out concerning activist concerns and anti-GMO marches that have happened around the globe. It looks like the evidence was piling up to be far too incontrovertible, though, as Carol Alt (a super model who has been on over 700 magazine covers) and [Max Goldberg](#) of [LivingWell.com](#) discussed the many studies that

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If you are going to deliver bad news, it may as well come from a pretty face, right? At least Alt has a history for standing up for true alternative health methods, including raw milk, and the lessening of vaccine use.

Goldberg admits there are no long-term studies on human beings, but that lab tests involving animals are showing atrocious liver damage, kidney problems, and after just three generations of being fed a GMO diet, hamsters are basically sterile. The hosts of the show point out that the main problem is that GMOs are not labeled, but that is just the tip of the iceberg. Even if labeling were to occur, it doesn't change the fact that **GMOs are spreading uncontrollably** around the world, contaminating non-GM crops and wild plants.

And those in power are pushing GMOs hard – making it difficult to fight back. Bill Gates, for example, proudly supports GMOs and has even purchased **half a million shares of Monsanto stock** back in 2010, so his connection with GMO development is undeniable.

This is a small caveat that the MSM offers the public, a tiny admission of the larger problem with GMOs overall when there should be a sounding of alarms to a much larger degree as an admonition of the genetically modified world. And it goes beyond food. **Paper and lumber companies** already have plans to litter the forests with GMO trees, another sign big business is more concerned with their wallets than the health of the planet and its people.

Read: [Did GMO and Big Pharma Break the Hippocratic Oath?](#)

After Monsanto, and multiple large corporations spent millions to defeat a GMO labeling bill in Washington just weeks ago, perhaps they are finally getting the hint that GMO activists aren't going to back down. If Fox News is delivering this message, it might be a sign that the GMO Goliath is stumbling on his shoe laces, and will finally be taken down.

<http://naturalrevolution.org/gmo-resources/the-good-bad-and-ugly-about-gmos/>

The Good, Bad and Ugly about GMOs

There is a mountain of information about GMOs, (genetically modified organisms) spot checking several research articles and did a **PubMed** search that appears to confirm the seriousness of this issue.

With the mounting evidence that **GMOs pose a risk**, we ask the question: Are GMO foods the next best hope for feeding our planet or should we follow the example set by consumers in the European Union, whose outcry reached such proportions that, in April 1999, virtually all major manufacturers publicly committed to stop using GM ingredients in their European brands?

The Case for GMOs

According to the GMO industry, there are many good reasons to use GMOs:

- Reduced need for herbicides
- Reduced need of pesticides
- Reduced greenhouse emissions as GMOs require less tillage or plowing, thus less use of fossil fuels
- Ability to manipulate foods to increase desirable components such as nutrients
- Increased production of food for starving third world countries.

These are certainly worthwhile goals, and humans have been successfully modifying the genetics of their food supply for centuries.

The supporters assert that over a trillion GMO meals have been eaten, thus proving their safety. The problem, of course, is that the new technology is far different from the hybridization and selection methods used in the past.

The big question: "Are GMOs safe?"

The EU Consumer-Led Revolt

The EU consumer-led **revolt against GMOs** was triggered in February 1999 when media coverage exploded after top GMO safety researcher, Dr. Arpad Pusztai was called to speak before Parliament and went public with some very alarming research results.

Dr. Pusztai, a highly respected leader in the field with 35 years employment at the Rowett Institute in Scotland, had been given a UK government grant to design the long-term testing protocols that were supposed to be part of the European GM food safety assessment process. When Pusztai fed rats GM potatoes genetically engineered to produce a supposedly safe insecticide called the GNA lectin, all the animals showed potentially pre-cancerous cell growths, smaller brains, livers and testicles, partially atrophied livers, and damaged to the immune system—with most changes appearing after just 10 days.

Since other rats fed normal potatoes spiked with GNA lectin—even 700 times more GNA lectin than was present in the GM potatoes—did not develop these problems, Pusztai's results indicated that the problem lay with genetic engineering process itself. And that meant that all GM foods created from the same process, including those already on the market, might produce unintended ill effects. **[this is a very troubling result ... caused by the fact that they are not just trying to make organisms more resistant or higher producing they are trying to get cute ... and that is an invitation to unintended consequences.]**

According to Pusztai, when he expressed his concerns, he was fired and threatened with a lawsuit if he discussed his research. **Page 2847**

member research team was disbanded; the testing protocols were dropped, and a campaign was begun by pro-GM forces to discredit the study. **[exactly the same shit that NZ Department of Conseration has done to researchers who got the wrong results about the 1080 mass poisoning going on in NZ.]** Then an invitation to testify before Parliament allowed Pusztai to tell his story, and all hell broke loose. By April 1999, the protests of informed consumers had convinced manufacturers that GMOs would not sell in the EU, and all agreed to keep GMOs out of their European products, in spite of official approvals by a pro-GM European Commission.

Americans Ill-Informed about GMOs

In the U.S., the Pusztai story got virtually no press, and the U.S. mainstream media has failed to discuss other data suggesting GM foods may pose enormous health risks, including:

A preliminary study from the Russian **[Russia is not run by Monsanto]** National Academy of Sciences finding that more than half the offspring of mother rats fed GM soy died within three weeks (compared to 9% from mothers fed natural soy).

The estimated 10,000 sheep that died in India within 5-7 days of grazing on GM cotton plants engineered to produce their own Bt-toxin pesticide.

The only human GM feeding study ever published, which shows that the foreign genes inserted into GM food crops can transfer into the DNA of our gut bacteria. This study gives new meaning to the adage, "You are what you eat." Long after those GM corn chips you munched are history, your intestinal flora may still be churning out the "Bt" pesticide GM corn plants have been engineered to produce.

U.S. consumers mistakenly believe that, unless the FDA had approved each and every GM food through rigorous, well designed, long-term studies, GM food ingredients would not be allowed in our food supply and certainly could not be omnipresent in prepared foods in the form of corn, soy, cottonseed and canola derivatives.

Reality is that the FDA has absolutely no GMO safety testing requirements, and GM ingredients are ubiquitous in prepared foods. Unless a processed food contains only organic ingredients, it is highly likely to contain GM ingredients. **[there is reasonable evidence that eating "processed foods" is much more dangerous than eating all the animal fat you can stuff in.]** The "research" that supports GMO safety is voluntarily provided by companies on their own GM crops and has been described by critics as "meticulously designed to avoid finding problems".

But 44,000 FDA internal documents later made public as a result of a lawsuit revealed problems. The overwhelming consensus among the FDA's scientists was that GM foods were substantively different, so different that their consumption might result in unpredictable and hard-to-detect **allergens**, toxins, new diseases and nutritional problems. **[the important word here is "might" and it is certainly true ... the critical question is whether the benefits out weight the risk, and that has not been answered, or even really asked.]** Agency scientists urged superiors to require long-term studies, but were not only ignored, their statements about possible negative effects of GMOs were progressively deleted from FDA policy statement drafts. Evidence of this FDA activity was presented at a Washington, D.C., press conference in 1999, another story major media didn't publicize.

The result: The same companies that carefully avoid including GM ingredients in their European products are feeding GMOs to ill-informed consumers in the U.S. Americans know so little about GMOs that, although virtually all of us have now, albeit unwittingly, consumed GM foods (the vast majority of processed foods contain derivatives from the four major GM crops: soy, corn, cottonseed and canola), only about 1 in 4 realize it. **[the contrast here is between the reaction of Europe (not being financially invested) and the US which is a country now overtly and largely run for money and by money--except of course for the part that is run by the military and its associated agencies and companies.]**

What's the Problem with GMOs?

The way they are created disrupts the plant's DNA in unintended, potentially harmful ways. In genetic engineering, a single gene is removed from one organism and forcibly inserted into another. First, scientists identify the gene they want and analyze its sequence. (If the source gene is to be taken from bacteria, some of its sequence has to be rearranged because bacteria produce certain amino acids using a code different from the one used by plants).

After figuring out a working gene sequence, engineers add a promoter sequence at one end of the gene to turn it on (the most popular one in GM crops being CaMV 35S, which forces the gene to constantly churn out the protein), and a terminator sequence at the other end (which tells the DNA to stop). Lastly, scientists add a marker gene, usually one that confers **antibiotic resistance**, so they can later douse the plant cells with antibiotics, killing off normal cells and revealing those that have been genetically modified. This combination of gene sequences – called a "gene cassette" – is then multiplied into millions and inserted into target plant cells via one of two primary methods, both of which trigger a wound response the cell.

One method employs a bacterium (*Agrobacterium tumefaciens*), which normally infects a plant by inserting a portion of its own DNA into the plant's DNA and then causing the plant to produce tumors. Genetic engineers remove the tumor-creating section of this bacterium's DNA and replace it with the desired gene cassette, so the bacterium "infects" the plants with the foreign genes instead.

The second method uses a gene gun. Scientists coat millions of particles of tungsten or gold with gene cassettes and blast them into millions of plant cells, only a few of which incorporate the foreign gene cassette.

In either of the two delivery forms, the next step is the application of the antibiotic to which the gene cassette confers resistance. Most of the plant cells die, but a few – the ones in which the transgene has inserted – survive. These are developed into plants that researchers can duplicate by making clones through tissue culture or harvesting the seeds.

Each plant grown from a gene insertion is unique because where the transgene ends up integrating itself into the host DNA is uncontrolled and cannot be reproduced. For this reason, the possible consequences to the plant's DNA are different with each insertion, so all plants developed from a specific insertion are collectively referred to as an "event."

In sum, genetic engineering artificially combines genes from different species and forcibly inserts them into unknown and random locations on the host genome. The procedure, which disrupts the precise orchestration of thousands of genes that has evolved over millennia in the normal plant's genome, is highly mutagenic. (We now know that genes, like nutrients, do not work singly, but as part of highly integrated networks.) Plus it introduces bacterial genes for drug resistance along with strong promoters to express the foreign proteins at high levels in all parts of the plant.

In his book, *Genetic Roulette*, Jeffrey M. Smith, provides a detailed discussion of the documented health risks of GMOs, including evidence of reactions seen in animals and humans. Following are just a few of the indications he provides that GMOs are significantly changed by the process and may produce undesirable effects:

Evaluation of gene insertion sites have shown relocations of up to 40,000 DNA base pairs, mixing together of foreign and host DNA, large-scale deletions of more than a dozen genes and multiple random insertions of foreign DNA fragments.

During insertion, the foreign gene may become truncated, rearranged or interspersed with extraneous pieces of DNA. The proteins produced by the distorted foreign gene may be misfolded or have added molecules, so they may operate differently and be harmful in unpredictable ways.

One study using a micro-array gene chip found that 5% of the host's genes changed their levels of expression after a single gene was inserted.

The promoter used in nearly all GM crops permanently turns on the foreign gene at high output. Scientists had thought the promoter would only turn on the foreign gene, but, in fact, it can accidentally turn on other natural plant genes—permanently—genes that may overproduce an allergen, toxin, carcinogen or anti-nutrient, or regulators that block other genes.

When certain viruses infect an organism, they splice themselves into the host's DNA. If the GM promoter is inserted in the vicinity of a dormant virus, it might switch it on, resulting in virus activation.

In GMO Roundup Ready soybeans, the "stop signal" placed at the end of the gene cassette is dysfunctional, so longer than intended RNA proteins are produced, which are further rearranged into four non-intended variants, any one of which might be harmful.

DNA changes in GM plants can alter the amounts of the chemicals the plant naturally produces, increasing its output of toxins or decreasing the amount of protective phytonutrients produced. For example, GM soybeans produce less [cancer-fighting isoflavones](#).

GM proteins in soybeans, corn and papaya are similar to known allergens and may cause allergies.

Transgenes survive digestion and can transfer to gut bacteria or move into the blood and organs, including passing through the placenta into the fetus and through the blood-brain barrier. The only human feeding trial ever published confirmed that genetic material from Roundup Ready soybeans transferred into the gut bacteria in three of seven human volunteers. Once in the human gut bacteria, the transferred portion of the transgene produced herbicide-resistant protein. If the antibiotic-resistant genes that have been inserted into most GM foods on the market were to transfer to pathogenic bacteria in the gut, [antibiotic-resistant diseases](#) could develop. If the transgene for the Bt pesticide were to transfer to our gut bacteria, we could become living pesticide factories.

Sound scary? The limited amount of research and case reports regarding what actually happens when animals and people consume GM foods is not reassuring. Here are just a few highlights from Smith's coverage of GMO's effects:

Rats fed Monsanto's Mon 863 Bt corn for 90 days showed significant changes in their blood cells, livers and kidneys.

Rats were fed the GM FlavrSavr tomato for 28 days. Seven of 20 rats developed stomach lesions (bleeding stomachs); another 7 of 40 died within two weeks.

About 25% of the sheep in herds grazing continuously on Bt cotton plants in India after the cotton harvest died within a week, according to reports from 4 villages. Post mortem studies suggested a toxic reaction.

Twelve dairy cows died on a farm in Hesse Germany, after being fed a diet with significant amounts of the GM corn variety, Bt 176. Other cows in the herd developed a mysterious illness and had to be killed. Syngenta, the producers of Bt 176, compensated the farmer for part of his losses, but despite the farmer's demands and public protests, no detailed autopsy reports were made available.

More than 20 farmers in North America have reported that pigs fed GM corn had low conception rates, false pregnancies or gave birth to bags of water. Both male and female pigs became sterile.

In mice fed GM soy, production of alpha-amylase, an enzyme responsible for digesting starch, dropped by as much as 77%.

In male mice fed Roundup Ready soybeans, the structure and gene expression pattern of testicular cells changed significantly.

Female rats were fed Roundup Ready soy starting before conception and continuing through weaning. 55.6% of the offspring died within three weeks compared to 9% of non-GM soy controls. In another study, after a lab began feeding rats a commercial diet containing GM soy, offspring mortality reached 55.3%. When offspring from the GM-fed rats were mated together, they were unable to conceive.

In 2003, approximately 100 people living next to a Bt cornfield in the Philippines developed skin, respiratory, intestinal reactions and other symptoms while the corn was shedding pollen. Blood tests of 39 people showed an antibody response to Bt-toxin. Symptoms reappeared in 2004 in at least four other villages that planted the same GM corn variety.

GM soy was imported into the UK shortly before 1999. Within a year, soy allergies in the UK had risen from 10% to 15% of the sampled population. Antibody tests show that some individuals react differently to GM and normal soy varieties. GM soy has higher levels of a known allergen.

One brand of the supplement [L-tryptophan](#) created a deadly epidemic in the U.S. in the 1980s. The company responsible had genetically engineered bacteria to produce the supplement more economically. The resulting product contained many contaminants, five or six of which were suspected as the cause of the disease. Not only the GM L-tryptophan supplement, but all L-tryptophan was removed, and still remains off the market.

Bottom Line

A PubMed search on "GMO" and "Safety" yielded 41 articles. Restricting the search to human studies dropped that to 19 articles. Restricting further to clinical trials yielded only one study, and it was of ability to track the presence of GMOs in the food supply!

Here is a list of the titles of the first 20 articles returned by this PubMed search:

Reappraisal of biosafety risks posed by PERVs in xenotransplantation.

Session VII: Risk management and monitoring.

The politics and science behind GMO acceptance.

Model for tuning GMO detection in seed and grain.

Approaches in the risk assessment of genetically modified foods by the Hellenic Food Safety Authority.

Biological safety concepts of genetically modified live bacterial vaccines.

Molecular farming on the rise—GMO regulators still walking a tightrope.

New measures of insecticidal efficacy and safety obtained with the 39K promoter of a recombinant baculovirus.

Need for an “integrated safety assessment” of GMOs, linking food safety and environmental considerations.

European GMO labeling thresholds impractical and unscientific.

1. [Application of near-infrared diffuse reflectance spectroscopy to the detection and identification of transgenic corn]

2. Role of the “National Reference Centre for Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) detection” in the official control of food and feed.

3. GMO: human health risk assessment.

4. Regulations governing veterinary medicinal products containing genetically modified organisms in the European community.

5. Assessment of novel foods in animal nutrition.

6. The human side of GMO biosafety research.

7. GMO biosafety research in China.

8. Allergy assessment of foods or ingredients derived from biotechnology, gene-modified organisms, or novel foods.

9. Public health issues related with the consumption of food obtained from genetically modified organisms.[Genetically modified plants and food safety. State of the art and discussion in the European Union]

The rest of the article titles were similar. Notice something missing? No actual human research published! These are all opinion articles and recommendations on how to determine safety. But virtually no actual research. Now, we realize that such studies may have been published in food technology journals that are not in Medline. However, the medical research world is where we live and where we trust the results of the peer-review process.

How to Go Non-GMO

If the risks documented in Genetic Roulette raise enough questions about GMOs’ potential for harm that you wish to avoid consuming GMOs until more research has been done – research not controlled by the biotech companies – here are a few tips.

If you are traveling to Europe, no worries. GMOs are banned in EU foods. In the United States and Canada, however, GM foods are not only legal, but are unlabeled, so avoiding them can be challenging.

Eat Organic: Organic foods are not allowed to contain GM ingredients. Even the small percentage of non-organic ingredients allowed in foods labeled organic is not allowed to contain GMOs.

Prepared or Processed Foods:

Most generic vegetable oils and margarines used in restaurants and in processed foods in North America are made from soy, corn, canola, or cottonseed—the four major genetically engineered crops. Avoid these oils, unless they are organic or labeled non-GMO. Choose any other oil, e.g., olive, sunflower, or safflower.

Check the list of ingredients for GM enzymes, additives, sweeteners, soy and/or corn derivatives. Genetically modified bacteria and fungi are used in the production of enzymes, vitamins, food additives, flavorings and processing agents in thousands of foods on the grocery shelves as well as health supplements.

Flavorings such as vanillin and hydrolyzed vegetable protein, which is derived from corn and soy, can also come from GM sources. Xanthan gum is another product that may be derived from a GM process.

Aspartame, the diet sweetener, is a product of genetic engineering.

Honey can be produced from GM crops. For example, some Canadian honey comes from bees collecting nectar from canola. This has shut down exports of Canadian honey to Europe.

Most packaged foods contain soy and/or corn derivatives, e.g., soy or corn oil, soy flour, soy protein, soy lecithin, textured vegetable protein, corn meal, corn syrup, dextrose, maltodextrin, fructose, citric acid, lactic acid. Non-GMO alternatives can be found not only in health food stores, but in supermarkets. Mayonnaise, for example, which is traditionally made with soy oil, can be found in both non-GM soy and safflower varieties.

Vitamin Supplements: Among vitamins, vitamin C (ascorbic acid) is often made from corn; vitamin E is usually made from soy. Vitamins A, B2, B6, and B12 may be derived from GMOs as well. In addition, vitamin D and vitamin K may have “carriers” derived from GM corn sources, such as starch, glucose, and maltodextrin. In addition to finding these vitamins in supplements, they are sometimes used to fortify foods. Organic foods, even if fortified with vitamins, are not allowed to use ingredients derived from GMOs.

Eating Out:

Ask what oil is used for cooking. If the answer is “vegetable oil,” margarine, soy, cottonseed, canola or corn oils, ask if olive or some other oil can be used instead or for something cooked without oil. Check to make sure the olive oil is pure and not a blend of canola and olive.

Avoid menu items with dairy, unless organic, and items made with non-organic meat. Very few restaurants buy organic milk or milk certified to be from cows that are not treated with genetically modified rbGH, and both non-organic meat and dairy products usually come from animals that have eaten GM feed. Also, a common enzyme, chymosin (called rennet), used in the production of hard cheeses, was formerly derived from the stomach linings of calves. In 1990, a GM cbymosin was introduced and is now found in more than 70% of non-organic U.S. cheeses.

Ask what foods are freshly prepared. Avoid menu items made with packaged sauces or processed foods since most contain GMO derivatives (e.g., corn and soy derivatives).

Avoid desserts and soda made with aspartame. Most all diet drinks are made with aspartame.

For an extensive list of foods by brand and category, indicating if they have GM ingredients, see the True Food Shoppers Guide to Avoiding GMOs www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/cfs-shoppers-guide1_94012.pdf

References:

www.responsibletechnology.org

Smith, JM. Genetic Roulette, Yes! Books, Fairfield, Iowa, 2007.

www.blogs.webmd.com

Read more at <http://naturalrevolution.org/gmo-resources/the-good-bad-and-ugly-about-gmos/#m5Gjx3LhBIZWffoA.99>



GE Free New Zealand

In Food And Environment Inc.

PO Box 13402, Wellington, NZ

'Put Food Safety First': Minister must reject 'suicide chemical' GE soybean.

Food safety must be the priority for New Zealand and the government should reject a proposal to allow yet more GE food sprayed with selective herbicides and chemicals.

On 19th December Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) made a recommendation to the Food Minister, Nikki Kaye, to approve Syngenta's highly contentious new herbicide tolerant soybean (A1081) [1].

This Soyabean has two new GE genes to make it tolerant to the herbicides glufosinate ammonium (BUSTA) and Syngenta's Mesotrione. Mesotrione is an extremely potent inhibitor of the enzyme 4-hydroxyphenylpyruvate dioxygenase (HPPD), blocking the biochemical pathway that converts essential amino acids, phenylalanine and tyrosine [1] and Vitamin E synthesis, with the potential to cause life threatening Type III tyrosinemia, anxiety and depression [2]

"The Minister must reject the proposal by FSANZ to allow this GE product," said Jon Carapiet, spokesman for GE-free NZ in food and environment.

"The FSANZ report is irresponsible in its positive view of this next generation of GMOs. The Minister must not be lulled into believing the product has been proven safe when it has not."

The report's final conclusion says:

"No potential public health and safety concerns have been identified in the assessment of soybean line SYHT0H2. On the basis of the data provided in the present Application, and other available information, food derived from soybean line SYHT0H2 is considered to be as safe for human consumption as food derived from conventional soybean cultivars" [3]

Yet the Syngenta data sheet [4] outlines the dangers of Mesotrione and it's components previously identified in animal studies, and warns that inhalation or ingestion may cause central nervous system effects, severe weight loss, cataracts, embryonic feral defects, liver and kidney damage and blood abnormalities.

Nevertheless, the product is set to be given the rubber stamp of approval, unless the Minister takes action to halt it.

"This shows that yet again approvals of GE foods are not made with people in mind but rather are driven by the opinion of

"The recommendation shows how blatantly the assessors flaunt their position of power. There is no evaluation or tools to diagnose possible medical problems posed by this GE food, nor proof that this new Soybean line - which is not approved anywhere else in the world - is safe. Yet once again independent scientists and ordinary consumers are being told to shut up and eat it, because officials say it OK."

The Minister is being asked to heed the warnings of experts outside of the industry promoting GE foods. Jeffrey Smith who has just made a whistle-stop tour of New Zealand, met with the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) in Wellington before Christmas.

He was in alarmed to hear that FSANZ did not evaluate the chemicals in the food - but only the novel DNA.

"One of the incredibly weak arguments that I faced with my meeting with FSANZ was that we should not be worried about the toxicity of the herbicide residues in the crops that are GE. In the Roundup Ready crops the glyphosate can accumulate at higher levels in the food portion because that is the only live portion remaining. What's a shame... actually tragic, is that there hasn't been proper monitoring of the food composition in all cases. If it's a poison and its affecting people, then it matters," said Jeffrey Smith.

Though his meeting with FSANZ was disappointing Mr. Smith hailed New Zealand as a beacon of light saying, "there is no question that New Zealand enjoys a unique clean green healthy reputation around the World. NZ has an excellent opportunity to take advantage of an Organic and non-GMO status in ways that are better than other Countries."

"You also have a lot more to loose than other countries, so it's a no brainer!" Jeffery Smith said.

The Minister must call for long term feeding studies that show food safety, before she considers the product for entry into the food chain.

ENDS:

Jon Carapiet - national spokesman 0210507681

Claire Bleakley [06 3089842](tel:063089842) / [027 348 6731](tel:0273486731)

[1]<http://www.dcnutrition.com/AminoAcids/Detail.CFM?RecordNumber=129>

[2] Tyrosinemia - <http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition=tyrosinemia>

[3] <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/applications/Documents/A1081-GM-AppR-SD1.pdf>

[4] http://www.syngentafarm.ca/pdf/msds/Callisto_27833_en_msds.pdf

SUBMISSION TO PROPOSED TCDC DISTRICT PLAN

Submitters: Geoffrey Robinson and Reihana Robinson

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Telephone: (07) 866-6620

I/WE DO wish to be heard regarding this submission

SECTION: MAPS AND OVERLAYS

OBJECT specifically to the area designations (overlays) of “Natural Character” and “Outstanding Landscape” in Map 3 “Onekura” as they apply to properties located at 165, 185, and 225 Harriet Kings Rd, Port Charles specifically.

OBJECT more generally to the area designations (overlays) of “Natural Character” and “Outstanding Landscape” as they apply to the entire district.

REASONS FOR OBJECTION: (Council was notified in writing regarding this objection in February 2012 in response to preliminary publication of the overlay material. Council failed to respond or amend the overlays in any way.)

The overlays are based on two broad and general desktop exercises by consultants Brown NZ (in respect of “outstanding landscape” designations) and Natural Solutions Ecologists (in respect of so-called “natural character” designations). The submitters have studied extensively these two consultant “reports”, on which Council is relying for its proposed detailed designations. The opinions of the consultants have not been confirmed by on-the-ground evaluation, resulting in faulty and incorrect conclusions. The two reports reflect ideological bias, self-interest, and conflict of interest on the part of the firms involved. The “reports” apply vague, questionable, and overly general qualitative notions to land that has not been personally surveyed, apply criteria that are inappropriate for the context, fail to reflect correct ecological characteristics, and are uninformed as to past and current land use and activity.

As a result of the cursory and faulty methodology, virtually the entire area of the three parcels cited above is designated “natural character” and “outstanding landscape. In fact, virtually the entire area has been fenced and

grazed, going back approximately 100 years. Almost all of the three parcels has been heavily logged for its native kauri, with much of the area now in regenerating low scrub bush and sections of eroding barren clay. Other areas of the property are in stands of exotic plantation pine, other plantings and garden areas and farm buildings.

The greater part of the land area is neither “natural” in character nor “outstanding” in its landscape features.

CHANGES SOUGHT: The overlays for “natural character” and “outstanding landscape” as they apply to Map 3 and the specific properties listed above, as well as to the entire district, should be corrected. If any new designations of “natural character” and/or “outstanding landscape” are to be made, Council should first establish specific, clear, appropriate criteria and then apply them through a property-by-property process that includes ground-truthing. Any expense in doing so, including costs relating to site visits, must be borne by Council and not the submitter and property owner, as any resulting designation has major implications for future land use and values.

Council should NOT base any overlays on the Brown and Natural Solutions consultant reports. These reports are completely inadequate for the purpose of creating detailed, district-wide overlays of specific properties. Neither organisation is qualified to make such designations that, in effect, have the binding authority of law.

FURTHER SUBMISSION TO PROPOSED TCDC DISTRICT PLAN

Submitters: Geoffrey Robinson and Reihana Robinson

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I/WE DO wish to be heard regarding this submission

SECTION 29.1 BIODIVERSITY/“BACKGROUND”

OPPOSE Paragraph 2 wherein the Waikato RPS is referenced to determine whether an area of vegetation is “significant” and which then requires, presumably at the expense of the landowner, “ground-truthing by a suitably qualified ecologist” to determine whether or not the area is, in fact, “significant”.

REASON: The Waikato RPS terminology on “significance” is overly broad and entirely inappropriate for the greater part Thames-Coromandel District, notably its vast expanses of native and regenerating bush over extensive contiguous tracts, encompassing hundreds of thousands of hectares. The Waikato RPS reflects an urban perspective and is more appropriate for the western Waikato where very little such indigenous vegetation exists, and very little in contiguous tracts. The very same hectare in the Waipa District may have far greater significance for biodiversity than the same hectare in Thames-Coromandel District. TCDC is not obligated to reference the inappropriate designations of the Waikato RPS. TCDC should instead adopt terminology in respect of determining “significance” that is appropriate to this district.

OPPOSE any implication that “ground-truthing” of biodiversity “significance” be the financial burden of any landowner. The second sentence of Paragraph 2 of this section should be omitted in its entirety. With clear and appropriate language in the district plan, landowners should know whether or not their land is of significance. Any costs of establishing “significance” should be solely borne by Council. Such work can be done so by employing an ecologist on staff, who can then confer with the landowner. Any requirement for landowners to employ independent professional so-called “ecologist” consultants would amount to new costs of

thousands of dollars, even in the simplest case, in order to proceed with even minor activities, and should not be included in this plan.

SECTION 29.3 BIODIVERSITY/PERMITTED ACTIVITIES/RULE 3/CLEARING OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION

OPPOSE this rule as presently drafted.

SUPPORT: The right of landowners to clear up to 10 cubic metres of manuka and kanuka annually for the purpose of home heating, cooking and hot water.

REASON: Cutting of firewood is a basic human activity and basic human right. In this district, many rural landowners do not have mains power. Many rural landowners exist on very low and/or fixed incomes. The ability to heat with one's own firewood is critical for rural families and the rural economy. In some cases, there is no alternative for home heating. Any rules that limit home firewood cutting will have substantial direct adverse human health consequences.

SUPPORT: The right of landowners to clear indigenous vegetation for the purposes of establishing access tracks suitable for farm equipment, plus clearance either side and for maintaining fence lines, including clearance of two metres either side (to provide access by farm equipment).

REASON: Landowners require an explicit right to cut vegetation in order to establish tracks in order to maintain safe access to their property and to efficiently carry out efficient productive land-use activity.

SECTION 32.3 OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPE OVERLAY RULES

OPPOSE: RULE 3 "SIGNS" as written

REASON: This rule fails to distinguish between political speech ("STOP 1080 POISON") and commercial advertising ("HAPPY HOUR EVERY FRIDAY 4-6PM") and fails to distinguish between signs posted by individuals for basic private purposes ("FREE RANGE EGGS") and those of businesses ("MOTEL ROOMS ONLY \$129/NIGHT FREE WIFI").

Signs cannot be put all in one category. This rule inappropriately limits freedom of speech. This rule also severely limits the ability of individuals to derive income from their home-based or personal activities, which is extremely important in this primarily rural/provincial area with lower than average incomes where income sources are limited.

SUPPORT: Right of all landowners to display a limited number of fixed signs up to a reasonable size limit (such as one square metre) each for the purpose of personal political speech or for the purpose of highlighting a home-based productive activity or personal service.

OPPOSE: Rule 6 “WIND TURBINE” as written

REASON: This rule makes no distinction between a typical small 400 watt domestic wind turbine (that is typically used in conjunction with a few rooftop solar panels in remote and off-grid home installations) and the larger commercial wind turbines that range from 500 kilowatts up to 1 megawatt or more. The typical domestic wind turbine weighs about 15 kg and is installed directly on roofs or on low poles with guys and presents no more visual impact than any other small item such as water tanks or fences. These features are in total contrast to those of typical commercial-type turbines that are installed on heavy steel towers up to 100 metres or more in height and with blades sweeping up to 75 metres or more diameter.

Installation of typical alternative home energy systems, including small wind turbines is a sustainable activity that is good for the environment and that makes good long-term economic sense with low to no impact on other values. It should be promoted by council in its district plan, and not inhibited or limited.

SUPPORT: Allowance in the rules as a permitted activity under this section installation of typical wind turbines for domestic power. Rule should specifically allow small turbines of a reasonable size (up to 1000 watts) installed according to manufacturer specifications on either rooftops or light pole towers of reasonable height (up to 20m).