

Submission No. 5

Submission on Publicly Notified Proposed Plan Change under Clause 6 of Schedule 1 to the Resource Management Act 1991
SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE NO. 1 OF TARARUA DISTRICT PLAN

To: Tararua District Council by email info@tararuadc.govt.nz

From: Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc (Forest & Bird)

Address for service:

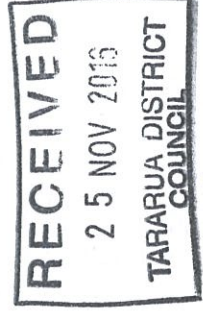
Forest and Bird
P O Box 631
Wellington 6140
Attention: Amelia Geary

INTRODUCTION

1. Forest & Bird is New Zealand's largest non-governmental conservation organisation with 70,000 members and supporters. Forest & Bird originally set out to protect New Zealand's unique flora and fauna, the tasks of Forest and Bird in more recent years have extended to protecting and maintaining the environment surrounding the flora and fauna. Establishing wildlife reserves, initiating protection campaigns and promoting general public awareness around what is happening in and around New Zealand is all central to Forest & Bird's establishing principle of flora and fauna protection.
2. The key matters of concern to Forest & Bird relate to the protection of ecological values, particularly those associated with freshwater, wetlands and the coastal environment. It is also important to Forest & Bird that the plan contain provisions that provide for the maintenance and enhancement of indigenous biological diversity across the District.
3. For the purpose of this submission, we found it difficult to comment on specific details given that many proposed changes are deletions. Instead, we have focused on the need for Tararua District Council to ensure appropriate integration with Horizons One Plan to ensure the District Council's obligations are met under s6(c) of the RMA.



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10:02am

SUBMISSION

4. The 2.6.4.2 Policies are retained by the amendments in PC 1. This includes direction under policy (b) to identify “indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna in the District” and policy (c) to encourage the protection of “significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna”
5. Forest and Bird supports retaining the 2.6.4.2 Policies as this recognises and provides for s6(c) of the RMA which is still appropriate as set out in Policy 6-1 (c) of the Regional Policy Statement provisions in the Horizons One Plan. However with the removal of rules 5.5.4 to 5.114 it is not clear how Tararua District Council intends to provide for this. Also the Methods referring to provisions for the protection of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats have been deleted. We question whether this is appropriate in light of Council’s obligations under s6(c) of the RMA.
6. The indigenous vegetation clearance requirements under the One Plan may not be set out in the same way as the activity based rules under the District Plan. To ensure integration between the Regional and District Council plans and that the RPS is given effect to while still fulfilling responsibilities under the RMA, Tararua District Council will need to work with Regional Council and landowners carrying out both permitted and consented activities under this Plan.
7. Forest and Bird requests that Tararua District Council sets out how it intends to do this through the inclusion of new non-regulatory methods in the District Plan.
8. Forest and Bird also seeks that Schedule 3.2 in Appendix 3 is retained in the plan and linked to the new method(s) (requested above) and referenced in guidance notes under appropriate rules to guide users to avoid adverse effects on significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna and to direct contact the Regional Council.



Amelia Geary
Regional Conservation Manager, Lower North Island