

DDPR_feedback_0266s	
Name	Alan Wightman
Organisation	Wightman Forestries Ltd
Email	[REDACTED]
Response Date	Jul 15 22 02:41:37 pm
Notes	Alan Wightman
Q1	Select the chapter you want to provide feedback on
	Natural Features and Landscapes
Q2	In general, to what extent do you support the contents of this chapter?
Q3	Objective/Policy/Rule/Standard reference:
Q4	Feedback/Comments
	<p>'Dear Sir</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity of giving feedback on the Draft Plan. I am Alan Wightman, Director of Wightman Forestries Ltd, and my company owns a forestry block on Mount Trotter Road, property ID Lot 2 DP 23245, as well as other forestry blocks in the Waitaki District.</p> <p>I have focused my feedback on aspects of the Draft Plan which indicate an effect on us, in particular on the Mount Trotter block. I note that this block has a Significant Natural Feature (SNF) overlay on it, presumably on the cliffs which form part of the block. The block is a radiata pine forest, second rotation, and was already planted in pines when I bought it after the first rotation. My concerns and the implications for my business are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is not clear whether the Plan covers just the SNF area within the block, or the whole block given that it contains an SNF.</li> <li>- According to the Objectives in the Plan, NLF-01, an SNF is protected from inappropriate use. I am concerned that at some point in the future, the council may deem forestry an "inappropriate" use and prevent further pine forests on that land.</li> <li>- Objective NLF-03 and Policy NFL-P10 says that SNFs are to be "restored and enhanced". This is a production forest and, whilst I treasure the geological formations on the block, there will be no restoration or enhancement to these cliffs, given that this is a working forest. Trees are planted on the cliffs and all around them. They will however be treated with the high respect that I have, and I expect my contractors to have, for all parts of my land, SNF or not.</li> <li>- Policy NFL-P4 only provides for use where it maintains amenity value. The only amenity value I see in the SNF is the visual look of the cliffs. This will certainly be changed when the block is logged so I am concerned that the council may prevent logging.</li> <li>- Policy NFL-P9 talks about avoiding the spread of wilding conifers by prohibiting planting of species that result in wilding conifers on SNFs, and incentivising owners to destroy wilding conifers growing on that land. I do not think that radiata pine is officially a "wilding conifer", however there is regenerative growth on the block which I welcome as it will add to the volume when logging, and with the upcoming biomass demand we will need as many trees growing as we can get. I will not therefore be destroying any wilding conifers on my block.</li> <li>- NFL-R4 states that earthworks on SNFs is a permitted activity. The block already has forestry tracks and a skid site, but these will need to be renewed come logging time, although they will not interfere with natural features. Do we need to apply for a permit given that the block contains an SNF, or if the work does not touch on an SNF area, do we still need a permit? Also, if having a permit is a new rule, I am concerned at the additional cost that this SNF will cause my business.</li> <li>- Under Controlled Activities, NFL-R9 states that Plantation Forestry within or on an SNF is a controlled activity. What does that actually mean – that we would need a consent to replant? Does this apply to just that bit of the block which is designated an SNF, or the whole block?</li> </ul>

	<p>- Prohibited Activities NFL-R15 states that planting species that can result in wilding conifers on SNFs is prohibited. I would like assurance from the council that this will not prevent us replanting radiata pine after harvesting.</p> <p>I would like to request that the SNF designation on our Mount Trotter block be removed. It seems to serve no point but will add to our costs, paperwork and restrictions on what we can and cannot do, over and above existing restrictions.</p> <p>I note that the Waitaki District Council say that where an activity has been lawfully established, then it can continue to operate even if the district plan rules change around it. I am sure this will be so for now, but have reservations that at some future point, more rigorous regulations will be introduced for land containing SNFs. Once the land has been designated as SNF, there is a chance that the rules around it will change and operating a forest will become more difficult. I object to this overlay being imposed on us. This is why I am asking you to remove that designation.</p> <p>Yours faithfully  Alan Wightman  Director  Wightman Forestries Ltd</p>
Q5	Objective/Policy/Rule/Standard reference:
Q6	Feedback/Comments
Q7	Objective/Policy/Rule/Standard reference:
Q8	Feedback/Comments
Q9	Objective/Policy/Rule/Standard reference:
Q10	Feedback/Comments
Q11	supporting documents?
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Q12	If you need more space, or have any other general comments, please leave them here