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03 Aug 2018

DPTI

Comment on Draft State Planning Policy

By Penny Paton

My comments relate to the Biodiversity and Climate Change sections of the draft Policy.

The summary of what biodiversity is (page 28) is fine as far as it goes, but it does not recognise the intrinsic value of biodiversity; all the attributed listed are its values **in relation to humans**. All animals and plants and other components of the natural world (biotic and abiotic) make up ecosystems and biodiversity and in their own right share this planet with humans. I would like to see a sentence added that reflects the intrinsic right of non-human species to continue to exist in their own right and not just in relation to the benefits they bestow on humankind.

Also the section on biodiversity does not give enough (perhaps any) weight to the increased challenges for biodiversity conservation in relation to a changed climate. There are already indications of what climate change will do to natural systems and, in particular fragmented and stressed systems that we now have due to land clearance and other factors. The rate of species extinction is increasing and, combined with other factors which are also exacerbated by climate change e.g. wild fires, will continue to increase. Thus biodiversity conservation needs extra resources and proactive policies to combat threats in a warming and drying climate.