

(TWO COPIES PLEASE)

Clerk of the Committee
Local Government and Environment Committee
Select Committee Office
Parliament Buildings
Wellington.

Submission to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee on the Resource Management (Simplifying and Streamlining) Amendment Bill 2009

Name of Submitter.....

Address

Telephone..... Email.....

Date.....

Waiheke Island is part of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. The Marine Park has been provided with its own protective legislation, the *Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act (HGMPA)*, thus demonstrating the over-riding importance of the need to protect and improve the environment and bio-diversity of the Gulf and its islands.

I/We have a very strong desire to see that the intent of the HGMPA is realised.

I/We also seek greater participation in the decision - making relating to the Gulf and its environment.

I/We believe that the removal of tree protection rules and other RMA procedural changes, will compromise what is intended in the HGMPA and seriously impact on the involvement of the community in decision -making processes.

I/We believe that the general tenor of the proposed changes is such that NZ's environmental and democratic reputation will be seriously damaged.

TREE PROTECTION.

Trees are a community asset. They contribute to the greater good because they have positive social, economic and environmental effects.

I/We oppose all changes that will impact negatively on the important role that healthy and mature trees play in an increasingly urban environment.

I/We oppose all changes that will remove the right of local communities, through a review of the District Plan, to determine the form and content of Tree Protection Rules.

Clauses 52 and 151 are about compulsorily replacing general tree protection with the possible scheduling of individual trees and groups of trees.

I/We request that these two clauses be deleted.

[Please Turn Over]

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

I/We oppose all changes that will make it more difficult for the public to participate (a core principle of the RMA) in decision- making affecting the environment and bio-diversity of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands.

This applies particularly to Clause 133 (Costs of going to the Environment Court), Clause 68 (Public Notification), Clause 131 (Joining an Appeal) and Clause 60 (Fast Tracking of Applications)

I/We request that these four clauses be deleted.

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS.

I/We support any changes (already proposed or not) that would provide for effective and ongoing reviewing at local level of tree protection assessment processes and tree protection criteria.

I/We support any changes that would make it mandatory for local authorities to reduce costs and delays (in the processing of RMA applications), providing these changes do not weaken the protection currently provided.

I/We wish to be speak in support of my/our submission (assuming that a Hearing takes place in Auckland)

I/We do not wish to speak in support of my/our submission.
(Cross out what does not apply)

Signed.....