

Response to hearing panel from Waimakariri District Council Ecologist Kate Steel regarding indigenous biodiversity chapter proposed district plan:

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| Para 302 | For the Panel's information can you please elaborate on the process that will be followed to identify SNAs, including the involvement of landowners. |
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1. We have some areas that were flagged as potential SNAs as part of the survey done by wildlands for the district plan that have not yet had a site visit. It is possible that we would undertake a district wide desktop exercise to identify any other areas that have not been picked up on previous surveys.
2. For each SNA we would identify the property owners. We would send them a letter and try to follow up with a call or offer a visit so we could talk to them about the process and what having an SNA on their land would mean including the regulations and incentives that would apply. We would seek permission to undertake a field survey.
3. If permission is given by the landowner field survey would be undertaken by an ecologist to determine the extent of the SNA on their property according to the NPSIB criteria (or CRPS criteria if that legally applies at the time). The landowner would have the opportunity to participate in the survey in they want to.
4. The ecologist will prepare their report. The land owner will be sent a copy and opportunities to meet and discuss what the ecologist found and what it means for them.
5. If the national direction in the NPSIB applies the site would then be listed in the plan. For sites where consent was not given to undertake a field survey, sites would be listed from a desktop assessment as per the NPSIB.
6. If the national direction in the NPSIB doesn't apply then the land owner would be asked if they want to list the site as a voluntary SNA. They've also been offered support to go through covenanting either through Council or the QE2 trust if they prefer another method of protection. They site or possibly part of it would then be listed with land owner agreement. Where land owners do not agree to list the site we would remind them that the general vegetation clearance regulations still apply and therefore the vegetation can not be cleared without consent.