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4/10/2010

Stratford District Council

Attention Mr. Mike Avery

Dear Mike,

Submission Re: Revised District Plan

I would like to take this opportunity to oppose and question the reasoning behind a move by the Stratford District Council to implement changes to the present regulations regarding the cutting or removal of native fauna from privately owned land holdings overseen by the Stratford District Council.

My Company is at present harvesting Tree fern stems to produce a product for export.

Because of the manufacturing process, all Tree Fern stems are harvested as per the strict regulations put in place by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The areas that are of interest that hold huge volumes of Dicksonia-spp (Treeferns) are made up of scrub land and grass lands in the Stratford District. These farmland/scrub areas had been completely stripped/cleared from all virgin native forest and converted into pasture land some 80-120 years ago.

I am not sure why an Ecological report would be of any benefit to such areas keeping in mind that MAF already over sees and insures that even these scrub lands are harvested in a sustainable and responsible manner.

I do not support this proposal as it appears it will only create confusion and unnecessary cost to small operators that are very dependent on the use of some native trees for there lively hood.

Best Regards
Alan Ford