

Standard B2.7(b)

This standard provides (among other things) that no development shall disturb, modify, alter any wetland, or area within 20m of any wetland. However, this needs to provide for development associated with the enhancement of existing wetlands and the benching of land around wetlands to provide for protective fencing (the fence line can often be located within 20m of the margin of such wetlands).

General

Fish & Game NZ generally supports the wording of the proposed variation. In particular, we support:

- Amendment of “*Indigenous forest*” to “*Indigenous Vegetation and Indigenous fauna*” and any consequential amendments;
- The amended definitions;
- The amended AER’s, Objectives and Policies;
- The riparian margins method A1.4.10. We strongly support the intention to maintain, and regularly update, a schedule within the District Plan of the location and area of all identified wetlands in the District. With only a small percentage of the region’s original wetland areas remaining (8% or less), all remaining wetlands are of value. As the RMA simply refers to wetlands (no qualification as to significance) and makes no distinction between naturally created or artificially enhanced/created wetlands we would expect that the schedule would include wetlands created for waterfowl habitat and hunting purposes and farm stock water dams. We support the intention to rely on regional council survey work to identify wetlands, but request that input also be sought from other organisations with an interest in protecting and enhancing wetlands in the District, such as Fish & Game and QEII;
- Method A2.4.2 is supported, but the scope and detail of the ecological assessment should be in proportion to the significance of the area and the likely extent or magnitude of any adverse effects;
- Appendix 9 this is supported, but there are a significant number of additional unlisted wetlands that are not currently listed. The TRC, Horizons and groups like Fish and Game should be able to provide a much more comprehensive list.

We DO wish to be heard in support of this submission

If others make a similar submission we would be prepared to consider presenting a joint case with them at any Hearing

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