

IN THE MATTER OF The Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER OF Hearing on Submissions Concerning the
Proposed Horizons Regional Council
One Plan for the Manawatu-Wanganui
Region

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF GRAEME LA COCK

1. This statement consists of a brief summary of my initial evidence, and how it has been dealt with in two documents by Fleur Maseyk that are now before the committee, being: Report of a meeting between Ecologists Graeme La Cock & Fleur Maseyk “to discuss and resolve issues of difference in relation to respective evidence on Schedule E of the proposed One Plan.”; and: Evidence and supplementary recommendations of Fleur Maseyk for the biodiversity hearing”. I will also elaborate on my statements surrounding vehicles on beaches.

Original submission – importance of dune dynamics and Foxtangi dunes

2. In my initial evidence I emphasised the high level of degradation of active dune systems at a national and at a regional level, and the need to consider the dunes as a whole rather than as a series of particular habitats as was initially proposed in the One Plan.
3. I proposed amendments to the Proposed One Plan to reflect this recognition of the active nature of dune ecosystems, with a proposed inclusion that incorporated several rare and threatened dune habitats that were listed in Schedule E under one habitat type that incorporated them all but that recognised the linkages between them.

4. I further referred to the national significance of dunes between Himatangi and Foxton (Foxtangi dunes) and their contribution to the biodiversity of the region, and used these dunes as support for my proposed amendments.

Outcome of meeting between Fleur Maseyk and Graeme La Cock

5. At a meeting between Fleur Maseyk and me on 5 August 2008 both parties agreed that the ecological processes that drive dune systems are a crucial component of that system, and that any method of protecting duneland habitat needs to address this.
6. It further became evident that the only areas that met the criteria proposed by me were the Foxtangi dunes and sites that were already conserved. The Foxtangi dunes was the only site in private ownership. I agreed with her proposal that a more effective method of protecting Foxtangi dunes was via the non-regulatory provisions of the Proposed One Plan.

Supplementary evidence of Fleur Maseyk

7. In her supplementary evidence (pg 20-22) Ms Maseyk recognised the dynamic processes that drive dune systems, and that dunelands provide habitat for a number of threatened species, including some whose national stronghold is in the region. One of these, *Pimelea actea*, is now only known from the Foxtangi dunes.
8. Ms Maseyk also indicated agreement with the Department of Conservation's evidence regarding the ecological value of the region's dunelands and the vegetation communities and species this environment supports.
9. Ms Maseyk made several recommendations in light of the discrete and relatively small areas of relatively unmodified duneland, essentially in keeping with the outcome of our meeting, i.e. the most appropriate way to provide further protection for the remaining areas of functioning duneland is via the

non-regulatory methods as provided for within the Notified Plan. She further recommended that listing “active duneland” in Table E1 would not increase the protection currently afforded to indigenous habitat types supported by duneland, and therefore deemed my proposals for one inclusion and six exclusions in Table E2 as not necessary.

10. As an ecologist I appreciate that Ms Maseyk has recognised the dynamic nature of dunes and the importance of protecting the Foxtangi dunes. She has supported my evidence that the Foxtangi dunes are of national significance, and has recognised how important it is to protect them. If the best method of achieving this protection is via the non-regulatory methods as provided for within the notified plan, I can support this as an ecologist. There may, however, be planning issues associated with this recommendation that my colleague, Mr Watts, is more qualified to address.

Vehicles on beaches

11. In my initial evidence I had commented on the impact of vehicles on dunes, including reference to vehicles in the Foxtangi dunes. Ms Maseyk also identified vehicles as one of the major threats to the Foxtangi dunes in her supplementary evidence.
12. The Proposed One Plan has addressed this subject through Chapter 9: Coast, specifically the Vehicle by-law project that links to policies 9.1, 9.2 and 9.5.
13. As an ecologist I support this need to manage vehicles in dunes and on beaches in the region, as I believe it to be an issue of regional and national significance. I have brought copies of two reviews of the impact of vehicles on beaches and dunes, as well as copies of brochures produced by other regional and local councils, should the hearing committee be interested in some material on the subject.

Corrections to original submission

14. In reviewing my initial evidence in the preparation of this statement I became aware of two mistakes, which I would like to correct: In pt 19 *Sebae obvata* should read *Sebaea obovata*; and in pt 22 the percentage of spinifex runners damaged by vehicles should be 59%, not 69%.