

Form 7

Notice of appeal to Environment Court against decision on proposed policy statement or plan or change or variation

Clause 14(1) of Schedule 1, Resource Management Act 1991

To the Registrar
Environment Court
Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch

I, Patricia M Whiting-OKeeffe appeal against part of a decision of Thames Coromandel District Council on the following proposed district plan:

PROPOSED THAMES-COROMANDEL DISTRICT PLAN, DECISIONS VERSION (April 2016)

I made a submission on that plan.

I am not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308D of the Resource Management Act 1991.

I received notice of the Proposed District Plan on 29 April 2016.

The Proposed District Plan was prepared by Thames Coromandel District Council.

The decision in the Proposed Plan that I am appealing is:

- *Portions of the Overlay Maps of Outstanding Natural Landscapes (ONLs) on Port Charles and Onekura Maps*
- *Specifically some parts of our farm at 196C Carey Road, Port Charles [Legal Description: Lot 1 DP62798] should be removed from Outstanding Natural Landscape Overlays.*

The reasons for the appeal are as follows:

While portions of the farm do fit the criteria specified for ONLs in Section 9 of the draft Plan, the greater portion of it does not. The latter is wholly modified grazed farmland covered with kikuyu and with attendant roads, tracks, fences, culverts, numerous feral weeds commonly found on open farmland, a farm house, transformer, shed, water tanks, water troughs, and a few scattered scrubs. The land is grazed by cattle. Very little of the farm proper could be considered "natural" and the most appealing aspect of the farmland is its outlook to the sea (where available).

Since the ONL Overlays were based on the Waikato Regional Council Regional Policy Statement's maps which were high level and, as pointed out by the Hearing Panel, were identified as "indicative", there is scope for refinements to be made to the maps based on "ground truthing". The farmed area has lost most of its aesthetic value given significantly modified vegetation, cuts created by tracks, terracing formed by cattle, slips resulting from the long-ago removed bush, to name a few evident unnatural attributes. Its dynamic components are largely defined by the farming practices. The Panel did refer to our submission as presenting "a cogent case that their farmland area did not meet the threshold test of naturalness". We intend to provide compelling evidence that this farmland does not meet that and other criteria for ONL.

We attach a copy of a photograph that shows our land with stark grazing areas and a farm house delineated in distinct contrast to the ungrazed properties to the south that are largely ONFL.

There is one significant, aesthetically appealing gully on our land defined by surrounding ridges that meets many of the criteria for ONLs: mostly native bush that varies significantly in species from the bottom of the gully to the top, landscape that expresses its formative processes from wind and water, and wildlife consisting of native birds and invertebrates with a few feral birds and mammals. It is about 16 Ha of regenerating native bush fenced off from grazing for about 16 years. This block meets the several of the criteria for ONL and should be included on the Overlay.

We include a Google map of our land with lines showing its boundary and contours, and with a lime boundary showing the above-described closed canopy native bush gully. Except for small areas around the house and the shed and the areas marked, all the land is grazed. Text describes the characteristics of other vegetated areas.

We seek the following relief:

A shift of the boundary for Outstanding Natural Landscape Overlay to the lines shown in the attached map.

I attach the following documents to this notice:

- a copy of my submission (I received no submissions opposed to or supporting my submission)
- a copy of the TCDC Proposed Port Charles and Onekura ONL Overlay Maps and a merged version of the two maps
- a copy of the TCDC map of our property
- a copy of a photograph showing our farm and properties land to the south as seen from the sea. It highlights the main grazing areas and shows the distinct difference in landscape appearance, at least for the coastal section of our farm, from the neighbouring non-grazed properties.
- a Google map showing 196C Carey Property, terrain, contours, area that we propose qualifies as ONL – the 16 Ha of closed canopy native bush and other noteworthy features.
- a copy of proposed Overlay Map for our farm (including portions of each Overlay map).
- a list of names and addresses of persons to be served with a copy of this notice.

Signature of appellant
Date...8 June 2016



Address for service of appellant: 1461 Port Charles Road, RD 4, Coromandel 3584
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