

Date

To

Freshwater submissions
Ministry for the Environment
PO Box 10362
Wellington

From

Name:
Address:

By Email consultation.freshwater@mfe.govt.nz

Submission on Action for healthy waterways: A discussion document on national direction for our essential freshwater

Section 5.6 No Further Loss of Wetlands

Section 5.13 Questions

25. Do you support the proposal to protect remaining wetlands? Why/Why Not
26. If this proposal was implemented what would you have to do differently

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Action for healthy waterways discussion document.

We write in support of the West Coast sphagnum moss industry which has used and maintained wetlands throughout the West Coast for the production of sphagnum moss for a considerable period of time. We are concerned that little regard has been given to this local industry and want to ensure that any new regulation does not create difficulties for the operations occurring throughout the West Coast.

I have been, or know people, involved in the sphagnum moss industry on the West Coast. This is an industry that has been operating for many years on the West Coast and has provided economic benefits to the community, and will continue to do so provided the existing ability to utilise moss wetlands is retained. I seek the continued ability for West Coast moss harvesters to manage their wetlands to ensure that they continue to produce moss and thrive. We seek appropriate recognition be given to both the moss industry and the nature of the sphagnum moss wetlands that have been worked for many years, and as a result remain, on the West Coast.

In my view wetlands used as part of moss harvesting are already actively managed in a manner that ensures the wetland process and functions are maintained on a sustainable basis as that is an important part of sphagnum moss production. I seek that sphagnum moss harvesting on the West Coast is allowed to continue and not be subject to any new regulation developed through any national policy or standards. It is my submission that the sphagnum moss industry should be supported and allowed to continue for the benefit of the community, as it has for many years up until now.

If you have any queries in regard to this submission please feel free to contact me.

I would like to attend a hearing if there was such an opportunity.

Yours faithfully