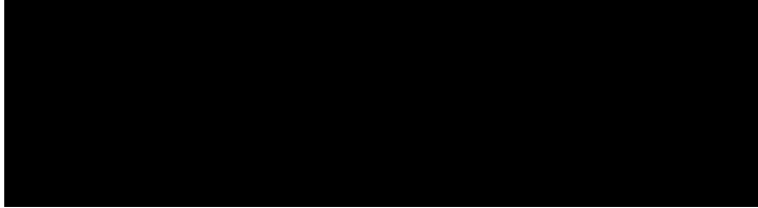


Submission on publicly notified Proposed Porirua District Plan

Submitter details: Alan Gray & Christine Stanley

Contact person: Christine Stanley



We wish our personal details to be kept private.

This is a **submission** on the **Proposed Porirua District Plan**.

It addresses the land at 299 and 325 Grays Road, Pauatahanui, RD1, Porirua

These two sites are zoned Rural Lifestyle and together have a residential unit and a woolshed. They contain a significant stand of bush, as well as bare land used as grazing as part of a neighbouring pastoral farm.

We could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

We wish to be heard in support of our submission.

We will not consider presenting a joint case with other submitters at a hearing.

The specific provision of the proposal that our submission relates to:	Our submission is:	We seek the following decision:
<p>SCHED10 - Special Amenity Landscapes: SAL001 Pauatahanui</p> <p>Section 'Shared and recognised'</p>	<p>Many of the points under Characteristics and Values listed in the Proposed District Plan for this SAL celebrate the bare hills.</p> <p>The bare hills are a result of extensive deforestation of the hills around Porirua that occurred in the mid 1850's for pastoral farming, which has had a lasting environmental impact on the flora, fauna and the water quality in the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour. The amenity view of bare hills is not ecologically sustainable.</p> <p>There should be a point recognising that revegetation and restoration is highly valued.</p>	<p>Add:</p> <p><i>13. The hills around the Harbour were extensively cleared for pastoral farming in the mid-1850's, resulting in loss of flora and fauna and resulting in changes in the waters of the Harbour;</i></p> <p><i>14. The gradual revegetation and environmental restoration around the inlet is highly valued.</i></p>

<p>SCHED10 - Special Amenity Landscapes: SAL001 Pauatahanui</p> <p>Section 'Sensory'</p>	<p>Pauatahanui consists not only of a small village and lifestyle blocks, but also pastoral farms.</p>	<p>Amend:</p> <p><i>1. A low-density settled landscape comprising a small village surrounded by lifestyle lots in a rural setting and pastoral farms, connected to the Pāuatahanui Inlet;</i></p>
<p>SCHED11 - Coastal High Natural Character Areas: CHNC005 Grays Road Bush</p>	<p>This area is a subset of SNA069 (Grays Road Bush). Currently CHNC005 and SNA069 contradict each other.</p> <p>CHNC005 had stock excluded from it in the mid 1950's. Until then, from the settlement of the Grays in the 1850's, the bush was under-grazed by cattle. As a result, there is therefore a gap in the understorey.</p> <p>The bush has been surveyed several times. These records are with the GWRC and Wellington Botanical Society. As highlighted in SNA069, there is a high diversity of species and contains some species of national significance.</p>	<p>Amend:</p> <p><i>2. This mature tawa-kohekohe dominated forest remnant is one of only a few left in Porirua. The vegetation is in good condition and is reasonably representative of the historic vegetation of the area. The understorey is assumed to have high species diversity (no internal surveys have been carried out, but fencing is evident). Whilst the understorey has a gap due to undergrazing until the 1950's, the area has a high species diversity and contains nationally threatened species, as surveyed by Wellington Botanical Society.</i></p>
<p>SCHED11 - Coastal High Natural Character Areas: CHNC005 Grays Road Bush</p>	<p>The area marked as CHN005 is identified as Grays Bush by all other authoritative sources such as GWRC, New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, Porirua City Council, and NZ Botanical Society.</p> <p>It is named after the Gray family, not the road it is on. Use of an alternative name introduces confusion.</p>	<p>Amend:</p> <p>CHNC005 should be renamed Grays Bush</p>
<p>SCHED7 - Significant Natural Areas: SNA069 Grays Road Bush</p>	<p>This area is a superset of CHNC005, a small portion of private garden, and some road reserve.</p> <p>The portion of this area which is not part of CHNC005 (i.e. private garden and road reserve) has a very different ecology and timeline and bears little resemblance to the area covered by CHNC005.</p> <p>Until the late 1970's this portion was bare pastoral farmland. The area was planted by the submitters as a.) revegetation of bare land (now private garden) b.) planting of road reserve (created when the title at 325 Grays Road was split in the 1970s from the original Gray Farm). Whilst geographically contiguous with CHN05, the area contains introduced species. These areas should be considered separate SNAs.</p>	<p>Amend:</p> <p>SNA069 Grays Road Bush should only cover the area described in CHNC005.</p> <p>SNA069 should match the name of CHNC005, and should be renamed Grays Bush.</p> <p>Add:</p> <p>Another SNA should be created to cover the area between 325 Grays Road and the road itself (consisting of some private garden and road reserve)</p>

<p>SCHED7 - Significant Natural Areas: SNA069 Grays Road Bush</p>	<p>Cupressus Macrocarpa were planted around the perimeter of the bush in the 1850s to protect the forest remnant from wind.</p> <p>Whilst not a native species, the presence of the macrocarpa play a large part in the preservation of this SNA. Failure to acknowledge their role puts the SNA under threat.</p>	<p>Add: to the Site Summary</p> <p><i>Surrounded by cupressus macrocarpa which act as a protective buffer.</i></p>
<p>SCHED7 - Signature Natural Areas: New SNA (hereafter referred to as SNA069a : Grays Road Bush)</p>	<p>A biologically distinct area which is mixed native and non-native plants.</p> <p>It contains some of the last remaining tall trees around the Inlet which provide nesting and roosting sites for birds.</p> <p>Cupressus Macrocarpa were planted around the perimeter of this area in the 1850s, and whilst not a native species they play a large part in the preservation of this SNA. A large portion of the tall trees providing nesting and roosting are these cupressus macrocarpa. Failure to acknowledge their role puts the SNA under threat.</p>	<p>Add:</p> <p>SNA069a Grays Road Bush</p> <p>Site Summary</p> <p><i>A small area of both introduced and non-eco-sourced natives. Containing cupressus macrocarpa which provide declining roosting and observation sites for birds of the inlet.</i></p>
<p>SCHED7 - Significant Natural Areas: SNA068 - Motukaraka West Wetland</p>	<p>The part of SNA068 which lies over the 299 Grays Road title is artificial. It was created as a swale and was planted and created by the submitters as part of a series of 'necklace' plantings throughout the entire farm for birds. It is never a running stream and it is dry for most of the year. It is not a natural wetland and does not meet the definition of a natural area.</p> <p>A legal entry point to the title runs through the plantings.</p> <p>The remaining area of SNA068 (which lies within 329) is natural.</p>	<p>Amend:</p> <p>Redraw SNA068 so that it does not include the extension into 299 Grays Road.</p>

