

# Your submission to Proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land

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**Reference no: 23**

## **Clause**

How should highly productive land be considered when planning for future urban expansion?

## **Notes**

Carefully I cringe driving past the tractor shop that's recently replaced an apple orchard on the outskirts of town - given the issues we face, that's an absolute travesty. BUT, small-scale, localised, highly diversified, organic food production can help with the environmental problems we face and people who wish to pursue this ought to be able - whether that's for their own family or as a small business. While my neighbour's 5 acres is wasted on a manicured lawn and a pair each of donkeys and horses, my own has a permaculture-inspired diverse home orchard, vegetable garden, and always some sort of livestock. In town, my sister has a 1/4 acre similarly packed with fruit trees, vege garden, poultry and rabbits. We're both building our soil with compost, like so many others around the country. Ideally she'd have a little more land a little further out, while I'd have a little less land a little closer in, but council regs mean there is almost nothing between our properties. Perhaps a requirement for a minimum number of trees could help? I absolutely agree with restricting blocks like my neighbour's virtually devoid of production, but there is great value in what my sister or I am doing.