

From: [Amanda Hunt](#)
To: [Highly Productive Soils](#)
Subject: Submission highly productive land
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Kia ora

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed NPS for highly productive land.

I have been concerned for many years about the extent of building houses on our most productive horticultural land. It has always struck me as incredibly shortsighted and unwise.

These precious soils are irreplaceable, and once built on, can no longer be used for food production.

Food security for Aotearoa New Zealand will be critical in a world where climate change will lead to unpredictable harvests worldwide, and global food supply chains are likely to shrink - or possibly collapse altogether (as a result of (i) the higher frequency of extreme weather events reducing food production, and the consequent likely decrease in international trade and (ii) if governments worldwide have any sense and begin to restrict fossil fuel use, meaning lengthy container ship voyages will be less frequent.)

In addition, there will be an increasing demand for food in New Zealand as our population increases in future, particularly if we are to accommodate climate refugees (which is highly likely for our South Pacific neighbours - and possibly further afield if climate change is not acted on quickly enough and there are more acute food supply issues and potential breakdown of supply chains overseas). It is essential that Aotearoa New Zealand can be 100% self-sufficient in producing our own food. Protecting these soils is necessary to future-proof Aotearoa's food supply.

We have already lost far too much, and so I request that an immediate moratorium is put on further sale of highly productive land until the proposed NPS is in place. Furthermore, I request a 'clawing back' if possible of at least part of recently approved developments where construction has not yet begun - in particular, in Pukekohe and other areas south of Auckland. Housing cannot be allowed to trump food security. To say that soils must be sacrificed to meet housing shortages is short-sighted and lacking in vision. There are much more creative and sustainable solutions to Auckland's housing crisis, which can also help future-proof Auckland's transport and city cohesiveness. In the likely event of decreasing fossil fuel use, a more compact and smarter-designed urban form will be much more suitable and sustainable than continuing to provide housing in the traditional 'kiwi quarter-acre section' home. Auckland is already far too big, and its future must lie in infill / higher density housing, improved urban design, public transport and integration of living and working area.

In the long-term, Auckland (and New Zealand)'s interests will be far better served by securing local food supply, than in building yet more outmoded urban sprawl and making the city even more unwieldy in terms of transport.

Financial considerations are of course a critical part of this, and the conversion of productive land to housing has profit as much of a motivator as housing supply. At present, land owners who continue to produce food are often being penalised financially as they could make far more money if they were to sell their land to build on, than continuing

to grow food. So **I propose that market gardeners and other food producers on highly productive land be compensated and supported financially to keep their land in productive use.** They are providing a vital and important [service.to](#) the country, and paying them to keep their farms / gardens in use is in the national interest. Equally, financial compensation could be made to developers who have recently purchased productive land, to claw back at least some of it to remain in food production. Given the current Government operating surplus, there should be sufficient funding to support at least some financial recognition of the essential services these landowners and /or producers provide.

This issue is too important to leave to the free market (and ultimately the greed and profit of property developers, who are unlikely to be subdividing and selling this land out of altruistic motives to increase housing supply for Auckland).

This should apply equally to 'lifestyle blocks' and the traditional quarter acre section subdivisions, as the soils become inaccessible for use once sold, regardless of property size.

I urge the Ministries - and Ministers - to make the NPS sufficiently strong and robust to protect these soils. As a private citizen, I urge the Ministries and the Government not to cave in to the inevitable demands there will be from property developers to weaken the NPS so there is more land for them to sell and profit from. Please do not compromise on this. Already it is too late to protect many of these soils, which have already been built on. We need you to stay strong to protect the highly productive soils that remain.

Nga mihi

Amanda Hunt MPhil(EnvSc)



(please withhold this address when publishing submissions.)