

**UHCC Plan Change 49 variation :**

Silverstream Spur is an important natural feature of the southern end of Upper Hutt. It is a natural link across the valley, at the narrowest point.

Bird life on the eastern escarpment, from Keith George Memorial Park to Riverstone has increased dramatically since Forest & Bird Upper Hutt Branch have been removing Old Man's Beard and also trapping of pests in this area.

With the linkage across the valley, provided by the close proximity of Keith George Memorial Park and the Silverstream Spur, these species will be able to migrate across the valley and spread even further in the valley.

I continue to oppose the original proposal to provide for an infrastructure corridor across the spur, to provide access to a private development on the southern hills above Silverstream and Pinehaven.

The spur is an iconic feature of the southern entrance/exit to Upper Hutt and should be retained as a significant natural area and returned as such to the community for their use.

The recent photos provided by Silver Stream Railway show that there is significant native regeneration occurring on the spur and there is very large native vegetation already present on the spur.

I fully support the work that Jason Durry and his team have done and the position they have taken.

I do not present for Forest & Bird, but also support their position regarding the spur -

However, we need to not lose sight of the fact that Silverstream Spur can qualify as Natural Open Space without comprising an SNA. If the intention is to provide for a road corridor through the Open Space at a specific location on the basis that it avoids an SNA (and hence the need to determine boundaries) this raises a number of issues. For starters, F&B's position (inappropriateness of a road corridor through an Open Space) holds, and of course there are other matters that would need to be considered in locating a potential corridor such as waterways, earthworks, other values etc. and an assessment for that has not been done as far as we understand.

So, we need to be clear about the actual intent of Variation 1, which is re-zoning Silverstream Spur as Natural Open Space. Fullstop. The allowance of a transport corridor is part of the Variation but SNA or not, it's still not appropriate to allow for one as it's out of keeping with the purpose of the zone.

The spur would best be used as a Natural Open Space and with careful removal of the current pine trees, and replanting in native plant species, could become a significant natural feature of the area and become available to the community as a native reserve and park for the use of walkers and other recreational users.

Graham Bellamy