

My submission is to give more knowledge to what ecological findings can be found on the Silverstream Spur and what current not included on expert evidence reports of covered by current proposed SNA boundaries.

On Sunday 10 of March, Several submitters and myself conducted a 7 hour, 7 km long walk covering a large section of Spur to look for ourselves, to gather information to what ecological aspects could be found. Here are some of the findings.

Branching off away from the listed SNA area down a North Western gully, we found the head waters for a water course that flows year round, I have seen the lower end of this watercourse flowing for the past 15years, but had never seen how far up the gully it started. Its is noted in section 4.4 of the Boffa-miskell report that the was no perennial waterway in these gullies. Within a span of approximately 50 meters, the water had transformed from drips from the rocks and undergrowth to a trickling water flow. A further 100m down the gully before dropping over a rock face there was quite a flow of water. In this area wildlife was found including Koura. Most of the way down this gully was native vegetation, the canopy being mostly Mamaku, including a large Totara. At bottom of the gully where the water goes down and over the rock face is a stand of a number of beach trees. I also should be noted as before, this area is out side the recommended SNA, yet is predominantly native growth in this area.

We turned and headed north west up a ridge under the current Pines, It was noted that there was patches of native undergrowth sprouting from the nettle mass under the pines. Its must be noted that some of the species here were different to ones seen at the south end of the spur, the diversity being quite large for such a short distance. Some of which were emergent native canopy trees such as Tawa (refer 5.7 of Keesing Ecological report stating none present).

We returned south along the top ridge in the in the SNA zone. Our next location to visit the gully that lower down to the bottom of the Spur that Mr Goldwater (Appendix 1 of his report) recommends removing from the proposed SNA. Again starting down this gully we found such things as Tawa, The headwater for the waterway was found and followed the rest of the way down the gully. Numerus different natives share the area at the bottom of this gully. Several large Beach were found stand. Approximately 50m from the bottom of the gully there again is a stand of beach trees surrounded by various other species. Standing at the bottom at water level and looking directly up, one could only see a high native canopy above.

So in conclusion of the above there are diverse areas of native growth outside the proposed SNA.

Also of note that is a allowance of a transport corridor is allowed it will have adverse effects on the SNA areas of the spur and up and coming native growth that if left undisturbed will form vital part to linking all the native growth areas. It should also be noted pine clear felling will also cause mass destruction of this up and coming growth, Consideration needs to be made around the future removal of pines.

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