

From: John Keay [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 9:45 AM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Fwd: Islands Trust survey
Attachments: ISL TRUST survey.pdf; ATT00001.htm

I am forwarding a copy of my letter which has been previously sent to the Saturna Island trustees. The letter deals with the survey and the plan to modify the governance structure of the Gulf Islands.

Thank you

John Keay

Begin forwarded message:

From: John Keay [REDACTED]
Subject: Islands Trust survey
Date: March 30, 2022 at 9:27:07 AM PDT
To: Paul Brent <Pbrent@islandstrust.bc.ca>, Lee Middleton <Lmiddleton@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Cc: SIRRA <info@sirra.ca>

Hi,

Enclosed a letter to the Islands Trust regarding the “survey.” I trust it is clear, but let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Thanks for all the time you are putting into this as trustees.

John Keay

March 29, 2022

Paul Brent, Lee Middleton,
Saturna Island Trustees
Via email

Re: the Islands Trust Public Engagement Survey

My family and I are part time residents of the Old Point Farm co-operative on Saturna Island. The property is large enough that the group has an active structure in place to address issues of conservation and land management. These have included feral species, including goats, protection of much of the waterfront through designated use and covenants, and maintenance and expansion of ALR designated lands. The stewardship and management of this property has given the group insights into water, site servicing, environmental, and fire protection issues.

I have tried a couple of times to embark on the survey, and have had to abandon the process and write this letter instead. The survey as constructed is a perfect example of incorporating bias so as to achieve the results that are wanted/expected. The questions diminish or ignore some topics, conflate others, and attempt to gain support for policies which sound positive and innocuous, until the sub text is understood. As well, as others have pointed out, many of the topics raised in the survey are beyond the purview of the Trust, they are directed by other levels of Government.

I will use specific examples of issues that fall into one or the other of these categories:

- i. Desalination: Our group makes every attempt to reduce and restrict water consumption, however we believe it is apparent, down the road, that desalination will be essential. A blanket prohibition on this is quite simply, not an option
- ii. Wildfire: we are actively engaging in a mitigation program to reduce wildfire risk. In accordance with provincial guidelines we are limiting tree cover near dwellings, removing dead standing timber, and so on. To suggest that we have to chip/mulch this material is not feasible, we give away suitable timber which can be milled, provide firewood as appropriate, and use controlled burns for woody debris.
- iii. Invasive species: the feral goat population has expanded, and is having a dramatic effect on the ecology of the island, on our property plant regeneration is virtually non existent due to the heavy browsing. This is resulting in major alterations to the ecology, and we have instituted non lethal measures to minimize impacts. This is a significant environmental issue which is not even considered in the survey

The existing structure formed by the OCP and other legislation governs many of the concerns raised in the survey, in my opinion the survey reaches into areas which either are already regulated, or where regulation is not appropriate. Saturna has a strong tradition of self governance, and civic involvement, it is a system which on the whole has worked well.

Yours truly,



John Keay

cc: Sirra