

From: Brian Webster [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2026 4:38 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Trust Policy Statement requests/recommendations

Thank you for the opportunity to provide specific recommendations for revisions to the draft Policy Statement.

I have two requests/recommendations:

First, I request that the Policy Statement make more explicit the essential role of draft policy 3.4.9 Existing Development Potential in reducing the potential for subdivision and development in more isolated and rural areas of the islands, thereby enabling the redirection of future development away from those areas and toward existing village/urban areas.

It is not at all clear from the current draft that policy 3.4.9 makes it possible to add density in more appropriate locations without increasing the total density/population of an island. This is a critical point on Salt Spring Island and likely on others as well.

Second, I urge the Trust to revise draft policy 3.5.11 Protection of Agricultural Lands, which, as currently written, commits only to protecting agricultural land that is already protected by the Province through the Agricultural Land Reserve. As currently written, this policy is meaningless.

The current wording of policy 3.5.11 provides nothing more than lip service for agriculture, as it is silent on the 50 per cent of current actual and potential farmland (at least here on Salt Spring Island) that is considered agricultural land by the BC Ministry of Agriculture, but is not currently included within the ALR.

For the Policy Statement to provide any real protection for agricultural land, policy 3.5.11 should be reworded to simply read: "Identify and protect agricultural lands for current and future use for agriculture." If the Trust believes in protecting agricultural land and furthering food security, why would you not make such a statement?

I urge the Islands Trust to make this revision and actively protect agricultural land. Additionally, I recommend adding to the Policy Statement a goal of adding additional lands to the ALR where appropriate.

Thank you.

Trust Policy Statement requests/recommendations

Brian

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