

From: D Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 1, 2026 2:14 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Opposition to the 2025 Trust Policy Statement

Honorable Minister Christine Boyle:

Re: Opposition to the 2025 Trust Policy Statement

I am writing to urgently request that you reject the proposed 2025 Trust Policy Statement.

The core mandate of the Islands Trust Act has always been the preservation and protection of the Trust Area's ecological integrity. Historically, the term "unique amenities" was clearly understood to refer to the natural features and the environment that sustains them. The Trust's primary obligation is to prioritize the protection of these fragile ecosystems against the impacts of development.

However, the 2025 Policy Statement fundamentally alters this focus by redefining "unique amenities" to encompass a broad range of human-centric issues, including housing, livelihoods, infrastructure, and tourism. This is a critical departure from the Trust's original purpose.

By broadening this definition, the new Policy Statement risks diluting the environmental priority. If approved, it could allow councils to interpret ecological protection as merely one of many competing interests, rather than the overriding priority it was intended to be.

Furthermore, for the Trust to be effective, its directives must be mandatory and unambiguous. The current draft allows for too much interpretation by individual councils. Without strict, mandatory directives, the guidance provided in the document can be easily sidelined.

In today's climate, the protection of our natural environment is more vital than ever. We require a Trust Policy that provides an unequivocal ecological mandate. The 2025 Statement fails to do this and, consequently, fails to uphold the true object of the Trust.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Johnson

South Pender Island

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