

From: Mark Wensley [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 1, 2026 8:55 AM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Trust Policy Statement

Dear Trust Council:

This letter urges the trust council to make major changes to the Draft Trust Policy Statement (TPS).

This draft TPS fails in its most important task to prioritize the preservation and protection of the natural environment and the unique amenities of the Trust Islands - such as rural character. The current draft could allow inappropriate development that would, over time, erode the unique character and natural environment of these islands.

Within the body of the draft the word "environment" is used but is not clearly defined. Without clarity on the scope of the term, it is open to broad interpretation, potentially undermining the Act's objective which should be focusing on protecting the natural environment.

The term "manage" growth is used in the draft rather than "limit". The natural environment and rural nature of the islands cannot continue if growth is not limited.

The TPS draft does not include any specific direction on how Ecosystem Integrity is to be protected.

Fresh water supplies for residents on the gulf islands is finite and is under threat by development as salt water intrusion into wells is becoming more regular. The TPS should include directives that require measurement of the condition of island water supplies and a reporting of salt water intrusion into wells.

I find the 2021 Trust Policy Statement that was ready for first reading July 2021 more in keeping with the legislated purpose of the preserve and protect mandate of the Trust and more in line with the "ecological mandate" outlined by Minister Ravi Kahlon in his letter dated April 28, 2025. Where he clearly states that the ecological mandate " requires careful deliberation and consideration of perspectives to manage expectations of growth, development and local economies without exceeding the carrying capacity of local ecosystems and preserving unspoiled natural amenities".

I feel that the Trust Executive Committee needs to pause their consideration of the 2025 TPS until there is a full public consultation of the meaning and purpose of the Trust Object and its preserve and protect mandate. There needs to be a clear definition of the meaning of unique amenities that is responsive to section 3 of the islands Trust Act.

Regards

Dr G. Mark Wensley

[REDACTED]
Pender Island BC
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