

File: 6470-20

October 21, 2021

Sent via email only: islands2050@islandstrust.bc.ca

David Marlor
Director, Local Planning Services
Islands Trust
200-1627 Fort Street
Victoria BC V8R 1H8

Re: Referral Response – Islands Trust Policy Statement Bylaw No. 183

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Islands Trust’s proposed Policy Statement Bylaw No. 183. If you have any questions about the comments provided, please contact Dylan Thiessen at 250-334-6098 or at dthiessen@comoxvalleyrd.ca. The documents received were circulated among different Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) staff and departments. Overall, the CVRD agrees with the importance of focusing on the three issues highlighted and prioritized by Islands Trust: reconciliation, climate action, and affordable housing. A small number of more specific responses were received, and are highlighted below.

First, Section 6.1.5 under “Rural Island Planning Policies” references recreation, trails, and active transportation. The departments of planning services, long range and strategic planning, and community parks, all feel that a strong trail system will help with climate resiliency and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by promoting non-vehicular modes of transportation. The departments find the wording used in this clause too restrictive for trails and would like to see trails and active transportation separated from recreational activities to make a distinction between these services.

Additionally, Section 6.1.18 provides a list of actions that should be prioritized by local trust committees and island municipalities, and identified in their regulatory bylaws, as means of reducing the climate vulnerability of communities. The above departments would like to see the provision of active transportation added to this list. With respect to emergency response and preparedness, it is good to see issues like climate change addressed by creating and enabling sustainable and resilient communities, though an identification of recent best practices and solutions in this regard would be helpful to see as well.

Lastly, staff in Long Range and Strategic Planning did also note three specific areas that they were glad to see, and encourage Islands Trust to keep these three identified areas as priorities for policy development and implementation. First is the focus on reconciliation and the creation of a role for First Nations to play in various processes. It is clear that effort was made to acknowledge Indigenous ways of knowing, and to recognize the importance of Indigenous cultural heritage and relevant legislation, such as the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and British Columbia’s *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. Second, the emphasis on nature-based solutions to addressing coastal and shoreline management issues is an ideal way to protect our shorelines and work towards preventing and mitigating the effects of climate change. Third, there is a lack of affordable housing and a lack of diversity among the existing housing stock, and this is an important recognition. This is not a phenomenon unique to Vancouver Island, or any of our smaller gulf islands, but the issue can be more pronounced as housing opportunities can be more

constrained on an island. It is encouraging to see the Islands Trust consider flexible and unique approaches that address this need and recognize the difference in

Sincerely,

T. Trieu

Ton Trieu, RPP, MCIP
Planner
Planning and Development Services

/dt

BYLAW REFERRAL FORM RESPONSE SUMMARY



Approval Recommended for Reasons Outlined Below



Approval Recommended Subject to Conditions Outlined Below



Interests Unaffected by Bylaw



Approval Not Recommended Due to Reason Outlined Below

Please see attached comments.

Islands Trust Area (Islands 2050)

(Island)



(Signature)

October 21, 2021

(Date)

TC 183

(Bylaw Number)

Manager of Planning Services

(Title)

Comox Valley Regional District

(Agency)