

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 5, 2021 12:59 PM  
**To:** Islands2050  
**Cc:** Deb Morrison; Benjamin McConchie  
**Subject:** Policy Statement Amendment Process and Content ( with specific objection to not allowing private use desalination)

Islands Trust Representatives,

It is hard to sift through the facts, misinformation/misinterpretation and actual changes and implications of the proposed amended policy statement. The draft Islands Policy Statement is lengthy and not written for a layman to easily understand. It also seems there is legitimate concern of centralization and loss of control for local areas- something that needs to be further and better clarified. There is clearly anger, fear and an overall negative response and now frequently used words like draconian and bureaucratic ignorance around the island.

Obviously this is not constructive. Maybe this being rushed. We need to get the facts straight! There is no doubt that the world has changed – socially and environmentally- in the 26 years since the policy has been updated.

The majority of Islanders deeply care about the Gulf Islands and we believe would support those measures that are of **genuine benefit in the near and long term**. BUT those changes need to be **realistic** and when possible implemented through **awareness/education/ incentives** rather than being dictated. And flexible to address specific issues to the diverse requirements of the different islands.

One area that is of particular concern to us is the topic of ‘Fresh Water Stewardship’ that, with the increasing effects of climate change, urgently requires a plan for groundwater management. HOWEVER, excluding other options like desalination for personal use on properties challenged with a primary water source is very problematic. In our area in the past decade development, compounded by climate change, has put more strain on the water table and aquifer. Tree removal, not only for building footprints but also for sunshine and views, is contributing to more evaporation in summers and more runoff and less water penetration into the aquifer during our rainy season. It will take time to mitigate this if it is even possible. Rainwater capture and storage may be an option for some people for non-potable water usage. Other than trucking in costly water, desalination is the only option as a primary potable water source for certain properties – especially for the dry summer months. **Desalination should not be prohibited in the new policy statement.**

We appreciate you considering our concerns and look forward to clarification of the objective and key issues at the upcoming Trust Council information session.

Respectfully,  
Sabina and Johannes Thiessen