

From: Ron Hall [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 17, 2022 2:49 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Submission - Draft Policy Statement
Attachments: Submission - Draft Policy Statement.pdf

Kindly find my submission attached as a .pdf.

Thanks,

... Ron

April 16, 2022

Islands 2050
1627 Fort St,
Victoria, BC
V8R 1H8

In regard to the Draft Islands Trust Policy Statement Amendments, some brief comments:

The original vision of the Trust in 1974 was a “coordinating body” that would “act in the best interest of the islands and their residents ...”ⁱ

One of the most significant concerns of residents in the Islands Trust area is wildfire, now more than ever a threat due to climate change, as noted in section 1.3 of the preliminaries of the Draft Policy Statement.

Nonetheless, the only other mention of wildfire in the document is a 3-word directive under Rural Island Planning Policies 6.1.18: wildfire risk mitigation. This directive to mitigate wildfire risk is incompatible with a number of proposals given in the draft, for example, the protection and restoration of contiguous, unfragmented forests (directive 4.1.7).


The proposed ban on new docks, one the few possibilities for anyone’s escape from a wildfire emphasizes the lack of consideration given to residents needs in the Draft, and a supposed prioritization of the environment above all else.

A Tree-cutting bylaw is not supported, nor is the advocacy on the part of Trust Council to attain jurisdiction from the provincial government to gain any control over forestry (4.3.9).

The proposed ban on desalination because of supposed high energy use totally ignores technical advances in these systems, and the possibility of non-fossil fuel energy sources of power. A reassessment of such a ban has the need for a much more reasonable approach in weighing advantages and disadvantages – most certainly not an outright ban.

The draft is a document that requires much better balancing of the interests, those between the islands and the residents, as was planned in the original Trust vision.

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Thank-you,

Ron Hall

Saturna Island

ⁱ Draft Islands Trust Policy Statement Section 2.2.