

From: Kiri Daust [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2025 4:29 PM
To: SSInfo
Subject: OCP Input

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the OCP.

Last summer, my family and I had the good fortune to buy a home and some land on Saltspring. Living here has allowed us to start realising our dreams of having dairy goats and an orchard. My wife and I both went to UVic, and while we enjoyed Victoria as a city, we both knew we wanted to end up somewhere with land and without the traffic and bustle. Meanwhile, we ideally wanted to remain close enough to Victoria to make visiting and working possible. Saltspring is ideally situated for this – land is still significantly cheaper than on Vancouver Island, and I can still bike into Victoria one day a week for work. And, it has the natural ecosystems and farming community we were looking for.

Increasing the availability of affordable housing is a great idea, but removing the legal limits to population growth in the OCP will almost certainly lead to urbanisation and loss of the island's unique character, without any guarantee of increased affordability. The current OCP allows for exceptions to increase affordability, as long as it is done cautiously. Surely this is sufficient. Removing the legal limits would turn over swaths of land to developers, who would in most cases be aiming for profit, not increased affordability or environmental protection. Anthropogenic climate heating requires that our ecosystems be as resilient as possible - and especially on an island, many places are at risk of increased drought. Increased population will not only degrade ecological resilience, but will also put increased stress on already precarious water reserves.

Please consider the long-term ramifications of removing limits to population growth. Saltspring is an incredible place, and it would be sad to see it move in the direction of Nanaimo or Kelowna.

Thank you,

Kiri Daust