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30 October 2023

Water and Land Use Policy
Ministry for the Environment
P O Box 10362
Wellington 6143

biocredits@mfe.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission on Biodiversity Credit System discussion document

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Discussion Document on exploring a biodiversity credit system (BCS) for Aoteroa New Zealand.

The West Coast Regional Council (WCRC or the Council) provided input into the Te Uru Kahika (TUK) submission, and our comments are reflected in the TUK submission.

The Council wishes to make a very brief separate submission – to express our strong interest in having one or more trial pilot projects of a BCS undertaken on the West Coast. There is a pest control project called “Predator Free Te Kinga” around Mt Te Kinga by Lake Brunner which could be a possible candidate for a trial project. While it is on conservation land, the operation is not funded by Department of Conservation. There are also significant, and ‘likely to be significant’, wetlands, and terrestrial SNAs, on private land which could be potentially suitable for trials of a BCS.

The Council consulted with their iwi partners, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio (Poutini Ngāi Tahu or PNT), who are mana whenua on the West Coast/Tai Poutini, in the development of this submission.

Our contact details for service are:

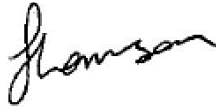
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We would be grateful for acknowledgement of receipt of our submission.

The Council consents to their submission being released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomson', written in a cursive style.

Fiona Thomson
Planning and Science Manager