Submission from Heather J Bryham, Bryham Farms Ltd

Contact details: Heather J Bryham.Director.Ph [redacted]

I can receive emails and my email is correct.

Organisation name: **Bryham Farms Limited (family trust owned)** [redacted]



View of fenced off kahikatea swamp forest wetland

[redacted]

In this map the area highlighted in yellow shows our land required for the fast track alternative to the Brynderwyn hills designation/project site

Impacted Family/ Employees

This submission is on behalf of our impacted Family, employees and their family, who all live and work on the land for Bryham Farms. They are:

- **Jeanette Bryham**. Director. Matriarch. Mother.Kaitiaki.

[redacted] Lives in the Original family farm homestead.The land Includes an underpass . (.Land identified as in corridor/next section)

- **Linda Bryham**,Beneficiary of [redacted] Director. Management. Kaitiaki of kahikatea swamp forest wetland on The Braigh, part of original farm. (.Daughter of Matriarch.)**& JL Retamales Castillo**(,husband), **S Castillo** (their son)

[redacted] This Land their home and their lifestyle block is required for the fast track alternative to the brynderwyn hills designation/ project site

- **Heather-Jean Bryham** Beneficiary of [redacted] Director. Kaitiaki of kahikatea swamp forest wetland fenced off on farm; riparian planting and maintenance of land adjacent to Ahuroa river ,including wetlands & inanga spawning sites . Property management. (Daughter of Matriarch.) **& D Hopkins (partner)** R&M Buildings

[redacted])This property our lifestyle block and home is required for the alternative to the Brynderwyn hills designation/project site.

- **Gordon Bryham**, Infrastructure and machinery.,(Son of matriarch) and family

[redacted] Lifestyle Property owned by trust .(identified as in corridor/ next section)

- B McGregor employee, partner and baby.

Live in Loft on this property owned by the trust.

- **Vanesa Castillo**, Contract milker,(granddaughter of matriarch,) & L Eavis (partner).

Vanesa is educated in Agriculture at Lincoln University.Her goals include building her own herd and to eventually step into sharemilking .She is also driven to improve herd genetics ,performance and health. They would also like to raise their own family here in future.

[redacted] They live in the contract milkers cottage on farmland(Identified as in corridor/next section

Numerous local businesses and contractors will also be impacted by the loss of Bryham Farms .

How Bryham Farms will be Impacted

Lots owned by Bryham Farms:

A.Required for Alternative to brynderwyn hills designation/ project site

[redacted]



[redacted]

Farmland / kahikatea swamp forest wetlands with stands/ portions fenced off 35 years, also a drain which is adjacent to swamp/feeds into the Ahuroa river at a significant whitebait spawning site.

[redacted] required of 6.0302Ha

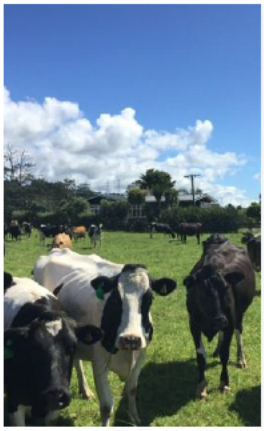


[redacted]

Farmland / kahikatea swamp forest wetlands, part of the original farm. The drain adjacent to the land feeds through/adjacent to wetlands and into the Ahuroa river by the significant inanga spawning site found by patuharakeke 2023. The infrastructure on this block is necessary to the running of the farm

[redacted] This property our lifestyle block and home is required for the alternative to the Brynderwyn hills designation/project site. Some of the land is used in the dairy farm operation.

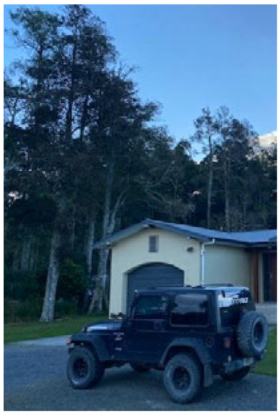




[redacted]

[redacted] This Land my sisters home and their lifestyle block is required for the fast track alternative to the brynderwyn hills designation/ project site. This was part of the original farm. The kahikatea swamp forest wetland that has been fenced off for 60 years where our dads ashes are, is here .





[redacted]

B.Land identified as in corridor/next section

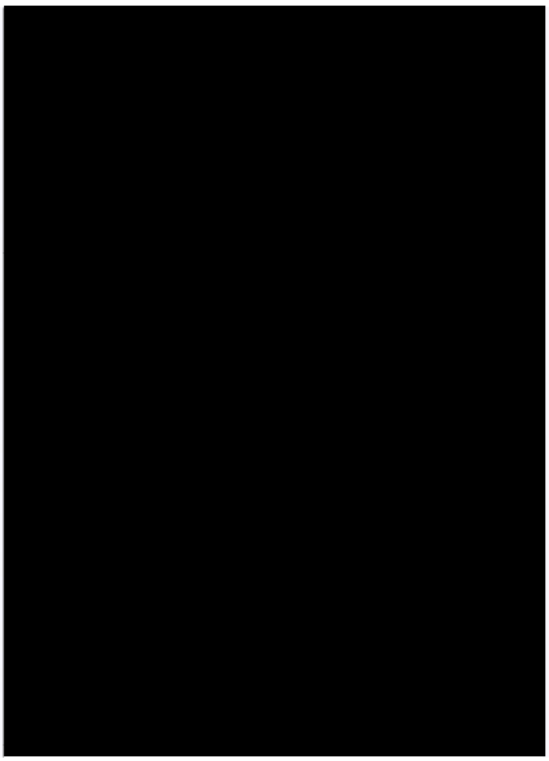
5.[redacted] part of the original farm , with cowshed, feedpad,vat, cooler, calf shed, barn,water bore/ pump, maize and silage pads,feed bins ,effluent ponds, tanker loop

6.[redacted] farmland with a 40m wide salt marsh/wetland, wintering barn and piggery

7.[redacted] 10.0893Ha with contract milkers cottage. This has a puna wai (spring)

8.[redacted] 4.0110 Ha Lifestyle block with original family farm homestead. Some of the land used as part of dairy farm operation. Includes an underpass .

9.4[redacted] Lifestyle block owned by The Trust.



This map indicates the location of the corridor and in white all our land required including the next section, which will be taken eventually. This represents 90% of Bryham farms, 4 lifestyle blocks , 6 homes.(NB the map does not include [redacted] as this is owned by the trust. It is positioned asjacent to NA564/298 and 41051.)

The impact of this on us:

We lose a productive dairy farm which we all live and work on.

We lose the land that means so much to us - we were raised here , we maintain and care for it , our Father's ashes are scattered here , in this the first section two of us lose our forever homes and lifestyle blocks.

Land required for the fasttrack alternative to the Brynderwyn hills ,that we use for our dairy farm operation is approximately 30 hectares.We would also be unable to access and utilise our leased block south of millbrook road of 25 hectares, (this is also land required) leaving us with less than 70 hectares, which would be uneconomic to run our dairy operation.This designation has irretrievably blighted the whole farm.

We do not support the substantial application as it is currently. We are particularly concerned about the placements of the roundabout, the interim roundabout, and the interim linking roads between them to Millbrook rd and to The Braigh, so close to,(or even possibly instead of) the kahikatea swamp forest wetlands,(refer the indicative plan/ map of the substantive application vol.B-Appendix-D04-Appendix A-Landscape Figure A8 where the interim linking road between

roundabouts is superimposed over forest that has been fenced off 35 years, and then an interim round about and linking road to the braigh goes through kahikatea swamp forest wetland). This will damage and destroy a significant kahikatea swamp forest wetland. The roundabouts are too close to the township, with an aging population..We are also concerned about the Ahuroa river which runs adjacent to our property and potential damage to inanga spawning sites, wetlands, swamp marshes and the Ahuroa river itself.



Our Kahikatea swamp forest wetland on farm

About Bryham Farms

Bryham Farms ,owned by a family trust is a small multigenerational family run dairy farm business .We have our own rich heritage which forms a unique interwoven tapestry on this our land.

Our vision is to use the land to its full potential ,to care for it, and the Ahuroa , the adjacent river. To respect all flora and fauna, and all biodiversity/biota within our unique ecosystems.Of particular significance to us is the kahikatea swamp forest wetlands the ancient puriri and the whitebait spawning sites.Our aim extends to caring and providing for the family and employees with land and desireable homes to live in , employment, and financial support when required eg,. education health.

Our farm of 100 hectares is situated approximately 1 km west of the centre of Waipu.

Bordered by millbrook rd to the south, sh1 to the east ,and the Ahuroa river winding along to the west and north .

There is an additional block sandwiched between The Braigh and sh1 which was part of the original farm. There is a Kahikatea swamp forest wetland there that has been fenced off for 60 years



aerial map showing the kahikatea swamp forest wetland in 1963 before the SH1 went through the middle of it and our original farm.

Historic Information

Bryham farms had humble beginnings . Our parents Mossy and Jeanette Bryham began life on our farm as 50/50 sharemilkers in the mid 1960s . They brought with them their own herd of 80, which they grew to 120 .Our father was farm manager and the landowners had nothing to do with the land or farm business.

"We drove up between rows of two foot high scotch thistles, they were all over the 135 acre block of land. ...the ground was soggy" excerpt from History of Ahuroa River Farm by Jeanette Bryham

They bought the original farm in 1975.

Our father,a conservationist, born in and living his entire life in Waipu, was aware of the value of the ancient puriri, the kahikatea swamp forest wetland and its rare ecosystem. He ensured the kahikatea swamp forest wetland remnant was fenced off from stock. Our father demonstrated a high standard of care for the land, animals and people. He was dearly loved by his family and the community.

He died suddenly in 1983 at the age of 48. we scattered his ashes in the kahikatea swamp forest wetland on the braigh as it was safe and a special place to our father and us .We are physically and spiritually/psychologically interconnected to this the kahikatea swamp forest wetland.



our fathers headstone just outside our Kahikatea swamp forest wetland on the Braigh

Our mother continued with the farm operation with a succession of contract milkers, help from family and the community.

The sh1 bypass went through our farm in the late 1980s/early 90s. 35 acres of our original farm land required by NZTA east of the highway from Shoemaker to Millbrook bordered by The Braigh, and close to the town, was exchanged for land adjacent and north of Shoemaker road west.Contract Milkers accomodation was moved from east of the highway to 108 Shoemaker road west

NZTA allowed us to keep the kahikatea swamp forest wetland [redacted] block as our dads ashes were scattered there.[redacted]

In 1991 our mother bought the neighbouring farmland north of Millbrook rd and fenced off 2 additional stands of kahikatea swamp forest wetlands on this land.

These are the lots that are currently required for this fast track section of the RONS brynderwyn to waipu, [redacted](LIfestyle Block)[redacted] ;as well as [redacted](lifestyle/ original farm kahikatea swamp forest wetland block. The remainderof our farm plus all homes/lifestyle blocks being earmarked for the next stage, less 10%, predominantly on floodplains and inaccessible except by kayak.

Me uru kahikatea/to stand as a grove of kahikatea



Fenced off forest on farm

The Kahikatea Swamp forest wetlands

The Braigh lifestyle block, & on farm

Our ancient critically endangered wetland ecosystems are dominated by kahikatea the tallest native tree, some are estimated to be 200-400 years old. (According to Northland Regional Council kahikatea swamp forest is an acutely threatened ecosystem)These trees have survived, adapted and have historic genes.

Kahikatea feature large buttress roots tightly intertwined with the roots of neighboring trees ,for support in the unstable swampy ground, strong supportive yet sensitive shallow roots.

Kahikatea here clearly thrive in swampy fertile seasonally flooded lowlands ,there are pukatea, puriri. a lone rimu in the fenced off stand on farm . a significant black maire amongst kahikatea in a wet paddock on the braigh outside the fenced off portion of the forest . some totara are also visible outside the swamp forest on farm, and the small northern most stand on the farm could be classified as a kahikatea totara stand although the kahikatea still out number the totara.the soil is drier there in that distant stand.

Kahikatea wetlands are rare(particularly here in the north, this is one of the last few remaining) as the land is fertile and has been subjected to clearing for farming and the wood was also suitable for making butter boxes since colonisation.2% remain in nz

In the fenced off areas they now have a well established rare ecosystem with significant regeneration/understory. Vegetation includes kahikatea , puriri,epiphytes, nikau, ti kouka ,pukatea, taraire ,kohekohe, mapau, indigenous sedges (eg., toetoe upoko-tangata), grasses(eg., mapere,) and fernery, meulenbeckia,...coprosma (eg,,karamu,) karaka,horoeka,mahoe, pigeonwood ,northern rata, mosses , fungi,

We have assisted them for decades by removing invasive weeds such as privet and japanese honeysuckle. There is an ongoing weed management programme in place as there is privet nearby in the community.

We have also had a pest management programme in place for decades .This too is ongoing. Additional assistance from Piroa trust has been incorporated recently, in conjunction with a community supported project to bring back the bellbird .

The kahikatea swamp forest wetlands are an acutely threatened self sustaining ecosystem it would take centuries to replace the trees and the wetland cannot simply be recreated. Kahikatea seedlings can be planted but this does not make it a wetland .Alongside centuries old kahikatea, stand ancient puriri with girths of up to 6.4m circumference estimated to be up to 1200 years old.



Large, old pūriri trees like this one on the Bryham property make an ideal home for many native species. RNZ / Peter de Graaf

The kahikatea swamp forest wetland has a complex hydrological water system. It acts as a natural filter for waterways, a transitional space connecting the land to the water, improving water quality , and the trees act like a sponge reducing flooding.

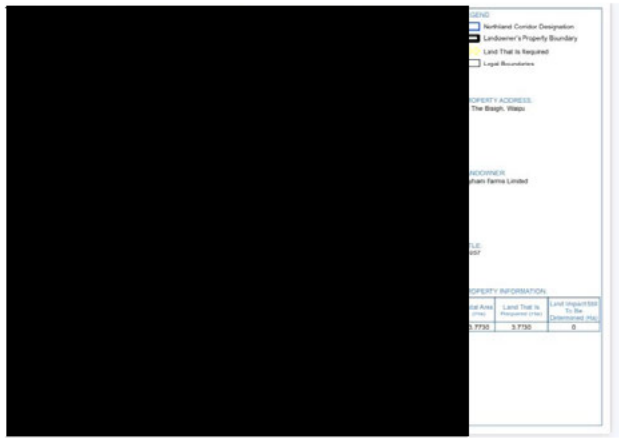
The kahikatea swamp forest wetlands(particularly the fenced off areas) are home to kereru,

piwakawaka, tui ,tauhou, kotare, rironiro. there is an abundance/rich source of food (Berries, nectar, eggs, insects)and shelter here . The habitat is suitable for long tailed bats and bellbird,native butterflies and moths . Copper skinks have been found recently in the unfenced off stands.

It should be noted that this Kahikatea Forest is valued by the Waipu Community

[redacted] [redacted]

Required for the fast track alternative to the brynderwyn hills designation/project site

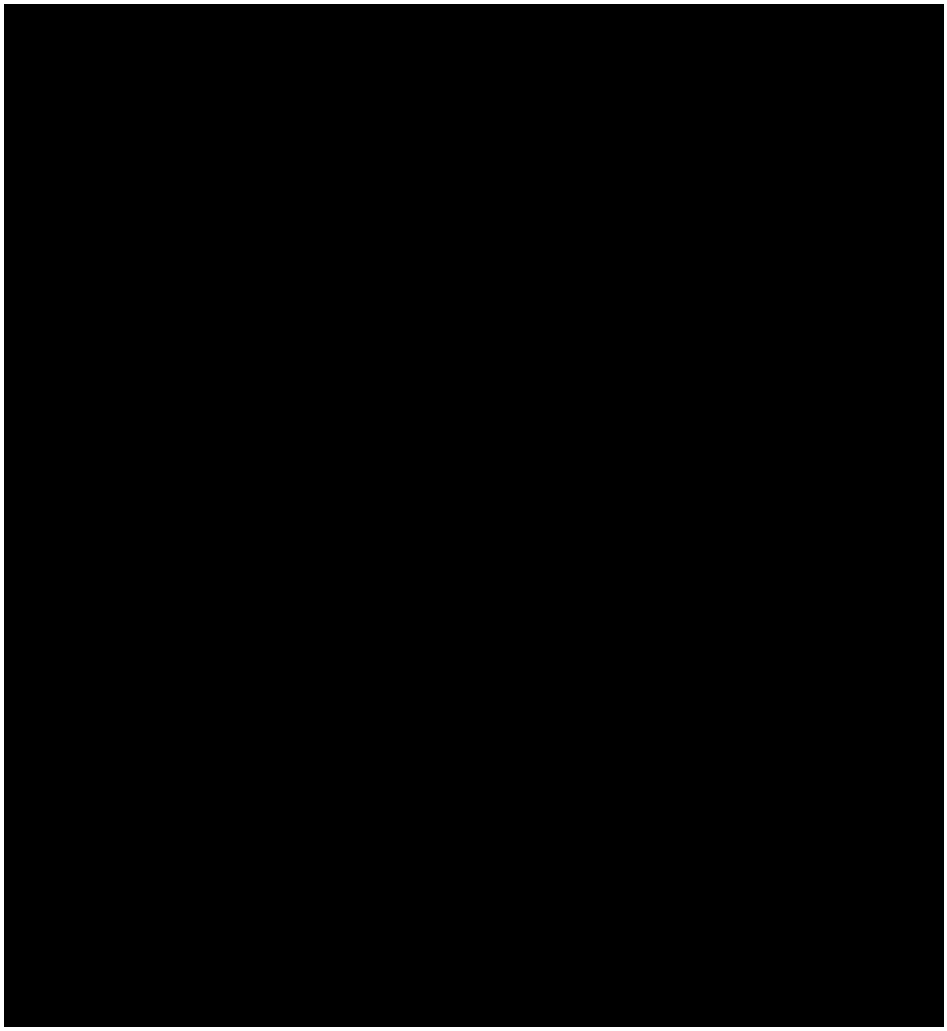
[redacted] [redacted] 

This land is required for an interim roundabout and interim linking roads .In order to build these our kahikatea swamp forest wetlands would likely be impacted if not destroyed.

Family architecturally designed and built their solid plaster home here in 2010. The kahikatea swamp forest wetland remnant that had been fenced off for sixty years, where our fathers ashes are , is here.My sister and her family have established a self sufficient life style block here,and my sister remains active in keeping the forest weed and pest free.The home is surounded by mature kahikatea .Destroying the kahikatea swamp forest wetlands is a spiritual assault on our family.

41055. [redacted]

Required for the fasttrack alternative to the brynderwyn hills designation/project site



This land is required as an interim linking road cuts across our driveway, connecting Millbrook road from the bridge to the roundabout at the northern Waipu end of the project .

Our home was originally built in the late 1920s. Since we moved into our home in 2010, my partner(a carpenter by trade) has worked on our property to make our home a beautiful healthy home, and our forever home.He has also repaired all buildings except the remains of the old cowshed and he had planned to repair that also. Buildings include an art studio, garage, workshop, and storage.We have solar and wetback for heating. We are self sufficient with free ranging heritage breed hens and a substantial vegetable garden. I have landscaped and planted a garden of predominantly native trees, subtropical, and an orchard of 20+ different fruit tree varieties. Piwakawaka, tui , tauhou and riroriro are present. Kereru and kotare and occasionally ruru stop in on their flight path between the Ahuroa river and the

kahikatea swamp forest wetland, Kahu,herons,shags, ducks and pukeko are present on farm.




View from Millbrook bridge March 2020 & November 2022

Since my returnto Waipu in 2008 I have been active in planting and maintenance on the land .With the river being fenced off from stock around 2012 this shifted to riparian planting. There is approximately 4 km of river boundary from Millbrook bridge to the point where our land meets with SH1 , and the strip ranges from 5m to 40m wide.Since 2020 the farm has spent over $120,000 on seedlings, planting and maintenance of riparian and wetlands .Weather events such as floods storms and cyclones can cause damage to the river and riparian border, and we have put significant time and effort into managing this.

In the riparian border are raupo, harakeke, (makaka salt marsh (and other) ribbonwood, oioi,kukuraho, other indigenous rushes, reeds grasses and sedges(eg., purei, carex testacea),ti kouka, kanuka, totara, mapau, giant umbrella sedge,(upoko tangata) manuka,nikau, kohekohe,titoki, puriri, kahikatea pohutukawa, kowhai, koromiko, coprosma(taupata,karamu and kirkii), karaka, houhere, rewarewa, kauri, meulenbeckia, mountain flax,astelia, shrubby hagoralis,toetoe,karaka,rengarenga,korimiko, karo, mahoe

Patuharakeke and Whitebait Connection worked with us from April 2022 to locate the salt water wedge (which is generally adjacent to our farmland for approx. 1.7 kilometres from millbrook bridge) and search for inanga spawning sites. Significant inanga (whitebait) egg numbers were found on our property([redacted] (est 140,000 + may,and more in june 2023) Whitebait connection gifted 1000 native plant seedlings to bryham farms for riparian planting.The inanga are an essential food source for tara iti (fairy tern) which are threatened/nationally critical, NZs rarest breeding bird. They are present at the waipu estuary, one of only four remaining primary breeding sites. Piroa Trust have supplied, installed and assist with pest management along the riparian border on our property adjacent to the

salt water wedge in the Ahuroa river.

Fish species in the Ahuroa river adjacent to owned land seen and/ or caught: inanga, tuna, kahawai, snapper, black flounder, mullet.



January 2019 prior to planting

and after planting at the whitebait spawning site and our swimming hole.2026



Summary and recommendations

We do not support the Fast track alternative to the Brynderwyn hills substantive application as it currently stands,We consider the interim linking roads and roundabouts indicatively positioned adjacent to or through centuries old kahikatea swamp forest wetlands unacceptable

We do not wish to sell our land to NZTA or the crown nor anyone, and we do not think it fair, sound

and reasonable/ necessary to acquire all this land, however we understand that if we do not cooperate our land will be seized.

We believe as others do in the community that the roundabouts are too close to the town and would be better positioned further away from the township as it has an aging population, families and visitors.We are concerned there would be congestion and backlog at Waipu exit points off the Rons highway. Waipu has a population of 1500 and the town only has one pedestrian crossing and no traffic lights or roundabouts in the village .It seems wasteful to spend money on interim roundabouts that are only required for ten years. It seems myopic to destroy any of the kahikatea swamp forest wetlands and these interim roundabouts and linking roads are only for temporary solutions

However, if the Crown/NZTA proceeds to purchase all our land as indicated currently or any part of it, it needs to be looked after, before during and beyond construction. It seems in this substantive application that our rare kahikatea swamp forest wetlands are not given full recognition of their value ecologically ,environmentally , culturally and spiritually. It is unacceptable to fell and replace significant trees with seedlings..and this doesnt make a wetland. These majestic stands must be Respected and Protected.

We consider suitable mitigation would include placing an avoid condition* on all the kahikatea stands of our rare kahikatea swamp forest wetlands on both sides of sh1 north of Millbrook Road. (*Ros Brown (NZTA) mentioned they were going to apply for an Avoid condition in a phone call on 15 July 2026).We note in the correspondence and the application on 13 July that NZTA have added avoids (tbc) superimposed on aerial maps of some of the kahikatea swamp forest wetland stands but that this does not extend to include their roots.

As part of the avoid condition include a buffer around them of 10-20 metres to protect their roots(as cutting the roots, covering them or draining the swamp would kill the trees). With suitable wetland planting (predominantly kahikatea) in between the remnants to reconnect them to a size of 7+ hectares in order to be self sustaining, and 100+ years weed and pest management, until the trees have formed a functional canopy that shades out invasive weeds. Fence off all of these kahikatea wetlands as two large connected wetlands on both sides of the sh1 . Put an ongoing programme in place to eradicate and manage privet and other invasive weeds in the corridor, .The cost of additional /future work (planting in between stands and fencing off ,and weed and pest management)would need to be covered by nzta the crown or the organizing body.

Other suitable mitigation to also include restoration of repo(swamp) and any puna wai (spring)found on our land, widening the riparian strip adjacent to the Ahuroa river , and planting and maintenance as directed by Patuharakeke iwi and te Parawhau hapu and hydrology/ecology experts.NZTA and the Organisation who eventually construct this road need to work with local iwi and hapu and others with appropriate ecological and cultural knowledge of kahikatea swamp forest and other wetlands swamp and salt marsh, and the awa, in all stages of the project from redesigning location of roundabout, to construction and beyond, to ensure no irreplaceable /irrepairable damage / destruction occurs to the kahikatea swamp forest wetland or the Ahuroa and inanga sites and other

wetlands and riparian. Future owners must continue to look after these our taonga.

We are devastated by this ominous pending intention to disconnect us physically and spiritually , to no longer being able to live out our lives in our homes, occupy, work, protect and care for our land, the awa and our Kahikatea swamp Forest wetland.

Supporting documentation:

Jeanette Bryhams story: History of Ahuroa River farm & Times have changed.(attached to email)

Pam Vickers James letter (confidential) (attached to email)

NZ Grazing Company Ltd article by Rebecca Hall 7 July 2026:

https://www.grazing.nz/2026/07/07/vanesa-castillo/

Rnz article by Peter de Graaf 3 July 2026:

https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/environment/661426/women-devastated-wetland-forest-could-be-felled-to-make-way-for-highway

Petition on change.org started by Brydee Rood on 5 July 2026

https://www.change.org/p/protect-the-gateway-to-waip%C5%AB-kahikatea-wetland

I've enjoyed connection to this land and all that rests and ages on it, since childhood. I've walked it's expanse, enjoyed the exquisite beauty of this ancient and unique stand of trees. I've grieved the loss of the husband of one of my mother's dearest friends (Mr Bryham) who is memorialised in this place, after passing too young. I've held long associations with all his children, and his wife who have resided here all their lives, and whose roots run deep. I'm devastated by the proposed robbery of their land and all they hold dear. Please STOP this madness and allow this symbolic entrance to Waipu, guarded by this stand of rare trees, to remain.

comment of support by Carolynne Gordon in petition

A P P E N D I X

This submission is on behalf of our impacted Family, employees and their family, who all live and work on the land for Bryham Farms. They are:

- **Jeanette Bryham**. Director. Matriarch. Mother.Kaitiaki. [redacted] 4.0110 HaOriginal family farm homestead. Includes an underpass . (.Land identified as in corridor/next

section)

- **Linda Bryham**, Director. Management. kaitiaki of kahikatea swamp forest wetland on The Braigh, part of original farm.Beneficiary of [redacted] Daughter of Matriarch.) [redacted] 3.7730Ha & JL Retamales Castillo(,husband), S Castillo (their son)(Land required for fast track alternative to the brynderwyn hills)

- **Heather-Jean Bryham** Director. Kaitiaki of kahikatea swamp forest wetland fenced off on farm; riparian planting and maintenance of land adjacent to Ahuroa river ,including wetlands & inanga spawning sites . Property management. (Daughter of Matriarch.)Beneficiary of [redacted] & D Hopkins (partner) R&M Buildings. [redacted] (Property required for fast track alternative to brynderwyn hills)

- **Gordon Bryham**, Infrastructure and machinery.,(Son of matriarch) and family [redacted]

- B McGregor employee, partner and baby. property owned by the trust. identified as in corridor/ next section

- **Vanessa Castillo**, Contract milker,,(granddaughter of matriarch,) & L Eavis (partner). [redacted] [redacted]. Identified as in corridor/next section