

I am a long-time resident of Saturna Island. I do not support the revisions to the Policy Statement and request that the entire process be reconsidered.

Much effort went into drafting the original Policy Statement, it is comprehensive and still fit-for-purpose today. The revision is poorly crafted, narrow, and skewed towards environmental issues. It totally ignores the existence of island communities and their economies.

I participated in the original 2019 public engagement that formed the basis of the revision. At the time I thought the questions were limited, vague and bias towards environmental issues. With no further engagement, I was surprised to see that the survey results had been used as an excuse to totally overhaul the existing Policy Statement, negating most of its merits.

I believed the premise for revision was to update the original with respect to just 3 issues, climate change, First Nation engagement/reconciliation and affordable housing. The end result was a document almost unreadable from an English comprehension standpoint, packed with meaningless repetition and totally failing to address the 3 core issues. Disappointingly it had added a number of community restrictive bylaws – banning docks, desalination and including a tree cutting permit system. I have concerns these restrictions will destabilize our island economies by reducing the priority on island livelihoods. The end result bore no resemblance to my expectation of where the policy direction would go when I completed the original public engagement.

I cannot see how the revision could be the basis for ISL's stage 3 public engagement plan. The document is more an entire rewrite - community feedback did not suggest or contemplate this. Any rework should be based on a fresh stage 1 and 2 engagement and this time the IT should listen to the feedback. Given the timescale for a thorough rework I request this policy review should not proceed to first reading before the October 15th, 2022, election.

Regards,

Dave Paton
(Included street address here)
Saturna Island