

To Trustee Chair Peter Luckham <[pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca)>  
Date: Fri, Apr 22,  
Subject: Re: Policy statement

Thank you Peter, (Trustee Luckham)

Appreciate your reply. I do understand this is a complex process and subject; our world is not so black and white these days, making the Trust's role an extremely challenging one.

**While the governance report may have recommended concluding the policy statement work, I don't think it recommended running roughshod over local residents' wishes and rights, or taking on issues already dealt with or being dealt with at other levels of government.**

Frankly, this cart was put before the horse. Phase 3 should have been Phase 1, before ANY draft policy statement was issued. Not good enough to say you are getting community input now ...

If not primarily planner-driven, the process and policy statement appear to have been undertaken based on the ideals of a few, who often represent some of the least populated islands. Without a doubt, democracy has its issues (and a reason why I have so strongly supported the Trust in the past), but this is certainly not a case where democratic principles should be ignored.

Many of us chose to live here because of the Island Trust's preserve and protect mandate, and we strongly support the Trusts' ideals, but feel now the Trust is truly going well beyond its mandate and intended role.

Susan de Stein  
Salt Spring Islands

On Apr 22, 2022, Peter Luckham <[pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca)> wrote:

Thank you Susan for your email, we will most certainly be reviewing the Governance report with an eye to improve on delivering on the mandate of the Islands Trust. There are a number of recommendations that support work that is presently underway and others that we should consider. I will note however regarding your Policy Statement remarks that this is not a "planner-driven effort" but is an effort informed by community input and continues to be a community fed effort through our phase 3 engagement.

I would also like to note that the Governance report recommends concluding the Policy Statement work in order to inform future decisions and policy.

Thank you for writing.

Peter Luckham, Chair Trust Council  
Trustee, Thetis Island  
Islands Trust  
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Preserving and protecting over 450 islands  
and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea

On 4/20/2022, Susan de Stein wrote:

Dear Trustees,

I've been a supporter of the Islands Trust for as long as I have owned property here (2001), arguing against those supporting municipal government and continually expressing fervent support for the Trust's mandate and its principles of preserve and protect.

As a Realtor for 12 years on Salt Spring Island (now retired), I extolled the virtues of the Islands Trust and its efforts to implement its land use mandate and conservation ideals.

The drafters of the policy appear to be drinking some flavour of Kool-aid, espousing ideas that do not come from experience or knowledge, but from a lack of understanding of life on the islands and on some world vision that has little to do with reality.

I was absolutely shocked to read parts of the Management and Governance review report - and do not believe it can be ignored, or a policy implemented that has next-to-zero public support for an organization that is clearly dysfunctional.

As a long-time student of organization management and governance, with an MBA that focussed a great deal on public policy — I believe we need not only table this policy draft, but start over. Admit mistakes were made and don't dig your trench any deeper. That step alone would create enormous support for the Trust.

Those calling for you to start this process over are not Trust-haters. We are not chronic complainers or unlimited development supporters. We love our island life and also want to preserve and protect it.

Have you finally heard enough to stop this ill-conceived process?

Surely yes.

Susan de Stein, MBA  
Salt Spring Island