

**BEFORE THE HEARINGS PANEL
FOR THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL**

UNDER the Resource Management Act 1991

IN THE MATTER of a submission on the Queenstown
Lakes Proposed District Plan

BY **RICHARD & SARAH BURDON**
Submitter

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE BY RICHARD AND SARAH BURDON

Dated: 14 July 2020

MAY IT PLEASE THE PANEL:

Introduction

- [1] I am asking that the Wahi Tupuna overlay identified on the PDP planning maps be deleted from our property Glen Dene Station 1576 Makarora-Lake Hāwea Road (State Highway 6).
- [2] There has been no consultation with affected parties which is totally unacceptable. The fact that there has been no consultation between us (the landowners) prior to notification is inexcusable. Consultation is a legal requirement and must be meaningful to be effective
- [3] My time is being overrun just trying to keep up with local government rules and regulations, I have had to employ more staff, hire consultants and employ lawyers to help keep our land which is already severely constrained by local government rules which is a substantial financial burden.
- [4] The raising of Lake Hāwea was a monumental change to our Lake and its surrounds. This needs to be noted that some of the values claimed are now lost under the water.
- [5] During the Tenure Review process when Ngāi Tahu were present and consulted, we feel they are now back here wanting more (we call it double dipping) and we do not believe what they asking for has sound merit and these new areas were never mentioned or even discussed in Tenure Review. We had several very high-level meetings with Ngāi Tahu on Lake Hāwea. This we feel lacks morals and integrity.
- [6] I have lived and farmed on the property of Glen Dene for nearly 40 years and the Burdon Family have owned the property for 91 years, we have a very strong affinity and caring attitude for this area of land we live on.
- [7] The past historical decisions regarding Māori in this area are well documented under the Treaty settlements We deserve, like the Māori, to have a fair hearing. This Wahi Tupuna process has not been a well-run fair process. It had no consultation with the legal landowners.

- [8] The known area on our property that Māori had a connection to is the Neck, the area which was adjacent to Lake Wānaka, up there was a small lagoon which was a great food resource for them in the way of eels and wekas. This area became known as a summer retreat where they had a temporary camp and resting place after or passing to the West Coast in search often for greenstone.
- [9] As the Māori were known to be coastal people and had therefore travelled from the east coast, this area was a stopping off place to the West Coast. The other place which they stopped over for a camp was where the Craighburn creek flows into Lake Hāwea, now owned by Department of Conservation, not our land. For some reason unbeknown to us that area is not treated the same as private land. It is strange that it seems to target prime free hold country.
- [10] In 1906 an area of 40 hectares was allocated to Māori under the Landless Natives Act. This area surrounded our pastoral Lease at the time, it went down to the Lagoon. There was a little flat land round the edge of the Lagoon but most of the surrounding land was quite steep. When the Lake was raised in the late 1950s by 28 metres for storage water for hydro to go back and request more land or any other assistance to ask for electricity purposes Māori lost about a quarter of the area. The remaining area which had its own freehold title was sold in 1971 to the owners on the Hunter Valley Station.
- [11] There is much said about this area of land but the truth of the matter is that the Crown well and truly compensated Māori for that piece of land, they gained from it an area of land in Wānaka referred to as Sticky Forest.
- [12] We also lost a large area of our lower country which we have greatly missed as it was important to the balance of the property, however we have never had the opportunity to ask for more land or favours.

[13] When Glen Dene went through The Tenure review process in 2000 to 2007 an area of 40 hectares was granted to Ngāi Tahu by their own request. To this day nothing has been done with that piece of land, yet we were told it was one of the most important pieces of land gained by Ngāi Tahu.

Richard & Sarah Burdon

14 July 2020