

My name is Sarah Burdon

I am a 5th Generation Australian. My family has farmed on our family farm in Australia for 5 generations.

I have lived on Glen Dene station, Lake Hawea for 20 years and I am married to Richard Burdon whose family has farmed on Glen Dene for 3 generations. I married a farmer. My children attended Hawea Flat school and participated in many a kapa haka.

Today you are joined by Richard's parents, we have two children 15/17 who are 4th would like to continue to on the family farming business traditional for the next generation to come.

However, Richard is a very different farmer than you would expect to see today. He spends most of his time in an office dealing with compliance. High Country farming is not easy and for anyone that knows farming a flat farm is usually profitable and a high country farm is just a different kettle of fish. For those that don't know it is very challenging environmentally, economically and socially. Caretaking of the land requires a lot of passion and determination.

We have had to adapt with the changing markets regularly and change our ways taking into consideration the present environments and considering the future ones. We continuously adapt our business and have introduced agri-tourism as well as adopting The Camp into the mix which neighbours the Nahonga site.

With this we are already dealing with a lot of compliance and red tape.

The district plan process has been very stressful taking us away from our core businesses and costing us a lot of money, time and stress. From a tourism perspective it has been extremely difficult trying to operate in rural general and in ONL. Even putting a shed in The Camp which has been operating for nearly 50 years is a huge challenge, stressful, costly both time and money equating to practically more than the cost of the shed.

We have had to make a lot of decisions to the detriment often conflicting with our vision. A vision to continue to be sustainable in a changing environment.

The District Plan to me and many others is put into place to get rid of the red tape and put rules and guidelines into place that we follow so that we can get on with our businesses. However I am here to talk today to really identify that it is actually taking us away from what we are protecting and working on our land and dragging us into an office.

So today I would like to ask the council why we need another layer of red tape on our land.

I am not objecting the importance of Wahi Tupuna but I am objecting it to going into the District Plan. I studied Eco tourism at Flinders University in South Australia and I am passionate about sustainability. Ecotourism is all about the interpretation of the land, and being sustainable so that that the next generations can enjoy the land, places.

We are familiar with Maitikitanga and Kaitiakitanga and we endorse that ourselves with High Country Hospitality and we pride ourselves of being caretakers / custodians of the land for the next generations.

Manaakitanga	We believe in offering High Country Hospitality to our guests. Welcoming strangers into our park and having them leave as friends.
Kaitiakitanga	To look after our land, be custodians, always minimising any environmental effects. For our staff and our guests to realise the importance and how special our surrounds are and the energy it produces.

We the Burdon family are a giving family business. We have always shared our land with others and tourism provides us with a great opportunity to do this, to offer commercial recreational activities. Activities that may be incompatible with values and identified in Wahi Tupuna areas. Activities that are classified as recognized threats.

We have been through Tenure review and this was a time where Maori could identify areas of great significance, we have been through a number of resource consent processes where Maori also have the opportunity to participate in the process.

However we object to another layer of impeding on the District plan when there are other avenues to achieve better results. We feel that there was not need to draw lines on a map that the whole of New Zealand is culturally and spiritually significant to the Maoris and their different mobs. I have since understood that there is a difference between cultural and spiritual and that commercial gain is also important as the per the Ngai Tahu website.

I do not feel that we have been properly consulted as land owners and I know that this is the way of the Maori.

However, I also believe that we should be a fair and equitable society and that the district Plan should ensure that this is the case. Therefore, to put lines on a map and put rules more rules in place is not the solution.

These rules make it harder for us to create a sustainable vision and for the next generation to continue to farm to keep the vision alive and or operate commercial activities on their land.

We object to putting lines on a map and more rules. We already have ONL which is a huge protective cover and which inhibited us from putting accommodation on our property due to the stress of the cost and time it would cause.

We feel that a solution is similar to the protecting the districts water ways we as farmers have all joined together as farmers to work together to find solutions. We meet up and discuss water quality and how we as farmers can work together to ensure that we improve our practices to ensure that water quality remains as a focus.

We believe that this form of communication and involvement is more important to protecting and conserving and understanding and interpretation of the Wahi Tupuna values. Lines on a map are actually discriminatory and they are destroying the property rights of those that are current caretakers.

This can destroy communities and also have huge implications on the future generations financially and socially making the future not sustainable for the next generations.

How can you differentiate between some of Lake Hawea and not the rest. How can you differentiate between the land around Lake Wanaka and Lake Hawea. This is not fair. We are a hydro lake which to us is in the rules is incompatible. It has already been altered as has Wanaka with buildings and development.

We are custodians of the land and we need protecting as much otherwise you will make us extinct.

If it is about commercial gain then the District plan is not the place to do this. It is for the government to deal with in another way. If it is about spiritual then it is about working together to protect what needs protecting as a community, work with the guardians of the Lake and the land owners.

We the land owners are the current guardians and custodians of Glen Dene station and The Camp at Lake Hawea. We are willing to work together but this is not working together. This is imposing further rules on us. We have not been consulted properly and the rules are do not support the current guardians the current stewards of the land.