

Landscape Schedules – Bike Wanaka – Ian Greaves Evidence Summary

- 1 My full name is Ian Christopher Greaves. I have practiced in planning and land development since 2006. I am currently employed by Southern Ventures NZ Ltd as their Planning and Development Manager. I also sit on the committee of Bike Wanaka.
- 2 The submission by Bike Wanaka sought to ensure that the landscape capacity assessment for all Upper Clutha Priority Areas provided capacity for additional walking and cycling trails.
- 3 Following the completion of the Joint Witness Statements wording within the Capacity Assessments has now been proposed that would allow appropriate consideration for future walking and cycling trails across all Upper Clutha Priority Areas with the exception of Mount Iron.
- 4 Now that Mount Iron is in public ownership there is a strong desire by the mountain biking community to reinvigorate mountain biking on the mountain. To provide you some context to this statement, QLDC are currently undertaking community consultation prior to the preparation of the Mount Iron Reserve Management Plan to give the community a chance to share their ideas for how they would like Mount Iron to be used and managed in the future. This consultation is ongoing and closes on the 20th November 2023. However, a review of the submissions to date which number more than 600 (pinned ideas on a map) show that 376 specifically support biking and trail development on Mount Iron. There is a weight of community support behind future biking activities on Mount Iron and it is my evidence that subject to landscape (and ecological) qualifiers this should be enabled.
- 5 The Joint Witness Statement for Mount Iron has proposed the following capacity wording for earthworks on Mount Iron:

*Earthworks – **Extremely limited** landscape capacity for earthworks and additional trails or access tracks that protect naturalness and expressiveness attributes and values and are sympathetically designed to integrate with existing natural landform patterns.*
- 6 This changed from the Section 42a report where the wording “very limited to no” was used instead of “extremely limited”.
- 7 It is my evidence that the capacity wording for earthworks on Mount Iron should allow for limited capacity for new public walking and cycling trails. Following the completion of my evidence I have

reviewed the evidence of the Queenstown Mountain Bike Club (QTMBC) and listened to the discussion between the panel and QTMBC planner Carey Vivian. I support Mr Vivian's view that there is a distinction between a trail and mountain bike track. A mountain bike track is much narrower, typically steeper, and often utilises natural features compared to say a walking or commuter trail, meaning its impact on landform is far less. Given Mr Head's concerns regarding the capacity for further trails on Mount Iron I now recommend distinguishing mountain bike tracks (which will have less landscape impact) from other trails in the capacity assessment. As a result, my amended wording is as follows (added text underlined and deleted text ~~strikethrough~~):

***Earthworks** – Extremely limited landscape capacity for earthworks and additional trails (excluding mountain bike tracks) that protect naturalness and expressiveness attributes and values and are sympathetically designed to integrate with existing natural landform patterns. Limited capacity for mountain bike tracks that are located to integrate with existing networks, designed to be of a sympathetic appearance and character, and integrate with landscape restoration and enhancement.*

- 8 It is well established that the protection of landscape values is a fundamental requirement set by the hierarchy of planning legislation and planning documents, this is well covered in the evidence by QLDC. I have outlined in my evidence that public access to the natural environment plus recognising and enhancing the benefits that recreation and recreation facilities bring to communities is another important theme that Council needs to recognise and provide for. I therefore consider it is imperative that the proposed landscape schedules do not overly restrict the ability to provide public access and public recreation which is so important and valued by our communities.



Ian Greaves

6 November 2023