

**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 **LESLEY AND JEREMY BURDON**
Submitter

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF JEREMY BURDON

Dated:

MAY IT PLEASE THE PANEL:

- [1] My name is Jerry Burdon. I have lived on the property of Glen Dene for nearly 80 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.
- [2] The past historical decisions regarding Māori are open to criticism. The government has some duties to them under the Treaty which we acknowledge but they also have duties to private landowners as we own our title for our land, it is not Crown land. Therefore making provision for Māori through this Wahi Tupuna process is a dubious way of doing it, for one thing there has been no consultation with the legal land owner, all we got was a letter from the Queenstown Lakes District Council (**Council**) after the process had been formally notified. That is not the correct process.
- [3] From the bottom end of Lake Hāwea (the southern end), it has been presumed they walked as far as they could depending on the lake levels. One of the main reasons they could not have walked on our land was because the main restriction was the very high and dense bracken fern around some areas of the edge of the lake.
- [4] If they walked on any land at all it is either now under the lake or owned by the Crown – not us at Glen Dene.
- [5] We understand that Māori made rafts from flax seed heads to travel up the lake and this was their main transport when travelling on the lake, once again not our land.
- [6] The known area on our property that Māori had a connection to was an area we refer to as 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.

- [7] As 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.
- [8] The other place which they stopped over for a camp was where the Craighburn Creek flows into Lake Hāwea, now owned by the Department of Conservation, but not our land, for some reason unbeknown to us that area is not treated the same as private land.
- [9] In 1906 an area of 40 hectares was allocated to Māori under the Landless Native 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.
- [10] 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 the Māori lost about a quarter of the area. The remaining area which had its own freehold title was sold in 1971 to the owners of 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 2004 an area of 40 hectares was granted to Ngai Tahu by their own request. To this day nothing has been done with that piece of land, normally it would be managed and cared for.

Jeremy Burdon

14 July 2020