

Queenstown Lakes Proposed District Plan, Te Pūtahi Ladies Mile Plan Variation

Summary of Evidence of Jana Davis (on behalf of Kāi Tahu)

Mihimihi

Tenei te mihi atu kia koutou,
Ko Waitaha, Ko Kāti Mamoe,
Ko Kāi Tahu kā Iwi Ko Takitimu tōku waka,
Ko Hananui te mauka
Ko Aparima me Waiau te awa
Ko Ōraka-Aparima taku rūnaka
Ko Takutai o te tītī tōku marae
Ko Putauhinu tōku kāika
Nō Tāhuna me Waihōpai ahau
Ko Bill Davis tōku Poua – te upoko o Ōraka-Aparima
Ko Jane Davis tōku Taua
Ko Rewi Davis tōku Papa
Ko Jana Davis tōku ikoa
Tehei Mauriora!

Tēnā koutou katoa. I wish to acknowledge the Chair and the Hearings Panel and all those involved in the proceedings, who are tasked with the significant responsibility of safeguarding our waters, our land, and the well-being of future generations ki uta ki tai – from the mountains to the sea.

Summary

1. Our connection with wai-māori and the biodiversity that it helps sustain forms an intrinsic part of the cultural identity of Kai Tahu. The connection between Mana Whenua and wai-māori extends through time with whakapapa. The connection encompasses and envelops Rangatiratanga and Kaitiakitanga obligations, it is our duty as the temporary stewards to protect the mauri of wai-māori. What happens in our headwaters causes cumulative effects that reverberate downstream, affecting kaimoana, fisheries, plants, taonga birds and as such the cultural identity of Kāi Tahu. To reduce the significant value of wai-māori is to reduce the identity of Kāi Tahu as Mana Whenua.
2. Over the past 4 years, I have spent a large focus on restoring Waiwhakaata/ Lake Hayes. Why? Because I have witnessed its significant deterioration within my lifetime. As a representative of Kāi Tahu ki Murihiku on the Waiwhakaata Lake Hayes Strategy Group, I have actively participated in fundraising, planting, supporting consents and supporting positive outcomes for freshwater and biodiversity in the Waiwhakaata catchment.
3. The changes observed in Waiwhakaata are significant and should be addressed. We are seeing reduced eel populations, episodic fish kills, algal blooms and more. I have concerns about continued sediment discharges from urban development and increased town populations. We are concerned in relation to stormwater run-off and its potential to contain contaminants. There will always be a knock on effect to expansion of our towns; cumulative effects are real and should be addressed in an integrated approach.
4. I wish to extend my heartfelt acknowledgement to Mana Whenua, Matawaka and Takata Tiriti

who have been working on the catchment and building momentum for educating around manaaki to our whenua and promoting an integrated approach to restoration activities.

5. To effectively implement an integrated "ki uta ki tai" approach, we must wholeheartedly embrace the concept of integration. By solely adhering to formal zoning and not recognizing the importance of integration, we risk undermining the principles of integrated catchment management, which require us to consider the broader environment both upstream and downstream from our kaika, our homes, and communities.
6. The biggest concern around cumulative effects is distributed effects across te Taiao. Cumulative effects commence at the top of the catchment and accumulate, affecting whānau all the way to the moana. A ki uta ki tai approach is necessary where we are not restricted by borders and regional zoning.
7. The biggest test that we face is to rise to the challenge and understand what shared success can look like for our precious catchments. Success is building the whare for whānau to live in, and protecting the environment that sustains the whare and the whānau into the future. Both are necessary for survival.
8. I have deep concerns about the changing narratives from one in one-in-a-hundred year events to one-in-twenty year events. Cumulative effects are real and they are present. The deterioration of Wai-Māori and Mahika Kai values will be to our own peril. It starts with our small lakes, like Waiwhakaata, and it will end with our great lakes.
9. As Kāi Tahu Kaitiaki and a deeply concerned community member, I challenge Ladies Mile developers to rise to the occasion and work on solutions and opportunities that do support the catchment to thrive. After all, the very reason people would intend to move to the area is to live in this outstanding natural landscape. There is so much opportunity to contribute to the catchment in an integrated way.