

BLACK PEAK FARMING

QLDC PDP Clutha River / Mata Au ONF s293 submission

NAME:

BLACK PEAK FARMING

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APPLICATION DETAILS:

Section 293 proposal: Proposed alterations to the mapping and landscape classification of the Clutha River / Mata Au Outstanding Natural Feature (ONF) Corridor

THE WRITTEN COMMENTS ARE:

- My wife and I farm the flat land below the Wanaka Airport and the hill face rising up to the top of the Wanaka Airport.
- We run a beef finishing enterprise which is an all pasture farm. We have decided to run a low intensity farming system and focus on high water use efficiency and growing pasture rather than wintering large numbers of livestock.
- We have recently planted 30,000 strawberry plants and our aim to pivot some of our land away from cattle grazing to horticulture, this includes some of the land planned to go to ONF under the PDP.
- We farm 107ha irrigated with the balance of the property dryland. The PDP will remove 15ha of utilisable land from our farming business and this will be a large hit to our business. Currently we have a mortgage on the land which requires a certain level of productivity to meet repayment obligations and taking 15ha off our property will ultimately result in a drop in productivity of a similar magnitude. The consequence of this will be a lower ability to maintain environmental stewardship, efficiency and tree planting.
- Some of the restrictions on ONF land will mean that we can no longer renew pastures, oversow or cultivate. Whilst this make sense for the Clutha river margins, it doesn't not make sense for high class soils capable of providing jobs for the community.
- We strongly urge an adjustment to the boundary which does not include high class soils capable of growing food.
- We support protection of natural character, but do not support placing restrictions on existing high-class soils which are irrigated.
- The hill rising up to the Wanaka airport is a really good asset for our business in dry conditions and we have been grazing this land once a year. Because we are taking off nutrient, we need to be able to fertilise this land every 5 years.
- In the future we hope to be able to plant out our hill in native species which will require some intervention beyond what is allowed under the proposed ONF classification.

- We have spent thousands of dollars fencing (rabbit proof) and fencing off pockets of native kanuka and believe we are doing everything to maintain the quality and natural character of the land.
- We understand the value of protecting native species to the ecosystem services on our property but PDP boundaries need careful consideration and a site visit rather than aerial photography which might be 10 years old.
- Placing ONF classification on our high class soils will reduce their value by an estimated minimum of \$60,000/ha. This decision could cost us more than \$500,000.
- We suspect the boundaries for the ONF have been an oversight and shouldn't have included our property given it is farmed the way it is.
- We haven't been notified of this new proposed classification by QLDC and have only been made aware of it by our neighbour on the 10th of Oct.
- We do not have the time or financial resources to involve a lawyer at this stage and we would encourage a change to the boundaries as outlined below.
- We would however like to be heard at the hearing and may bring representation from a farming-based advocacy group.
- Thank you for reading our written comments.

We attach some suggested changes to the boundaries on this written submission.



Revised Clutha River ONE mapping subject to 52

Signed: Ben AND Rebecca Trotter
Date: 11/10/21