

BEFORE HEARING COMMISSIONERS IN QUEENSTOWN/TĀHUNA ROHE

Submission to the Variation to Chapter 21 Rural Zone of the QLDC PDP, to introduce Priority Area Landscape Schedules 21.22 and 21.23

My name is Michelle Rudd and I live in the Tucker Beach area. I am submitting out of concern for the intended role and application of the Priority Area Schedules.

I am hugely supportive of the ONL and ONF regulatory framework in place to safeguard the natural beauty of this area and our sense of spaciousness and awe. It is the wide open spaces and magnificent river and mountain scape which enhance our everyday life and which has probably drawn many of us to this area or kept us here.

I support these wide open rural spaces, the beautiful dark night skies, the conservation of our farmland, the protection of our waterways and all of the life dependent upon these spaces.

I speak for the landscapes. I speak for the generations to come. I speak for the need for wild, big and silent spaces. And I speak as having sheep and grazing on land that has been farmland and is to be converted to housing, I feel the loss every day of the beauty and of this huge resource and of the future without it.

It seems human nature to value land and our environment only for its usefulness to us. We miss seeing its intrinsic value and how it sustains us. I oppose the view that further development is imminent and I think we need to focus on our values as a community. With a values based approach we may choose to limit growth and protect our landscapes and open spaces as a priority.

On a personal note and with reference the PA ONF/L Kimiākau (Shotover River) Schedule of Landscape Values, while the 'sense of remoteness and wildness in places' is noted in the schedule, there seems more importance on enhancing access to the area rather than protecting and enhancing that sense of remoteness. The western end of Tucker Beach, for example, is a relatively easily accessible and magnificent entry point to the river, literally. It is a favourite swimming hole for local families in the summer or for people to simply go to encounter a touch of the wild, remote and beautiful. This space was worth protecting however it will now be the site of a bridge, which by its very nature will completely change the feel and look of that unique site.
(Photograph given)

So I speak to our decision makers to be strong, to uphold our ONL/ONF boundaries and to protect our big wide open spaces. They will be ever more important over time.