

Before the Hearings Panel

For the Proposed Queenstown Lakes District Plan

**Under the** Resource Management Act 1991

**In the matter** of a variation to Chapter 21 Rural Zone of the Proposed Queenstown Lakes District Plan, to introduce Priority Area Landscape Schedules 21.22 and 21.23

### **Facilitation Report of Ken Fletcher**

1. Over the week of 2-6 October 2023 I facilitated a conference of Landscape Architect and Planning experts on the above matter.
2. Those involved were:  
Landscape Architect experts: Bridget Gilbert, Jeremy Head, Nikki Smetham, James Bentley, Ben Espie, Steve Skelton, Paul Smith, Diane Lucas;  
Planning Experts: Blair Devlin, Rachael Pull, Duncan White, Ruth Evans, Carey Vivian, Morgan Shepherd, Richard Kemp, Scott Edgar, Ben Farrell.
3. The agenda for the week was supplied and is attached as Appendix A.
4. What actually happened was:
  - **Monday:** The landscape experts named above met and canvassed the topics as per the agenda. The weather disruption on the day meant that Diane Lucas did not make it to Queenstown, and she attended via an impromptu Zoom conference. One output of the day was an agreement to test the tentative decisions on the Landscape Capacity Rating schemas in the work on Wednesday, and the Wednesday programme was reorganised to free up time in the afternoon to review the schemas.
  - **Tuesday:** The draft Joint Witness Statement from Monday was circulated to the Landscape experts about 8 am. The Planning and Landscape experts above met in combined session, with Diane Lucas and Ben Farrel attending via Teams. Unfortunately, a personal issue meant that Diane Lucas had to leave the meeting at about 10 am, and she took no further part in the conference. Over the day we covered the topics set down for both Tuesday and for the Planner's session scheduled for Wednesday. The experts were able to agree a modified Landscape Capacity Rating schema to be tested on the Wednesday.
  - **Wednesday:** The Landscape experts worked through the individual PA Schedules without facilitation as per the agenda, but without Diane Lucas. The draft Joint

Witness Statement from Tuesday was circulated to all participants about midday. At the end of the day the Landscape experts meet to review the draft Joint Witness Statement from Monday, which was finalised and signed. See **Landscape JWS Monday – Signed** as attached.

- **Thursday:** The Landscape experts continued to work through the individual PA schedules as per the Agenda but without facilitation as this was deemed unnecessary, and without Diane Lucas.
  - **Friday morning:** The Landscape and Planning experts met in combined facilitated session, both in person and via Teams, with the exception of Ben Farrell, Nikki Smethan, Morgan Sheperd, Steve Skelton and Diane Lucas, who were unavailable to attend. Those attending reviewed the draft Joint Witness Statement from Tuesday, which was finalised and signed by all attending.
5. Travel home was disrupted by the bomb scare at Queenstown Airport, leading to five of us sharing a rental vehicle and driving to Christchurch Airport, after spending some time at the offices of Vivian+Espie while we organised the rental vehicle. Those travelling together were: James Bentley, Paul Smith, Bridget Gilbert, Jeremy Head and myself.
  6. Over the weekend the signed Joint Witness Statement from Friday was circulated to Ben Farrell, Nikki Smethan, Morgan Sheperd and Steve Skelton to review and either sign or sign with qualification. Nikki Smethan and Steve Skelton signed it, and Ben Farrell and Morgan Shepherd signed it with qualification. The final signature was received on Tuesday 10 October. All signatures received electronically, including the qualifications, have been fixed to the final Joint Witness Statement. See **Final Joint Landscape and Planning Joint Witness Statement – Signed by all** attached.
  7. The Landscape experts reported that there was little disagreement over most of the content of the individual PA Schedules, and that those areas of disagreement are noted in the individual PA Schedule Joint Witness Statements and in the marked-up version of each PA Schedule.
  8. The marked-up PA Schedules are very difficult to read, and I recommend that the Council Landscape experts, Bridget Gilbert and Jeremy Head, undertake a cleaning exercise to produce nearly clean versions, with only the points of disagreement between the landscape experts (highlighted words and comments) left in place. These should be reviewed for accuracy by the other Landscape expert(s) who was involved in conferencing on each schedule. The nearly clean version would then sit alongside the marked-up versions for use by the Panel.
  9. As Diane Lucas could not fully participate in the conference the **Landscape JWS Monday – Signed** only includes her views as recorded on the day, without the benefit of the discussion on Tuesday and the review on Wednesday. I recommend that the

signed Joint Witness Statements from Monday and Tuesday be provided to her and she have the opportunity to either sign in agreement, sign with qualification or not sign them.

10. All participants have been reminded that the proceedings of the week are confidential, and that the Joint Witness Statement remain confidential until the panel releases them.
11. I am happy to report that, although the discussion was at times robust, all participants acted professionally and collegially, and this shows in the level of agreement reached in the Joint Witness Statements.
12. Accompanying this report are:
  - The original Agenda
  - **Landscape JWS Monday – Signed**, and two WORD appendices with the Rebutal version and Reformulated version of the Western Whakatipu Basin PA Schedule Appendix 1 21-22-12-western-whakatipu-basin-pa-onl-schedule-EXEMPLAR finalised by BE-NS  
Appendix 2 21.22.12 Western Whakatipu Basin PA ONL Schedule Rebuttal FINAL(38717203.1)
  - **Final Joint Landscape and Planning Joint Witness Statement – Signed by all** which includes clean versions of the two Preambles, and two WORD appendices which are the marked-up versions of the two Preambles  
Appendix 1 PA Landscapes - 21-22-onfl-preamble - 3-10-23 FRIDAY UPDATE  
Appendix 2 PA Landscapes - 21-23-rcl-preamble - 3-10-23 FRIDAY UPDATE
13. The individual PA Schedules that were caucused by the Landscape experts will be sent separately under a separate cover.



Ken Fletcher

12 October 2023