

**BEFORE THE HEARINGS PANEL
FOR THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN**

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of Hearing Stream 14: Wakatipu Basin

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE FOR GREGORY JAMES TURNER FOR HOGANS GULLY
FARMING LIMITED**

Dated: June 2018

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 My name is Greg Turner. I have studied golf course design since the mid-nineties and have been actively involved in the design business since that time. This alongside 20 years competing internationally at the professional level have provided necessary skills and background to establish my design expertise.
- 1.2 My design projects have included: Taupo Golf Club, Manukau Golf Club, Harewood GC, Russley GC, Royal Wellington GC, Chisholm Links, Oreti Sands, Cromwell GC, and Millbrook Resort. I have also worked in the development of Tourism New Zealand's International Golf Tourism Strategy and served as its inaugural chair. I had a lengthy professional playing career, mainly based in Europe. Having been based in the Wakatipu for over 25 years I have an intimate knowledge of both the physical and cultural landscape of the area which has driven my desire for a topography lead approach to design.
- 1.3 While this is a Council hearing, rather than an Environment Court process, I confirm I have read the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses contained in the Environment Court Practice Note 2014, and agree to comply with it. I can confirm that this evidence is within my area of expertise, except where I state that I have relied on material produced by other parties, and that I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions expressed.

2.0 Evidence

- 2.1 The first conceptual golf course routings for Hogan's Gully were drafted over 10 years ago and have been in almost constant evolution ever since. The driving force has always been to develop a routing for the holes that best utilises the natural terrain, tending to work up the valleys and swales rather than along the ridges. As a consequence, a minimalist approach to earthworks has been taken. In almost all areas I have incorporated the abundant natural features of the property into the golf challenge. Additionally, in almost all golf areas the construction will fall into the category or "shaping" as distinct from "earthworks". This effectively means gentle adjustments to ensure efficient drainage rather than significant terrain modifications.
- 2.2 Because of the undulating nature of the terrain, a fescue predominant turf has been selected. The selection of fescue has been in conjunction with Steve Marsden Turf Services, one of Australasia's premier agronomy services. Fescue requires fewer inputs (water, insecticides, pesticides, fertilisers) and suits a running style of golf. The consequences of this decision will see a less verdant landscape than that which has resulted from the recent cattle based usage (think more sheep farm than dairy).
- 2.3 From an operational perspective, the desire is to encourage a walking culture thereby keeping cart paths to a minimum. Where they will be required (generally between greens and tees) the intent is to utilise low undulating features to generally screen them from view. While there are many strong physical features on the site the course has been carefully routed to work around and under these features thereby ensuring a more "walker friendly" experience than at first appearance.