

**BEFORE THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**IN THE MATTER OF** of the Resource  
Management Act 1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF** the Queenstown Lakes  
Proposed District Plan  
Submissions and  
Further Submissions on  
Chapter 3 Strategic  
Direction

**BY** Queenstown Rafting  
Limited

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE BY ROBIN VANCE BOYD**  
**Dated this 23rd day of March 2016**

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 My full name is Robin Vance Boyd. I am the Managing Director of Queenstown Rafting Limited (“QRL”) and am authorised to give evidence on its behalf.
- 1.2 I have been actively involved with Queenstown tourism as an owner and manager since 1987. QRL was formed in 1996 as a joint venture between our family trust and Real Journeys (then Fiordland Travel). At that time the local rafting industry was in a poor state with too many operators for the available business and public confidence had been eroded by a number of accidents. The fallout from these generated months of adverse media publicity.
- 1.3 During the past 28 years I have advocated the benefits of responsible tourism at a local and national level. I am a past Chairman of Destination Queenstown and have served on the board of the Tourism Export Council. I am currently a member of the Otago Conservation Board.
- 1.4 QRL operates white water rafting trips on the Shotover and Kawarau rivers as well as a multiday trip on the Landsborough River. Many of these trips involve elements such as helicopter, bungee or jetboat. We also operate a bar restaurant at our operating base at Arthurs Point. In addition to these premises we have a retail shop and offices in the Queenstown CBD and a bus park in Gorge Road. QRL operates in conjunction with our sister company Adventure Discovery Ltd, which trades as Kiwi Discovery

## **2. Submission and Further submission**

- 2.1 QRL filed a submission on the Proposed District Plan (“PDP”) (#167). Generally speaking, QRL’s submission focused on the public safety aspects of boating activities in the District. QRL also lodged various further submissions supporting and opposing original submission of other submitters. They will be dealt with fully when the Rural Zone provisions are heard.
- 2.2 Of relevance to today’s hearing is the further submission QRL lodged in support of the original submission of Real Journeys Limited (“RJL”) (#621) in respect of the Strategic Direction chapter of the PDP.
- 2.3 The original submission of RJL sought amendments to the Strategic Direction Chapter to provide for greater strategic direction and/or recognition for commercial recreation and tourism activities, their growth and protection from activities that are inappropriately sited.
- 2.4 QRL believes that commercial recreation and tourism activities play an integral role in supporting the District’s economic, recreation and social network and that such activities ought to be better recognised, promoted and protected in the PDP.

## **3. Statement of Evidence for RJL and others**

- 3.1 I have read the statement of evidence to be presented on behalf of RJL and others by Mr Ben Farrell. QRL supports the amendments to the Strategic Direction Chapter of the PDP sought in Mr Farrell’s Statement of Evidence. In addition, QRL supports Mr Farrell’s proposal that there should be a separate Water Zone to recognise the

special nature and values of water rather than having water as part of (generally) the Rural Chapter of the PDP. I believe that in terms of tourism, the use of water and surrounding land requires consideration to be given to the environment, sustainability, visitor experience, and particularly safety as well as the usual matters. Matters affecting safety go well beyond any particular operation, and the stability and credibility of the local industry as a whole is at stake.

#### **4. s 42A Report**

- 4.1 QRL supports Mr Paetz's recommendations to bolster the provisions in Chapter 3 of the PDP in respect of tourism activities.

#### **5. QRL's Contribution to the District**

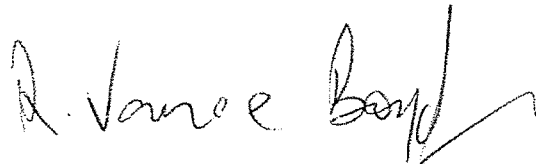
- 5.1 The contribution made by QRL is typical of that made by many medium-sized tourism businesses. It may be thought surprising that many similar tourism operators did not take the opportunity to submit on the PDP. However the timing of the notification of the PDP coincided with a very busy period and many managers and owners would have been stretched catering to the demand.
- 5.2 QRL/Kiwi Discovery employs around 70 staff. It follows that the District gains the benefit of the wage expenditure from these people. In addition, on average, around 80% of all other company expenditure is made to businesses in the District. Some of these businesses are other tourism companies who provide us with services such as helicopters while others are in the trades and services sector. Apart from payments to Government the only major out of District expense we have is for fuel.

5.3 In my experience, local tourism businesses are very supportive of the community. In our case this support has included financial assistance when a new ambulance station was required, supporting the reforestation of Pigeon Island and supporting dozens of smaller fund raising initiatives for schools and groups. For example, just this week we donated \$2000 to the local air rescue trust. Many other companies have made and continue to make similar or greater contributions.

5.4 I believe that a strong and stable tourism industry is essential to the health of the district and that this needs to be recognised in the PDP.

## 6. Summary

6.1 In summary, QRL requests that the Strategic Direction Chapter of the PDP be amended to recognise and protect the contribution made by tourism. Further, QRL supports the concept of a separate Water Chapter.



**Robin Vance Boyd**

**23 March 2016**