

Emma Hill – Hearing Stream 14 – Wakatipu Basin Chapter

1. My name is Emma Jane Hill. I have prepared a statement of evidence dated 13 June 2018 for Trojan Helmet Limited (THL) (Submitter 2387 and Further Submitter 2796) in relation to the zoning of the land comprising the Hills Golf Club. This summary statement will briefly summarise my evidence.
2. I am the Chair of Michael Hill International, a position I have held since 2015. Prior to that I was the Deputy Chair of the company. I am also a Director of the Hills Golf Club Limited and THL. THL is a family owned company that owns the approximately 162 ha of land on which The Hills Golf Club is situated.

The Hills

3. As a family, we regard ourselves as the fortunate custodians of the land comprising The Hills Golf Club which was established by my parents, Sir Michael and Lady Christine Hill, in the early 1990s. As such, the development of the property is measured and driven by our vision to create a sanctuary and sense of connection for everyone that visits. We strive to ensure that changes to the property are in harmony with the landscape and enhance the land's health and its natural and scenic values.
4. We are committed to sustainable land use and management practices. In this regard, we have designed buildings and structures to integrate with the landscape, as well as carrying out extensive restoration and improvement measures throughout the property.
5. We host a number of annual charity golf events at the Golf Club in order to give back to the community and raise money for charities. In the last three years, \$156,000 has been raised for the Queenstown Hospice, Wakatipu Junior Golf Club and the James Patterson Trust. Over the past ten years, \$717,817 has been donated to Cure Kids and next year we will be taking nominations from the community for which charity they would like to benefit from our annual charity day. In addition, over the past 10 years we have spent over \$2.3m bringing the NZ Open to Queenstown, providing a significant boost to golf tourism in the Region.
6. Three generations of the Hill family live on the property and we are both physically and emotionally invested in the health and wellbeing of the environment in which we live, our team and the community.

Hills Resort Zone

7. The creation of the Hills Resort Zone has been informed by multiple experts since its conception and design. A key aspect of the design process has been to work around the existing golf course(s) to ensure that the amenity they provide is not compromised. Equally or more important has been to design a development that is visually discreet and subservient to the landscape when viewed both internally and externally from the property.
8. The purpose of the Resort Zone (HRZ) is to create a sustainable sanctuary with certainty of scope for further development. The HRZ would provide us with defined parameters for future investment. We will be able to diversify our activities and provide for a greater number of people including tourists, staff, residents and their guests. The HRZ will also provide certainty for the community; an assurance that over 96% of the property will remain as open space, maintained to the highest standard.
9. It's a natural progression for us to move to a Resort Zone. It will enable us to better realise The Hills potential as one of New Zealand's premium golf destinations. It will enable greater community connection; good economic outcomes for everyone's benefit, and it will provide certainty of high quality enduring landscape outcomes.