

**BEFORE THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL
INDEPENDENT HEARINGS PANEL**

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of submissions to the Stage 1 Proposed
Queenstown Lakes District Council Plan
by **Hogan Gully Farming Limited**
(Submission **456**)

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF GREG TURNER ON BEHALF OF
HOGANS GULLY FARM LIMITED
TOPIC 1 CHAPTER 3**

29 FEBRUARY 2016

1 Introduction

- 1.1 My name is Greg Turner. I am a professional golfer and golf course designer. I am a Director of Greg Turner Golf Limited. I have a long-standing collaboration with Scott Macpherson Golf Design in Scotland, known as Turner Macpherson Golf Design. The purpose of this collaboration is to offer a set of comprehensive golf course design related services.
- 1.2 **Attachment A** contains a more detailed description of my work and experience.
- 1.3 This statement is on behalf of Hogans Gully Farming Limited (456).
- 1.4 In this evidence I give a background to the importance and popularity of golf tourism in New Zealand and in the Wakatipu Basin in particular.
- 1.5 As a professional golfer and golf course designer, I have an excellent understanding of the value of golf tourism as a subset of tourism generally.
- 1.6 Tourism New Zealand has recently embarked on a golf tourism strategy and contracted a golf expert (Ryan Brandeburg) alongside an advisory board (Golf Tourism New Zealand, GTNZ). The golf tourism strategy is already returning fantastic dividends with golf related tourism's contribution to our overall tourism numbers jumping dramatically from around \$220 million per annum to \$291 million in just the last year (International Visitor Survey Sept 2015).
- 1.7 Golf tourists are high yield, low impact visitors. They spend significantly more than the average tourist. International golf tourism is worth in excess of NZ\$30 billion though New Zealand's share of that international market is about 50% of Australia's (on a like for like basis).
- 1.8 Queenstown's three main tourist courses account for around 65% of the international rounds recorded at our leading 12 venues (the 'marquee' courses).
- 1.9 There is significant concern about the lack of inventory in the Queenstown region limiting the potential for growth in this tourism sector. Given the growth in visitor numbers to Queenstown, the potential for night flights etc. this problem looks to be increasing. With that in mind increasing our inventory of golf courses of international standing is a stated objective of GTNZ.
- 1.10 I have observed that there is significant pressure on availability in the peak season (January to April) and the growth in international television and media coverage of the NZ Open (held in Queenstown in early March) seems likely to add more pressure to the limited supply.

- 1.11 Even with the spectacular growth in golf visitor numbers the financial viability of a stand-alone golf facility is at best marginal. I know of no modern golf facilities other than those in remote locations which are viable without associated development (both visitor and residential).
- 1.12 The Hogan Gully site is ideal for golf development. The terrain is dramatic and, in places, more rugged than its golf course neighbours. The site therefore has the ability to provide a different type of golf offering than Jacks Point, Millbrook or the Hills.
- 1.13 This site, with its rustic heart, existing dramatic folds in the terrain and rugged rocky outcrops suggests golf should be revealed rather than imposed. The nature of the landscape calls for a less manicured presentation leading to a course aesthetic that is authentic to its Central Otago human and geological history.
- 1.14 There will be minimal earthworks required to mould a golf course onto the site, however, an extensive native revegetation plan seems appropriate. Unfortunately the intensity of grazing necessary from an economic perspective has decimated much of the natural flora that would have flourished in this environment. The grazing plan intended to complement golf on the site will be much more benign and intended to protect the revegetated areas.
- 1.15 In my professional opinion, the Hogans Gully site developed for golf would contribute to the national golf tourism strategy as well as the economic well-being of the Queenstown Lakes District.



Greg Turner – Professional Golfer/Course Designer.

Greg had a distinguished amateur golf career representing NZ at all levels from under 16 to senior level (including two World Amateur teams championships). He spent 2 years at the University of Oklahoma (majoring in professional writing) where he was twice selected on All American Golf Teams.

His professional career began in 1984. He spent 18 months on the Australasian and Asian Tours before graduating to the European Tour in 1986. He remained in Europe for the rest of his career (until retiring from competitive golf in 2003), but continued to compete in events in Australasia, Japan, Asia and the US.

His career highlights included 12 world wide victories, numerous outings representing NZ at both World Cup and Dunhill Nations Cup level, and as a member of the only ever victorious International Team in the 1998 Presidents Cup.

Away from the golf course his life was hardly one-dimensional. His eldest brother (Brian) represented NZ at hockey, was a skilful mountaineer and remains a highly respected senior road cyclist. In 2003 he became NZ's fourth ever poet laureate.

Other brother (Glenn) was one of NZ's greatest ever cricketers, captaining NZ on numerous occasions and being one of the few ever batsmen to score over 100 first class centuries.

Since retiring from competitive golf at the end of 2003, he has centred his attention on his golf course design company, the development of the new Golf Tour of New Zealand, television commentary and on writing for various international publications.

Career Highlights

Tournament Victories

- 1984 NZPGA
- 1985 Fiji Open
- 1986 Singapore Open
- 1986 Scandinavian Open
- 1989 NZ Open
- 1990 Johnnie Walker Australasian Classic
- 1991 Daikyo Palm Meadows Cup
- 1993 Italian Open
- 1995 Majorcan Open de Balleares
- 1997 British Masters
- 1997 NZ Open
- 1999 Australian PGA

Member winning International Team 1998 Presidents Cup, Melbourne
Runner up team Dunhill Nations Cup, 1996

Course Design CV

Manakau Golf Club: Redesign project
Paraparaumu Beach GC: Long term development plan
Chisholm Links: Redevelopment project
Cromwell GC: Redevelopment project
Russley GC: Course Master Plan and redevelopment project
Taupo GC: Course Master Plan and development project
St Georges Hill (London): Course Assessment and restoration plan
Castle Howard (Yorkshire): New development 18 hole preliminary plan
Lilybank Station: 18 hole preliminary design
Oreti Sands GC: Renovation and Master Plan (start construction Jan 07)
Beechwater: 9 hole preliminary Master Plan
Tekapo ~~the Cairns~~: Preliminary Master Plan
Millbrook CC: Millbrook Coronet nine and redesign existing 18
Napier GC: Redevelopment plan
Mapleham CC: Collaboration on new Pegasus Township course development
Royal Wellington GC: Complete renovation and development of championship course
Harewood GC: Complete redevelopment of the Woodlands Course
Russley GC: Major redevelopment
Templeton GC: Masterplan for quarry course