

**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 12
– Upper Clutha
Mapping Annotations
and Rezoning Requests

**REPLY OF GLENN ALISTER DAVIS
ON BEHALF OF QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL**

ECOLOGY

10 July 2017

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 My name is Glenn Alister Davis. I prepared a statement of evidence in chief and rebuttal on Ecology, for the Upper Clutha Hearing Stream 12. My qualifications and experience are listed in my evidence in chief dated 17 March 2017.

1.2 The purpose of this reply evidence is to respond to a request from the Panel that I provide a response to Dr Lloyd's view that rabbit control on Mount Iron should only be directed at revegetation areas because, across the Outstanding Natural Feature (**ONF**) more broadly, rabbits are useful as a mechanism to keep down exotic species.

2. MR KELVIN LLOYD FOR ALLENBY FARM (502)

2.1 At the hearing, Mr Lloyd's evidence was that rabbit control on Mount Iron should only be directed at revegetation areas because, across the ONF more broadly, rabbits are useful as a mechanism to keep down exotic species.

2.2 While I agree that rabbits will be controlling exotic species across Mount Iron, the rabbits are also browsing on indigenous species and this has a detrimental effect on the diversity of the vegetation present. In my view, the diversity of indigenous species across the Mt Iron ONF would improve with the control of rabbits, and would also improve the quality of the habitat for invertebrates, lizards and birds. The presence of exotic weeds would also increase with reduced rabbit numbers but the indigenous species present should compete effectively with the exotic species in the absence of browser pressure. In my view there would be a net ecological gain from the control of rabbits on Mount Iron.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' and 'A' followed by the name 'avis'.

Glenn Alister Davis

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