

BarnHill Corporate Trustee and ME Bunn and LA Green & DE Bunn Estate – Debbie MacColl

We have submitted, this zoning proposal, our vision for our small area of the Wakatipu Basin which we believe allows for sustainable residential growth and tourism opportunities around the cycle trail and wetland areas, but most importantly, it is a plan for the foreseeable future of this area.

This plan gives certainty, not only for us (to continue on from our sixty-six-year guardianship of this land), but also our neighbours and our community, certainty around residential and tourist areas and certainty around the areas that will continue as farm land. We strongly believe it will provide economic, social and environmental benefits for the community.

Both the RR/WBLP and RV zones we have proposed are based around the large network of ponds and wetland areas that run through these zones. We have deepened and enhanced many of these ponds over the past years and they have become an important habitat for a large variety of ducks and other birdlife. Our proposal will enable further development and restoration of these wetland areas.

At the 2009 National Government Job Summit an idea emerged to build a network of cycle trails that would open up rural areas to the general public that had never been available before. I don't think anyone at that stage would have guessed how successful this would be New Zealand wide. The other half of this equation was obviously to generate economic, social and environmental Amenity values that local landowners and residents can benefit from.

In our first meeting with the trails trust we were forced to face the reality that farming as we knew it was about to end, this was especially evident in October 2012 when the trail opened, and we had tens, then hundreds of people cycling past our farm disturbing our animals every day.

Over the last few decades our family have had several opportunities to sell and move away from the farm, but our decision has always been to stay on this land and retain it into the future. To achieve this, a more diversified income stream needs to be established. The Cycle trial has had several negative impacts relating to farm management, but it is also the catalyst to provide a future of new diversified opportunities for this land.

Our submission on the PDP in 2015 took three years of consideration and planning by us as a family. It started by talking to our neighbours Morven Ferry Ltd, as their land on our Western boundary is intricately linked to our land by the lagoon and enclosed basin.

Availability of a good water source is a key component for future developments, as under the ORC new regional water plan, domestic water takes from the Basin's aquifers will become more restricted. We have drilled for water and have established a supply on our land adjacent to the Kawarau River.

Our farm would become a location that Kiwi families and international visitors alike can visit or stay in, quietly enjoying the birdlife around our rural wetlands, and not be in the middle of the hyped-up urban environment that is Queenstown. We also believe that our aim to provide for the continuing high demand for RR /WBLP Zones is very much the correct one.

Over the next ten years this Junction point of the Queenstown trail is going to be one of the most visited places in the District by tourists enjoying the trail especially when the Kawarau Gorge link to Cromwell, Wanaka to Pisa and the already started Cromwell Gorge link to Alexandra is completed –in a few short years it will be the Queenstown trail equivalent of the Frankton intersection.

This proposed District Plan process needs to recognise this new economic driving point within the District and provide the appropriate zoning, so we can provide the facilities that tourists and residents require. We as a family are 100% committed to this re-zoning, in conjunction with Morven Ferry Ltd, we have the ability to create a development that we can be proud of, and which will benefit the wider community.