
SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE OF FIONA BLACK FOR CHAPTER 26/ 32

**For:
Real Journeys Limited (#621/#1341)
Te Anau Developments Limited (#607/#1342)**

TABLED AT QLDC HEARING 29 June 2016

1. **Regulating the “TSS Earnslaw”**

- 1.1 For the reasons outlined in the Memorandum of Counsel from Anderson Lloyd dated 17 June 2016, I will not go into further detail about the legality of identifying the “TSS Earnslaw” within the PDP. For completeness, I do however note, the following key matters relevant to her regulation:
- (a) Historically to maintain the vessel in a safe operating condition “TSS Earnslaw” has undergone significant repairs and refurbishment due corrosion; wear and tear and the need to modify the vessel to improve, in particular, the standard facilities for passengers and crew.
 - (b) Some of the historic upgrades and maintenance of the “TSS Earnslaw” is identified at paragraphs 3.9 - 3.10 of my evidence.
 - (c) Real Journeys has a primary goal and business model of maintaining the “TSS Earnslaw” working economically under her own steam, to ensure that she does not become a museum piece.
 - (d) Real Journeys has always had a significant interest in maintaining the heritage values of the “TSS Earnslaw”. Which is exemplified by her retention as a coal fired steamship, rather than converting her to diesel, as has occurred in numerous other instances around the world. Moreover, modifications to the vessel are made in sympathy with the ships original character. For instance, in 1982 Real Journeys went to the extent of locating some of the original moulds at NZ Railway workshops in Lower Hutt which were then used to fabricate furniture for the “TSS Earnslaw”.
 - (e) To this end, Real Journeys is considering development of a conservation plan for the “TSS Earnslaw” and her slipway on the Kelvin Peninsula to manage any proposed structural changes or layout modifications. The intent of this plan is to provide ongoing guidance for future use and protection of these important pieces of heritage.

2. **Regulating the Kelvin Peninsula Slipway**

- 2.1 I firstly wish to clarify that para 3.19 of my evidence does not purport to remove the Slipway from the scheduled list of features completely. It is in accordance with the original submissions presented which seek to downgrade its category listing from 2 to 3.
- 2.2 My evidence confirms the Slipway's historic heritage importance and that this should be appropriately recognised and managed in the PDP.
- 2.3 The question of what level of management is appropriate is the key. The PDP should appropriately recognise that this is a moveable and working piece of important infrastructure, without which the “TSS Earnslaw” would not be able to continue in operation. The “TSS Earnslaw” can be damaged by submerged objects in the lake at any time, particularly during flood events, when more debris is floating in the lake. Consequently the “TSS Earnslaw” sometimes has to be slipped at short notice, therefore her slipway needs to be kept operational to allow the “TSS Earnslaw” to be readily repaired ASAP.
- 2.4 The Rules of the PDP should recognise this rather than providing a framework which will have the effect of making the Slipway into a museum piece.
- 2.5 I recommend the listing be more accurately amended to the following:
- “The paddle steam ship “Antrim’s” former engine and boiler within the winding house, plus slipway and its cradle, Kelvin Peninsula.”*

3. **Protected Sycamore Tree #193**

- 3.1 My evidence in chief details the protected Sycamore tree, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, situated at Walter Peak.

- 3.2 This tree is a wilding species identified in the PDP's chapter 34 Wilding Exotic Trees. I consider it inappropriate that resource consent must be sought to fell a protected tree which would otherwise be prohibited to plant by other provisions in the Plan.
- 3.3 In my opinion, it should not be necessary to obtain an ecological assessment regarding the merits of removing this tree from the inventory. *Acer psuedoplatanus* is well identified as an invasive weed species: in the literature, by Department of Conservation; Councils including QLDC¹; and was even considered for inclusion in the National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA)² which identifies unwanted organisms under the Biosecurity Act 1993.
- 3.4 Further, in the literature, both McAlpine³ and Williams (2009)⁴ state that disturbed or short-stature vegetation is likely to be most at risk from sycamore invasion in New Zealand, which is the type of environment that now exists on the adjacent Te Anau Developments land and the Beach Bay Recreation Reserve at Walter Peak, after the recent wilding tree clearance. Also in the NPPA assessment, it was identified that sheep will readily eat Sycamore seeds contributing to their spread, and there are significant numbers on sheep on Te Anau Developments' land and on the neighbouring Walter Peak Station.
- 3.5 Hence, the retention of this Sycamore has the potential to contribute to Te Anau Developments' ongoing costs for weed removal and the rehabilitation of our land at Walter Peak after wilding tree clearance; which is unacceptable. Accordingly, regardless of the outcome of this District Plan review we will work with the Department of Conservation to obtain resource consent to authorise the removal of this Sycamore.

Fiona Black
29 June 2016

¹ http://www.qldc.govt.nz/assets/OldImages/Files/A_Guide_To_Brochure_Series/A_guide_to_wilding_pines.pdf

² <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/pests/plants/nppa/nppa-tag-assessments.pdf>

³ <http://caws.org.au/awc/2014/awc201410681.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.envirolink.govt.nz/PageFiles/401/658-ESRC216.pdf>