

### Brendan Karl Allen – Hearing Stream 14 – Wakatipu Basin Chapter

1. My name is Brendan Karl Allen. I am the General Manager of the Hills Golf Club. I have prepared a statement of evidence dated 13 June 2018 on behalf of Trojan Helmet Limited (THL) (Submitter 2387 and Further Submitter 1157) in respect of the proposed Hills Resort Zone (HRZ).
2. As General Manager, I am responsible for the overall management and performance of the Hills Golf Club, including strategy development, asset and facility maintenance and all staff. My experience is set out at paragraphs 2 to 9 of my evidence. This summary will briefly summarise my evidence.
3. The Hills Golf Club began as a small 'pitch and putt' golf course and has now expanded to an internationally recognised championship, marquee course. It's 'marquee' status recognises the course's location, scenery, architectural merit and its ability to meet the expectations of a travelling golfer.
4. In addition to the 18 hole championship course, a 9 hole 'short course' has recently been established in the location of 5 of the previously consented house sites. The design of the short course is rustic and natural, and intended to feel like a 'walk in the farm'.
5. Development of the golf course has included the integration of Sir Michael and Lady Christine Hill's extensive collection of sculptures within the landform of the property. The creation of the sculpture park fits with The Hills' culture of creativity and enhancing the landscape. Our goal at The Hills is to ultimately create an environment that is a unique blend of outdoor activities, art, family and environment.
6. The Hills Golf Club has a limited membership of 200, with membership including the families of the member. Approximately, 40% of our members reside full time in the District.
7. In 2007 The Hills held its first NZ Open Golf Championship tournament and will hold its ninth tournament in 2019. It has also held two NZ PGA Championships and various charity golf and other events. In total, the Hill family has underwritten 8 major national golf events at significant personal cost, providing a significant boost to golf tourism in the region.
8. In terms of employment, The Hills staff levels change seasonally given that golf is not a winter sport in this District. For the 2017/2018 peak season, the Hills employed 42 staff along with a lodge garden team of 4 staff. When The Hills hosts important or national events, additional staff are hired. For example, when the NZ Open is held at the Hills, more than 100 staff will be on site for the event.
9. We are very conscious of the impacts on the land and the environment at the Hills. In that regard, our land and particular golf course management practices are targeted at reaching the lowest possible input levels, protecting and developing the soils, and ensuring the healthiest possible water bodies.
10. We have undertaken a number of practices to reduce our effect on the environment. This includes but is not limited to substantial planting; a focus on waterway management; limiting fertiliser application so that approximately 90% of the property does not have fertiliser applied to it; limiting agricultural application, and focussing on soil management and the health of the soil.
11. The proposed Hills Resort Zone will enable further development of the existing facility and provide for additional income streams and greater employment opportunities, while maintaining and enhancing the property's landscape with high quality architecture and extensive plantings.