

## Submission on the Future of Lake Clearwater and Lake Camp



Maree Quinn

10 March 2021

I am unable to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following written submission be fully considered. My submission may be made public.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Maree Quinn', written over a horizontal line.

How often do you visit?

For the last 55 years, family have stayed between 3 to 60 days, somewhere between 6 -9 times a year.

Where do you stay?

Family-owned Bach.

What you most value about the area?

This high-country region is unique in New Zealand, and 'being' in this environment is a connecting to nature. I find that this connection has become more important over the years.

As a kid it was the ability to roam unfettered, to explore; have adventures; small and large. As an adult, there is an added appreciation for the snowy southern Alps, the milky way on a crisp winter's night, the roar of the nor-wester, the silence of snowfall, the hammering rain on tin roofs, the smell of wood fires and the joys of being 'out of cell range'.

Growing up with the neighbours and forming lifelong friendships.

Having a small 'footprint' in a basic hut with basic facilities.

Being able to engage in sailing, water skiing, swimming, canoeing, ice skating, mountain biking, hiking, photography, plein-air painting, hunting for native orchids, reading or idly watching the sun's path across the sky.

What does a thriving future at Lake Clearwater look like to you? What do you see for the density and xter of future development?

Clearwater living up to its name. The water quality is shameful. Toxic warnings are too commonplace.

The lakes are the focus of the activities in the area and one of the main reasons people visit. Restoring the health of the lakes, would ensure a thriving future.

Photographs below tell a story of 10 years.



2001



2011



2021

Note- the land to the left at the end of the lakes catchment. 2001.



Same land, from side of lake. 2021 The land is green from artificial fertiliser.



I would like to see a future where my photographs in 5 years' time will tell a different story.

I would like to see a future where a solution is found for 4wd drivers who think making new tracks over DOC land (and orchids) and ripping up bird nesting areas around the lake is ok. And for those drivers of motorbikes/ Quads who believe that tearing up and down the roads around the village is ok.

I would like to see, a fire ban that is a fire ban. Too many campers leaving fires unattended or still burning when they leave. Disappointing behaviour that could have consequences for all.

The lack of dog faeces, barking and unruly dog behaviour, is appreciated. I hope the ban continues.

The splitting of the lakes into power and non-power, should continue.

#### What do you see for the density and character of future development?

Future development should be limited to maintaining those facilities that are there, or improving them.

It would be good to see development of the camping area at Lake Clearwater to create a fairer and more eco-friendly site. It is not ok, that campers to discharge their grey water out onto the ground, so close to the water's edge. Have a booking system so more people can visit, rather than first come for the entire season. The nesting area of the Crested Grebe is confined and close to campers, it would be beneficial to give them more space.

Booking systems work well in remote parts of Australia, and could work here to provide additional funds to the council. The remote camping areas also delineate camping spaces, so campers don't encroach on protected areas/ wildlife.

It would be disappointing if development were allowed along the lines of Tekapo etc. However, the nature of the 200sqm blocks being leasehold, may prohibit developer dreams. Unless development outside of the 'village' area is being considered by council. This would destroy the character of the village, not to mention the environmental impacts this would have.

#### What you think is holding us back?

If by 'us' you mean the council – then water quality is the primary concern. Till this is addressed, in a cohesive way with active management, backed by regulation and enforced, then the Lakes region will continue to be 'held back'. The lakes will die. The scapegoat of the long drops is now gone. The evidence that points to overuse of artificial fertilizers should be of primary concern.

Lake Alexandria, a comparable lake, has taken many years to recover after long drops were removed and restrictions were placed on the surrounding farms. And is still in recovery mode since the late 1980's when water quality and toxic algae blooms were common. (1) An immediate first step would be to reduce the application of artificial fertilisers – as added nutrients seem to be the major culprit at Clearwater as well.

I was also surprised to see in a recent flood event of May last year, the number of cattle standing in streams, that fed into the catchment of Lake Clearwater. Adding faecal and urine to the mix of artificial fertilisers, flowing into the lake. A potent mix, for any swimmer or recreational user to contend with, let alone the wildlife that depends on a healthy lake.



May 2021, Near Whiskey Stream.

Do you have any other comments?

When my father built our family Bach 55 years ago, he was asked by a close friend, why choose Lake Clearwater. My father replied "it is an ideal place for water skiing, swimming, canoeing and fishing...great for the family" His friend countered that he was wasting his time and that in 40 years the lake would be a Raupo Swamp.

I am wondering if the Raupo Swamp prophecy will be the council's legacy.

Notes:

1. [http://mackenzie.infocouncil.biz/Open/2019/04/ASC\\_20190409\\_AGN\\_2311\\_AT\\_files/ASC\\_20190409\\_AGN\\_2311\\_AT\\_Attachment\\_10584\\_1.PDF](http://mackenzie.infocouncil.biz/Open/2019/04/ASC_20190409_AGN_2311_AT_files/ASC_20190409_AGN_2311_AT_Attachment_10584_1.PDF)

## Have your say on our place

Your feedback will help us identify what the future of the area should look like, and what should be included in our thirty year plan.

Please note all submissions are public documents and will be made available on Council's website with the names of submitters included.

Submissions presented in the form of a submission or accompanied by multiple signatures will be processed as a single submission.

***The easiest way to provide your feedback is to complete the online form at [ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay](https://ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay)***

Alternatively, you can provide feedback by filling in the attached submission form and getting it back to us using one of the following methods:

**Freepost to** Ashburton District Council  
Freepost 230444  
PO Box 94  
Ashburton 7740

**Email to** [submissions@adc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@adc.govt.nz)

**Hand in to** Council reception, Baring Square West

You have until 5pm, Sunday 13 March 2022 to get your feedback in.

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### Your details

First name     Stuart

Last name     Fass

**Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?**

(If no boxes are ticked, it will be considered that you do not wish to be heard)

☐ Yes: Yes this may change

*The hearing will be held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 13 April 2022. Please note that hearings are live-streamed to our online channels.*

☐ No:

*I do not wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following written submission be fully considered.*

Signature 

Date

13/3/2022

**You can submit on any or all of the questions below. You don't have to complete every question.**

1. When you visit where do you stay? (tick all that apply)

☒ In your own bach



Rent/borrow a bach



Stay with friends



Freedom camp around the lake



At Lake Clearwater campground



Usually only come for day trips



Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Refer to submission**

2. How often do you visit Lake Camp & Clearwater area?

3. What do you value the most about the area?

## Future of lake camp and lake Clearwater

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### Background

Lake Clearwater settlement, which comprises 192 individual sections which 180 of those are designated as 'Huts' with the balance being 12 empty sections. *'The Settlement first laid out in 1920s as a gift to the people as part of an endowment to the citizens of Ashburton Council'.*

180 individual sections with Huts, plus 12 vacant sections make up what is deemed 'The Settlement'. Some interesting facts about the settlement. The vacant sections cannot be sold or developed.

### Residential B Zoning

Fears of greater use, higher occupancy.

Residential B restricted to Lot size of 280m<sup>2</sup>. This zone classification is the smallest lot size in ADC.

Residential B Height to Boundary 2.7m (Specifically for Lake Clearwater - usually 2.4m)

Residential B building setbacks already prohibits the ability for any significant size of a dwelling, as lot size, dwelling size and site coverage, coupled with Height to Boundary are all considered for any proposed upgrades to the existing structures.

### Intensification

Fear of intensification, due to developments creating greater use, by more people, cannot be justified.

The size of the lots (280m) coupled with height to boundary limitations, building setbacks, as well as limitations on overall site coverage, already restricts any significant structures from being built on these sections. With no Power, temperatures may dip below 10° C in Winter (excluding wind chill) thus the Lakes become a rather uninhabitable location over cooler months.

A slightly larger dwelling, perhaps to enclose a previous long drop toilet, or upgrade a 50-year-old kitchen, does not automatically correlate to a greater number of people utilising the Hut, nor does it infer 'intensification'. The dwelling upgrades that some Hut Holders have completed within the settlement over the past 3-4 years does not support the argument proposed.

### **Occupancy (example) Christmas School Holidays 2021-2022 (Peak Holiday Season)**

Huts:

Over the two (2) week period 4th January 2022 – 16th January 2022, There were only five (5) occupied Huts at any one time, this includes the Airbnb rental house on Two Thumbs Road. Total Occupancy of the Hut Settlement over this period represents <3% of the Huts.

Campers:

Lake Clearwater Camping ground during the same 2 week period was at <25% occupancy. The camp sites around Lake Camp also showed a low number, that being 6-7 groups at any one time. Clearly the numbers of people collectively across the Hut Settlement and public camping areas are also not an issue for either sustainability or for the environment.

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Intensification of use, within the Hut Settlement is clearly not an issue that warrants further restrictions on what is already in place.

## Unique features of lake Clearwater and Lake Camp

Many on the Decision panel, may not be fully aware of some unique features of Lake Clearwater and Lake Camp.

Lake Clearwater and Lake Camp, differ dramatically from other holiday destinations for many reasons including but not limited to.

### Location

The last 10km of roading into the Settlement is unsealed.

Roading. There is only one (1) official road within the Settlement. All internal road and access routes within the Settlement are managed and maintained by the Hut Holders Association.

### Climate

The elevation of Lake Clearwater (600m above sea level), and the proximity to the Alps, means that the temperatures in colder months (May- Oct) will regularly drop below 0°C (Actual -7°C June 2021).

The Huts are predominately used only in Summer months as most are built from basic building materials, with no insulation being installed. Heating is therefore a major issue therefore the majority of Hut Holders will lock and leave the Huts, only to utilise them during warmer months (Nov-March)

**Power** – there is no power.

Each dwelling must be self-reliant on Solar or Wind generated Power.

(no power means no dishwashers, washing machines etc that one would normally associate with a 'occupied dwelling')

### Toilet Facilities

Each dwelling has a self-contained, or portable toilet pan. These are emptied by local contractors at the expense of Hut Holders, with portable units being disposed of at designated locations. The camp ground(s) have funded Toilet facilities.

### Water – Roof top rain collection only

Each dwelling has their own form of collecting and storing rainwater. The rainwater is not deemed 'potable' (fit for drinking) therefore occupants must either take fresh drinking water into the Settlement, enough for the length of their stay, or install a filtration system.

### Mobile Phone connectivity

No Cell towers reach the Lake(s) Settlement.

### Internet access

Internet access can only be described, at best, as being extremely 'Limited'.

## Water quality

A high-quality water management plan is in the best interests of all stakeholders.

My Family have owned a Hut at Lake Clearwater for over 30 years. This has served multiple purposes, including, fishing, hunting, sailing, and windsurfing, boating, cycling and hiking.

Our family enjoy the uniqueness of the location of Lake Clearwater. We also appreciate the dynamic ever changing environmental demands on the region.

In the past 10 years we have seen dramatic changes in the water quality, both from a visual and practicality perspectives. The water is no longer 'Clear'.

### **Cyanobacteria invades river system**

In 2009 The Potts River was a picture perfect 'pristine river'. The clarity of the water was exceptional, and we took our kids to build mini-dams within the river. In the past 10-12 years this river has declined to a point where, for our own health, we avoid the water altogether.

Cyanobacteria has completely overtaken the river system

### **Lake Clearwater water quality**

I have provided a Map of Lake Clearwater with markups for significant points of interest.

I have derived my information from DOC and ECAN data sets sent through to me by ECAN.

The main inflow for Lake Clearwater is Whisky Creek, which is located West and upwind of the Hut Settlement. The Outflow is Lambies Stream (East and Downwind of the Settlement)

- Whisky Creek shows a significantly high level of Phosphorus.
- Lambies Stream shows high levels of Nitrogen.
- North-West (swamp) High Nitrogen – source / origin 'unknown' (ECAN)
- Transparency / Clarity of water (Turbidity)

Considerations as to where the contaminants originate are important. A lot of focus has been put on the Hut Settlement, as a major contributor to the declining quality of the lake. Considerations as to where and what amount of contamination is important.

- a. Phosphorus is a main component of Fertiliser. Fertiliser is used in agriculture. Whisky Creek runs directly from farm. This is a major concern for the quality of Lake Clearwater. Phosphorus (DR, PR). Conclusion's "Farming" (Fertiliser) - the 'Greening of brown hills' including Aerial spraying.
- b. Nitrogen comes from *"The most common sources are leaching and run-off from agriculture, wastewater treatment plants, fertilised lawns, leaky septic systems, and industrial discharges"*. <https://www.lawa.org.nz/learn/factsheets/nitrogen/>

The Prevailing Wind - Westerly (West to East). *The high country near the main divide, with prevailing north-west winds, abundant precipitation, winter snow and some glaciers particularly towards the south* <https://niwa.co.nz/our-science/climate/publications/regional-climatologies/canterbury>

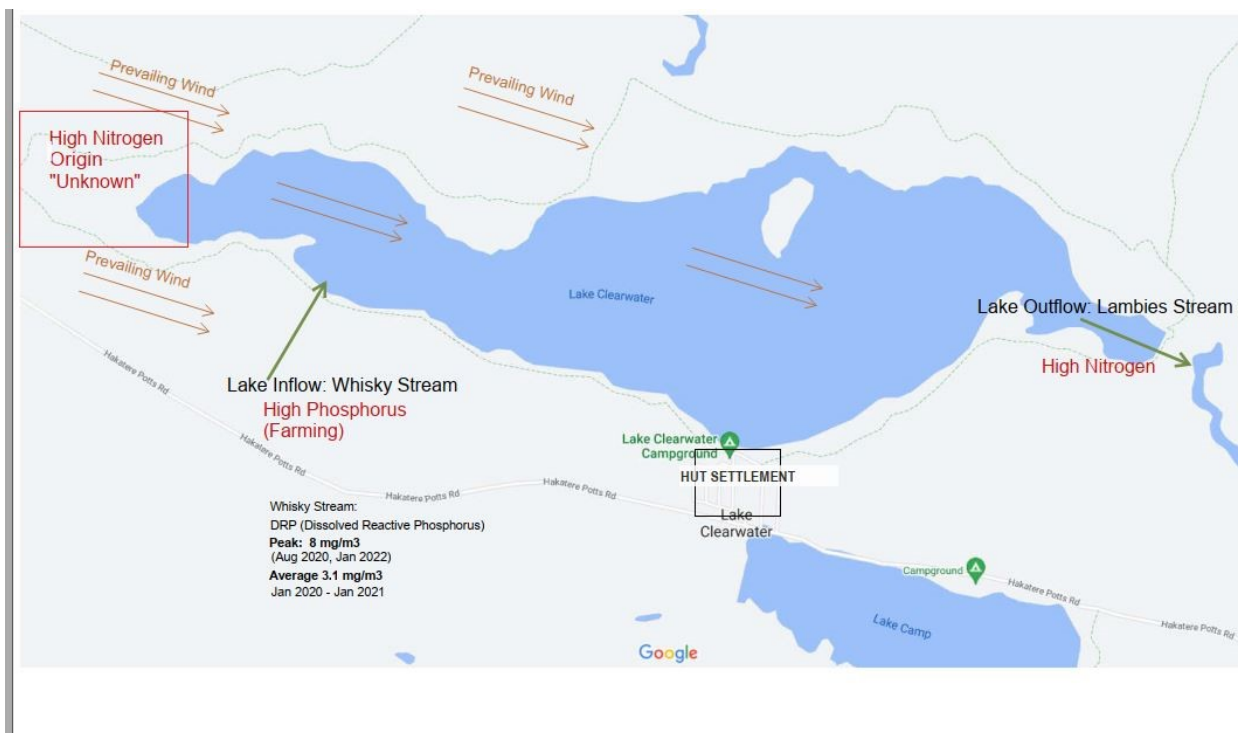
- c. **Prevailing Winds** are important. The prevailing (dominant) winds for the Lake Clearwater settlement is the best determination of contamination as the Outflow of the

lake sits to the East of the settlement, the Inflow to the West. The strong Winds coupled with the elevations of the lake (high in West, Low in East) are a considerable determining factor as to where high contamination readings will occur.

Based on the above, It would be somewhat illogical to suggest that a build-up of Nitrogen in the North-West has been caused by the human activity, where the settlement lies 'down-stream and down-wind' of the location of contamination.

- d. **Surface borne contamination.** Wind-borne water contamination (high winds, uplifting loose surface soils) that end up in rivers and lakes.  
Land contaminations. Heavy rains, carry the loose topsoils downstream, thus terminating in rivers, streams, and the bottom of lakes.  
An interesting point not explained. Lake Clearwater (refer to map) High Nitrogen Northwest (Tip of the lake) "Unexplained / Unknown".
- e. Transparency / Clarity of water (**Turbidity**) Transparency is affected by organisms within the water. 'Floating microbes' A further test of the types of microbes would be beneficial to determine whether Plant or Animal

### MAP with Markups



### Environmental concerns – Lake Clearwater, Lake Camp

The building Code classes Environment in 2 ways. 1 internal Environment. 2. External Environment.

Noise. External Environment. The impacts of Noise have not been addressed within the Consultation documentation.

Noise mitigation must be considered. Proximity of tracks for Motor bikes must consider the impacts of their exhaust noise. Lake Camp in the past Summer also had a greater number of Jet boats on the lake. Some of these boats created what most observers would comment an unacceptable amount of excess noise.

Use of DOC land for 4-wheel driving and Motor Bikes has been raised as a potential issue. This concern can be easily mitigated by allowing access to specific areas only.

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Submitted by: Stuart Fletcher

**Director**

**Risknet Limited**

13/03/2022

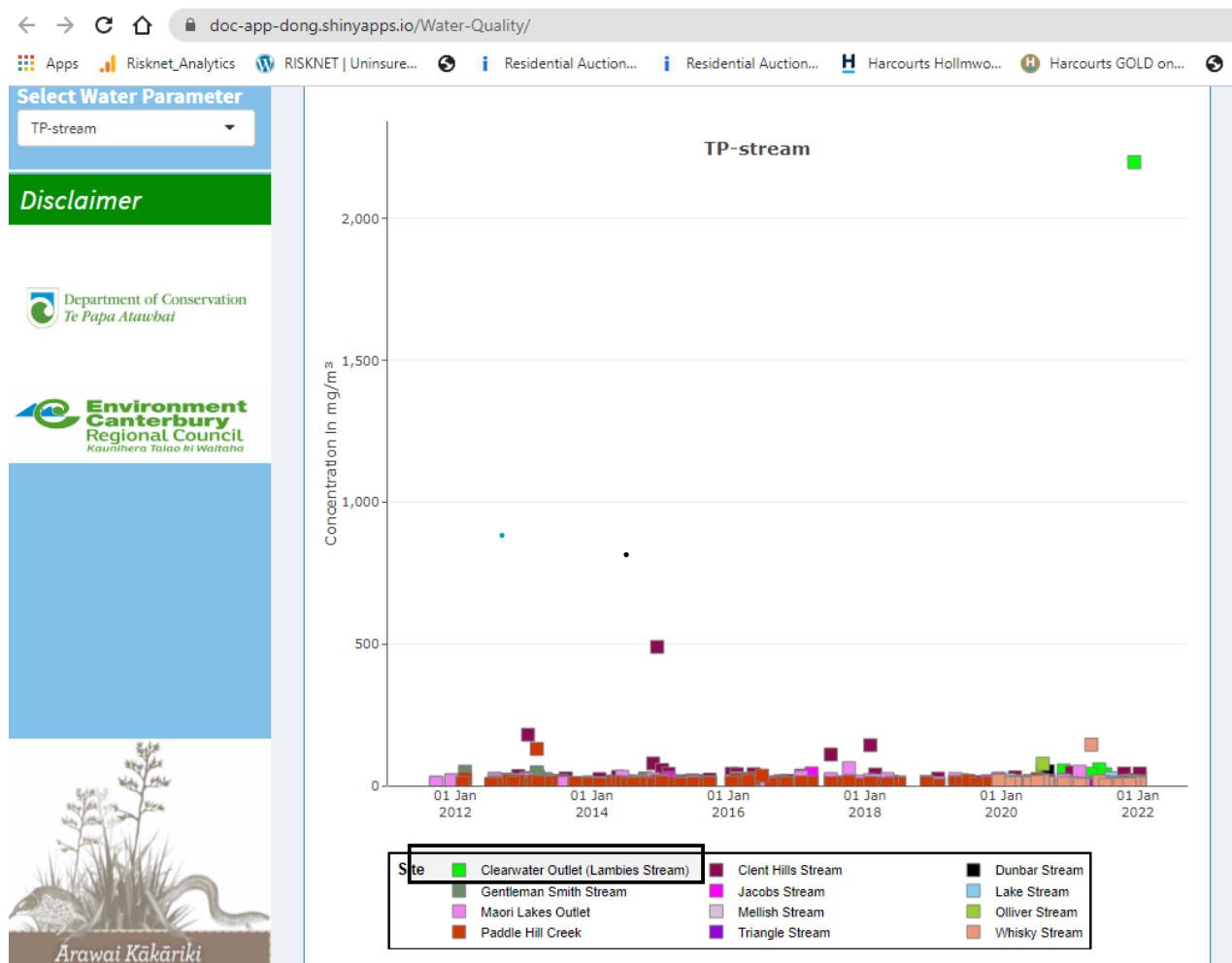
## Appendix: References

### Doc & ECAN Water investigations

#### Lake Clearwater High Total Phosphorus (TP)

(Note 1<sup>st</sup> test started Dec 2020) 2000mg/m<sup>3</sup>

Source – most likely Fertiliser introduced via Whisky Stream (Lake Clearwater Inflow)



## Phosphorus

Phosphorus is an element with the symbol P that attaches to soil particles and is naturally present in water in low concentrations. Together with nitrogen, it is an essential nutrient for instream plant life and is commonly measured as either total phosphorus (TP) or dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP).

### Total Phosphorus

Total phosphorus (TP) is a measure of all types of phosphorus present. It includes the phosphate that is stuck to soil (sediment) as well as dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP) which is more readily available for plants. **TP is an important measure because most phosphate enters our rivers attached to sediment via run-off**

### Dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP)

**Over time the phosphate that is bound to the sediment dissolves, and becomes available for aquatic plant and algae growth.**

### Where does phosphorus come from?

Phosphorus can occur naturally in rocks and minerals, and it can be a common component in soils and sediments. Weathering of rocks and minerals releases phosphorus in bio-available forms as DRP, suitable for uptake by plants. DRP can occur naturally in groundwater depending on the aquifer geology and groundwater conditions.

**Fertilisers can be applied to soils to improve phosphorus availability**, enabling agricultural and horticultural intensification and improved pasture production. Phosphorus binds strongly to soil particles, but once the capacity of the soil to store phosphorus is exceeded, it will leach downward through the soil profile into groundwater. Alternatively, if the soil suffers erosion, **it will move with surface runoff to rivers. Much of the phosphorus in our rivers is a result of erosion and fertiliser use.**

### How to test for phosphorus?

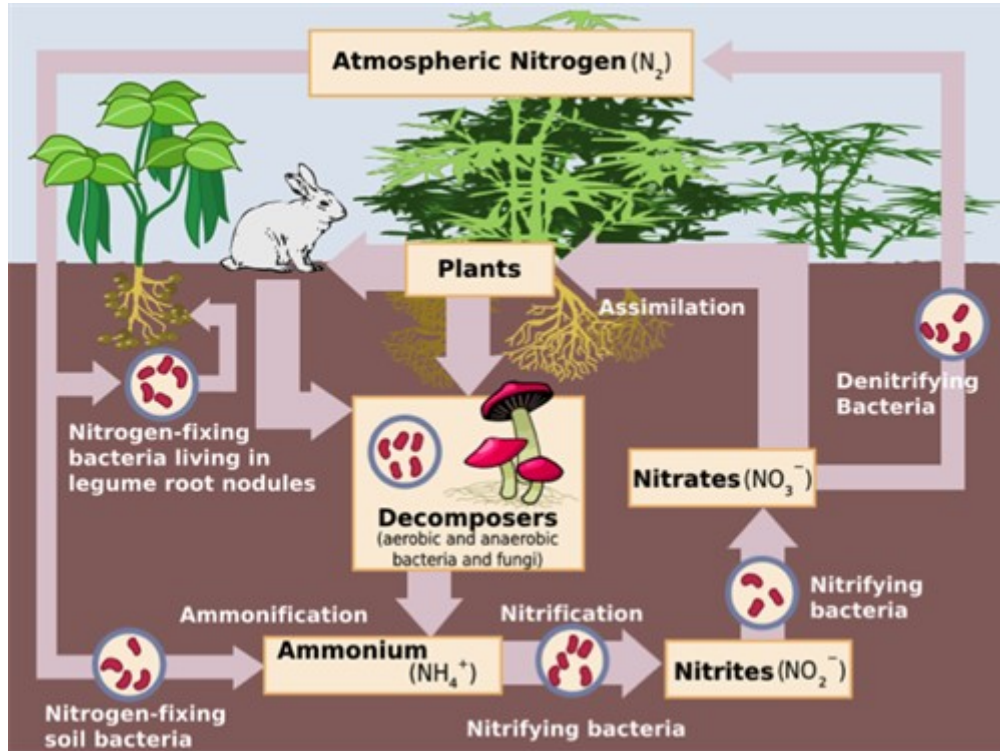
Typically, natural DRP concentrations in groundwater are low (<0.1 mg/L), indicating that higher levels of DRP could be of anthropogenic origin. However, in some areas of New Zealand, concentrations of DRP in groundwater have a natural source component, due to the chemical make-up of the aquifer geology, the redox environment and age of the groundwater.

Phosphorus, in both soluble and complex organic forms, is a key component of domestic wastewater and animal waste. **Elevated concentrations in groundwater may indicate influences of human and intensive land use activities.**

Source: <https://www.lawa.org.nz/learn/factsheets/phosphorus/>

## What is Nitrogen?

Nitrogen is a naturally occurring chemical element, with the symbol N. In its gas form ( $N_2$ ), nitrogen makes up about 80% of the Earth's atmosphere. In other forms it is one of the most important nutrients for plant growth. It is also found in amino acids that make up proteins, in nucleic acids (that make up DNA) and in many other [organic](#) (biological) and [inorganic](#) (chemical) compounds.



This figure shows a schematic representation of the flow of nitrogen through the environment. Bacteria are a key aspect of the cycle, providing different forms of nitrogen compounds that can be utilised by higher organisms. Source: Wikipedia.

Nitrogen occurs as several forms in the environment:

### *Nitrogen gas ( $N_2$ )*

### *Nitrate-Nitrogen ( $NO_3-N$ )*

Nitrate-nitrogen is the concentration of nitrogen present in the form of the nitrate ion. Nitrate is a water soluble molecule made up of nitrogen and oxygen with the chemical formula  $NO_3$ . It is a very important plant nutrient but because it is highly water soluble, it leaches through soils and into groundwater very easily, particularly after heavy rainfall.

It is one of the most common contaminants of rivers, streams, lakes and groundwater in rural and urban areas. Sources of nitrate include excessive application of inorganic fertiliser, animal and human waste. Nitrogen fixation and soil cultivation can also cause nitrate leaching if poorly managed. On grazed pastures, animal urine patches can be a major source of nitrate leaching.

Once in groundwater, nitrate can persist for many years and travel long distances. Under some conditions, where aquifers contain decaying organic material that consumes available oxygen dissolved in the water, nitrate can be converted to nitrogen gas in a process called "denitrification". This has been shown to occur on a local scale in many parts of New Zealand, and it can explain why some groundwater wells have very low nitrate concentrations when other wells nearby have much higher concentrations.

Where groundwater emerges as springs, it can be an important source of contamination in streams and lakes. In fact, transport via groundwater is probably the main pathway by which nitrogen is carried from agricultural land into surface water bodies.

In drinking water, high nitrate concentrations can be harmful to humans and livestock. The New Zealand Ministry of Health (2018) has set a Maximum Acceptable Value (MAV) for nitrate (as the nitrate ion) in drinking water of 50 milligrams per litre (mg/L) to prevent against short-term health risk to bottle-fed babies. When expressed as nitrate nitrogen, the units used in LAWA, the MAV is equivalent to 11.3 mg/L.

*[Read more on Nitrate-nitrogen in Groundwater](#)*

*Nitrite-Nitrogen ( $\text{NO}_2\text{-N}$ )*

*Total Oxidised Nitrogen (TON)*

*Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN)*

*Ammoniacal nitrogen ( $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ )*

*Ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ )*

*Total Nitrogen (TN)*

*[Why is too much nitrogen a problem?](#)*

Nitrogen is an effective fertiliser and essential plant nutrient, but increased concentrations in water can cause negative environmental effects. Some forms of nitrogen can become toxic to aquatic life at high concentrations, particularly under certain temperatures and pH conditions. This can cause direct harm to fish and macroinvertebrates. The assessment of ammonia and nitrate concentrations defined as attribute bands in the NPS-FM 2020 apply only to these potential toxicity effects on aquatic ecosystem.

Excess nitrogen (at lower concentrations than required to cause toxicity effects) can also contribute to rapid growth of aquatic weeds and algae in rivers, streams, lakes, estuaries and the ocean. Commonly, this can result in plant or algal blooms. As the plants then die and the excess organic material decomposes, oxygen in the surrounding water is used up and in severe cases this reduction of oxygen poses a threat to aquatic life. When assessing risk of nutrients driving problematic plant and algae growth, scientists often look at the combination of multiple forms of nitrogen including the dissolved nitrogen (collectively referred to as dissolved inorganic nitrogen, or DIN). There are no attribute band definitions for DIN in the NPS-FM 2020.

In drinking water, the nitrate form of nitrogen can be toxic to humans and other animals at high concentrations (see the discussion on nitrate above).

*[Where does nitrogen come from?](#)*

The most common sources are leaching and run-off from agriculture, wastewater treatment plants, fertilised lawns, leaky septic systems, and industrial discharges.

*[How to test for nitrogen?](#)*

*[Which unit is it given in?](#)*

*[Deriving guideline values for water quality](#)*

To derive a guideline value requires the collection of data or information on an indicator for a water body, then use of these data to determine concentrations that will protect a particular community value.

Here we describe methods for guideline value derivation related to the protection of aquatic ecosystems — relevant to both default guideline values (DGVs) and site-specific guideline values — and other community values.

State and territory governments may have their own guidance for deriving and applying site-specific guideline values, and you should always consult with them at the outset on appropriate methods. We also provide guidance on [applying guideline values](#), including some specific variations adopted by jurisdictional regulators.

#### *Aquatic ecosystem guideline values*

Guideline values for aquatic ecosystems can be derived using:

[\*reference-site data\*](#)

[\*laboratory-effects data\*](#)

[\*field-effects data\*](#)

[\*multiple lines of evidence based on two or more of these data.\*](#)

These derivation methods are relevant to indicators for all lines of evidence that may require guideline values, namely chemical and physical lines of evidence (physical and chemical stressors, toxicants) and ecosystem receptor lines of evidence (bioaccumulation, biodiversity, toxicity).

For guideline values derived from field and laboratory-effects data, the ecological or biological effects of the stressors are used to define guideline values below which ecologically meaningful changes do not occur.

Referential guideline values define a measurable level of change from a natural reference condition that, although the ecological consequences are unknown, is considered unlikely to result in adverse effects.

For toxicants in waters and sediments, the preferred approaches to deriving guideline values are usually through the use of field and/or laboratory biological-effects (toxicity) data. But this will be dictated by other factors, including the significance or risk of the stressor and the [level of protection](#) being assigned to the waterway. For example:

- a stressor assessed to be of low risk to a waterway may not require a guideline value based on field-effects data
- a stressor assessed to be of high risk to a waterway may require a guideline value based on a multiple lines-of-evidence approach using both field and laboratory-effects data
- for waterways of high conservation/ecological value — where any change in water quality from natural background concentrations might be unacceptable — a conservative reference-site approach to deriving guideline values might be preferable.

For physical and chemical (PC) stressors, our preferred approach to derive guideline values is to use local field and/or laboratory-effects data. But these are expensive to collect so guideline values are usually derived — initially at least — using reference-site data.

The reference-site approach may be preferable where toxicants or PC stressors have naturally different characteristics relative to other similar waterways. For example:

- Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra always has naturally high total nitrogen (TN) concentrations compared to similar systems that will have lower TN guideline values
- catchments with mineralised geology can have naturally elevated concentrations of certain metals and/or metalloids compared to non-mineralised catchments.

Derivations of guideline values for ecosystem receptors and associated biological assessments are implicitly local and ecosystem-specific. They are based on reference-site data and characterisation of — and change from — a reference condition.

For more guidance on how to derive site-specific guideline values for aquatic ecosystems, see:

[\*How specific is site-specific? A review and guidance for selecting and evaluating approaches for deriving local water quality benchmarks\*](#), by van Dam et al. (2019)

- Industry, regulators, and others can use this guidance to
  - decide on an appropriate approach for deriving a local water quality guideline value, and
  - assess whether a particular approach used to derive a site-specific guideline value was appropriate.
- Learn the difference between site-adapted and site-specific guideline values.

*[Deriving site-specific guideline values for physico-chemical parameters and toxicants for coal seam gas and large coal mining development](#), by Huynh & Hobbs (2019)*

- This guidance explains how to design a monitoring program and then derive site-specific guidelines values for water and sediment, consistent with the approaches in the Water Quality Guidelines, within the context of the coal resource industry.

Primary industry guideline values

*[Livestock drinking water](#)*

*[Irrigation water](#)*

*[Water for aquaculture](#)*

Drinking water guideline values

Both aesthetic and health-related guideline values for drinking-water quality are provided in the (NHMRC 2016) [Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 6 \(2011\) — Updated 2016](#).

[New Zealand drinking water guidelines](#) are also available.

Aesthetic guideline values are associated with acceptability of water to consumers (e.g. appearance, taste and odour).

Health-related guideline values are concentrations that do not result in any significant risk to the health of the consumer over a lifetime of consumption.

Health-based guideline values were set at about 10% of the acceptable daily intake (ADI) for an adult weight of 70 kg and a daily water consumption of 2 L. These very conservative health values include a range of safety factors (NHMRC 2016). Their derivation draws heavily on the international (WHO 2011) [Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality, Fourth Edition](#); minor differences include an average body weight of 70 kg rather than 60 kg.

Recreation and aesthetic guideline values

*[Recreational water](#)*

*[Aesthetics of water](#)*

Colour, clarity and the absence of surface oil films and odours are important considerations for aesthetics.

No specific guideline values are set for aesthetics because this does not affect public health or ecosystem health (NHMRC 2008). Although aesthetic aspects are important in maximising the benefit of recreational water use.

Guidance on how aesthetic values might be derived includes:

- for taste and odour thresholds, the smallest concentration or amount that would be just detected by a trained group of people
- concentration or amount that would produce noticeable stains on laundry or corrosion and encrustation of pipes or fittings
- concentration or amount that would be just noticeable in a glass of water and lead to a perception that the water was not of good quality. <https://www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/canterbury-region/swimming/lake-clearwater-west-of-huts/swimsite>

13 March 2022

## SUBMISSION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DRAFT 30 YEAR PLAN FOR LAKES CLEARWATER AND CAMP

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on our hopes for the future of the area to inform the development of the draft 30 Year Plan for Lakes Clearwater and Camp.

We submit on behalf of our parents and grandparents who are named among the original giftees of the land (Sam and Robin Chaffey) and as current bach-holders stretching back to the 1950s. We still own and treasure the house at the front, with the red door, next to Linga Longa- that most bach owners know as the Chaffey's place or "Buckingham Palace".

We, as a family, acknowledge the rare privilege afforded to bach-owners and visitors and other land-owners around the lake- to guard and protect the original intentions and aspirations of the land giftees, for our children and their children and on behalf of the people of New Zealand.

*"The land is held in Trust for the purposes of providing fishing baches and picnicking" while a Wildlife Refuge protected and limited the use of the lake and the lake rim .*

We note and applaud that "the council want to make sure the environmental health of the whole area improves and control the impact of future development".

We submit that in the 30 Year Plan you:

### **A The village land gifts**

1. Confirm that you will use all of your powers and influence through District Council Rules, Regulations, relationships and funding to protect in perpetuity the original intentions and aspirations of the original giftees of the land for the village, namely:
  - a. A family friendly environment with high social amenity (easy to walk around, safe, peaceful)
  - b. A visual amenity value appreciating the open spaces in and around the village and along the roads (plenty of open *and shared* spaces)
  - c. A protected, healthy natural environment to support wild-life in, around and on the lakes and to guarantee safe swimming and water sports

- d. Be welcoming to visitors who follow the rules and respect the privilege, including those who visit baches and those who use the campground and those who use the shared open spaces for picnicking and walking and those using freedom camping rights given by the council)
2. Uphold all current rulings, by-laws and legislation pertaining and still relevant to wildlife protection, and lake and biodiversity protection (as set out in the Appendices to this submission).
3. Acknowledge and agree to address the underlying problems that are causing the issues impacting the social and environmental amenity of the village, the lakes and their surrounds. These problems are:
  - a. Building codes do not take account of the visual and aural and environmental amenity we enjoy as long term bach owners
  - b. People have lost sight of the original intention of the village land gifts, the Wildlife Reserve and mahinga kai protections
  - c. Vehicles have primacy within the village boundaries, rather than foot traffic, and go beyond the border of the village, off-road.
  - d. Environmental limits and boundaries on human activities are no longer fit for purpose to retain high levels of environmental (e.g. water) and social amenity and to retain the original intention for the village area and lakes of the original land -giftees.
4. Immediately reduce the speed limit within the village for all vehicle classes to 20km/hour.
5. Continue to enforce the end of long drops.
6. Protect any remaining public open spaces- and high visual amenity private spaces- from development of unbalanced building scale. <sup>1</sup>
7. Putting aside the issue of property value, we submit that certain developments in the village are impacting negatively on that original concept, due to their imbalance of increasing size to scale.

The great news is that we believe the council has many of the right legislative and policy levers to acknowledge and protect the original intentions of giftees, fix the problems, specifically urban planning and design rules and town boundary covenants and building code leadership. We note in your notes to us that you say *"The rules in our District Plan relating to the settlement are now over 10 years old and may have allowed for the intensification we are seeing. We think it is time to look at whether they need to be reviewed or changed."* **We agree. We would applaud your use of these powers to address the underlying problems where you can.**

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<sup>1</sup> With respect to the village's look and feel, we love the charm of the old buildings and the original concept, accepting the three are excellent environmentally friendly upgrades happening such as solar panels and inground effluent systems. While this improves the value of the properties, we see this as positive and not a risk: it fits our notion of the original principles of the village.

## **B      The original intentions of the land and water protections beyond the village- on the rim of the lakes and in close proximity around the lakes**

We are very concerned about the lake water quality. However, we are not convinced that activities within the border of the village and unintended run-off or drainage are affecting water quality. However, we congratulate the council and bach-owners for their support on taking proactive approaches (e.g. the wetlands area being established on Lake Clearwater; dogs prohibited in or near the lake; getting rid of long drops) to be really assured that this true. Thank you.

We do believe it is human impact on land-use beyond the village boundaries: some from recreational vehicles driving on the rim of the lakes but most impacts appear to be from other land-use practices. We acknowledge and applaud the work underway around and above the lakes to get firm data on water impacts so that robust decisions can be made to stop and remediate the damage.

We submit that you make it clear in the 30 Year Plan that:

8. You will prioritise the lakes' regeneration immediately
9. You expect everyone (regional council, central government and landowners) in the catchment area immediately to use all of their powers and their resources to regenerate the health of the lakes.
10. You are going to step up, get loud, demand attention on the lakes: their regeneration is non-negotiable.

Concerningly for you, and us as bach owners with a long history in the area, when it comes to the quality of the lake water and its effect on biodiversity and amenity values, we believe you will need to lean heavily on central and regional government to use their levers, such as farm land management plans and RMA consents, to address issues affecting the lake quality from above and around the lake beyond the village borders. We know they know the problems. It is described in myriads of their reports (some described in the appendix to this letter). Tell them to get on with it.

Attached for clarification is our family's understanding of the context in which you are asking us to provide input into the 30 Year Plan:

- A. the history, including the original intentions and aspirations of the original village land giftees and the adjacent wildlife reserve. We suggest that some of these may have been lost sight of.
- B. The long history and current state of play for protecting and enhancing and regenerating the lakes and close surrounds. There are many current strategies, confirmed data and decisions that stand from a range of agencies including regional council and central government. We note that many of these decisions have not yet been successfully and meaningfully activated, which we find very concerning, as

collectively they would go a long way to starting the process of remediating the lake water quality.

- C. The problems and all the issues we see them causing
- D. The issue of water quality
- E. Our acknowledgments
- F. The assumptions underpinning your approach to the 30 Year Plan. We suggest you test some of them.

**We do not wish to speak in support of our submission at the hearing**

Thank you

The Chaffey family

## A The history and narrative as we understand it

- Gallaher reserve 1920s: **for picnics and a base for fishing.**
- The Council approached the Chaffey's, the current managers at the time (Sam in the 1950s and the son Rob 1964) about extending the village for **improved accessibility to the lakes and their surrounds and their amenities (fishing and recreation).**
- The Chaffey's approached the owners- New Zealand Australian Land Company -based in Edinburgh. The company agreed wholeheartedly.
- They saw it as not only an opportunity to improve accessibility to the lakes and their surrounds and amenities, but as a way to support the local farm managers' wishes to **limit escalating "free for all" access across properties, impacting farming practices with rising health and safety concerns.**

## B The long history and current state of play for protecting and enhancing and regenerating the lakes and close surrounds.

- We recognise the context of the original wild-life reserve, established the early days: to protect and enhance wild-life in, around and on the lakes.
- Developments have always needed to look in good faith to the original intentions and values, specifically the first principles, fishing and wildlife protection, and recreation that does not negatively impact that [evident by no power boats on lake clearwater to disturb through noise and water disruption].
- No dogs or motor-powered craft are permitted on the lake as it is a wildlife reserve. Because of high wildlife values<sup>2</sup>, boating on Lake Clearwater (Te Puna a Taka) was restricted to paddle-propelled craft only, and sail.
- Ō Tū Wharekai Wetland, which includes the Lakes and the areas around them, is one of the best intact examples of an inter-montane wetland system in New Zealand.<sup>3</sup>
- Through the Ngāi Tahu Settlement Act 1998, a Statutory Acknowledgement and Deed of Recognition is in place over the area to formally acknowledge the association and values Ō Tū Wharekai holds for Ngāi Tahu.<sup>4</sup>
- The diverse range of wetland habitats mean this site is a nationally important area for biodiversity, and the lakes and wetlands have been designated 'Areas of Significant Nature Conservation Value'. Hakatere Conservation Park is centred around the wetlands<sup>5</sup>
- Ō Tū Wharekai Recreation Plan Ashburton lakes and Upper Rangitata River 2010: This recreation plan has been written by the Department of Conservation (the department) to consolidate planning directions for recreation activities and facilities in Ō Tū Wharekai (the Ashburton lakes basin and upper Rangitata River). Ō Tū Wharekai is one

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/parks-and-recreation/places-to-visit/canterbury/raukapuka/hakatere-conservation-park.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> The complex includes the twelve Ashburton Lakes and the Upper Rangitata River and is one of three primary wetlands in New Zealand.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/freshwater-restoration/arawai-kakariki-wetland-restoration/sites/o-tu-wharekai/about/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/freshwater-restoration/arawai-kakariki-wetland-restoration/sites/o-tu-wharekai/about/>

of three wetlands around the country managed as part of the national Arawai Kākāriki wetland programme. Arawai Kākāriki aims **to restore wetlands with the assistance of the community** and learn more about methods for wetland restoration along the way.<sup>6</sup>

- Motorised-vehicle use off formed two-wheel-drive roads is appropriate **only where formed farm tracks exist and are managed as 4WD roads** (see Appendix 3 for the definition of a road). Road surfaces must be sufficiently hardened that **impacts on vegetation, soils and other biodiversity values will be minimal**. Impacts on other users from disturbance of natural quiet and the presence of motorised vehicles on the landscape also need to be considered.<sup>7</sup>
- The Department of Conservation will “seek to have unformed legal roads closed or seek establishment of vehicle control bylaws by Ashburton District Council, where uncontrolled vehicle use could have significant impacts on conservation values, and where vehicle access is to be controlled or not permitted on adjoining conservation land.”<sup>8</sup>
- In addition to having high ecological values these lakes are recognised in statute as culturally significant historical food gathering<sup>9</sup> and mahinga kai sites. 1011

## C The problems and all the issues we see them causing

We pick up a few points from your commentary and background notes which we feel accurately reflect the mood of many of the bach holders in the village. It seems many of us are being affected by **issues** that are becoming more worrisome, concerning us all about the impact of people and activities in the village and around and in the lakes, such as, but not limited to:

- Degenerating lake water quality
- Loss of “old fashioned” visual amenity within the fishing village (smaller buildings, lots of open, green space)
- People driving too fast within the village limits, in cars and on motorbikes
- Motorbikes and quadbikes operating off-road within the village

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/land-and-freshwater/wetlands/otuwharekai/o-tu-wharekai-rec-plan.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> *ibid*

<sup>8</sup> *ibid*

<sup>9</sup> “In the history of the Hakatere Conservation Park: Te Kopi o Hakatere/Ashburton Gorge was the main pounamu/ greenstone trail for the Arowhenua hapū—Kāti Huirapa. The trail connects the upper reaches of the Rakaia to Noti Raureka/Browning Pass and then heads down to Te Tai Poutini/ the West Coast. Travellers gathered food as they made their way from one coast to the other. The name Ō Tū Wharekai, given to the Ashburton lakes and upper Rangitata River area, is not a literal translation, that is, ‘the place of a food storehouse’, but is a poetic description of the area as a well- stocked natural food basket on the journey to the Arahura, the pounamu cap”<sup>9</sup>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2021-media-releases/addressing-degrading-ashburton-o-tu-wharekai-lakes/>.

<sup>11</sup> “„Ō Tū Wharekai Cultural Values Report’ was completed in September 2009 the values report confirmed Ō Tū Wharekai as an area of immense cultural significance to Ngāi Tahu Whānui, being both an important seasonal mahinga kai area and a major travelling route between the settlements on the eastern coast of Te Waipounamu (the South Island) and those on Te Tai Poutini (the West Coast).<sup>11</sup>

- Increasing vehicle noise is reducing the ambiance of the village as a peaceful holiday destination, for picnicking.
- Four-wheel drivers driving in the lakebed when the lake level drops- and around the lake rims.
- The lake rims being damaged
- Wildlife is being harmed or displaced, on the lakes and their rims, and in the lakes
- Reducing pedestrian safety within the village boundaries Conflict between modes of transport (cars, motorbikes, pedal bikes, walking) resulting
- Reducing visual amenity within the village as houses grow in size, impacting the amenity of green spaces and the ambience of the open flow of the village
- persistent encroachment into the natural boundaries of the wildlife on the lake, such as the Grebes
- negative impacts of recreational activity affecting our sense of social and environmental wellbeing (4-wheel drive damage around the lakes; motorbike and jetski noise).

We suggest that it is easy to react to and try to fix all of these issues which we see on a daily basis. However, our view is to focus your effort- and ours as bach owners- on resolving the underlying problems which are causing all of these issues.

We see the underlying problems within the village and around its surrounds are:

- Vehicles have primacy within the village boundaries, rather than foot traffic
- Building codes do not take account of the visual, aural and environmental amenity we all enjoy
- We have lost sight of the original intention of the Wildlife Reserve
- Environmental limits and boundaries on human activities are no longer fit for purpose to retain high levels of environmental and social amenity and to retain the original intention for the village area and lakes of the original land -giftees.

## **D Our family's acknowledgments**

- As emphasised in our letter, we acknowledge the rare privilege afforded to bach-owners and visitors and other landowners around the lake- to guard and protect the original intentions and aspirations of the land giftees, for our children and their children and on behalf of the people of New Zealand.
- "We acknowledge your comment that aspirations may have changed since the days of simple huts.
- We acknowledge that the nature of recreation and vehicle use and speed has changed over the decades, allowing more invasive vehicle noise and vehicle speed within the village and additional access around the rim of the lakes , impacting the original intentions of the land giftees , the values of iwi and current legislative restrictions, as described above.

- We acknowledge the need for a village approach to the area, rather than an individual approach, so that everyone can enjoy most of the things they want to do most of the time, acknowledging we all may need to compromise. E.g., prohibiting dogs and motorbikes in the village and around the rim of the lake. We therefore submit that you continue to do your great work across the Ashburton District Council at identifying other areas where such activities are welcome, sustainable, non-invasive and prepared for (dog parks; motor-bike trails).

## **E Assumptions you have made in your notes to use on the needs within the 30 Year Plan**

We see that you have made some assumptions that we think you need to test

1. “Changes to the Building Act and environmental controls have resulted in recent developments generally being of higher value, quality and size. This means there is capacity for more people, and therefore the potential for a larger environmental impact.

“The Ashburton District Plan zones the settlement as “Residential B”, a higher density residential zone that is found in Ashburton township. This has seen many recent proposals in the area seeking dwellings of higher value, quality and size than historically, which often require resource consent. These larger structures often mean there is capacity for more people, and therefore the potential for a larger environmental impact. It also means the settlement has deviated from its original purpose of providing for ‘fishing baches’.”

The assumption that value, quality and size of buildings has the potential for larger environmental impacts is worth re-considering. We suggest that value and quality could in fact improve environmental outcomes and applaud the councils’ and the villager’s uptake of the requirement to remove all long drops.

2. The improvements in living standards, alongside increased popularity of the settlement with hut holders and visitors to the area (pre-Covid-19), have placed stresses on the area, most notably during busy summer holiday periods. These stresses include fires in trees around Lake Camp, old toilet facilities not being used, wilding conifers and recreation activity impacting on Lake Camp such as four-wheel drivers driving in the lakebed when the lake level drops.

Please test the assumption that the popularity of the area has directly impacted wilding conifers and other implied negative impacts.

## **F      The issue of degenerating water quality in the lakes**

There is a very large assumption made in your notes that the increasing popularity of the village is responsible for all of the environmental degradation we are seeing. We suggest that the water quality issue is not one caused by the village itself. In fact, we applaud the council for actively identifying and reducing any possible human activities in the village that may be affecting the lake quality, such as replacement of long drops and prohibiting dogs [ although we like dogs- we have always had them- but we agree we need to reduce their risk to wildlife and the lake edge]. .

Villagers' use of vehicles in and around the lake will very likely impact water quality and wildlife refuge. This needs to be addressed.

However, we would be surprised if the high level of nutrients we are seeing impacting the water quality are coming from the village. We thank you for all of your current efforts with DoC and Ecan at the moment to get to the bottom of this, with robust data and insights which we can then all depend on to identify the problem.

### **Current context we note for the water issue:**

In the report: Addressing degrading Ashburton/Ō Tū Wharekai lakes, commissioned by Environment Canterbury and DOC provides further support for the efforts of rūnanga, public agencies and farmers to address declining water quality in the Ashburton high-country lakes/Ō Tū Wharekai.

The newly released report from the Cawthron Institute was discussed in a meeting of the cross-sector working group on Monday 26 July. All members of the working group reiterated a commitment to the development of solutions to the deteriorating lake water quality.

Several new actions were discussed, including:

- taking catchment level information to develop farm-scale options
- new requirements for sewage systems at Lake Clearwater village, including monitoring the effectiveness of new systems, and
- further work on quantifying the impacts of birdlife on different lakes

Environment Canterbury director of science Dr Tim Davie said: "We know how special the Ashburton Lakes Ō Tū Wharekai are to the people of Canterbury and it's clear from the report that the water quality of these lakes is in a delicate state.

"Most of the lakes studied require a significant reduction in nutrients to meet the Land and Water Regional Plan limits. Some of the lakes are at risk of 'flipping', which means entering a long-term turbid, algal-rich, degraded state, from which lakes usually do not recover easily.

"Lakes are often accumulators of nutrients and legacy issues can persist for years after nutrient loads are reduced. Climate change is likely to further increase this vulnerability.

"This means that to make any positive improvements there will need to be substantial and urgent action in the catchment. We've already made a start with setting up the working group

and – now that we have clear scientific data – we need to focus on actions to protect these precious lakes."

Dr Davie added that the science also shows there is not one single cause of degradation.

"While farming land use is a contributor, so are the impacts of amenity users and birdlife. The situation is further complicated by differences between each of the lakes. There is no single solution that will address these issues."

DOC aquatic director Elizabeth Heeg said DOC is concerned about the impact of declining water quality on the ecological values of the lakes and streams of Ō Tū Wharekai.

"This area contains a diverse range of ecosystems that provide nationally and regionally important freshwater habitats for threatened and at-risk native birds, fish, and invertebrates. Many of these freshwater habitats and species are sensitive to nutrient enrichment," Heeg said.

"We are committed to working closely with Environment Canterbury, mana whenua and landowners to protect the ecological values of these high-country lakes and streams and implement a much-needed catchment-scale response, to halt and reverse declining water quality."<sup>12</sup>

We are pleased to learn through the Cawthron report that the relevant scientists conclude: The nutrient load reductions are described for entire lake catchments (catchment-scale), and not for individual farms or sub-catchments, and do not account for fine-scale land cover (e.g., location of winter fodder crops, location of high production areas [e.g., legumes such as lucerne], or other small scale, high-impact activities or areas).<sup>13</sup>

We also read with interest:

As both Nitrogen and Phosphorus availability is likely to control algae, both Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus catchment loads will need to be co-managed to avoid further increases in algal biomass and failure to achieve the overall algal biomass outcome. Lakes are often accumulators of nutrients and legacy issues can persist for years after external nutrient loads are reduced. Degradation is not readily reversible; especially once lakes have 2 Some lakes were excluded from the load assessment based on poor catchment model fit. These lakes are likely to have additional factors driving nutrient dynamics and algal biomass (beside catchment land cover, soil type, land topography and climate) that were difficult to model. These additional factors may include internal loading processes within a lake and unquantified additional external nutrient sources. The following lakes were removed from load reduction estimates: Lakes Emma, Denny, Clearwater, and Hawdon. Their removal does not indicate they do not also require significant nutrient load reductions. Page 3 of 6 reached

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2021-media-releases/addressing-degrading-ashburtono-tu-wharekai-lakes/> dated 28 July 2021

<sup>13</sup> Page 2

file:///C:/Users/mbchr/Downloads/CLUESNutrientLoadPredictionsfortheAshburtonBasinLakes2021CawthronreportSupplementaryMemorandum.PDF

their 'tipping points'. Climate change is likely to further increase the lakes vulnerability. These considerations highlight the need for substantial and urgent action to prevent the Ashburton lakes from entering into (or remaining in) persistent, degraded states.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Page 3 ibid

## Your details

First name Margot

Last name Christeller (on behalf of Chaffey Family)

## Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

☐ No:

*I do not wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following written submission be fully considered.*

Signature Margot Christeller 13 March 2022

1. When you visit where do you stay? *(Tick all that apply)*

In your own back

2. How often do you visit Lake Camp & Clearwater area?

Not often, more so recently. Over the generations, there have been busy times and not so busy times.

3. What do you value the most about the area?

Ambience and history. The spaciousness of it all.

4. What does a thriving future at Lake Camp & Clearwater look like to you? What do you see for the density and character of future development (if any) of the area?

See letter above

5. What do you think is holding us back from this?

Lack of coordination across the entities which have the mandate and accountability to both implement what already is in place and to be strong in protecting the future of the environment.

6. Do you have any other comments?

See letter above.

Royal Forest and Bird Protection  
Society of New Zealand Inc.

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13 March 2022

Ashburton District Council  
Freepost 230444  
PO Box 94  
Ashburton 7740

BY EMAIL: [submissions@adc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@adc.govt.nz)

Tena koe,

**Re: Feedback on Future of Lake Camp and Clearwater**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the future of Lake Camp Ōtautari and Lake Clearwater Te Puna a Taka. Forest & Bird is pleased that Ashburton District Council (ADC) is taking a long term approach to managing this special area. In this feedback, we provide some thoughts on the proposed time frame and scope of the proposed plan, co-operation and integration with other agencies and the public, the vision and content of a plan, and on the existing Landscape Plan for Lake Camp and work to date regarding its recommendations. We congratulate the council on the work to date (discussed below) and also on its early engagement with the public on the development of a plan for the future of Lake Camp Ōtautari and Lake Clearwater Te Puna a Taka. We hope that you will find this feedback useful.

This feedback is set out as follows:

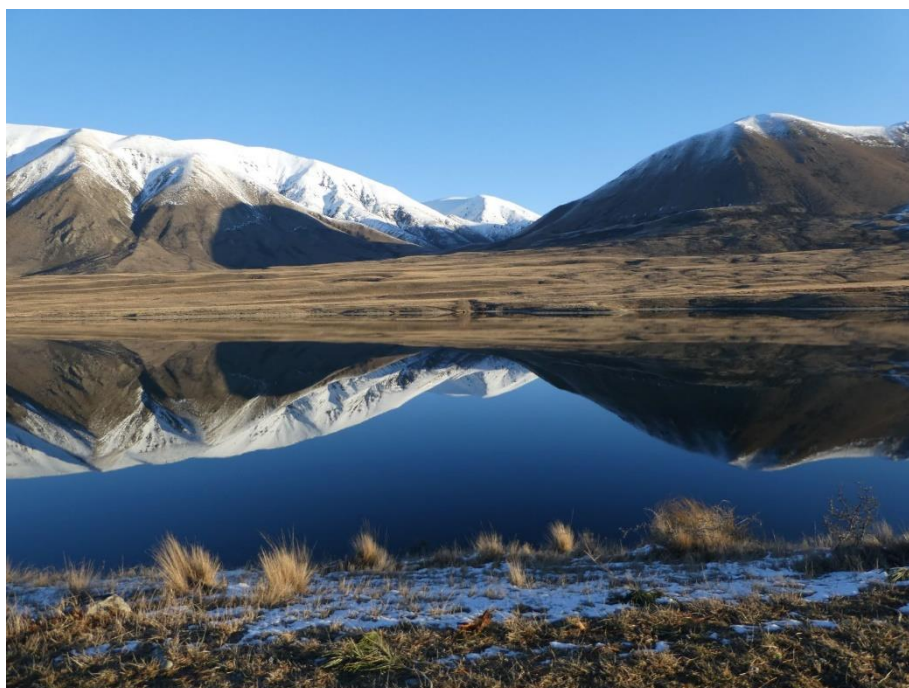
- About Forest & Bird
- Ō Tū Wharekai, the Ashburton lakes – meaning to Forest & Bird
- Key concerns and threats to ecological health
- The consultation document – a big picture vision
- Working with other agencies
- Existing documents and work to date
- Short, medium and long term recommendations

## **About Forest & Bird**

Forest & Bird is Aotearoa New Zealand's largest independent environmental non-government organisation. Our purpose is to take all reasonable steps within the power of the Society for the preservation and protection of indigenous flora and fauna and the natural features of New Zealand in a Climate Crisis. Throughout New Zealand, Forest & Bird has approximately 80,000 supporters and over 50 regional branches who engage in many conservation activities in their districts. Our Ashburton branch has for decades, advocated for landscape scale protection and restoration of native species in the Ashburton district and they have put in thousands of hours of practical conservation work on projects like wilding pine and weed control, pest trapping, ecological restoration, as well as surveying native birds at the Ō Tū Wharekai, the Ashburton lakes for 35 years.

## **Ō Tū Wharekai, the Ashburton lakes - meaning to Forest & Bird**

Ō Tū Wharekai, the Ashburton lakes, is the jewel in Ashburton district's crown and it is here that our Ashburton branch members have spent countless hours carrying out important conservation work, much of which is gratefully supported by the ADC. Forest & Bird acknowledge that Ō Tū Wharekai, the Ashburton Lakes are of special significance to mana whenua and that the area is of very high recreational value to many people. The broader landscape of Hakatere Basin is highly valued for natural quiet and for the sense of tranquillity, and as a fine subject for many landscape artists. To Forest & Bird, the long term ecological health of Ō Tū Wharekai, the Ashburton lakes and the native species that live there, is the highest priority.



Ō Tū Wharekai, the Ashburton lakes landscape in winter Photo: Edith Smith

## Key concerns and threats to ecological health

Forest & Bird are concerned that there are multiple but manageable threats to the ecological health of Ō Tū Wharekai, the Ashburton lakes including the impacts of:

- Plant and animal pests in the wider Hakatere Basin
- Intensive land use in the wider Hakatere Basin
- Increased recreational use in particular four wheel drives, ATVs and motorbikes
- Increased use of the built environment resulting in ever increasing recreational pressure
- Domestic dog and cat management

The impact of climate change is also a threat to ecological health, effects like the risk of wildfire may be mitigated or reduced through improving the management of and by placing limits on, some of the activities that create or exacerbate the above threats. Forest & Bird supports the ongoing prohibition of dogs in the Lake Clearwater Te Puna a Taka settlement and recommends extending the ban to domestic cats in the wider Ō Tū Wharekai, the Ashburton lakes area.

Forest & Bird acknowledges that the management of some of these threats may lay outside the scope of what is proposed by ADC. However, to achieve the objective we think is intended by a thirty year plan, it will be necessary to broaden the scope, especially the efficacy of the plan as an educational tool regarding use of the broader Hakatere Basin. And assuming this plan will be non-statutory, it should ideally integrate with and adapt to statutory planning tools that apply in the district, particularly the statutory time frames for these tools.<sup>1</sup>



Cultivated land in the Hakatere Basin Photo: Val Clemens

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<sup>1</sup> Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan, Ashburton District Plan, Canterbury Waitaha Conservation Management Strategy, Canterbury Pest Management Plan

### **The consultation document – a big picture vision**

This consultation asks for feedback on developing a thirty year plan for Lakes Camp Ōtautari and Lake Clearwater Te Puna a Taka, focussing on the area owned and administered by ADC. Thirty years is a long time and therefore requires a big picture vision for what the community wants the place to look like in three decades time. Who gets to decide?

Forest & Bird supports a long term outlook, however as discussed above regarding alignment with statutory tools, a process to review the plan at intervals during the plan's life must be inbuilt. This is necessary to provide checks on the achievement of any objectives and milestones built into the plan, and opportunities to adapt the plan where it is not achieving objectives or to ensure the objectives stay consistent with those of statutory plans.

Forest & Bird supports the following statement in the discussion document:

*Reports show that Lake Clearwater is currently in a fragile state, and that its water quality is declining. The lake is at risk of 'flipping' meaning it could reach a point of degradation that is very difficult to reverse. If the lake flips it will have severe impacts on biodiversity, the overall environmental health and recreational values of the area. We want to do what we can to ensure this doesn't happen.*

To avoid the risk of the lakes permanently "flipping" and given what is known about the state of the lakes, action is now **urgent** and requires **a big picture vision**. Any future development should be considered with high levels of caution and considering the fragile state of the lake and the worrying water quality trends, existing activities in the catchment will likely need to be scaled back.

Regardless, achieving such a vision requires strong engagement with the public and the hut holders. Forest & Bird again congratulates the council on its early engagement with the public. We suggest that the establishment of a dedicated Landcare/working group with an objective based on the statement above from the discussion document, to help ensure ongoing strong public engagement in the development and implementation of the plan, would be a useful starting point.

### **Working with other agencies**

This vision also requires co-ordinated environmental management of the whole Hakatere basin and including the land owned and administered by ADC. This means that ADC needs to advocate for stronger, integrated environmental protection to the Canterbury Regional Council (ECan) who regulate discharges from land use to land and water, and who administer the Regional Pest

Management Plan; and to the Department of Conservation (DOC) who have a statutory obligation to protect and restore native species and for managing recreation activities in a way that is compatible with nature protection, on public conservation land (PCL).

Improving the ecological health of Ō Tū Wharekai, the Ashburton lakes requires the ADC to advocate for alignment and co-operation with Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) who administer Crown pastoral leases and who have responsibility for land use activities on pastoral leases, as well as weed and pest control on pastoral leases and in riverbeds.

The ADC itself has a statutory responsibility under the Resource Management Act (RMA) to identify and protect areas of significant indigenous biodiversity and to maintain other indigenous biodiversity. The draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB) due later in 2022, reinforces this obligation.

In practice, for ADC this means prioritising actions like identifying, mapping and managing the districts significant natural areas (SNA)<sup>2</sup>, monitoring land use activities and tighter controls on indigenous vegetation clearance to prevent further loss, being a strong advocate for reducing and ultimately phasing out the use of synthetic fertiliser in the Hakatere basin. The council also has an obligation to uphold its good neighbour responsibility under the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan (CRPMP), and for holding other agencies with pest and weed control responsibilities accountable.

This type of advocacy and actions in parallel to managing the built up area and human impact around the of Lake Camp Ōtautari and Lake Clearwater Te Puna a Taka through long term plan, will help provide the best chance of avoiding the risk of the lakes ‘flipping’ to a point of irreversible degradation.

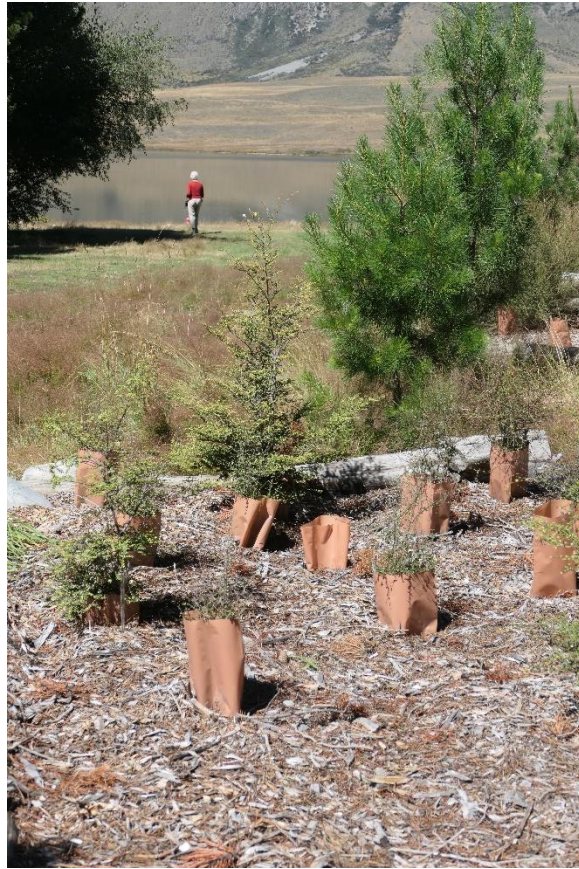
### **Existing documents and work to date**

Forest & Bird compliments the ADC, particularly for the wilding pine control, the road maintenance, the installation of the new toilets and signage, and the locally sourced native tree planting at Lake Camp. We also commend the council on its work to decommission old long drop toilets at the Lake Clearwater settlement. Over time these actions will result in significant improvements to the

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<sup>2</sup> Forest & Bird acknowledged that the area is designated as an area of significant conservation value in the District Plan, due to it being an important habitat for wading birds and waterfowl.

ecological health of the area. We note that in particular, the mountain beech, while not occurring naturally, that has been planted at Lake Camp is doing particularly well. This demonstrates that exotics are not needed to provide shelter.



Mountain Beech doing well Photo: Val Clemens



New native planting and signage at Lake Camp Photo: Val Clemens

Forest & Bird are pleased that the Lake Camp and Lake Clearwater Landscape Plan, adopted by council in 2016, is acknowledged in the discussion document, as complementary to this work. The Landscape plan is a priority for the Ashburton District Biodiversity Advisory Group (ADBAG), of which members of the Ashburton Forest & Bird branch have been very active. We are pleased that some of the actions from this plan have been implemented by ADC, but there is still much to do.

We note the status of some of the recommendations of the Landscape Plan:

- Installation of new toilets at Lake Camp - completed
- Plantings in area around new toilets indicate which species grow successfully – underway but ongoing
- Planting to provide shelter for campers – under way. Unfortunately tree protectors have been vandalised/removed, which creates a challenge to establish new planting, as they need to be protected from hares and rabbit browse.
- Staged removal of all *Pinus contorta* – underway and ongoing
- Removal of Rowan trees, though there is some resprouting – underway and ongoing
- Removal of other pest plant species, e.g. cotoneaster – not started
- Native planting down gully in Lake Clearwater settlement - underway. This could be a good community project.

We note that a road has been formed along the northern side of Lake Camp, which is good. To avoid further degradation of the terrain around the lake, the inappropriate use, particularly of motorised vehicles (4WD, ATVs and motorbikes) needs to stop. Forest & Bird strongly supports the council's intention to integrate and implement the recommendations in the Landscape plan and to ensure that the Landscape plan is updated, in the proposed thirty year plan for Lake Camp Ōtautari and Lake Clearwater Te Puna a Taka.

### **Short, medium and long term recommendations**

In addition to implementing the Landscape Plan, Forest & Bird have some specific recommendations for immediate action on the ADC owned and administered area around Lake Camp Ōtautari and Lake Clearwater Te Puna a Taka. Recommended here short, medium and long term goals/actions, to be incorporated into the plan.

Short term recommendations:

- Establish a dedicated Landcare or working group to help develop and implement the plan

- Employ a village caretaker
- Develop a pest plant management strategy to include:
  - Removal of Russel Lupins from the ADC administered area and beyond
  - Prohibit planting of Russel Lupins in the ADC administered area and beyond
  - Removal of Rowan trees as the seeds are easily spread by birds
  - Undertake a survey of crack willows around the lakes and develop a management plan for their progressive removal
  - Continue to remove wilding pine sources and silver birch trees as they seed freely and continue to colonise the area
- Work with DOC and LINZ to monitor and manage pest animals, particularly mustelids and feral cats, and to control Himalayan Tahr
- Close sensitive ecological areas to four wheel driving and motorcycles, including to Balmacaan Stream, around Lake Camp and Paddle Stream. Paddle Stream is fenced, and on PCL motor vehicles are not permitted. However, Forest & Bird understand that DOC have found that 4WD vehicle drivers cut the fence, drive in and then repair the fence, and in doing so, damage the landscape
- Encourage bach holders to plant eco-sourced native species and avoid planting exotic species
- Better manage wastewater from all camping areas so that it does not enter waterways, and restrict the use of firepits
- Strengthen the prohibition on dogs and consider extending the prohibition to domestic cats



Four wheel drive damage at Lake Camp – note Matagouri and native vegetation community in the top right hand corner Photo: Val Clemens

And in the medium to longer term:

- Any proposed walking and cycling tracks be designed in a sensitive way to protect, and preferably restore, native flora and fauna and to blend into the landscape; and that the tracks are designed in a way that prevents run off into the lakes and that does not exacerbate erosion as a result of climate related extreme weather events
- The increased use of the area is anticipated and managed, including upgrades to existing huts, increased freedom camping and recreational use, and population growth, and that the plan is prepared to incorporate limits so that the natural values can be maintained and sustained, and preferably restored, over time.
- Consider the use of design standards and controls for buildings that are sensitive to the natural landscape
- Ensure there is adequate funding available for the ongoing implementation of the thirty year plan.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide feedback. Best wishes on your deliberations and we hope that you will establish a long-term plan for Lake Camp Ōtautari and Lake Clearwater Te Puna a Taka which has a clear objective for protection and restoration of the natural values, that is enduring and fit for purpose for the next three decades.

Please do contact us if you would like to discuss this feedback. Forest & Bird wishes to be heard.

Nāku noa, nā

Edith Smith  
Chairperson Ashburton Branch  
Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of  
New Zealand Inc.

Nicky Snoyink  
Regional Conservation Manager  
Canterbury/West Coast  
Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of  
New Zealand Inc.

**Submitter: Gerry Power**Personal history relating to the area

I have been going to Clearwater since the mid-sixties and built and owned our batch since 1987. Our family has grown up with lots of weekends and annual holidays spent fishing and water skiing. Our family continue to enjoy the area and we now have grandchildren, who can make new friends and we feel safe that they can roam fairly freely.

Batch Area

I do not wish to see any further development or new builds on the remaining sections as it will increase pressure on the existing environment.

We are paying approx. \$1800 PA with Rates and Lease but see little for this. ADC take \$350,000 where does it go?

There is an issue at the intersection of Mt Jollie and Mt Harper Streets, with water pooling and large pot holes. Been like this for years.

I have not noticed any more people in the hut area over the years, maybe even less as people are more mobile and can enjoy other places.

New builds (replacements) will most likely have no more beds, so as is we should not see more people in this area.

Lake Camp

The area has been vastly improved with shingle tracks and plantings and has become a busy camping area at times.

I believe that this area needs to be controlled, by charging for camping and having personnel checking on activities of campers.

I have noted a camper pumping water up to a sink the grey water running down the bank half way then flowing freely back to the lake.

That the camping area is defined with a map and no camping in the area of the boat ramp.

This could be run on a similar system as the hydro lakes have with a camp manager or LCHHA personal.

Not been allowed to leave tents/ caravans on site for long periods unattended.

Lake Clearwater

The camping ground is getting well used and well looked after and tidy.

Thanks to those Hut holders who keep it looking good also at Lake Camp.

General

Clearwater has a lot of history and four or more generations have a lot to do with the makeup of this special place, we now have a lot of different stake holder involved ie Fire, Doc, EC etc. etc. and they need to Take 5 before rushing in and doing things their way.

ADC need to put pressure on DOC/EC to remove the dead willows that have been sprayed in the area including Lake Heron. At a meeting with EC at the lake I mentioned to a staff member that they will take 50 years to be gone, don't think I will be far wrong.

Water issue with Lake Clearwater, looks to being addressed by EC not a ADC issue to sort is it?

I think camping numbers will be the issue to watch to make sure it is sustainable. There is not a lot of area. Lake Camp can get very congested at times with boats on the lake. Campers will need grey water disposal facilities.

**FUTURE OF LAKE CLEARWATER AND LAKE CAMP  
ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**In the matter:** of community consultation for the purposes of developing of a  
“plan” for

**Submission By: BEN AND SALLY TOTHILL**

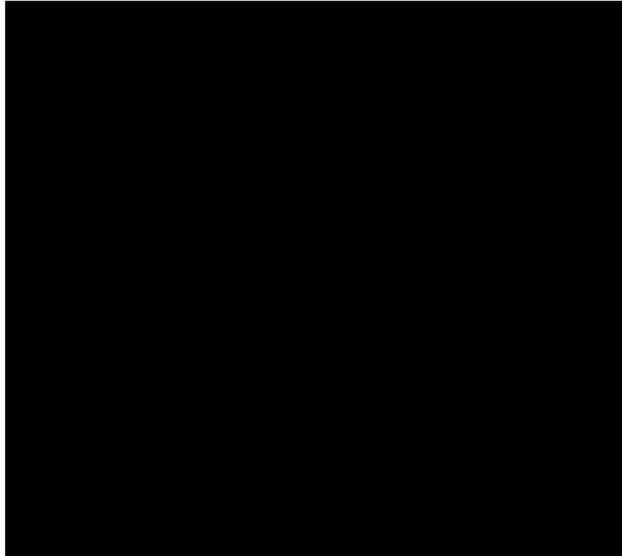
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**SUBMISSION BY BEN AND SALLY TOTHILL ON FUTURE OF LAKE  
CAMP AND LAKE CLEARWATER: OUR PLACE: OUR DISTRICT**

13 March 2022

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1. This submission is made by Ben and Sally Tothill.
2. We do not represent any organisation. This is personal submission.
3. Our contact details are;



**Publication of this submission**

4. We confirm that we are aware that this submission is a public document that will be made available on the Council's website along with the names of all submitters.

**Feedback on Future of Lake Camp and Lake Clearwater**

**1. My How often do we visit?**

1. On average we visit approximately once per month, however in the summer period, we visit more frequently and tend to visit less during the winter period.
2. Mostly we visit for a weekend or extended period, and occasionally we stay for a week or so.

**2. Where do we stay?**

1. We stay in our hut.

**3. What do we most value?**

1. We value;

- 1.1. The privilege of being able to stay in this outstanding natural landscape.
- 1.2. The simplicity of the village, it's scale, it uniqueness, it's character, and the fact that it hasn't been commercialised.
- 1.3. The opportunity to engage in a wide range of outdoor activities, whether that be the use of the lakes for a wide range of water sports and recreation, or Interacting with the landscape; the wide open spaces, and the hills and mountains.
- 1.4. The interaction with other hut holders, and other visitors who come from diverse backgrounds but who generally share similar values with respect to why the village and area holds such value for them.
- 1.5. That New Zealand has villages such as this settlement, which affirm the values of helping each other, mucking in to clean up, or plant, or manage pest or weeds. Where people can come together to value each other.
- 1.6. The privilege of being able to share this place with friends and family, to expose our children and their friends to this outstanding environment, to learn from it, to enable it to enrich our lives.
- 1.7. The capacity that this special place has to charge our emotional batteries, to be a safe haven, to assist us to have perspective and to switch off from the stresses of modern life.
- 1.8. Being able to forage from the environment.
- 1.9. The dreams that are created and nurtured here; whether that may be to consider undertaking new or future recreational activities, enhancing the present hut, or to reflect on challenges at home.
- 1.10. The history that created this unique place;
- 1.11. The dynamic geology that formed the mountains, plain, lakes and rivers.
- 1.12. The early pastoral history and the generosity of the early runholders who enabled the creation of the village settlement.

- 1.13. The relative isolation and the simplicity of life.
- 1.14. The cultural and social history that has created the unique character of the village; the range of character huts, from original tin fishing huts to modern buildings, sometimes so out of place but altogether contributing to the character because of the ostensible inappropriateness of their design.
- 1.15. The generosity of the local farmers who, when asked, allow us to tramp over their land to enjoy the outdoor space.
- 1.16. The flora and fauna, the unique bird life, the outstanding night sky, the contrasting weather and seasons; from stillness that creates mirror reflections of the mountains in the lake, to the dramatic winds, snow and changes in the lake environment; from glassy mirror reflections, windy conditions to ice, providing environments for a range of recreational activities.
- 1.17. The shared sense of belonging to a community.
- 1.18. The use of Lake Camp for motorised water sports is fantastic. Correspondingly the use of Lake Clearwater for non motorised water sports is fantastic.

**4. What does a thriving future at Lake Camp and Lake Clearwater look like to you? What do you see for the density, and character development (in any) of the area?**

- 1. It is vitally important to ensure that the natural environment is not degraded but enhanced. The name of Lake "Clearwater" references a previous environment of pristine water quality. The gradual but nearly imperceptible degradation of the water quality is a significant concern to everyone. A thriving Lake Camp and Lake Clearwater would see the water quality returned to being a clear clean lake.
- 2. It is also vitally important that the risk and challenges of the environment are carefully considered, planned and managed. For example, the fire risk is substantial. We commend the Council for undertaking a assessment of the LPG gas compliance in the village, to ensure that LPG installations comply with regulations, etc. The same should be undertaken in relation to electrical works, etc.

3. The high country is a sensitive environment. Degradation of the lake edges by 4 wheel drive vehicles and motorbikes is damaging for the habitat of native birds and a challenge to water quality. It is important to control those sensitive margins, but also to educate visitors so that they can understand the uniqueness of the environment, the challenges and why the rules to prevent some activities are necessary. The provision of interpretive information boards, explaining how the lakes evolved, how they create unique habitats for indigenous and threatened fauna, such as the Southern Crested Grebe, would help to education everyone about the environment and help to explain why the rules are necessary.
4. The initial instinctive reaction is to say “we don’t want change” or that we want the character preserved. We think that is more a reaction to a desire to retaining the same values that make Lakes Clearwater and Camp special; it isn’t about freezing progress or development. It is about not wanting to change the unique “feel” of the environment and what makes it so special.
5. It means ensuring that human interaction at Lakes Camp and Clearwater can carry on without making an adverse impact on the environment. It means permitting activities that don’t leave negative footprints and where possible improve on mistakes of the past and rectifying degradation that has already occurred.
6. That probably translates to retention of restrictive building density, but avoiding rules that have the potential to turn the village into an ordinary urban environment. If hut owners want to build a fence, let them. For those that prefer openness around their huts, let them. The incongruous mixture of character styles are what creates the character of the place and is part of the overall character.
7. In the last few decades there have been significant improvements in the quality of the baches. The removal of long drops is necessary and appropriate.
8. We want the environment that created the values above to be preserved. We want to ensure that the simplicity of the place is retained, that the values remain the same, that the relative lack of rules and lack of bureaucracy that created the village is not interfered with. We are anxious to avoid creating unnecessary urban rules that cause the village to lose its rustic character.
9. However it is important that the urban density is not extended. The present site coverage rules are adequate and appropriate. There should be no

reason to allow any site coverage to exceed the present requirements of the District Plan. That implies that the maximum site density should be a permitted activity, but anything that exceeds it should be a prohibited activity.

10. Because the settlement pattern of individual baches developed in a unregulated pattern, discretion should be given to retaining structures that inadvertently straddle boundaries.
11. Other common urban rules, such as providing for car parks for each site should not be required at Clearwater. If the site density rules are rigid, such should prevent excessive development without unnecessary further prescriptive rules.

#### **5. What do you think is holding us back?**

1. Inadequate engagement with the Hut Holder Association creates suspicion, resentment and disengagement. The Hut Holders Association represents a wide range of people. The voluntary efforts of hut owners, encouraged by the Hut Holder Association is a huge under-utilised resource. Often hut owners hear that DOC or the Council have made a decision regarding some matter without consultation. Or alternatively public funds are wastefully and needlessly applied when engagement with the Hut Holders could have ensured that the hut owners could have pitched with to a community project without cost while engendering a greater sense of community spirit. Periodically rumours arise that the Council or DOC are going to do some sort of development, without consulting with the Hut Holders, and often the outcomes are negative and sub-optimal. The Hut Holders are community spirited and hard working. Work with them, not against them.
2. The degradation of the water quality of Lake Clearwater is a significant concern. Most often the solution to resolve this is draconian. It is important to engage closely with the local farmer to share scientific study to work to resolve the issues.
3. It is important to consider the challenges and risks. These induce issues such as;
  - 3.1. Water quality degradation.
  - 3.2. Ensuring that the habitat and environment of local fauna are not put at risk such as protecting lake margins for Southern Crested Grebe breeding places, encouraging pest eradication, such as geese culls,

maintaining the ban on dogs and cats, well sited rubbish facilities and toilets, and well maintained rubbish and toilet facilities, fire safety and education.

- 3.3. Not adequately servicing the public rubbish and toilet facilities at peak visitor times when the demand is strongest.
- 3.4. Providing more signage and interpretative educational signs, explaining the environment, the challenges and the history.
4. We don't think that substantial proposed changes that are undertaken by DOC or the Council are adequately consulted on and communicated. Often change occurs abruptly without apparent consultation.

**6. Do you have other comments?**

1. The initiative to seek feedback is welcome, however the status of this feedback has not been adequately explained. What will the status of the "Plan" be?
2. The provision of facilities and restrictions to the bounds of freedom campers should be considered carefully. It is appropriate for others to have the ability to enjoy this special place, but there needs to be defined limits to where they can camp and appropriate facilities and shelter.

**7. Do you wish to speak in support of my submission?**

1. **Yes, please.**

Signed



Ben Tothill



Sally Tothill

\*Please note all submissions are public documents and will be made available on Council's website with the names of submitters included.

Have your  
**Say!**

### Your details

First name: Patsy Last name: King

### Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

(If no boxes are ticked, it will be considered that you do not wish to be heard)

☐ **Yes:** The hearing will be held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 13 April 2022. Please note that hearings are live-streamed to our online channels.

☒ **No:** I do not wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following written submission be fully considered.

You can submit on any or all of the questions below. You don't have to complete every question.

Signature:

Date:

3.3.22

Submissions presented in the form of a petition or accompanied by multiple signatures will be processed as a single submission.

## Feedback on Future of Lake Camp and Lake Clearwater

1 How often do you visit the Lake Camp and Clearwater area?

Often.

2 Where do you stay when you visit? (tick all that apply)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> In your own bach              | <input type="radio"/> Freedom camp around the lake               |
| <input type="radio"/> Stay with friends             | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Usually only come for day trips |
| <input type="radio"/> At Lake Clearwater campground | <input type="radio"/> Other:                                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Rent/borrow a bach            |  |

3 What do you value the most about the area?

The lack of people and pristine environment - wide open spaces & clean (clear) water.

4 What does a thriving future at Lake Camp and Lake Clearwater look like to you?  
What do you see for the density and character of future development (if any) of the area?

No more humans building houses/patches.

Composting ~~&~~ toilets, as in Australia - plenty of these.

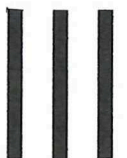
\* Everywhere you go, in the bush in Australia there is a clean, composting toilet.

5 What do you think is holding us back from this?

You haven't banned any more building or adopted a policy of using composting toilets.

6 Do you have any other comments? (feel free to attach additional pages to your submission)

The density of the human population is killing the planet. The only way we can prevent further degradation, is to keep people in concentrated areas and prevent them from spreading across the <sup>ie towns</sup> ~~&~~ cities, landscape.



## Have your say on our place

Your feedback will help us identify what the future of the area should look like, and what should be included in our thirty year plan.

Please note all submissions are public documents and will be made available on Council's website with the names of submitters included.

Submissions presented in the form of a submission or accompanied by multiple signatures will be processed as a single submission.

***The easiest way to provide your feedback is to complete the online form at [ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay](https://ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay)***

Alternatively, you can provide feedback by filling in the attached submission form and getting it back to us using one of the following methods:

**Freepost to** Ashburton District Council

Freepost 230444

PO Box 94

Ashburton 7740

**Email to** [submissions@adc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@adc.govt.nz)

**Hand in to** Council reception, Baring Square West

You have until 5pm, Sunday 13 March 2022 to get your feedback in.

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### Your details

First name

Anne r Linton

Last name

Johnston

**Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?**

(if no boxes are ticked, it will be considered that you do not wish to be heard)

☐ Yes:

*The hearing will be held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 13 April 2022. Please note that hearings are live-streamed to our online channels.*

☒ No:

*I do not wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following written submission be fully considered.*

Signature

Date

**You can submit on any or all of the questions below. You don't have to complete every question.**

1. When you visit where do you stay? (tick all that apply)

In your own bach



Rent/borrow a bach



Stay with friends



Freedom camp around the lake



At Lake Clearwater campground



Usually only come for day trips



Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. How often do you visit Lake Camp & Clearwater area?

*Monthly.*

3. What do you value the most about the area?

*See attached response sheet.*

4. What does a thriving future at Lake Camp & Clearwater look like to you? What do you see for the density and character of future development (if any) of the area?

*See attached response sheet.*

5. What do you think is holding us back from this?

*See attached response sheet*

6. Do you have any other comments?

*See attached response sheet.*

## **RESPONSE TO SOME OF THE QUESTIONS IN THE SUBMISSION RE THE LAKE CLEARWATER AND LAKE CAMP AREAS TO THE ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Question 3. – What do you value the most about the area?

Response:

- Peace and Quiet
- The Views
- Environment
- Recreational Opportunities
- Walking
- Fishing
- Clean Fresh Air
- Boating

Question 4. – What does a thriving future at Lake Camp & Clearwater look like to you? What do you see for the density and character of future development (if any) of the area?

Response:

- Definitely no future development or increase in number of bach owners
- The banning of large tour buses driving through the roads, especially Mt. Possession Street
- The number of self driven campervans driving down the roads – the peacefulness of the area is spoilt by this every day.
- The dust problem of the above vehicles is a concern as the road was not designed for these of vehicles.
- Our children and our childrens' children have enjoyed the ability to enjoy the area without having to be in total parent supervision all the time. The increase in vehicle traffic has spoilt this experience for them.
- Also the camping ground area has never been designed for these vehicles to dump their grey and black waste.
- There has been no development of the camping ground area as far as area or facilities.
- A question on who does the responsibility for health and safety rest with re the camping area.
- The increase in people traffic and tourist interest is definitely putting strong pressure on the existing infrastructure.

Question 5 – What do you think is holding us back from this?

Response:

- Nothing – we do not wish to see any further development – except for environmental issues.
- That hut-holders must be complaint with Council requirements regarding environment issues and pollution re holding tanks and toilets.

Question 6 – Do you have any other comments?

Response:

- See response to the questions above
- Greater control of motor bikes, quad bikes and 4 Wheel Drive vehicles which have no respect or concern re the damage they do to the area and also the noise pollution within the camp.
- You refer to fires in the area around Lake Camp – these are caused by “Freedom Campers” in this area and there should be signage at least that the area is “under total fire ban”
- The lack of normal amenities re piped on water, street lighting, electricity, footpaths, letterboxes and other trappings of city life are part of the experience and enjoyment of the area.
- We have owned our property for 47 years and have gone from being the “youngest couple on the block” to the “oldest”. We still have a deep interest and get great enjoyment from the area that is now unfortunately going under pressure from all sides but all that can be done to retain some of its best characteristics would be greatly appreciated.

\*Please note all submissions are public documents and will be made available on Council's website with the names of submitters included.

Have your  
**Say!**

**Your details**

First name: Peter Last name: Howden

**Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?**

(If no boxes are ticked, it will be considered that you do not wish to be heard)

☐ **Yes:** The hearing will be held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 13 April 2022. Please note that hearings are live-streamed to our online channels.

☒ **No:** I do not wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following written submission be fully considered.

You can submit on any or all of the questions below. You don't have to complete every question.

Signature: P. Howden

Date: 5.3.22

Submissions presented in the form of a petition or accompanied by multiple signatures will be processed as a single submission.

**Feedback on Future of Lake Camp and Lake Clearwater**

**1** How often do you visit the Lake Camp and Clearwater area?

Several times a year over the last 70 yrs including the yearly winter bird surveys, fishing, walking & biking the many trails, also controlling weeds in the greater area.

**2** Where do you stay when you visit? (tick all that apply)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> In your own bach                         | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Freedom camp around the lake |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Stay with friends             | <input type="radio"/> Usually only come for day trips         |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> At Lake Clearwater campground | <input type="radio"/> Other:                                  |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Rent/borrow a bach            |   |

3 What do you value the most about the area?

Reasonably unspoilt & natural. Scenery is unsurpassed. Toilet & freedom camping at Camp. Fishing, biking, bird watching and the botany of the area. Skating in winter.

4 What does a thriving future at Lake Camp and Lake Clearwater look like to you?  
What do you see for the density and character of future development (if any) of the area?

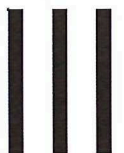
It does not need to loose the character of the alpine village any future development must not compromise the environment Weeds & pests must be controlled or eliminated. The ongoing plan for L. Camp has been great & much appreciated.

5 What do you think is holding us back from this?

A.D.C. only has the ability to address L. Camp & the hach's & some affect in the District Plan. Working with neighbors & other agencies is so important for the future of the area. and water quality. Fish gorge is a major treasure of our district.

6 Do you have any other comments? (feel free to attach additional pages to your submission)

Water quality must be addressed as a priority it is good to see that monitoring is happening at the huts & in the lake, is it also being done at the west end of the lake? Water quality needs to be monitored at all of our lakes. No to more boches. no to sealing the road. no to commercial developement. Yes to protecting the environment & life of the lakes & Yes to enhancing the biodiversity. Kind regards. Peter Howden.



\*Please note all submissions are public documents and will be made available on Council's website with the names of submitters included.



### Your details

First name: DAVID Last name: HOWDEN

### Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

(If no boxes are ticked, it will be considered that you do not wish to be heard)

☐ **Yes:** The hearing will be held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 13 April 2022. Please note that hearings are live-streamed to our online channels.

☒ **No:** I do not wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following written submission be fully considered.

You can submit on any or all of the questions below. You don't have to complete every question.

Signature:

D Howden: ONZM

Date:

16-2-22

Submissions presented in the form of a petition or accompanied by multiple signatures will be processed as a single submission.

## Feedback on Future of Lake Camp and Lake Clearwater

**1** How often do you visit the Lake Camp and Clearwater area?

6 to 10 times a year.

**2** Where do you stay when you visit? (tick all that apply)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> In your own bach              | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Freedom camp around the lake    |
| <input type="radio"/> Stay with friends             | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Usually only come for day trips |
| <input type="radio"/> At Lake Clearwater campground | <input type="radio"/> Other:                                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Rent/borrow a bach            |  |

3 What do you value the most about the area?

Open almost treeless landscape  
Developing hiking and walking trails  
Swimable lakes + Fishing.  
Some Freedom Camping at Lake Camp.

4 What does a thriving future at Lake Camp and Lake Clearwater look like to you?  
What do you see for the density and character of future development (if any) of the area?

I would not like to see any extension  
to the hut area. I think the ambience  
of fishermen's Huts is unique and should  
be preserved by limitation building  
consents No 2 storey  
dwellings.

5 What do you think is holding us back from this?

Pressure from individuals with  
grand ideas and demand for more sections

6 Do you have any other comments? (feel free to attach additional pages to your submission)

Do whatever it takes to keep weeds  
out of the Gorge (All berry trees at Huts.  
Blue Borage, Rustle and Tree lupins & Broom from  
road reserve. Monitor any new shelter planting.  
Good work on roads, especially Jig road.



Received

08 MAR 2022

at Reception