

# Feedback Submission on a proposed 30-year plan for Lakes Camp (Ōtautari) and Clearwater (Te Puna a Taka)

**First name**

Jeff

**Last name**

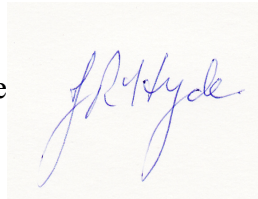
Hyde

**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)

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

Signature

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Hyde', is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Date 9/3/2022

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

**When you visit where do you stay?**

In our own bach

**How often do you visit Lake Camp & Clearwater area?**

Every 2 to 4 weeks for 2 - 6 days at a time

### What do you value the most about the area?

1. Sense of open space, naturalness of environment, extensive natural vistas of mountains and lakes.
2. Relaxed, unhurried lifestyle.
3. Ability to enjoy open spaces freely and with little restriction.
4. The sense of community amongst the Hut Holders and visitors that genuinely care about this area and what it provides.
5. The view of the night sky under true dark sky conditions. There are few places left where the night sky can be viewed in such an accessible and yet light free location.

### 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?



This what a thriving future of the Lakes would look like – pristine natural beauty in perpetuity

1. **Lake Clearwater and Camp do not need increased density** in order to enhance the character of the area. The character of the area is “as it is” and what it currently offers. To change the existing character would be to lose the very essence of why people come to this area - for the freedom, peace, tranquility and the sense of well being that comes from an unspoilt natural environment.
2. **The current level of development is a good balance** between having a compact settlement of holiday bachs with sufficient residents at any time to ensure security and the regular sale of existing bachs to satisfy market needs. Any proposition for commercial development or concessions must be strongly resisted to preserve this fine balance. With the ADC District Plan preventing further additional residential units within the settlement and with renovations and the occasional rebuild controlled under the existing Planning and Building Rules, the settlement can retain it's current character but also evolve over time with new materials and technologies being used that are more suited to living in this environment.

3. **A thriving future will see the natural environment of this area protected**, as this is what makes this area so unique and special for those who wish to experience and appreciate it, together with their families and future generations to come. Areas like this are increasingly rare and must be preserved for their natural features alone and do not need any unnecessary infrastructure or modification.
4. **Encouragement of non-motorised activities**, within the settlement area and surrounding lands as damage caused in minutes can take years, if ever to recover in this fragile environment. It is envisaged the legacy use of motorised craft on Lake Camp only, will continue, to enable water skiing and related activities.

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

1. **Greater recognition and acceptance of the environmental pressures** and degradation of this environmentally sensitive area by the Ashburton District Council, Dept. of Conservation, ECAN and all other authorities that have oversight of this area. Despite being aware of the continuing degradation occurring going back the last 15 -20 years, all have failed to prevent the decline of the Ashburton Lakes leading to their current state.

| Location        | 2004-06 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|-----------------|---------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Lake Camp       | 2.7     | 3.2  | 3.1  | 3.4  | 2.9  | 3.2  |
| Lake Clearwater | 3.2     | 3.6  | 4.2  | 3.8  | 4.3  | 4.1  |

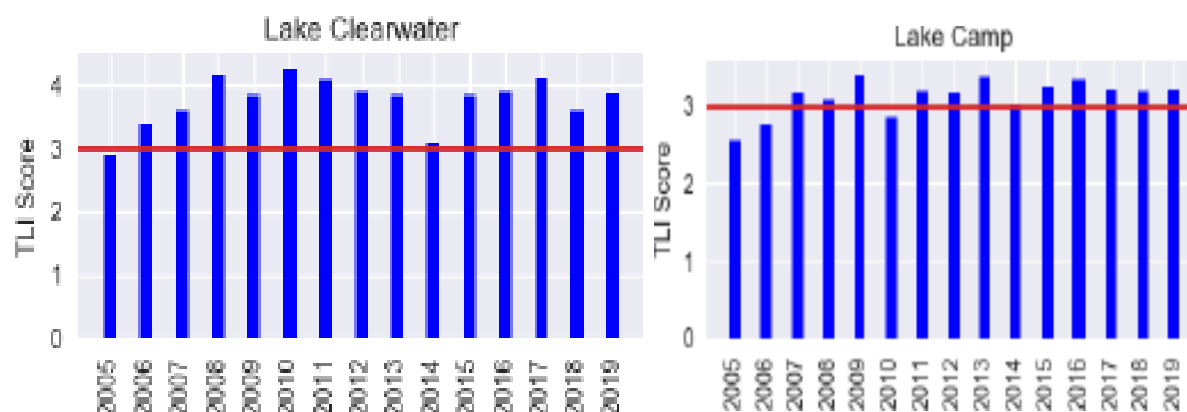
  

| Key:      |                    |  |
|-----------|--------------------|--|
| TLI value | Trophic state      | General Description  |
| <1        | Ultra-microtrophic | practically pure, very clean, often have glacial sources             |
| 1-2       | Microtrophic       | very clean, often have glacial sources, very low nutrient enrichment |
| 2-3       | Oligotrophic       | clear and blue, with low levels of nutrients and algae               |
| 3-4       | Mesotrophic        | moderate levels of nutrients and algae                               |
| 4-5       | Eutrophic          | green and murky, with higher amounts of nutrients and algae          |
| 5-6       | Supertrophic       | very high nutrient enrichment and high algae growth                  |
| >6        | Hypertrophic       | saturated in nutrients, highly fertile, excessive algae growth       |

Table 3: Updated lake water quality assessment:

| Lake        | TLI 2020/2021 | LWRP assessment (ø 2017-2021) |              |           |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
|             |               | TLI (ø 2017-2021)             | Grade        | LWRP met? |
| Heron       | 3.9           | 3.6                           | mesotrophic  | NO        |
| Maori-Front | 3.8           | 4.3                           | eutrophic    | NO        |
| Maori-Back  | 4.8           | 4.5                           | eutrophic    | NO        |
| Emily       | 4.1           | 4.4                           | eutrophic    | NO        |
| Clearwater  | 5.4           | 4.3                           | eutrophic    | NO        |
| Camp        | 3.6           | 3.4                           | mesotrophic  | NO        |
| Emma        | 5.3           | 4.8                           | eutrophic    | NO        |
| Denny       | 4.5           | 5.0                           | supertrophic | NO        |

TLI Values indicating lake health

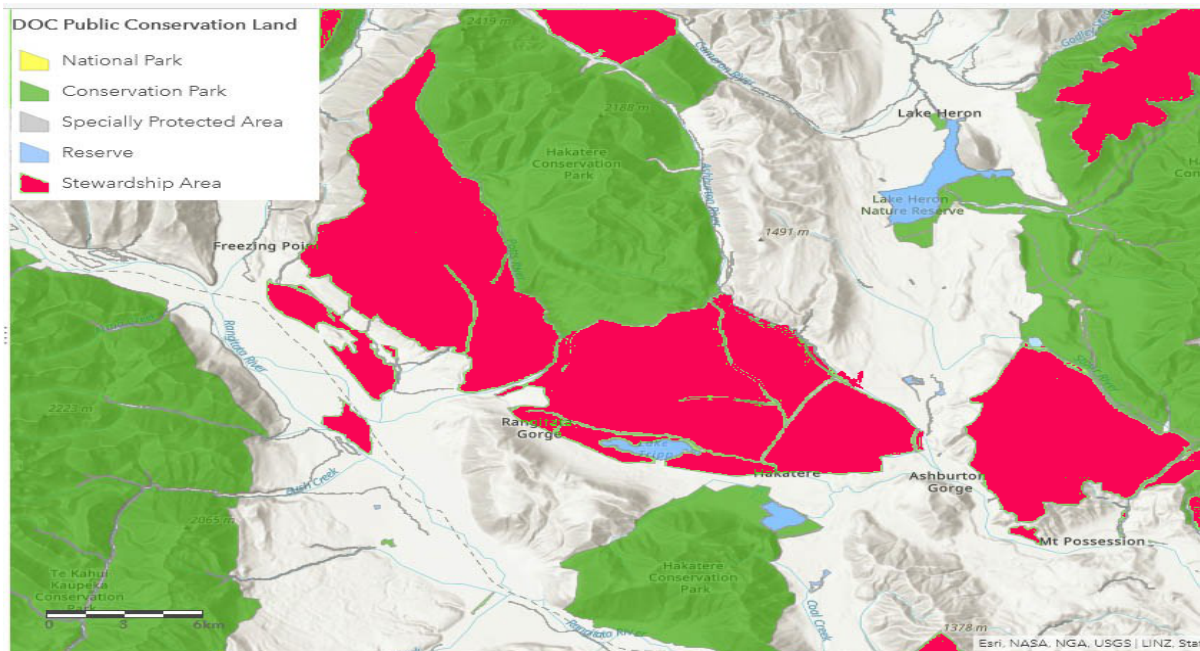


TLI Data from recent ECAN Reports on Ashburton Lakes Water Quality.

Red line is LWRP Limit



2. **Urgent reclassification of the 9,100 hectares of Stewardship Land** (including Lakes Clearwater and Camp) currently forming part of the Hakatere Conservation Area, to Conservation Land so that it is properly protected as part of the Hakatere Conservation Park.



Map showing land still in Stewardship (red areas)

3. **The return to clean, clear lakes** that are currently in a badly degraded condition. Past generations used these lakes variously, for fishing, sailing and many other activities but currently some, especially Lake Clearwater are effectively now "lost" to the current generation because of indifference or apathy to the effect intensification of farming in the catchment has had on the water quality of the lakes and streams despite many early reports calling for protection.
4. **Lake Camp needs urgent protection** as it is under the same potential pressures as the other Ashburton Lakes from agricultural based nutrients. Currently, it is the only lake suitable for children swimming and other water based activities, such the annual school camps based on water activities, water ski schools and a means of recreation for the children in the hut settlement, together with local day trippers who are regular users of the Lake.



The creeping "greening" of the Clearwater catchment due to intensification and artificial fertilizer use



To lose this Lake would be a massive “fail” for the authorities that have oversight and the many users alike, who have seen what can and will happen if no timely preventative action is taken urgently.

5. **Maintaining adequate resources to support growing visitor numbers.** Adequate and timely rubbish removal during periods of peak visitor numbers plus provision of suitable and adequate toilet facilities now that freedom camping has become a feature of this area. Freedom camping areas should be clearly defined to prevent “creep” of camping in areas without adequate facilities.



Over flowing rubbish skips at Lake Camp camping area and Lake Clearwater Settlement from Christmas and New Year – Photo Taken 5 January 2022

The provision of the new toilet facilities along the side of Lake Camp to cater for increasing camper and visitor numbers has been a much appreciated addition. New toilets at the West end of Lake Camp are urgently needed following the decommissioning of the old toilets prior to the Christmas / New Year visitor peak. Provision of a suitable dump station for campervans and mobile homes waste would also be advantageous to prevent indiscriminate dumping of waste into the environment.

6. **Education and control of offroad vehicles and trail bikes** operating “at will” across open tussock land, lake shores and streams, to prevent further degradation and a past cause of fire in these areas. To this end, better information on what is Conservation land and what is private land would be useful together with educational notices on off road codes of conduct at points of access.



Multiple tracks at the eastern end of Lake Camp and near the outlet of Lake Clearwater





Thoughtless damage to Lake Camp foreshore by a few “having fun” during Waitangi Weekend, 2022



### Do you have any other comments?

1. **The Lake Clearwater Hut settlement is unlike other hut settlement areas**, even though it is classed as residential it is in a remote area - there is no sewage disposal, reticulated drinking water, gas, or electricity, so those who choose to own bachs here also choose a different way of living that many would find hard to comprehend let alone endure. Being resourceful and thinking outside the square is part of the challenge and reward of living a simpler way of life in this environment.
2. **The climate is harsh** - fierce sun and wind in Summer, hard frosts and snow in Winter, all take a toll on buildings, plumbing and roads. The main Hakatere - Potts road is well maintained but all roads within the hut settlement should be maintained to a reasonable standard, especially after Winter when potholes can develop.



Roads in the settlement are in generally good condition but some areas require attention

3. **No amount of money or development** can better the visual rewards, simple pleasures and outdoor activities this area provides. Away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, this ever changing natural environment provides a sense of wellbeing throughout the seasons, for those who choose to invest their time to become immersed and at one in it.
4. **The hut community is a resourceful and resilient group**, committed to maintaining the character and uniqueness of the settlement and surrounding area by investing their time and skills to this end, for the enjoyment and benefit of hutholders, campers and visitors alike.
5. **The establishment of a FENZ Fire Fighting Force** at Lake Clearwater with fully trained volunteers sourced from the hutholder community serves as a good example of time and commitment invested by hutholders to protect this remote area, it's environs and the safety of residents and visitors alike.
6. **Protection of the dark sky environment** by educating hutholders and visitors of the importance of minimising light spill from unnecessary exterior lighting. Encourage hut holders to turn off their exterior lighting when not resident. Discourage the use of uncontrolled solar "garden lights", outdoor security lights and especially non-essential festive lights, except perhaps for Christmas & New Year when owners are in residence. (No one wants to be a Grinch!)



Late evening night sky with intrusive decorative lights and exterior light spill





Fully dark sky with minimal exterior light intrusion

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



**Name:** *Jono Poff*

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

*No. I ask that the following written submission be fully considered.*

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

*I live locally and visit the Ashburton Basin area at least once a month, for day or overnight tramps and predator trapping.*

**2. Where do you stay when you visit?**

*Back country huts.*

**4. What does a thriving future at Lake Camp and Lake Clearwater look like to you?**

*I see urgent intervention to halt further eutrophication, a dark sky policy, protection of shoreline and other wetland areas and enhanced biodiversity.*

**What do you see for the density and character of future development (if any) of the area?**

*A cap on new building development, better management of waste water, rubbish and light pollution, more constraints on off road activities and better camping facilities.*

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

*Lack of purpose. Too much pussy footing. Misplaced priorities.*

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

*These high country lakes are extremely vulnerable and can't be allowed to deteriorate further. Their worth far exceeds the economic value of increased 'development'. However, there is economic value in preserving the integrity of natural amenities, both for ecosystem services and to attract visitors.*

*To investigate human impacts on Haketere Basin ecosystems, the ADC needs to fund two PhD projects per year, with immediate priority given to tracing nutrient flow into Lake Clearwater. (The clue is in the name).*

*I also refer to my earlier submission to the ADC's Long-Term Plan 2021-31, which details dark sky preservation in Mount Somers and the Hakatere Basin [1][2].*

*Specifically, ADC should:*

- include recommendations of Guidelines for Outdoor Lighting for RASC Dark-Sky Protection Programs [3] in the formal design process for all new Council-owned lighting installations.*
- undertake a Dark Sky Quality Survey [4] at Lake Clearwater.*
- adopt a draft lighting management plan, as outlined in the International Dark Sky Reserve Program Guidelines [5].*

**Jono Poff**

17 March 2022

[1] <https://youtu.be/vhWJIST4CKo?t=8856>

[2]



[3] [https://www.darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/RASC-GOL\\_2018\\_51.pdf](https://www.darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/RASC-GOL_2018_51.pdf)

[4] <https://www.darksky.org/our-work/conservation/idsp/become-a-dark-sky-place/sky-quality-survey>

[5] <https://www.darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/IDSR-Guidelines-2018.pdf>



# **FUTURE OF LAKE CAMP AND LAKE CLEARWATER – SUBMISSION**

**17 March 2022**

Our details and submission follows:

**Q 1 – Contact details:**

Stephen Attwood

**Q 2 – How often do you visit the Lake Camp and Lake Clearwater area?**

As ours is a family bach, it is rare for someone not to be there at least monthly, and there can be multiple visits (from different members of the extended family) during the fishing and summer recreation seasons. As a guess, we estimate this would average out to the equivalent of at least 150 day visits per year.

**Q 3 – Where do you stay when you visit?**

In our family bach.

**Q 4 – What do you value most about the area?**

- The pristine environment
- The (usually) pristine clear waters
- The trout fishery and recreational angling
- Swimming, kayaking, tramping, deer hunting, bird watching, exploring and other outdoor recreation
- The absolutely clear atmosphere and night skies for star gazing
- The scenery
- The weather, in all its moods
- The recovering native vegetation and all the wild native species that that is bringing back
- Peace, isolation, tranquility, the big skies and the open spaces
- The sense of freedom and adventure, especially for children
- The lovely original baches in the tradition of the low-income working family who put such places together on minimal budgets, some of these buildings must now merit recognition as cultural and historic cultures
- The community feeling, especially among the longer-term hut holders
- The pride and enjoyment we feel when sharing this special space with visitors

**Q 5 – What does a thriving future at Lake Camp and Lake Clearwater look like to you? What do you see for the future density and character of any future development (if any) of the area?**

We believe the special character of the Lakes Clearwater/Camp village is its simplicity, closeness to nature, comparative quiet, and sense of cultural history created by the many traditional baches. There are many busy, expanding, bustling tourist places in New Zealand and they have their place, but we believe that such a place should not be the future of Lakes Camp and Clearwater. The special character of this area deserves protection and management (as opposed to preservation) by:

- a) Prohibiting via a local bylaw the release of any more sections in the area
- b) Introducing zoning/building regulations to ensure that the style of baches built in the area are compatible with the predominant “traditional Kiwi bach” feel. Specifically, large, multi-room, multi storey holiday homes, that are out of character with the village, should not be permitted; and the capacity of baches to accommodate people should be limited to help keep numbers in the village at a reasonable level in peak seasons.
- c) Development that encourages increasing numbers of visitors (e.g., tar-seal all the way to the village, better campground facilities, freedom camping areas expanded, enlarged and new toilet blocks, rubbish collection, electricity supply), should be considered carefully and weighed against the impact that increased numbers of visitors will have on the culture, environment and enjoyment of the area. We are not necessarily opposed to such improvements, provided that they are designed and managed in such a way that they do not, unintentionally, adversely impact on this village’s special character.
- d) Proposals for any commercial development on ADC land or adjoining DOC land for (e.g.) a hotel or commercial hunting/fishing lodge, should be regarded as a divergence to the area’s plan and require a full public consultation process.
- e) We would welcome sealing of the streets through the bach areas, primarily to reduce dust nuisance, with the proviso, however, that speed bumps are retained (and even increased) to ensure that traffic speed through the village is kept at safe levels.
- f) Collaboration between DOC and council to reduce the environmental impact and noise nuisance of off-road motorcycles and 4WDs treating the tracks around the village and lakes as racetracks, would be appreciated. We believe loud, speeding vehicles are out of character with the village. While we appreciate that the noise of powerboating from Lake Camp is a component of the village environment, power boating is limited by the size of lake camp and the hours within which boats can be operated. There are no such limits on on-road vehicles, and their nuisance value is at times extreme, as is their visual and physical impact on a very fragile environment.
- g) In reference to point (f) above, we believe that the council should work with DOC to better manage the 4WD tracks around the lakes (ditto Lake Emma) so as to help prevent/mitigate against unsustainable and incompatible use. Rather than locking these gates at winter, we believe a better solution would be to require all users to apply for a key. This would allow DOC and council to monitor and limit use, and would mean 4WD access would largely be confined to angling access and legitimate 4WD recreationalists, rather than those for whom “entertainment” seems to be to tear up this environment as loudly and speedily as possible.

- h) We would ask that water from the Balmacaan River **not** be allowed to divert into Lake Camp, and that when floods result in such diversion, remediation be prompt to re-divert the river to its course into the catchment Lake Emma. With the consistently high levels of Lake Camp that result in supplementation from the Balmacaan River, the aquifer flowing between Lake Camp and Lake Clearwater rises to the surface, resulting in flooding around the baches near Lake Camp in the lower (original) streets, and in baches in the low-lying areas of Mt Possession Street between the two lakes.

**Q 7 – Do You have any other comments?**

- In recent years the pristine water quality of the two lakes, especially the shallow Lake Clearwater, has been under challenge. Much has been written about the impact of the long drop toilets in the village between the two lakes, penetrating the aquifer flowing from Lake Camp to Lake Clearwater. While this is undoubtedly a factor, we note the size of the village has been largely stable for some years, and there is the newer requirement for all baches to have enclosed septic tanks. It would seem the primary cause of the recent algal bloom in Lake Clearwater is more likely the result of the intensification of the farmland in the lake's catchment that has occurred since pastoral leases have been privatised, giving farmers ownership of highly productive flats and lower slopes and allocating DOC the less productive high country. We would seek for Ashburton District Council, Canterbury Regional Council and DOC to work closely together, and with the farming community, to ensure that farming practices meet the requirements for environmental protection, restoration and close management.
- We note that the above submissions might be perceived as self-interested protectionism, in that we have enjoyed the Lakes Camp/Clearwater environment as a family for more than 65 years but want to prevent new people from enjoying it. That is not our intention. We accept that new people will come into the area, as baches pass on to new owners, and as the growing populations of Canterbury increasingly discover this gem in their midst. However, we have seen what happens when development of such areas has been unfettered or poorly managed. The very thing that attracts people to an area becomes a casualty of its popularity. The South Island High Country, and in particular the globally rare and important 'kettlehole landscapes' of the Ashburton Lakes is an extremely fragile environment. To protect the landforms, the environmental assets (including the waters of the lakes and wetlands), the native plants and wildlife and, indeed, the somewhat quaint and historical atmosphere of the village itself, controls on numbers of visitors and their impacts, must be enacted, or we will see the loss of the very thing people come to see.

**Q 8 – I understand that all submissions are public documents and will be made available on the Council's website with the names of submitters included.**

Yes, we understand and support this policy.

**Q 9 – Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing, Wednesday, 13 April 2022?**

Yes.