

ORC Omnibus Plan Change - Plan Change 8

Submission Reference no: 11

Richard Bowman (Secretary), **Friends of Lake Hayes Society Incorporated (Richard George Bowman)**



Submitter Type: Not specified

Source: Email

Overall Notes:

Clause

Are you a trade competitor?

Position

I am a person who would not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission

Notes

Clause

What are you submitting on? You can submit on specific parts of Plan Change 8 or the whole plan change.

Position

I am submitting on specific parts of the plan change (please detail below).

Notes

Clause

The specific parts of the plan change that my submission relates to are:

Notes

Stormwater, wastewater and rural discharges Earthworks for residential development

Clause

What is your view on the Plan Change 8 or the specific parts listed above? Please select one, if you have multiple views state clearly in the notes box below.

Position

Support

Notes

Clause

What decision would you like the Environment Court to make?

Position

Approve the plan change

Notes

Clause

Do you wish to be heard in support of your submission? All submissions will be considered by the Environment Court. Please indicate if you wish to be heard in support of your submission.

Position

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

Notes

Clause

Authority to act:

Position

I confirm I have the authority to sign this submission on behalf of the submitter

Notes

**Submission from Friends of Lake Hayes Society Inc
on Otago Regional Council Omnibus Water Plan Change 8**

Friends of Lake Hayes Society Inc. wishes to support proposed changes to the Otago Region Water Plan under Change 8. This is in respect of two issues:

Stormwater, wastewater and rural discharges

Earthworks for residential development

The Society was incorporated in October 2008 having been initiated by a group of property owners at Lake Hayes concerned about the serious deterioration of the water quality in the lake since 2006. Its charitable purpose is to do whatever is reasonably necessary to enhance and maintain the quality of water in the lake for the benefit of use and enjoyment of everybody residing in the vicinity of Lake Hayes and for all visitors and users of the lake.

Over the last 15 years the lake has suffered from persistent, seasonal algal blooms. These have resulted in intense stratification of the water column, a severe reduction in the brown trout fishery and periodic closures of the lake for contact recreational purposes. These effects not only cause concern and inconvenience to users of the lake but also impact negatively on the district's reputation as an international tourism destination.

Since the 1960s there has been a considerable amount of scientific study conducted on the lake and its eutrophication problems. Based on this the Society has taken the view that the principal cause of the algal blooms is the input of nutrients, specifically nitrates and phosphorus, which are discharged into the lake from the surface and groundwater in its catchment. Consequently, reducing the inputs of these nutrients is seen as the most cost effective and sustainable approach to improving water quality in the lake over the medium to long term.

The Society is currently developing a plan to undertake an integrated restoration programme in the Lake Hayes catchment to improve the water quality of the lake. This is likely to involve the reinstatement of former wetlands, construction of sediment traps and riparian fencing and plantings to reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering the lake. It is reckoned that by reducing these by 20% over time the lake will return to a more natural state. Any such work programme to achieve this will require the support and cooperation of the affected land holders and stake holders as well as Otago Regional Council, Queenstown Lakes District Council, the Department of Conservation, Fish and Game, Otago University and NIWA.

In pursuing its objectives, the Society has recognised significant deficiencies in the Otago Regional Water Plan as well as in the Queenstown Lakes District Plan which impede the managed improvement of water quality in Lake Hayes and its catchment. These relate to current policies and rules with respect to the management of stormwater, wastewater and rural discharges as well as residential excavation activities. The latter is becoming more important as farming as a land use gives way to rapidly expanding residential and commercial land development. The effects of this are increased loads of sediment and nutrients in the streams feeding the lake but most especially during the periodic high rainfall events and the resulting freshes and floods. Overland run off and river channel scouring over a few hours of a flood event can discharge sediment and nutrients that would take months to accumulate under normal flow conditions. Over the last three years the lake has

experienced increasingly intense cyanobacteria blooms which appear to relate directly to episodes of sediment discharge.

We are of the view that the proposed changes to the Otago Water Plan will provide an improved basis for managing sediment loss and nutrient inputs to degraded and extremely sensitive receiving environments like Lake Hayes. We support these changes on the basis that it will bring about much higher awareness on the part of the authorities and resource users about the risks posed by residential development and agricultural activities on sensitive catchments and water bodies. We would also hope that they will also provide the basis for a more definitive regulatory framework to ensure that monitoring and compliance management of activities are able to be carried out more effectively than they are at present.

Richard Bowman

Secretary

Friends of Lake Hayes Society Inc.

11 August 2020