

Submission to Mackenzie District
Council
Plan Change 13

Submitted by Helen Simpson
on behalf of
Trustees Rex Simpson Estate
Mt Hay Station



I wish to present this submission against Plan Change 13 on behalf of a number of people.

Firstly my parents-in-law, Maisie and Jack Simpson who came onto Mt Hay in 1941 and despite many hardships held on to the land through extremely hard work and a commitment to making a future for their family.

Secondly the second generation who have continued to farm Mt Hay despite the many difficulties placed in front of us.

And lastly the third generation.

It was always my wish, after my husband Rex's death, that Mt Hay not be sold. I wanted our sons to have the chance to have a future on the land that has such a deep connection with all the Simpson family. If Plan Change 13 is not withdrawn our sons will not be able to realise the opportunities that the previous generations have fought so hard to retain. At present they are pursuing their own careers but wish to come home and undertake land use activities to provide for their futures. Because of changing economic conditions they will find it necessary to explore a diversity of activities related to the land. The restrictions that the proposed plan change places on the establishment of additional infrastructure would therefore deprive them of a sustainable economic future. We are being denied the opportunity to make a living on our land which is a complete erosion of our property rights. The Mackenzie District Council should not have the right to dictate how families make a living off their land.

We have not succumbed to selling out yet and this would become a very real possibility if Plan Change 13 is allowed to go ahead. None of us want this to happen. We are fighting for our future at Mt Hay in opposing the plan change. It has been extremely remiss of the Mackenzie District Council not to include a financial impact report as part of the plan change as the financial implications for all of the families affected by the Plan Change will be enormous and this would impact on the community as a whole.

The homestead node that has been drawn up for Mt Hay does not include the station cottage, shearer's quarters, woolshed and implement sheds therefore restricting any further development in this area. This lack of foresight in including an essential part of our farming business in the node shows how flawed the whole process of drawing up nodes has been.

Asking for the whole of Mackenzie basin to be called an Outstanding Natural Area is seriously flawed. The Mackenzie Basin has been a working environment for 150 years and modifications have already taken place during that time of land owner occupation and by the infrastructures that have been put in place such as power schemes. Future change will be inevitable and should be allowed to proceed in a managed way.

I support the Mackenzie Branch of Federated Farmers' submission in addressing other deficiencies in Plan Change 13.

In conclusion I submit that Plan Change 13 should be withdrawn entirely.

Our land is a precious heritage. The families of the Mackenzie Basin share a passion for this land. We have been responsible stewards of the land for 150 years and want to see this stewardship continue for our families into the future. In opposing Plan Change 13 we are fighting for the future of our families and for the economic future of the community. Does the council envisage a community placed in a time warp? The Mackenzie Basin is an area that offers huge potential but any initiatives taken by landowners will be stifled by the regulations imposed.