

**From:** MDCSendmail@mackenzie.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Tue, 22 Nov 2022 09:20:29 +1100 (AEDT)  
**To:** District Plan  
**Subject:** Mackenzie District Council - Submission on Proposed Plan Change to the Mackenzie District Plan

A new Submission on Proposed Plan Change to the Mackenzie District Plan has been received.

### **Plan Change Number**

Which  
Plan  
Change        21  
number?:

### **Details of Applicant**

First  
Name:        Christopher

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Date:         2022-11-22 00:00:00

Customer  
number (if  
known):

Contact  
person:

Contact  
person

Telephone  
No:

### **Submission Details**

The  
specific     Re-zoning the existing green space between Dobson Place and Ruataniwha Road  
provisions

of the  
Proposal  
my  
submission  
relates to  
are as  
follows:  
I support /  
oppose  
these  
provisions:

I oppose in full

The  
reason(s)  
for my  
submission  
are:

For many years it has been my pleasure to travel to Twizel every year to attend the "Twizel Moonbase" disc golf event. It is one of my favourites, and I consider it unmissable. I spend money in Twizel while I am there - generally for five days each visit. If Plan Change 21 goes ahead, it is unlikely the three-day Twizel Moonbase event will go ahead, and there won't be 144 players staying in Twizel as a result. There also won't be numerous helpers and workers arriving early to set up the courses and organise the event. On top of that, there will be less of an incentive for players to stop in Twizel for a round or three. Twizel is a unique location; a delightful small country town with a big heart, and you're never more than 3 minutes drive from anywhere. And yet for some unknown reason you want to destroy green space in Twizel, wreck a well-loved disc golf course (Which was New Zealand's second official course, I believe!) and alienate players from your town. And for what? So that some rich developer's vanity project gets to be the first thing people see when they enter the town? No, thank you. Don't you want to maintain the image of a relaxed, enjoyable town strongly in touch with its history, while being laser focused on the future? The newly repainted and relocated machines on prominent display would seem to indicate so. And yet the efforts of town planners and tree planters to make Twizel a liveable town, with shelter and shade, and recreation areas, and public spaces are to be thwarted by short-sighted money-hungry developers and people who can't see the wood for the trees. Our public green spaces are increasingly under attack, and once gone can NEVER be reclaimed. To vote to remove green space of any kind is tragic, and a big step backwards for any community. There is a concept the councillors must be unaware of called CROI - Community Return On Investment, where the benefit of an investment in public facilities (such as disc golf courses) can be evaluated on a financial basis. Whenever a disc golf course is installed, it becomes a destination for local players, Kiwi tourists, and international visitors. And the benefit to the community as a result of such installations is many hundreds of times the cost of the installation and maintenance over time. Disc golf is growing extremely quickly in NZ and across the world disc golf tourism is increasing in frequency and number. Twizel sits on what we call "The Disc Golf Highway" between

Christchurch and Queenstown. In fact, in Christchurch disc golf has grown more than 100% year on year in both 2020 and 2021, growing from 61,000 rounds played in 2020, to 122,000 in 2021! In Twizel, the numbers are also encouraging with a minimum of 3,125 rounds played in 2020, and a minimum of 4,645 rounds played in 2021. However, due to the low numbers of local Twizel players using uDisc to score, it is likely the projected numbers are skewed downwards, and that doubling these numbers is likely to produce a more realistic total. And these numbers are set to increase for many years. In New Zealand there were over 260,000 rounds played in 2020, and that grew to more than 457,000 in 2021 - which amounts to almost 700,000 hours of healthy and happy recreation nationwide in just one year. These numbers have been obtained from the world's most popular scoring app; uDisc, which publishes their data each year in the form of a Disc Golf Growth Report, available here: <https://udisc.com/disc-golf-growth-report> I implore you to examine the mercifully brief and well-presented information at the above link. It will dispel any notion you may have that disc golf is not a massively growing activity/recreation/family fun/game and sport. There is no doubt disc golf will continue to grow at a huge rate for some time to come, and that the country's approximately 15,000 disc golfers will grow to around 250,000 in the coming decades. The rate at which disc golf courses are being installed in the South Island is rapidly increasing, and a new 18-basket competition course is currently being installed at council expense in Waimate's gorgeous Knottingley Park - specifically to attract the NZ Disc Golf Tour as well as golfers from around NZ and the world. Why Twizel would want to stop being a disc golfing destination, or to slow down the growth of the game, rather than doubling down and installing a second course, while simultaneously protecting the first course for future generations is truly baffling. I can only imagine that new councillors must be woefully ignorant about disc golf, and how fantastic it is for families, and local people, as well as the myriad of types of people who play disc golf - who range from 6 years old to 86 years old. I'm reminded of an old song which all readers will be familiar with: THEY PAVED PARADISE AND PUT UP A PARKING LOT. Change 21 is designed to achieve something similar.

I seek the following decision from the Mackenzie District Council: I do or do not wish to be heard in

Please DO NOT re-zone the existing green space between Dobson Place and Ruataniwha Road for any use other than the existing activities and disc golf.

support of  
my  
submission:

If others  
make a  
similar  
submission

I would or  
would not  
be  
prepared to I would not  
consider  
presenting  
a joint case  
with them  
at any  
hearing:

The numbers I have supplied in this submission have been extracted as accurately as possible from the raw uDisc data published annually for disc golf course use each year. Additional They are accurate to the best of my knowledge, and every care has been taken to publish information minimum numbers according to the statistical analysis undertaken by uDisc and myself. I for this am happy to supply the full data sets for the whole of New Zealand for the years 2020 and submission: 2021 if you wish. Please email me with any such request, or with any questions which arise as a result of my submission. I remain, yours sincerely, Christopher Davies ex-Communications Director of New Zealand Disc Golf

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