

**Report to:** Commissioners – Plan Change 19, Mackenzie District Council

**Subject:** Function and purpose of Lake Pukaki viewing areas

**Date:** 12 December 2018

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This brief supplementary report has been prepared in response to the direction contained in Minute 2 dated 4<sup>th</sup> December. Specifically the direction was:

1. To undertake a brief assessment to determine the function and purpose of the “viewing areas” identified in Mr Head’s evidence
2. To determine the availability of usage data for these areas

The majority of the information contained in this report has been supplied to me by Garth Nixon (Group Manager Community Facilities, MDC) and Scott McKenzie (Roading Manager, MDC).

To assist in responding to the Direction in Minute 2 I prepared a plan numbering all the viewing points identified by Jeremy Head in Appendix 1 of his report. There are 17 viewing points. A copy of this plan with notation from Scott McKenzie is attached.

### **Land ownership**

All of the viewing points are either on Crown land owned by Land Information New Zealand or on legal road. It is understood that this Crown land is also subject to an operating easement in favour of Meridian Energy. There is no other legal status for these areas as far as can be ascertained e.g. there are no reserves or similar.

The viewing areas that are within the road reserve are 9, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16. The remaining viewing areas are within Crown land.

Regarding administration of areas The Pines area is LINZ land and the District Council area working towards administration of this area. The Pukaki lookout is owned by Meridian Energy and the District Council and NZTA have a shared Management agreement for this.

### **Visitor/traffic numbers**

The following is a summary of the available data and includes some estimations:

- The Lake Pukaki Lookout has a counter for people using the visitor centre. I understand this captures at least 50% of visitors and probably more. During the off season (April to June 2018) the average number of visitors was 5000 per week. Recent counts for October-November 2018 have an average of 6300 per week.
- The average daily traffic numbers on Hayman Road at the south end is 187 and in peak period up to 426.
- The average daily traffic numbers on Mount Cook Station Road at the lower end where it meets Braemar Road is 50.

- LINZ counters for The Pines site indicate there were 5231 vehicles in and out between 22 October and 6 December
- The annual average daily traffic numbers for SH80 (3km north of the junction with SH8) has increased gradually and then dramatically from 518 in 2010 to 1172 in 2017.
- Regarding Peter's Lookout an estimated 10-15% of the passing traffic use the lookout on a typical day and up to 25% use it on a clear day. I am not sure whether this percentage is of the traffic travelling towards Aoraki or whether it is a percentage of the total traffic.
- On the basis of the 2017 figures about 40% of traffic from SH8 is using SH80.

Attached to this report is a plan showing the numbered sites plus comments from Scott McKenzie regarding the estimated proportion of visitors that stop in the eastern and southern areas. He has also highlighted additional well used stopping areas in the south east corner of the lake.

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