

From: MDCSendmail@mackenzie.govt.nz
Sent: Tue, 22 Nov 2022 12:28:58 +1100 (AEDT)
To: District Plan
Subject: Mackenzie District Council - Submission on Proposed Plan Change to the Mackenzie District Plan
Attachments: Disc-Golf-course-submission.docx

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

Plan Change Number

Which Plan Change number?: 21

Details of Applicant

First Name: Ian
Last Name: Riddler
Postal Address: 29 Godley Street Twizel
Email: ian@ianriddler.com
Telephone No: 0210380380
Fax:
Date: 2022-11-22 00:00:00
Customer number (if known):
Contact person: Ian Riddler
Contact person Telephone No: 0210380380

Submission Details

The specific provisions of the Proposal my submission relates to are as follows: The proposed rezoning and sale of public reserve land currently used by the Disc Golf Course in Twizel.

I support / oppose these provisions: I oppose in full

The reason(s) for my submission are: The changes would ruin an existing recreational amenity which provides tourism, residential enrichment, and public greenspace. The public reserve is an irreplaceable asset, and should be protected, not exploited. The change is counter to the Council's core values and stated aims. See detailed submission document, attached.

I seek the following decision from the Mackenzie District Council: The rezoning of the public reserve land into medium density residential be cancelled, and the reserves containing the Disc Golf course be protected from future attempts to develop them.

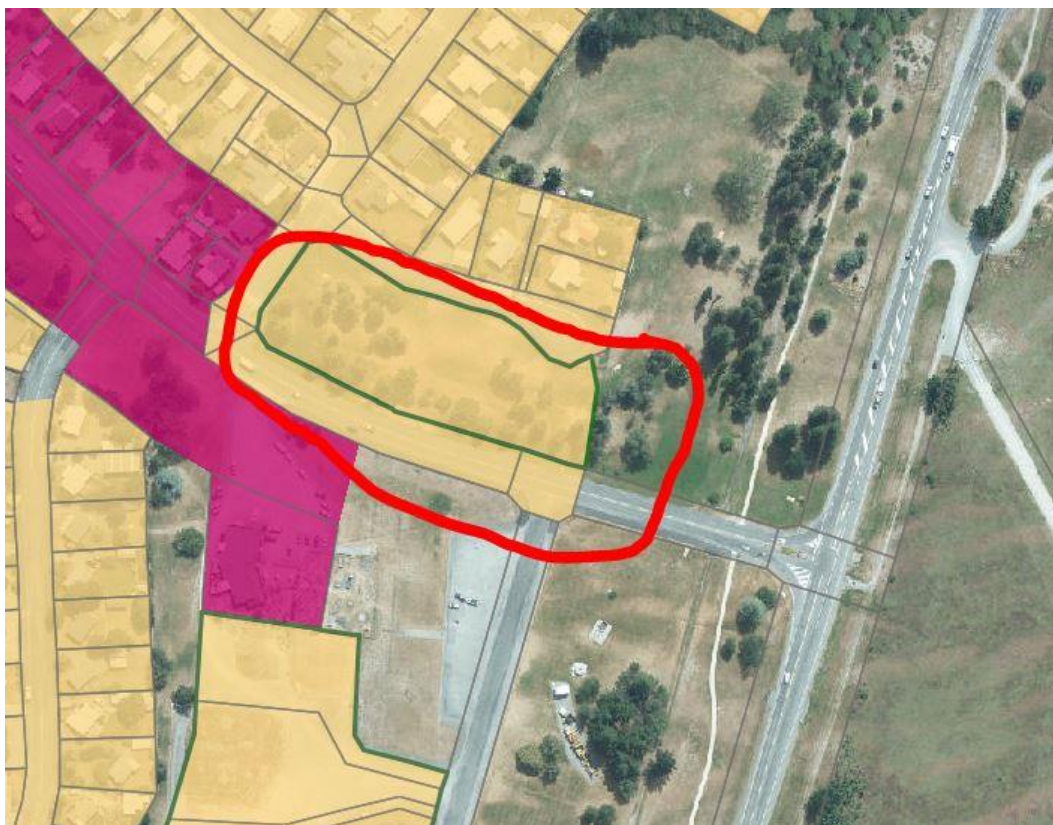
I do or do not wish to be heard in support of my submission: I do not

If others make a similar submission I would or would not be prepared to consider presenting a joint case with them at any hearing: I would

Additional information for this submission: Please see attached document for full submission.

Attach a supporting document: Disc-Golf-course-submission.docx, type application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document, 108.2 KB

The proposed rezoning and sale of public reserve



The loss of a valuable recreational and sporting asset and tourist attraction to Twizel in order to rezone to commercial visitor accommodation is counter to the wellbeing of the community, counter to the stated policies of the council, and a betrayal of the Council's core principles as stated in the 2020 Local Governance document, Mission and Vision.

The rezoning of public reserve land cuts out 4 of the 18 holes of the existing course, rendering it no longer suitable for inclusion in the New Zealand Competition circuit.

The Twizel Disc Golf course is highly regarded, seen as a technical course with various challenges not found elsewhere.

It is used by many locals, as well as being a drawcard to both domestic and international tourists.

Further, the dedicated green spaces of Twizel are a valuable feature of the township that should be protected for their own sake, rather than seen as a resource to be strip mined for the sake of a greasy buck. Once those spaces are gone, they cannot be recovered.

Particularly disappointing is how Council seem to have forgotten their core principles:

The very first principle of the Local Governance plan; the “Mission statement” for Council states, "no-one in the Mackenzie District should be left behind in the name of "progress".

Yet this rezoning absolutely "leaves behind" the active and growing disc golf community in a heartbeat for the sake of "progress".

And this is not progress in a positive sense, it is the sacrifice of irreplaceable public reserves to make room for tawdry motels.

Secondly, “peace and serenity matters, defining, unique, extremely special characteristics of our district - and they need to be protected.”

... except in the matter of turning public reserve green space into high traffic commercial visitor accommodation?

Where’s the protection?

The fourth clause says: “Do things with respect and trust

We will, in every circumstance, operate with honesty and integrity, enabling mutual respect and trust in our organisation, with our community and with all others.”

Yet, there’s been no public involvement in this decision beyond the absolute minimum required in publicly available documentation that’s difficult to locate, and hard to understand. Maps of the affected areas are near impossible to find.

The fifth clause of the mission : Leave things better for the future

“We are here for more than to save the current day - our duty as public servants to the Mackenzie District community creates an obligation that we leave things better for future generations.”

How does removing a favourite public recreational area make things better? In the words of Joni Mitchell “They paved Paradise, and put up a parking lot”. That’s meant to be an admonition, not an instruction manual!

Likewise, the “Vision” of the council states that Mackenzie District will be a district in which:

- Our natural environment is protected and enhanced in balance with achieving social and commercial objectives.

Removing Public Reserves to put up hotels isn’t protecting and enhancing them.

- We foster the unique attributes and strong sense of community that makes the Mackenzie District special.

One of the unique attributes of Twizel is its greenspace. Playing the Disc Golf Course with friends and neighbours builds the sense of community.

Destroying that to build hotels isn’t fostering anything but greed.

- A variety of sporting, recreational, cultural, spiritual, welfare and educational resources are available to enrich the lives of our people.

Once again – We have a well regarded, well used sporting and recreational facility in the Disc Golf Course that is “enriching the lives of our people.”

How exactly do hotel chains “enrich the lives of our people”?

How does destroying this asset enrich anything except in the meanest, grubbiest sense of capitalist exploitation?

Clearly, it will make the lives of those of us who are regular users of the course poorer, not richer.

- People are encouraged to use their skills and talents for the benefit of the community.

The Twizel Disc Golf Course was built by the community, for the community.

20,000 dollars of funding came from the community to build the course, which was professionally constructed to meet international course standards.

It is an established part of the competitive New Zealand Disc Golf Association’s New Zealand Tour, having been played here for the last 8 years consecutively.

We have groups visiting Twizel for the specific purpose of playing the course.

This includes a school group visiting next week.

Some of those groups visited us last winter, bringing in much needed tourism during the off-season.

In summary, we have a special, valuable, community recreational and sporting attraction in the form of the Disc Golf Course, which should not be rezoned

into commercial visitor accommodation. The public reserve land should stay as public reserve land and treasured as such.