

**IN THE ENVIRONMENT COURT  
CHRISTCHURCH REGISTRY**

**Under** the Resource Management Act 1991  
**In the matter** of appeals under clause 14(1) of the First Schedule to  
the Act

**Between**

**FEDERATED FARMERS OF NEW ZEALAND (INC)  
MACKENZIE BRANCH  
ENV-CHC-2009-000193**

**HIGH COUNTY ROSEHIP ORCHARDS LIMITED AND  
MACKENZIE LIFESTYLE LIMITED  
ENV-2009-CHC-000175**

**MOUNT GERALD STATION LIMITED  
ENV-2009-CHC-000181**

**MACKENZIE PROPERTIES LIMITED  
ENV-2009-CHC-000183**

**MERIDIAN ENERGY LIMITED AND GENESIS E  
ENERGY LIMITED  
ENV-2009-CHC-000184**

**THE WOLDS STATION LIMITED  
ENV-2009-CHC-000187**

**FOUNTAINBLUE LIMITED & OTHERS  
ENV-2009-CHC-000190**

**R, R AND S PRESTON AND RHOBOROUGH DOWNS  
LIMITED  
ENV-2009-CHC-191**

**HALDON STATION  
ENV-2009-CHC- 000192**

Appellants

**And** **MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Respondent

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF PATRICK JOHN BOYD**

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9 September 2016

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 My Name is Patrick John (Paddy) Boyd.

1.2 I have been living and working in the Mackenzie Basin at Haldon Station for 35 years. With the Innes family until 1987 and then managing the station for the Klisser family since that time. The Mackenzie Basin means a lot to my wife, Barb, and me and our endeavour is to leave the place we manage in a much better state that when we arrived.

1.3 Haldon Station is a 22,000ha sheep, deer and beef station extending to the east of the headwaters of Lake Benmore into the Kirkliston Mountain Range. Its altitude ranges from 365m to 1,525m; rainfall ranges from 300 mm/pa to 500mm/pa and has a temperature range between +40C and -20C. It is a challenging environment but one in which Haldon Station has shown that excellent levels of productivity can be successfully achieved within a regime of responsible environmental stewardship.

1.4 Haldon Station is made up of three major blocks, Kirkliston, Stoney and Haldon blocks. The first two are predominately high country areas with the Haldon block having lower flats with the ability to develop and grow better extra feeds.

1.5 This lower country is essential to the other blocks and is consequently the key to the success of the entire station. This block allows other areas to be destocked for short periods to encourage regeneration and to generate extra funds for weed and pest control. Further, the main infrastructure and housing etc. is all based on the Haldon block where it is better suited for access to supplies and less risk from adverse weather conditions.

1.6 Haldon Station is home to six families and 4-6 single staff who reside there full-time.

## **2. CURRENT OPERATION**

2.1 Haldon runs a mix of sheep, cattle and deer and is generating a good solid return. A good proportion of this return is reinvested back into the land through weed and pest control and environmental restoration.

- 2.2 Haldon's current annual spend on maintenance includes: \$50-60k per year on rabbit control; \$25-30k per year on wilding tree eradication; \$20k plus per year on other woody weeds-Broome/Gorse/Willow plus countless programmes on opossum, ferret and other mammalian pest control.
- 2.3 Additional work is undertaken in the fencing of streams and keeping banks clear of weeds.
- 2.4 Steadily increasing costs mean that Haldon has to develop new farm systems and land areas, not only to stay viable but also to ensure that these control programmes can be continued.
- 2.5 Over the last few years, pivots have been installed on the flats for the reasons stated above and to help alleviate the degradation of those areas. These Pivots have allowed Haldon to extrapolate better returns out of their stock, hence giving access to the funds required to look after other areas of the Station.
- 2.6 Other benefits of these pivots are the opportunity to halt the degradation of these barren flats due to the extreme dry, rabbits and exposure to wind blow.
- 2.7 Natural farming practices are employed wherever possible at Haldon. Animal welfare is a primary concern. The success of these policies from the farming perspective is demonstrated in the fact that Haldon Station has average to above average results in both lambing and calving.

### **3. SCOPE OF EVIDENCE**

- 3.1 The evidence that I wish to submit on behalf of Haldon Station relates primarily to the identification of and rules associated with Scenic Grassland, Pastoral Intensification, Irrigators and Fencing.
- 3.2 The controls proposed in Plan Change 13 will impact on the whole operation of Haldon Station by severely restricting any development of the crucial Haldon Block, as described above.

- 3.3 There are a number of other properties in the Mackenzie where the proposals are equally inappropriate and likely to be counter-productive from both environmental and economic perspectives.
- 3.4 In an earlier decision the Court proposed the identification of landscapes of value close to the main roads which required additional protection. (Mackenzie) Council has now identified these in its “Scenic Grasslands” in the proposed Plan Change.
- 3.5 The Haldon Road has been identified as one of these areas. The justification for this is questionable at best. It is not a main road (as proposed by the Court) and is not subject to significant tourist traffic. Outside the main tourist season the bulk of traffic would be fishermen heading for Lake Benmore, with only a low percentage of these actually travelling as far as Haldon Station.
- 3.6 Traffic does increase in the height of the season but could not be described as “heavy”. The road from the Hakataramea through to Haldon is not an easy drive, consequently is avoided by the majority of tourists. Tourist buses do not use the road.
- 3.7 As we understand it, Council is now proposing severe restrictions on part of the Haldon Block because it has extended the Tourist Protection Zone area proposed by the Court beyond that part of Haldon Rd which forms part of SH8.
- 3.8 If Council’s proposals proceed, Haldon Station’s operation on its crucial home block will be curtailed because of restrictions on standard activities such as oversowing and topdressing; fencing; irrigation and cultivation, including direct drilling and construction or use of other structures including irrigators.
- 3.9 An inevitable, immediate, result of this would be the scenario described at 2.6 above.
- 3.10 Worse would be the medium to long term result. If the farm were able to continue it would be on a subsistence basis. An early casualty of this would be the Station’s ability to continue to invest in pest management and environmental protection. Without grazing and some farm practices such as oversowing, topdressing and irrigation the land would quickly be taken over by wilding conifers, rabbits or hieracium, an outcome to the detriment of all that Plan Change 13 is endeavouring to achieve. I think a more holistic approach to land management is needed that takes into account all the environmental, social and economic aspects of farming in the Basin.

#### **4 ASSOCIATION WITH THE LAND**

- 4.1 In concluding this evidence, I would like to give a personal expression of what the Mackenzie means to me and, I suspect, several other landholders that have been part of the area for several years – in some cases, generations.
- 4.2 Pastoral farming is a major part of the Mackenzie Basin values. This has been identified in the drawing up of the “Mackenzie Vision” – a community document, drawn up with the encouragement and sponsorship of Central Government. All parties to this vision agreed to respect the values of others and to work together for the benefit of the entire Mackenzie community.
- 4.3 Proposed Plan Change 13 appears to work contrary to the spirit of the vision.
- 4.4 Those of us that live and work in the Basin as farming families have taken responsibility for its care for many generations. We love the land and respect its iconic status and values.
- 4.5 A lot of the Mackenzie values treasured by both locals and tourists alike are those that have been looked after through many decades of pastoral farming activities.
- 4.6 Pest and weed control, oversowing and the use of fertilisers are activities that have been carried out by all of us for a long time, at our own expense, to help protect this land from the extreme climate it has. If we had not, then this Basin would now be overrun by rabbits, susceptible to wind storms and overgrown with wildings in many areas.
- 4.7 Strategic grazing by cattle controls a lot of our smaller woody weeds, but many labour hours are required to remove the remaining larger wilding trees. General costs and regulatory costs continue to rise and as a result we need to intensify to stay viable and to effectively maintain the environmental upkeep of the Station.
- 4.8 Development of some of the lowland areas allows us to have the financial ability to look after the remaining vulnerable areas.

- 4.9 Haldon is a relatively intensively farmed block of land for high country land, which recognises the need for environmental and economical sustainability. PC13 would severity impact on Haldon's continued ability to farm in this way.
- 4.10 We have been protecting these areas for generations and need to be able to maintain that right through the use of pastoral intensification, irrigation development and paddock subdivision where necessary.

*Paddy Boyd.*