BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COURT ENV-2015-CHC-000

IN THE MATTER

of the Resource Management Act

1991

AND

IN THE MATTER

of an appeal under clause 14 of

Schedule 1 of that Act

BETWEEN

Remarkables Jet Limited

Appellant

AND

Queenstown-Lakes

District

Council

Respondent

NOTICE OF APPEAL BY REMARKABLES JET LIMITED AGAINST **DECISIONS ON PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 50 TO THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT PLAN**

Dated: 19 August 2015

BROOKFIELDS LAWYERS J D Young/R A Davidson Telephone No. 09 379 9350 Fax No. 09 379 3224 P O Box 240 DX CP24134 **AUCKLAND**

- To The Registrar
 Environment Court
 Christchurch
- Remarkables Jet Limited (RJL) appeals the decision (**Decision**) of the Queenstown-Lakes District Council (**Council**) on Proposed Plan Change 50 (**PC50**).
- 2. RJL made a submission (number 50/49) and further submissions on PC50.
- 3. The Decision on the PC50 was issued on 8 July 2015.
- 4. RJL appeals against the Decision in its entirety.
- 5. The grounds of appeal are as follows:
 - (a) The Decision does not accord with the relevant requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and is contrary to Part 2 of the RMA:
 - (b) In particular, but without derogating from the generality of the above, the Decision:
 - (i) Will not promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources;
 - (ii) Is contrary to good resource management practice; and
 - (iii) Does not promote the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources; and
 - (iv) Is not better than the operative zoning.
 - (c) The specific grounds detailed below.
- 6. RJL is not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308D of the RMA.

Transportation and Parking

Reasons for Appeal

- 7. PC50 proposes a significant expansion of the Queenstown Town Centre (QTC). Many of the activities that are enabled will be significant traffic generators.
- 8. It is well known that traffic and transportation are significant resource management issues for urban Queenstown. Council documents predict further deteriorating traffic conditions in the QTC that is largely linked to the growing traffic demands occassioned by the proposed expansion of the QTC. This is an issue that requires a carefully considered and integrated response.
- Similar issues arise in respect of car parking where additional demand will be generated for an existing car parking resource that is already under pressure.
- 10. It was established in evidence that PC50 would generate significantly greater traffic than the operative zoning (the High Density Residential Zone) by approximately 1000 movements at peak times.
- 11. During the hearing of submissions, the Council proffered proposed amendments to PC50 to require an Integrated Traffic Assessment for larger scale development envisaged under PC50. This change was a clear acknowledgement that traffic and transport effects had not been properly assessed and the only solution the Council could offer was to require that those effects be considered at a later date.
- 12. Further, requiring an Integrated Traffic Assessment will most likely remove any public participation in the assessment of traffic impacts because there is a presumption against notification of restricted discretionary activities (which includes the proposed convention centre, visitor accommodation, and commercial activities). It also precludes an integrated approach to traffic and transport planning.

and encourages ad hoc and disconnected responses to the significant traffic and transport issues confronting Queenstown.

- 13. The modelling undertaken by the Council is based on numerous vulnerable assumptions regarding potential development scenarios and did not properly acknowledge the wide range of activities enabled by PC50.
- 14. The Council relied almost exclusively on a draft transport strategy to address the adverse effects of PC50. At the time PC50 was promulgated and heard, the draft transport strategy was being developed and was not publicly available. The Commissioners acknowledged that it would have been desirable to have a transport strategy agreed prior to the assessment of PC50.
- The solution to the adverse traffic and transport effects contained Transport Strategy is a 20% reduction in the use of private vehicles. There is very little detail on how this might be achieved. In fact, the Council's approach suggests that it considers that no solution is required.
- 16. RJL considers that the HDRZ is better than PC50 in terms of addressing transportation and traffic effects, achieving the objectives of the Operative Queenstown-Lakes District Plan, and implementing the relevant transport strategies (including the Wakatipu Transportation Strategy)

High Density Residential Zone

Reasons for Appeal

Housing is a critical issue for the Queenstown-Lakes District. Rental accommodation close to the QTC (and elsewhere), particularly for the itinerant population is in very short supply. Affordable Housing is an identified and widely accepted issue. Any increase in supply of housing enhances affordability. Conversely, any decrease in supply of housing exacerbates affordability issues.

- 18. The land that is the subject of PC50 is zoned High Density Residential Zone (HDRZ). The HDRZ enables affordable housing.
- 19. PC50 will displace existing residential use and will remove affordable houses in the form of cabins and cribs that are currently rented.
- 20. A District Wide objective in the Operative Queenstown-Lakes District Plan requires that residential activity contribute to housing affordability in the District. PC50 is the antithesis of this objective. It reduces the extent of residentially zoned land and reduces the prospect of residential development by encouraging high value tourist and other uses (such as commercial uses).
- 21. RJL considers that the HDRZ is better than PC50 in terms of delivery affordable housing and achieving the objectives of the Operative Queenstown-Lakes District Plan.

Impacts on the QTC

Reasons for Appeal

- 22. The existing QTC is compact and walkable, and occupies a highly desirable and charming location on the shores of Lake Wakatipu. It is picturesque and memorable.
- 23. The Council claimed a demonstrable and pressing need for the expansion of the QTC, yet there is no evidential support for that statement. The Council also claimed that the expansion would provide for non QTC development, which conflicts with the assertion that there was a demonstrable and pressing need for the expansion of the QTC.
- 24. The proposed expansion of the QTC is significant. It approximately doubles the extent of the Town Centre Zone. Parts of it are considerably separated from the existing QTC by distance, elevation

and street layouts. These factors have implications for traffic and parking, as well as urban form.

25. RJL considers that PC50 will undermine the existing compact and vibrant qualities of the QTC, and will evolve as a disconnected commercial precinct that has no synergistic relationship with the existing QTC.

Relief sought

- 26. RJL seeks the following relief:
 - (a) That PC50 be rejected.

Additional relief

- 27. In addition to the specific relief set out above, RJL seeks the following relief:
 - (a) Such further or other relief as may be just or necessary to address matters raised in the RJL's submission, further submission and this appeal; and
 - (b) Costs.

DATED the 19th day of August 2015

REMARKABLES JET LIMITED as appellant by its lawyers and duly authorised agents BROOKFIELDS per:

D Young / R & Davidson

THIS NOTICE OF APPEAL is filed by JOHN DYLAN YOUNG, solicitor for the appellant. The address for service of the appellant is at the offices of Brookfields Lawyers, Level 9, Tower One, 205 Queen Street, Auckland.

Documents for service on the appellant may be left at the address for service or may be:

- Posted to the solicitor at P O Box 240, Auckland;
- 2. Left for the solicitor at Document Exchange for direction to DX CP24134; or
- 3. Transmitted to the solicitor by facsimile to 09 379 3224.

Annexures:

- (a) A copy of the Decision (Attachment A); and
- (b) A list of names and addresses of persons to be served with a copy of this notice (Attachment B).

How to Become a Party to Proceedings

You may be a party to the appeal if you made a submission or a further submission on the matter of this appeal and you lodge a notice of your wish to be a party to the proceedings (in form 33) with the Environment Court, and serve copies on the other parties, within 15 working days after the period for lodging a notice of appeal ends. Your right to be a party to the proceedings in the Court may be limited by the trade competition provisions in section 274(1) and Part 11A of the Resource Management Act 1991.

You may apply to the Environment Court under section 281 of the Resource Management Act 1991 for a waiver of the above timing requirements (see form 38)

Advice

If you have any questions about this appeal, contact the Environment Court at:

Environment Court Christchurch Registry 282 Durham Street Central City Christchurch

Postal Address

P O Box 2069 DX:WX11113 Christchurch

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Attachment A – Queenstown Lakes District Council Decision on PC50

Attachment B - Parties to be served

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