

**BEFORE THE HEARINGS PANEL
FOR THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN**

IN THE MATTER of the Resource
Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of the Rural Hearing
Stream 2 (Indigenous
Vegetation and
Biodiversity chapter)

**SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF GLENN ALISTER DAVIS ON
BEHALF OF QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL**

ECOLOGIST

20 APRIL 2016

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 I have prepared a Statement of Evidence dated 6 April 2016. In that evidence I did not address the submission of James Wilson Cooper (400), which seeks the removal of SNA E18B from Chapter 33 of the PDP. My views on his submission are set out below.

2. SNA E18B – JAMES WILSON COOPER (SUBMITTER 400)

2.1 Mr Cooper has requested an amendment to 33.8.1 that would remove the Significant Natural Area (**SNA**) from Mr Cooper's property. No justification nor reasons for such action are provided in the submission.

2.2 In my view, this change is not appropriate as the site contains ecological values consistent with the significance criteria. The assessment for the SNA E18B is on pages 137 to 140 of Appendix F to my Statement of Evidence dated 6 April 2016. I also provide the following detail with respect to the significance criteria that SNA E18B meets:

- (a) **Rarity and Distinctiveness** – The threatened environment classification identifies that the cushionfield and short tussock grassland is located within a Threatened Environment Classification with 2.7% indigenous vegetation cover remaining and only 0.8% protected. In addition, the SNA supports a population of the 'At Risk' cushion *Pimelea* (*Pimelea sericeovillosa* subsp. *pulvinaris*).
- (b) **Representativeness** – The pre-European settlement vegetation representative of this environment is understood to have consisted of grasslands with assemblages of shrubland and sub shrubs. The vegetation within E18A remains as one of the few modified examples of the original vegetation cover.

- (c) **Diversity and Pattern** – While the area has been modified over time (e.g. fire, rabbits, and pastoral activity), the vegetation still has a notable range of indigenous species.
- (d) **The Ecological Context of the Area** - The short tussock grassland and cushion field is connected to modified indigenous vegetation communities located adjacent to the upper reaches of the Clutha River, as well as being in close proximity to the ‘South Hawea Flat Recommended Area for Protection’, which consists of a similar short tussock grassland ecological community.
- (e) **Future Ecological Value of the Area** – The site has the resilience to maintain its ecological value depending on the land management regime.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 In summary, while the short tussock grassland and cushion field have experienced some modification, given the native plant species surviving and the presence of the threatened cushion *Pimelea* within an acutely threatened environment, I consider the area contains ecological values that are consistent with the significance criteria. It is my recommendation that the SNA should remain listed in the Schedule of SNAs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' and 'A' followed by the name 'avis'.

Glenn Alister Davis
20 April 2016