

**BEFORE A HEARING PANEL
CONSTITUTED BY HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

IN THE MATTER OF an application dated 21 December 2020
for regional consents by Grenadier
Limited to develop the Douglas Link
Golf Course at 765 Muhunua West Road,
Ohau

IN THE MATTER OF Part 6 of the Resource Management Act
1991

REPLY EVIDENCE OF DR VAUGHAN FRANCIS KEESING

Applicant's Consultant:

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Introduction

Name, qualifications and experience

[1] My full name is Vaughan Francis Keesing and I have the qualifications and experience as laid out in my primary brief of evidence.

Purpose of this supplementary Evidence

[2] In my evidence in chief I assessed and discussed the type, values and condition of the area proposed to be Hole 14 at the Ohau golf course consent hearing.

[3] I understand that there was some debate and possibly confusion as to whether or not that area should be considered active dune and/or recognised by Schedule F of the One plan.

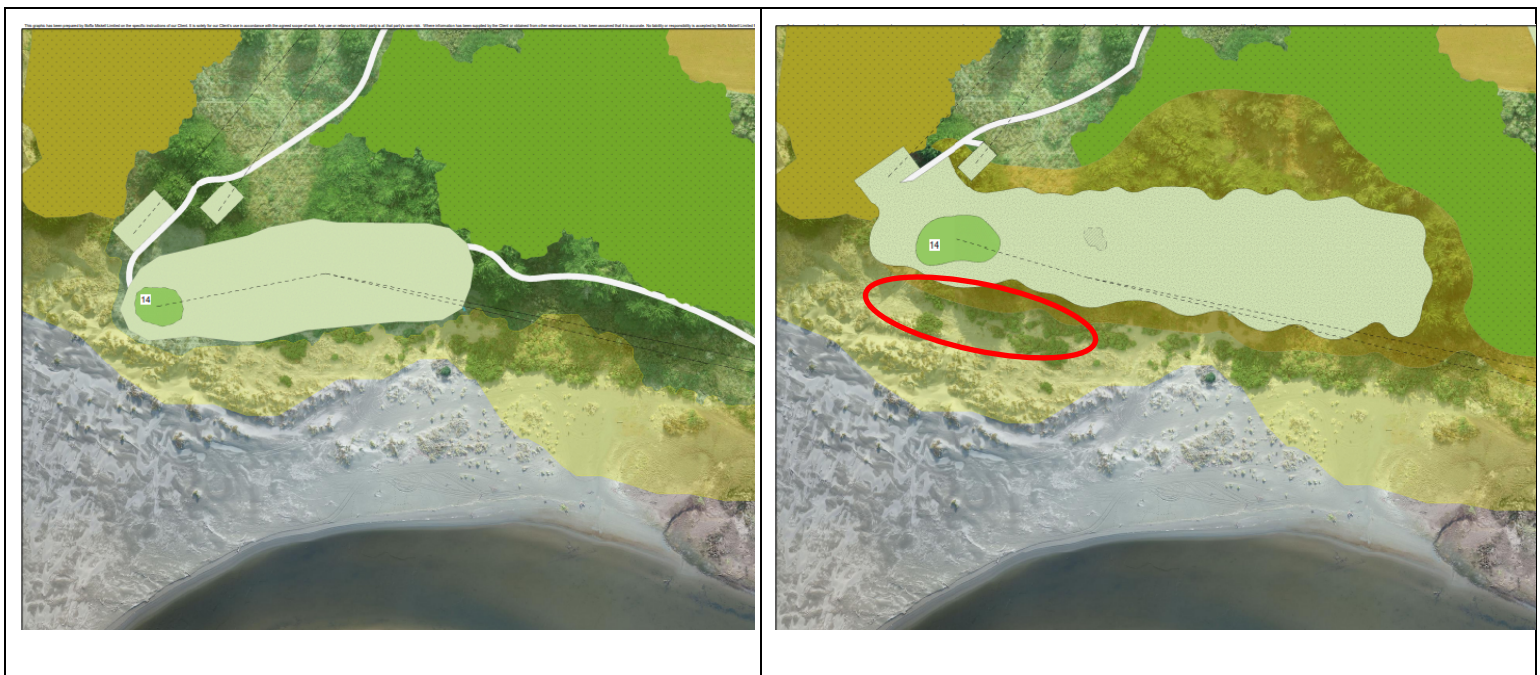
[4] I advised that because of the dominance of exotic stabilising plants on the area proposed as hole 14 (i.e. marram grass, hairs tail, lupin and evidence of encroaching pine) that it should be considered exotic dominated stabilising dune, not active dune. But even if it was to be considered active dune, it should not be considered schedule F because of the dominance of exotic species cover.



The area of proposed hole 14 and the active dune beyond in the foreground.

[5] Irrespective of this debate, or perception of an issue, the applicant, through further discussion with submitters and consultation, has seen fit to propose a potential movement of the hole 14 layout. This potential movement is shown graphically over aerial photographs below.

[6] The possible move is approximately 20m north and a spread east and shifts the green and any fairway clear of the “active” dune space, outside of the lupin area and into that area currently under macrocarpa tree cover and in an area (between tree canopy) which is very clearly stable back dune covered almost exclusively in exotic grass and shrub species.



[7] The area in question is indicated by the red ellipse in the graphic above. This change pushes the vegetation clearance and land disturbance out of any “active” dune area. In making this change the area initially described by me related to the position of Hole 14 now becomes part of the dune restoration programme of the golf course and so it will not simply be left as it is currently i.e. weeds, but appropriately revegetated in spinifex focused active dune cover. This is a further gain in the enhancement of the current local dune degradation by long term weed succession in the absence of any weed management.

[8] The potential change does also result in the hole “spreading” eastward into the pines, but this removes no valued habitat (it removes pine trees). The result of that spread appears to be that the proposed dune slack restoration has a change in

shape and area but this is not of ecological concern and the values of indigenous restoration planting is not affected. Indeed, with the increased active dune restoration related to the hole 14 change it is increased. The removal of some of the Knobby Clubrush (schedule f area) will still be accounted for in the proposed restoration activities at a ratio of 8:1 which is well in favour of a substantially better ecological outcome.

Dr Vaughan Keesing



Dated 25th May 2022