

BEFORE THE CANTERBURY REGIONAL COUNCIL

IN THE MATTER OF the Resource Management
Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER OF 3 applications for
Glentanner Station Ltd

BRIEF OF EVIDENCE

ROSS KENNETH IVEY

1. My full name is Ross Kenneth Ivey. I live at Glentanner Station. I hold a Bachelor degree in Agriculture Commerce.
2. I am a 2nd generation farmer at Glentanner. I have been farming Glentanner full time since 1978. Glentanner has been in my family since 1960. My father started at Glentanner in 1957 as Farm Manager for absentee owners.
3. I have been farming at Glentanner since leaving Lincoln University as a 22 year old. Glentanner is a true high country gorge run located on the western shores of Lake Pukaki adjacent to the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park. Glentanner is well known as it is on the main road to Aoraki. Glentanner is a run farm with merino sheep, Hereford cattle and red deer.
4. I have one of my three children working at Glentanner full time. My goal is to have a financially sustainable property offering an opportunity for all three children.
5. I have commercial interests in Glentanner Park, a tourism business including a holiday park, airfield, scenic flights, café, retailing and information centre.
6. Catherine Fields is a 435ha farm which is used as a runoff to Glentanner Station. Catherine Fields and Glentanner are approx. 35km apart. Catherine Fields became part of the Glentanner pastoral lease in 1983 after a soil and water conservation plan (Run Plan 52) was entered into with the Waitaki Catchment Commission. At present both properties are under 1 title.
7. The Run Plan was to provide for the grazing of 2400 stock units displaced from high altitude lands. It was instituted to retire from grazing some 8870 ha (two thirds) of the Glentanner pastoral lease.
8. During the development process at Catherine Fields, the Run Plan portion of which was subsidised, Glentanner also carried out significant development from its own resources. There is still a deficit of some 1550 stock units of grazing yet to be provided to fully implement the plan and completely destock the high country at Glentanner.
9. A comprehensive report was prepared by Mr. R.A Ward-Smith, Knight Frank (NZ) Ltd Timaru in April 1996 and presented to the Canterbury Regional Council on 2 May 1996, outlining the issues. The executive summary of this report is attached at the end of this document.

10. On 16 May 1997 the Canterbury Regional Council replied saying “the council maintains that it has discharged all its obligations under the soil and water conservation plan through the former Waitaki catchment commission when \$263,000 was paid for the agreed benefits”. We replied to the Regional Council’s response in August 1997 through our chartered accountant Meredith Lowe to attempt to put the record straight but have received no reply from the council. We have not pursued the matter further.
11. In July 1997, Mr. Sam Brown the then Commissioner of Crown Lands was sent a letter from Glentanner saying we had been corresponding with the Canterbury Regional Council on the question of Run Plan administration and from Glentanners’ point of view, the Run Plan had not been successful. The question of success is measured by the undertaking that the run holder after the completion of the Run Plan would be “no worse off”. We stated that the Canterbury Regional Council have clearly found this to be an extremely complex issue (as indeed it was and still is), but because they are strangers to a long history and to voluminous files, Glentanners’ approaches to them have received inappropriate responses that do not deal with the issues. The purpose of this letter was to record for the Commissioners files that there was a substantial unresolved issue relating to Glentanner Station in respect of Run Plan outcomes.
12. My purpose in providing the above mentioned information is to inform the “Upper Waitaki Water Hearing” that Glentanner still maintains the view that they are worse off after having entered this Run plan. LINZ, or Land Information NZ and their agents DTZ are aware of the issues and sympathise with Glentanners’ view. As a result, Glentanner still grazes some of their high country to make up the Run Plan shortfall in carrying capacity.
13. The biggest problem with Glentanners’ use of Catherine Fields as a runoff is the climate:
 - a. The rainfall is only 550mm rainfall p.a.
 - b. This rainfall is too variable.
14. The Waitaki Catchment Commission and Glentanner jointly spent a lot of money to make this dry land runoff farm work. Glentanner still is investing large amounts of money into Catherine Fields but is constantly being hamstrung by dry seasons, whether they are spring, summer or autumn droughts, or a combination of all three. We have a well documented fertiliser and lime history showing we have endeavoured to make Catherine Fields perform. Often young grass paddocks and winter supplement crops fail because of drought. Some autumns, approx. every 4th year, we totally destock Catherine Fields and move all stock to Glentanner.
15. We have invested heavily in grassing and fertility, fencing, yards and buildings, stock water, tracking, rock removal and cultivation to be faced with continual disappointments from a lack of rainfall. Rainfall is the limiting factor. It is not economically sustainable to farm Catherine Fields under the present basis from Glentanner.
16. We feel we are past the point of no return in terms of investment in Catherine Fields and see irrigation as the logical solution to providing a dependable supply of pasture and crop production for sheep and beef farming in the future.

GLENTANNER STATION LIMITED

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PLAN NO 52

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details the background and implementation of a Soil and Water Conservation Plan (Run Plan) on Glentanner Station commencing in the 1970s until the present day. Glentanner Station is a true high country gorge run located on the western shores of Lake Pukaki in the Mackenzie Basin adjacent to Mount Cook National Park.

The Run Plan document was finally agreed to in 1983 after many years of negotiation. It was instituted to retire from grazing some 8,870 hectares (two-thirds) of the 12,838 hectare Glentanner pastoral lease. The plan, during the course of subsidy funded development and purchase of additional land, was to provide grazing for 2,400 Stock Units displaced from high altitude lands. These lands included Crown Pastoral Lease and an area of National Park Board lease. During the development process, the Run Plan portion of which was subsidised, the property also carried out significant development from its own resources yet there is still a deficit of some 1,550 Stock Units¹ of grazing to be provided to fully implement the Plan and completely de-stock the high country. The Run Plan review in 1985 indicated that a further 200 hectares of OSTD may be required to relieve pressure on Round Hill, Station Face and Middle Twins, suggesting it be incorporated into a third plan. There were obviously doubts about the Run Plan being able to deliver as far back as 1985 and by 1995 it was clear that the works that had faithfully been carried out and maintained, as detailed in the plan, were not providing the carrying capacity envisaged. The deficit now needs to be addressed to ensure that in terms of Soil and Water Conservation policy that the lessee would be "no worse off" as the result of entering into the Run Plan Agreement for the purpose of de-stocking high altitude lands. If the property was to immediately de-stock the high altitude land and did not have access to the additional development done on its own account during the Run Plan period, it could sustain approximately 7500 Stock Units which is significantly less than it carried at commencement of the Plan and the 10,400 Stock Units indicated as an outcome of the Plan. There is the need to recognise that the Run Plan has not achieved its goal. When that is accepted, the parties must work together to address the issue and work out a method to satisfy the requirement of each in reaching a resolution.

¹ Simple reconciliation of deficit in Stock Units

Run Plan proposal to replace	2 400
Run Plan not replaced	850
Balance to replace	1 550

See Appendix A for further information.