

**IN THE MATTER OF**

the Resource Management Act 1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

of Upper Waitaki Water resource consent applications  
**CRC041543, CRC041542 (Hope) and CRC042561  
(Haldon)**

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**Supplementary Landscape Evidence of Andrew Craig**

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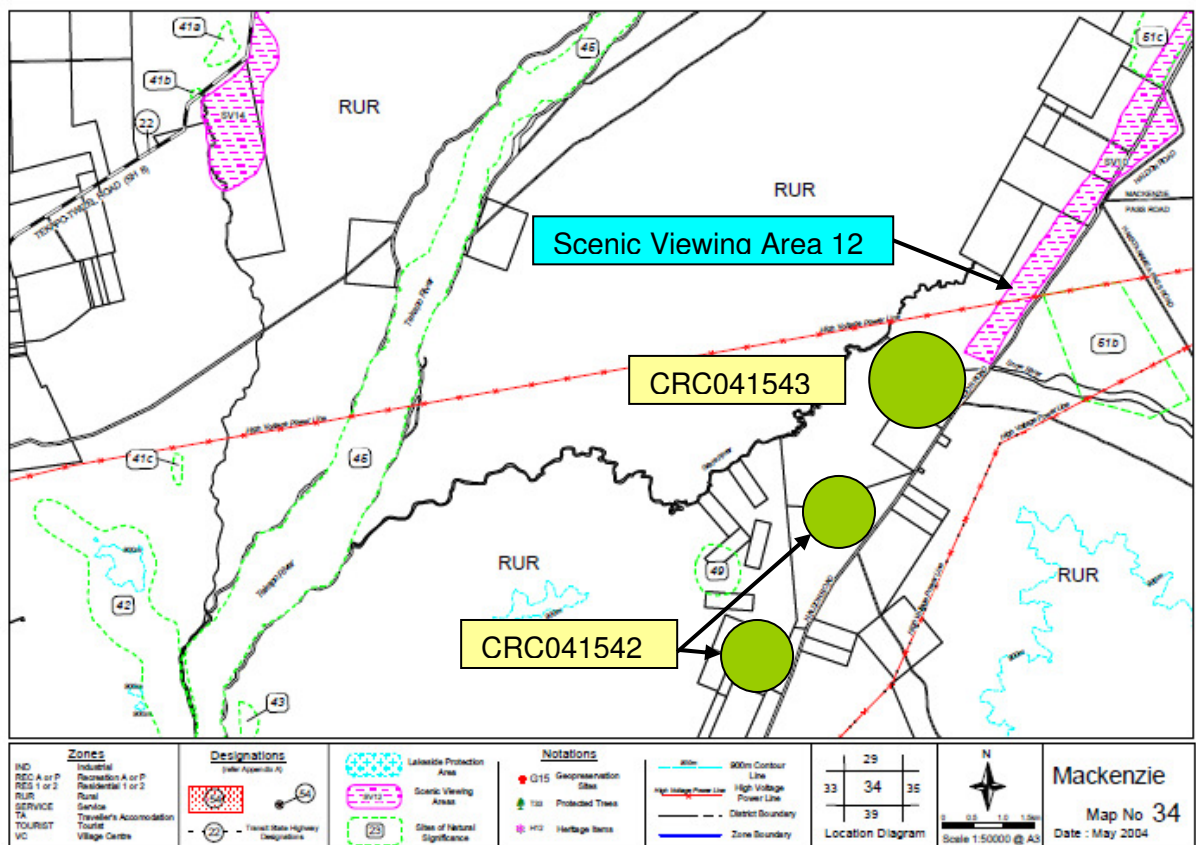
*February 2010*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 I have been instructed by Counsel to prepare supplementary evidence regarding the following consent applications; Hope **CRC041542** (involving two pivot irrigators), and **CRC041543** (involving one pivot irrigator). In total the application involves three pivot irrigators located alongside and west of Haldon Road. In response to Mr Glasson's evidence and recommendations, this evidence has been prepared in order to clarify the landscape context of the applications, particularly with regard to their road side setting and current land use regimes.
- 1.2 I have not visited the application sites in respect of the consents sought, but have travelled Haldon Road in recent times, and so am generally familiar with the landscape setting. Otherwise I have relied on the photographic evidence of Mr Chris Glasson<sup>1</sup> and aerial photographs to give me an impression of what each site looks like.

## 2.0 ROAD SIDE CONTEXT

- 2.1 The Mackenzie District Plan identifies the status of the landscape that Haldon Road runs through. District Planning Map 34 below indicates this in respect of the Hope consent applications.

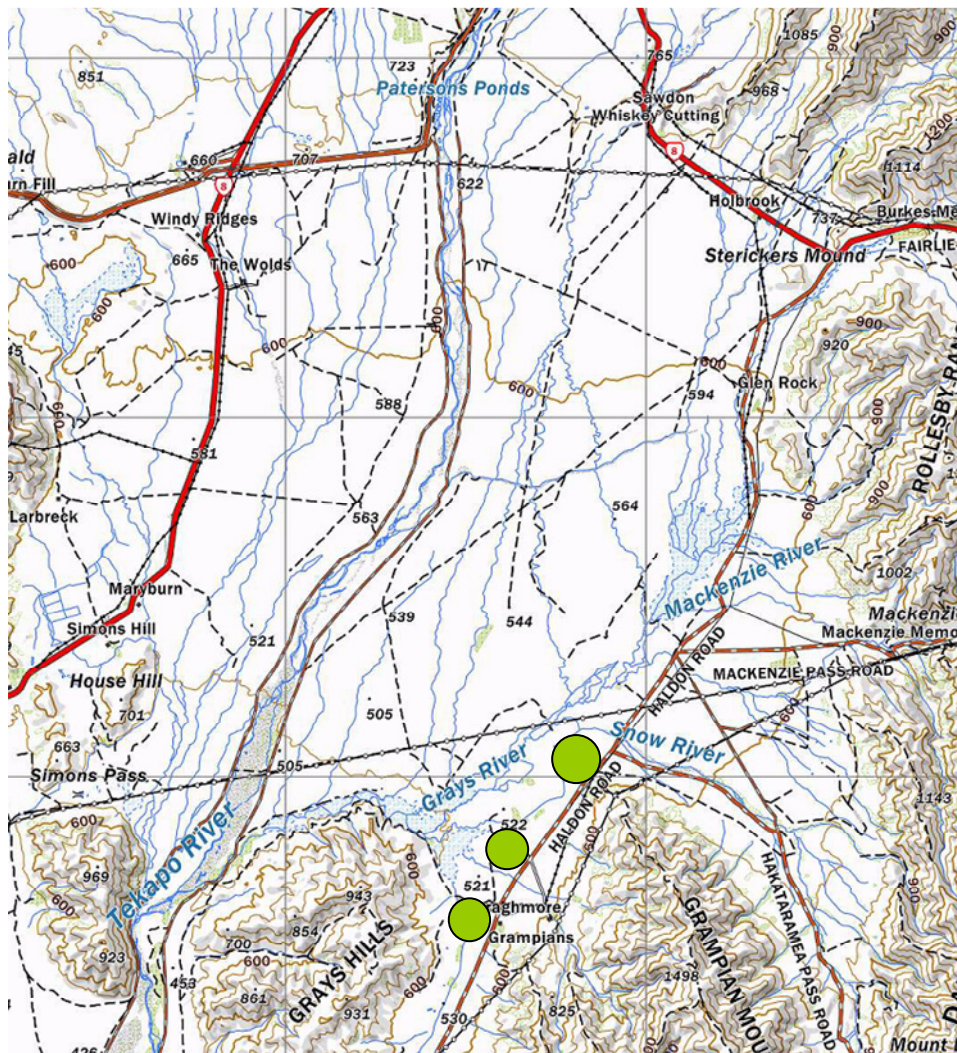


- 2.2 As the planning map indicates, the application sites are outside any areas considered significant in the District Plan, although it is apparent that site CRC04153 lies next to Scenic Viewing Area 12 (SVA 12). As for all areas within the Rural Zone, irrigation is a permitted

<sup>1</sup> Glasson: Appendix 3.0 Photographs 3.4.1, 3.4.2 and 3.4.3, 3.4.4 (CRC041543).

activity<sup>2</sup>, including that which might be undertaken in SVA's. The only place where irrigation cannot take place as of right is within 'Sites of Natural Significance'<sup>3</sup>. One such site (49 – Grays River) exists close to application sites CRC041542. This site will not be affected by the proposed irrigation. Nor will the SVA be affected, as all areas proposed to be irrigated lie outside of it.

2.3 A further consideration relates to road users, given that they are potentially affected parties. It is my understanding that the road is primarily used by local land holders and those who wish to gain access to the North (Haldon) Arm of Lake Benmore for recreational purposes, which includes a small informal camp ground. The road clearly does not serve any key destination point for tourists. Consequently I make the assumption that it appears to be largely used by local and largely regional (Canterbury) people. Further, the fact that it is for the most part a gravel road attests to its anticipated use and relatively low numbers who travel it. Consequently the road is classed as 'Local'<sup>4</sup> whereas the State Highways are 'Arterials.' The latter, in comparison to Haldon Road, are premier tourist routes, especially SH8. Being at least 12km from the nearest tourist routes, the application sites are a long way from them, as indicated on the map below. The effects of irrigation would not be discernable from SH8.



<sup>2</sup> MDP Rural Rule 15.1.1.a

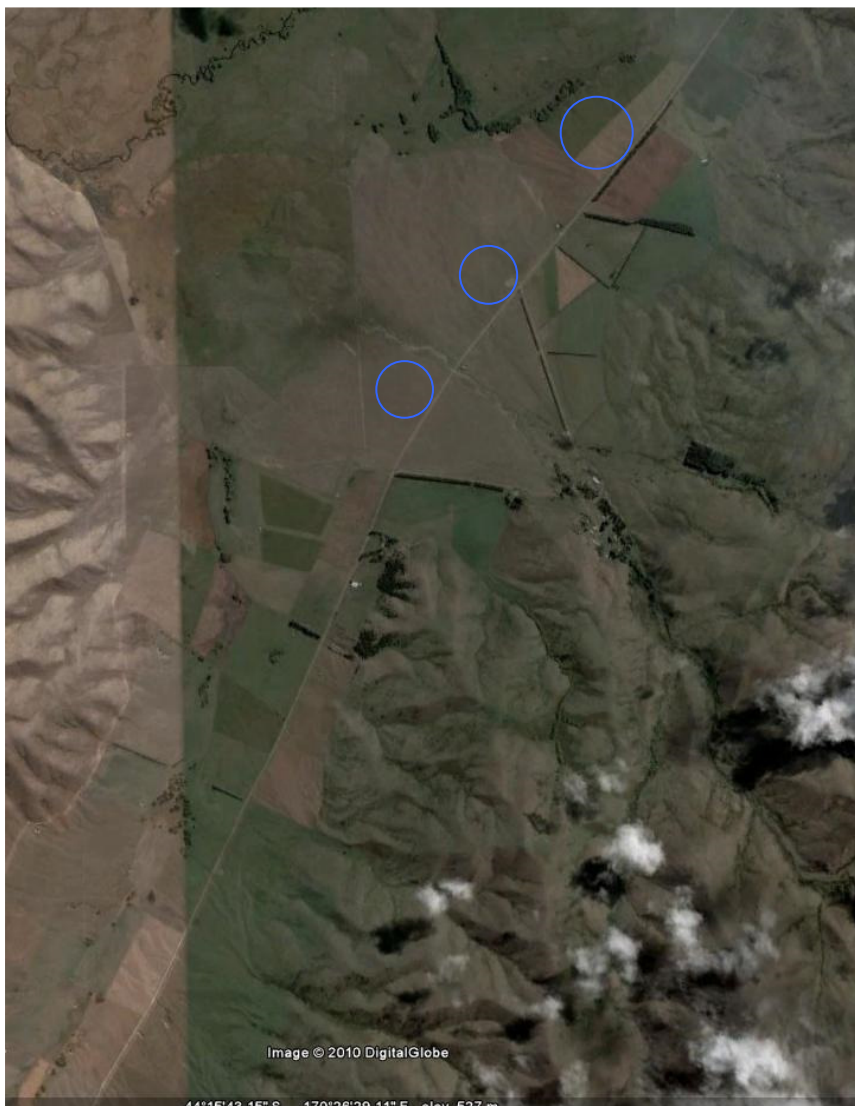
<sup>3</sup> MDP Rural Rule 15.1.1.a

<sup>4</sup> MDP Section 14 Transportation Rule 3.0 Rooding Hierarchy

2.4 Finally, outside of the irrigation season or period, the irrigators will be parked perpendicular to the road, thereby presenting the least amount of apparatus to passers by.

### 3.0 LAND USE CONTEXT

3.1 Turning to the character of the application sites it appears from Mr Glasson's photograph and the aerial photograph below that they are located on land which is clearly modified and cultivated. The application sites therefore appear to be devoid of any native plant regimes or any other salient natural features. Consequently while the proposed irrigation will introduce longer term greening into the application site areas, the shift in landscape character will be negligible within the context of the setting. The surrounding hills, which being elevated and therefore more visible than the flats they encompass, will not be affected by the proposed irrigation.



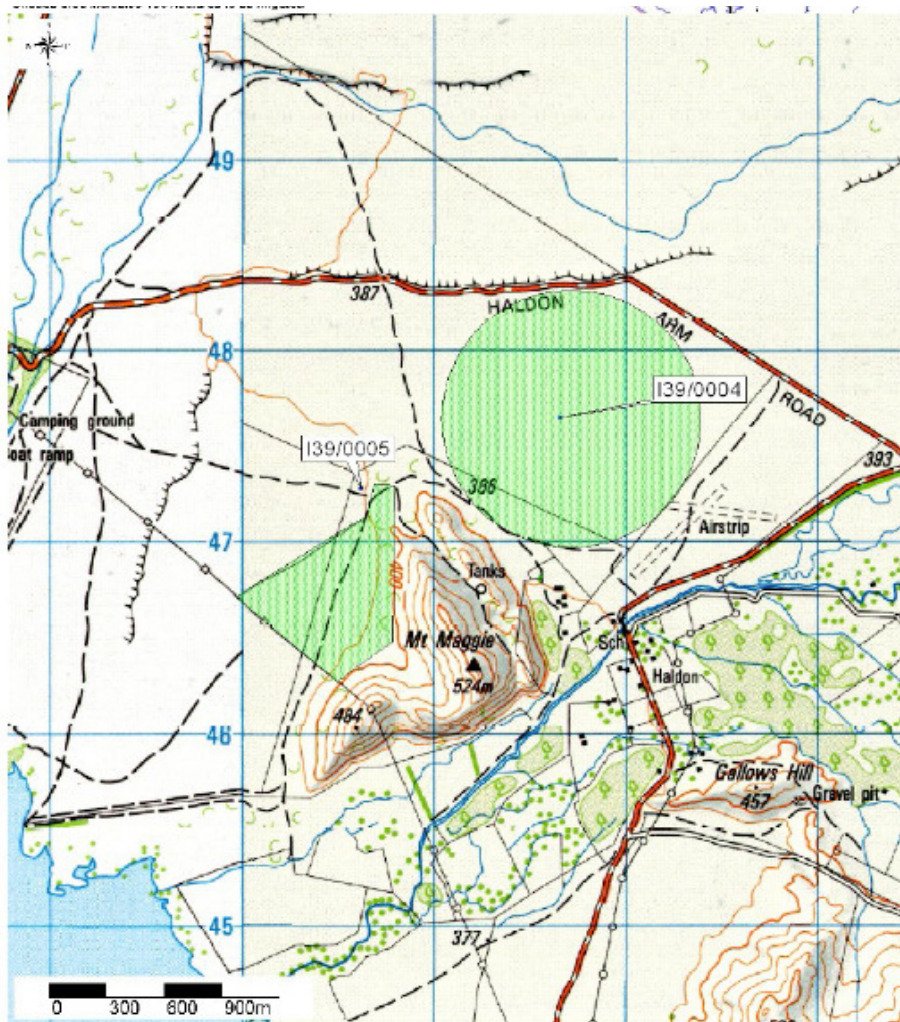
### 3.0 MY RESPONSE TO MR GLASSON'S CONCLUSIONS

3.1 For both these sites Mr Glasson concludes [149] that irrigation will have significant adverse landscape effects on panoramic views from Haldon Road. For the reasons outlined above, I

do not think that these views are critical, and it is clear that the District Plan does not recognise them as such. Mr Glasson also concludes that the proposed irrigation will introduce geometric shapes, whereas these exist now as the above aerial photograph indicates. Thus no new patterning will occur. In any event, the circular patterns arising from pivot irrigators are not discernable from ground based vantage points. The only visual difference will occur from the presence of the pivot irrigator, which are not only part and parcel of a working farm environment, but are also anticipated by the District Plan except within Sites of Natural Significance.

#### 4.0 CRC042561 HALDON

##### *Application site location*



4.1 In respect of this application Mr Glasson<sup>5</sup> has recommended that;

*'...mitigation measures as outlined in my evidence should be*

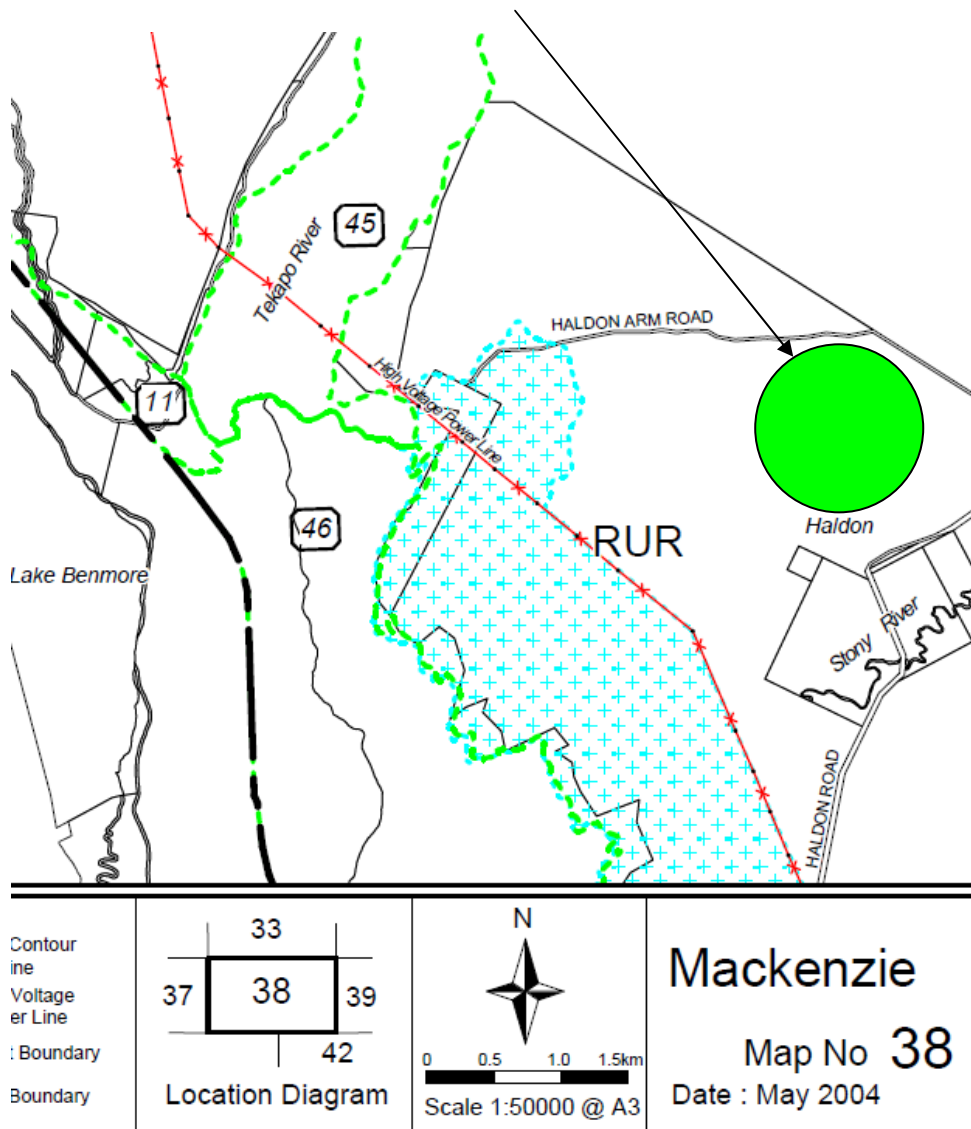
<sup>5</sup> Glasson supplementary evidence January 2010

undertaken for CRC042561 to become integrated. These measures include moving the irrigated area away from the road to Haldon Arm. I note that the applicant will not park the pivot adjacent to the road.

In his evidence the reason for moving the irrigation is because it will be clearly visible to travellers and recreationalists from Haldon Arm Road, and therefore the adverse effects will be moderate.<sup>6</sup>

4.2 In principle, the effects from the road described with regard to the applications that I have discussed above will equally apply with respect to this particular application. To reiterate it is located on a relatively little used road that is remote from any key or important vantage points. Nor is the site given any particular or special recognition in the Mackenzie District Plan (see Planning Map – following page), especially with regard to natural landscape character or important view shafts.

Location of Application site CRC042561 on Planning Map



<sup>6</sup> Glasson s42A report (5) p45ff

- 4.3 Another point to note is that there is no room to shift the site as it is constrained by the toe of Mt Maggie to the south, the road to the north, farm roads and an airstrip.
- 4.4 Finally it should be noted that it is only the northernmost arc of the land to be irrigated that approaches the road. Here it comes to within 60m of the road for a distance of around 500m. The arc in relation to the north eastern part of the road is greater than 100m.
- 4.5 For the above reasons I conclude that there is no justification in moving the application site on landscape grounds.

**Andrew Craig**  
**Landscape Architect**  
April 2010

