

IN THE MATTER of the Resource
Management Act 1991
(the Act)

AND

IN THE MATTER of Resource Consent
applications – to take,
use and discharge water
in the Upper Waitaki
Catchment and
associated applications

Statement of Graham Thompson

1. My name is Graham Thompson and I reside in Christchurch.
2. I own a Scouting and Location Management Company, GT Locations, which finds sites for local and international companies, for feature films, dramas, documentaries, TV commercials, billboards and brochures.
3. Filming in the Mackenzie Basin occurs all year round on private, Council or Department of Conservation land. Most companies making advertisements would work in the Mackenzie area at least once a year. Look closely at local or international TV advertisements on any evening, you are likely to spot a small chunk of the Mackenzie Country.
4. GT Locations specialises in car photography. For the last 15 years I have been involved with finding locations to advertise cars for the world's markets. Our company finds the most scenic places in New Zealand to film. The Mackenzie Basin is central to our business, and is one of the most unique and significant locations in New Zealand. I would say it's one of the best global locations.
5. Over the last 10 years most of the world's leading car manufacturers have filmed in the Mackenzie Basin. These include Saab, Porsche, Volkswagen, Lexus, Mercedes Benz, Nissan, Hyundai, Volvo and Toyota.
6. All of these companies shoot film on the Mackenzie Basin's tar sealed roads. The Ohau Road is one of the most filmed roads in NZ. Next are stretches of the road between Twizel and Omarama.
7. The Mackenzie Basin with its changing colours, beautiful tussocky landscapes, mountain backdrops and blue skies is without parallel. There is nowhere else like it. If we lose the Mackenzie's tawny tussock landscapes all we'll have left is the Lindis Pass area – the last bastion!

8. The wide open spaces of the Mackenzie are often used for parts of international movies. The main part of the movie might be shot in a studio in Australia, but they'll come to the Mackenzie for that essential, breathtaking shot. Scenes from Lord of the Rings were filmed in the Mackenzie.
9. This industry is vital to the local, regional and national economy. The technical and production crews are all locals. Up to 30 – 40 people can be employed on any particular film shoot.
10. When I fly over the Mackenzie Basin I'm shocked at the changing landscapes, at the greening of what once was beautiful tussock dryland. I'm shocked by the irrigation circles and pivots that now mar the landscape. In my view it is sheer madness to encourage such intensive industrial farming in the Mackenzie. It is merino country.
11. Where is the long term vision for the Mackenzie? If these consents are granted this whole beautiful landscape will change forever. Please think of the present generations who value the Mackenzie, who see it as a precious jewel, and future generations who may be denied this treasure.
12. I request the Commissioners decline all of the applications.

Graham Thompson
GT Locations

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