



Policy failure in the Mackenzie Country

The ongoing battle for the Mackenzie is hotting up. Dunedin Accountant .Murray Valentine's plans to convert the Crown Pastoral Lease at Simons Pass to a 15,000 strong dairy herd via 24 pivot irrigators is the frontline. If that goes ahead we lose 5,000 hectares of nationally important drylands adjacent to Lake Pukaki. He has many but not all of the consents needed. EDS has asked Government Ministers to step in. To help achieve a large drylands park we also want a National Policy Statement / National Environmental Standard from Minister Parker. The continuing loss of the Mackenzie Country to dairy conversions is an environmental disaster and urgent steps are needed now.



Green Light or Light Green?

EDS's 2018 environmental summit is now locked in on 1-2 August in Auckland. Registration is open on www.edskonference.com and we are keen to hear from potential speakers and sponsors. This year we're profiling the Government's environmental reform agenda with Ministers across a range of portfolios setting out their plans and being critiqued by expert panelists. This will be a brilliant opportunity to help set direction for positive change.



Te Mata Peak

Craggy Range Vineyards has promised to restore the Te Mata Peak track following public outrage and an admission from the council Mayor that the original consent was processed unlawfully. It is concerning however that it is taking so long for a restoration plan to emerge. EDS's landscape specialist says it's a 1-2 day job to prepare such a plan. So why is Craggy Range taking so long? Is the company's unequivocal commitment reliable? EDS's counsel has written to Craggy Range seeking assurances that the go-slow has no ulterior purpose.



Zero Carbon Act

EDS and Westpac hosted Minister James Shaw at an evening seminar in which he set out his plans for the Zero Carbon Act and Climate Commission. His presentation was extremely thorough and instilled confidence that his ambition of getting multi-party support is achievable. The only issue needing further thought is who should have responsibility for preparing a National Adaptation Plan. This has to be done well given NZ's many vulnerabilities. Attractive options include the Climate Commission or Treasury.



RM Reform

EDS together with Berry Simons has suggested some short-term amendments to the RMA for Minister Parker and is consulting widely on them. The amendments would unravel the worst elements enacted last year in the RLAA. Meantime we continue our longer-term RMA reform project with Working Paper 2 being published in April. We will complete the high-level options for reform by the end of this year and expect to input into both Government and Opposition thinking about the preferred way forward. A mature conversation about the resource management system we need over the next 30 years is now well underway.



Voices from the Sea

Raewyn Peart's latest book *Voices from the Sea* will be launched by Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash in Wellington on 9 April. The publication is an in depth examination of NZ's fisheries management. As well as reflecting the thoughts of fisheries policy experts, Raewyn has interviewed around 40 fishers who bring their on the water experience to illuminate the story. The book builds a convincing case for significant reform and reinforces the need for a wideranging inquiry into fisheries management. It will be available for purchase on the EDS website shortly.



Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari

There is a high degree of frustration amongst participants in the Sea Change process that agencies have been swinging the lead on implementation. Meanwhile the latest state of the Gulf report demonstrates continuing environmental deterioration and the Hauraki Gulf Forum is imploding with confused and conflicting agendas. Ministers in the relatively new government have yet to step up and make themselves heard and provide leadership. All the agencies – national, regional and local – need to lift their collective performance and get on with implementing the profound change that *Sea Change* posited.



Blue Lake Investment (NZ) Ltd

This overseas owned company has applied for resource consent for a lodge and associated infrastructure on the shores of Lake Pukaki. The land is zoned Lakeside Protection Area in the Mackenzie District plan and the site is within an outstanding natural landscape. The council allowed an application for direct referral of the proposal to the Environment Court. EDS has submitted in opposition to the proposal and will be filing a s274 notice in order to be heard. In our view the proposal cannot lawfully be approved because of the protection afforded to the site by the plan and the RMA. We consider that the applicant company should not be surprised if it fails to gain consent.