

BEFORE THE SOUTHLAND Regional
COUNCIL HEARING COMMITTEE

IN THE MATTER OF THE
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT
1991

AND

IN THE MATTER OF Island Escape Cruises LTD
[THE APPLICANT] Coastal Permit APPLICATION
APP-20169132

Evidence of Chris Lemin from Deep Cove Charters Ltd

Dated this 10th day of October 2016

Introduction

My name is Chris Lemin. I am a director of Deep Cove Charters. I have lived and worked commercially in Fiordland for the last 40 years. I have been running our family business Deep Cove Charters Ltd for the last 23 years in and around Fiordland, spending most of this in Doubtful Sound Complex and all the Southern Fiords being Breaksea Sound, Dusky Sound and Preservation Inlet. I hold a Commercial Launchmasters Certificate, a Department of Conservation Concession including a Mammal Permit and a Resource Coastal Permit to operate within the environs of the Fiordland National Park. I think this gives me the expertise to give evidence today in the matter of Island Escape Cruises Ltd's resource application.

Evidence

Over the last 23 Years the number of vessels operating in Fiordland has gone up and down and of more recent the number of vessels operating commercially and non-commercially is once again on the rise and this gives me great concern. Below is a list of past and present vessels operating in southern fiords which shows that before long with the rate of increase it will definitely diminish the intrinsic wilderness values that Fiordland is renowned for.

In the seventies [1970's] and eighties [1980's] there was about 7 boats operating commercially in and around Dusky and Breaksea Sounds.

M.V ACHERON

M.V DEEP STAR

M.V PEMBROKE

M.V RENOWN [Department of Conservation's vessel]

TALISKA

M.V WAVERLEY and

M.V WESTERN EXPLORER

Coming into the nineties [1990's] some of these vessels moved onto other places out of Fiordland. These were

M.V ACHERON

M.V DEEP STAR

TALISKA

M.V WAVERLEY and

M.V WESTERN EXPLORER

Only to be replaced by

M.V CINDY HARDY

M.V EVOE

BREAKSEA GIRL

M.V TUTOKO and

M.V SAND PIPER

And into the 2 thousands [2000's] up to the present day

BREAKSEA GIRL

M.V CINDY HARDY

M.V FLIGHTLESS

M.V JEWEL

M.V LEGACY

M.V PEMBROKE

M.V SEAFINN

M.V TAKAPU

M.V TUTOKO 1

M.V TUTOKO 2

M.V TAKAROA

M.V FAR JOANA

M.V GALILEO

M.V MILFORD WANDERER and

M.V AFFINITY

There is one [1] present non commercial vessels operating at present being

M.V MISS AKAROA

There were three [3] other vessels that came down from the Nelson/Picton area, this year operating commercially without consents.

There are also a number of SUPER YACHTS that are making frequent visits to Fiordland.

Michael Hill's VVS1

ELISA

MOKSHA

BLACK PEARL

PURSUIT and

LEGACY [not Tom Fishburn's]

By granting Island Escape a resource consent to operate backcountry trips in the Southern Fiords from Febrero Point to Puysegur Point is my opinion another nail in the coffin for diminishing the wilderness values of the Fiords of Fiordland

Summary and Conclusion

I am deeply troubled that Mr Chisholm has stated in his evidence 4.9 **Chris Lemin:** stating that **"I finally reached Mr Lemin by phone a few days later."** This is a falsehood as I have never spoken to Mr Chisholm. He did indeed ring and spoke to my wife who stated that I was away on our boat in Fiordland and would not be back for several days. We then received an email from him, on 7 September, saying **"It was good to talk to you on the phone"** and he also sent me a attachment of a withdrawal-of-right-to-be-heard. Stating that we needed to sign the withdrawal form in order for them to avoid a hearing!

The increase of vessels wanting to operate commercially in the Southern Fiords need to be capped by Environment Southland as the cumulative effects of Commercial Vessels operating in Fiordland are diminishing the landscape, visual amenities and the natural character of the area. This is why I am opposed to another commercial operation starting up in Fiordland.

I ask the council to decline Island Escape Cruises Ltd's application APP-20169132.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH