

## Summary Statement of Evidence - Samantha King

- [1] I have been instructed by TKO Properties Limited to give expert ecological evidence in respect of RC230179, an application for a 30-lot subdivision located at Rocky Point on Tarras-Cromwell Road (SH8).
- [2] My evidence is based on the Lizard Management Plan (LMP; in draft), which has been prepared for TKO Properties Limited and is included as a separate document accompanying my evidence. The draft LMP follows the Department of Conservation's Key Principles for Lizard Salvage and Transfer.
- [3] Two species of indigenous lizard have been observed within the proposed subdivision. McCann's skink (*Oligosoma maccanni*) and Kowarau gecko (*Woodworthia* "Cromwell") were confirmed during site visits in 2023 and 2024. McCann's skink (Not Threatened) are often found in modified dry, open environments where there is a complex of rocky outcrops, tussock and scrub. Kowarau gecko (At Risk – Declining) are regionally endemic to Otago and have been classed as Regionally Declining (Jarvie *et al.* 2023). They are found in predominantly rocky areas including rocky scrubland, and crevices of rock outcrops, as well as under loose bark and in tree crevices.
- [4] Potential effects of the subdivision and associated earthworks on lizards include accidental injury/death/displacement, disturbance to lizards, loss of indigenous lizard habitat, breeding failure/behavioural effects and increased predation.
- [5] The proposed effects management includes avoiding most lizard habitat due to the relatively small footprint of roads, building platforms and curtilage areas. Planned works avoid rocky outcrops and stacks, and situate platforms away from kānuka scrub where possible. The remaining lizard habitats that will be affected by works, including cushionfields, are likely to hold lower densities of lizards than rocky substrates and kānuka shrubland.
- [6] To address residual adverse effects on lizards that cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated, habitat restoration and enhancement measures are also proposed. These include offsetting measures involving habitat enrichment and planting which are likely to provide additional habitat for McCann's skink and Kowarau gecko. Predator control will also be implemented for hedgehogs and ferrets, as well as a cat ban notice on all titles.

[7] I consider it entirely feasible that the actions outlined in the LMP will be able to demonstrate “overall protective benefit” to local McCann’s skink and Kawarau gecko populations at the site.

Samantha Jane King

15 November 2024