TIMARU DISTRICT 2045 DRAFT GROWTH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
SUBMISSION FOR N A & S I WALKER

1 INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1.1 This submission has been prepared on behalf of N A & S I Walker being the registered owners of 585 Pleasant Point Highway (SH8), Timaru, by Andrew Rabbidge, Licensed Cadastral Surveyor, Registered Professional Surveyor and Company Director of Milward Finlay Lobb Limited. I have been employed by Milward Finlay Lobb Limited since November 1995 with over 21 years local subdivision and planning experience throughout South Canterbury and the surrounding districts.

1.2 I hold a Bachelor of Surveying (Credit) from the Otago University completed in 1995. I am a full member of the New Zealand Institute of Surveyors, a member of the Consulting Surveyors of New Zealand and an Associate of the New Zealand Planning Institute.

1.3 The purpose of this submission is to consider the Draft Growth Management Strategy with respect to 585 Pleasant Point Highway (SH8), Timaru, which is identified with a legal description of Lot 4 DP 72917 and Lot 1 DP 405818 and has a total area of approximately 15.1685 hectares.

2 EXISTING SITUATION

2.1 The subject land is comprised in one certificate of title which resulted from a subdivision completed in 1995 (DP 72917) and subsequent boundary alteration completed in 2008 (DP 405818).

2.2 The Rural Residential nature of locality is well established and this was recognised in Council’s draft Growth Management Strategy Options report which considered ‘Levels 1’ and ‘Levels 2’ as options for Rural Residential Growth. Refer to the ‘Rural Residential Growth Options – Levels’ map on the following page.
2.3 The subject land and adjacent properties are currently zoned Rural 1 in terms of the Operative Timaru District Plan, refer to Appendix 3.

3 TIMARU DISTRICT GROWTH STRATEGY 2017 – GROWTH ASSUMPTIONS

3.1 We refer to table 2 below from page 10 of Council’s Growth Assumptions Report which forecasts a total of 2,211 household units for the period of 2013 to 2043 within the entire Timaru District.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlement Area Population - Stats NZ</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2028</th>
<th>2033</th>
<th>2038</th>
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<td>1,560</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timaru Urban Area Units</td>
<td>19,300</td>
<td>20,200</td>
<td>20,800</td>
<td>21,200</td>
<td>21,500</td>
<td>21,600</td>
<td>21,511</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2 This averages at just under 74 additional households per year, noting the peak household demand is forecast to be achieved in 2038 of 21,600 households.

3.3 With Council’s capacity assessment of existing developable Residential land within the Timaru District comprising 62.4 hectares as at December 2016 (refer to page 12 of the Growth Assumptions Report), we foresee considerable demand for Rural Residential development, bearing in mind the rural nature of our district.

3.4 Based on our experience of the local land development market (Milward Finlay Lobb Ltd is a locally owned and operated business that can trace its origins back to 1877) we consider the capacity assessment of 62.4 hectares to be optimistic. The existing Urban Timaru Residential Zones were established since 1995 and the majority of land suitable for economic and feasible Residential development has previously been completed (excluding the balance of the Residential 6 zone in Gleniti).

3.5 Land development is complex by nature with a number of external factors at force which we consider will further reduce the 62.4 hectares of land identified by Council for developable Residential land including:

3.5.1 Land values, location and topography.
3.5.2 Development costs, including the provision of vehicle access and essential services.
3.5.3 Sale prices.
3.5.4 Capital investment, taxation, GST and the initial land purchase.
3.5.5 Borrowing costs.
3.5.6 Council development contributions.
3.5.7 Reliance on prior downstream development to provide access and/or the provision of essential services.
3.5.8 Other concurrent residential development within the Timaru urban and also rural within Rural Residential areas.
3.5.9 External factors beyond the Timaru District such as the Canterbury Earthquakes, Government Policy (such as Kiwisaver) or lending requirements from Banks.

3.6 Based on the foregoing and particularly bearing in mind the predicted 2033 peak, we disagree with Council’s conclusion by the application of the NPS-UDC that, “there is sufficient vacant and large Residential Zoned allotments in Timaru to accommodate the predicted residential growth in the next 30 years” (refer to page 70 of the Growth Assumptions report).
4. RURAL RESIDENTIAL GROWTH ASSUMPTIONS

4.1 As mentioned previously, the eastern portion of the subject land was considered as an area for Rural Residential expansion.

4.2 The existing rural residential character of this locality is clearly evident in Figure 314 below (refer to page 104 of the Growth Assumptions report).

4.3 The ‘Levels 1’ and ‘Levels 2’ Growth options considered by the Timaru District Council, both achieve a weighted score of 92. (We also note that the rating for Elloughton has been incorrectly calculated and should only be 115, not 121).

4.4 As a consequence of paragraph 3.6 above, for what is considered to be insufficient land for residential growth, we foresee additional demand for larger areas of Rural Residential expansion beyond those areas currently preferred by the Timaru District Council in the Draft Growth Management Strategy.
We believe this the subject land, and the wider 'Levels' catchment can satisfy demand in the Rural Residential/Lifestyle market for choice, affordability and also recreational activities such as the Pleasant Point Domain, the Pleasant Point Golf Course, the Timaru Golf Course and the Opihi and Tengawai Rivers.

This locality is well suited for a relatively short commute to schooling and employment opportunities in Washdyke, Timaru, Pleasant Point and Temuka.

A demand pattern analysis has been undertaken by Council for the period 2005 to 2015 which results in a predicted average of 18 new Rural Residential allotments being developed on Rural properties across the District, with allotment areas less than 2 hectares, per annum.

Whilst these figures are based on issued building consents, we believe these figures only tell part of the story with various relevant external factors at force including:

4.8.1 The Pilcher v Rawlings court case [2013 NZENV67] at 348 Gleniti Road Timaru, which declined a Discretionary Rural 1 subdivision consent in 2013.

4.8.2 Subdivision within the Rural 1 zone within the Timaru District since 1995 and the drawn out nature of the Pilcher v Rawlings case, lower than average subdivision consents for smaller rural allotments preceded the 2013 court case by at least 2 years.

4.8.3 The Global Financial Crisis of 2008 and 2009 had a significant impact on land development and bank lending, which in turn significantly impacted on the construction of new dwellings within the District.

4.8.4 The age of the current District Plan Rules in relation to subdivision entitlements within the Rural 1 zone is also relevant, as those Rules date back to 27 August 1988. The majority of land owners that desired to achieve Rural Residential subdivision for allotments under 2 hectares in area in terms of those entitlement Rules, had generally completed subdivision prior to 2005.

4.8.5 At the time, there was a general expectation that the Timaru District Council would introduce new subdivision rules in October 2005 (being the 10th Anniversary of the District Plan notification date), however this did not eventuate and these same Rural 1 subdivision entitlement rules still apply today.

4.8.6 This resulted in an increased number of subdivision entitlements being utilised for allotments with areas less than 2 hectares in the years leading up to 2005 and a corresponding lull in the subdivision of smaller rural living allotments after 2005.
4.8.7 Based on the foregoing, we believe that Council’s conclusion that “18 dwellings per year will be required to service the Rural Residential needs of the District” (quoted from page 83) is substantially underestimated, particularly when this is considered in terms of Council’s recommendation that only 7 of those 18 dwellings per annum, should be constructed beyond the Timaru fringe.

4.9 Policy 5.3.1 of the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement refers to “limited Rural Residential households that must be attached to Urban areas to achieve consolidated settlement patterns”. This is underpinned, by a decision to strategically manage infrastructure, however the Timaru District Council has indicated throughout the Draft Growth Management Strategy that there should be no expectation of public funded service provisions of water, wastewater or road infrastructure of a form and function as provided in Urban areas.

4.10 Accordingly, subject to private land owners provide the services which avoids or mitigates adverse effects on the environment and human health, there is no need to require Rural Residential development be attached to Urban areas. In this instance only water supply will be sought from Timaru District Council via the Seadown Supply.

4.11 As mentioned previously, this locality is well established and recognised as an area of Rural Residential/Lifestyle land use.

5 TIMARU DISTRICT 2045 – DRAFT GROWTH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

5.1 Timaru District by definition is a rural community and this is reflected in Council’s Building Consent Statistics for the period 2005–2015 where 63% of Building Consents were Urban based and the remaining 37% in Rural areas (refer to page 42).

5.2 Caution needs to be taken when reviewing Building Consents over the 2005–2015 period, given various relevant external factors which resulted in reduced building in Residential, Rural and Rural Residential areas and these have previously been addressed under paragraphs 4.4 and the associated subheadings.

5.3 “Household Projections to 2043 identify that an additional 907 new households will be required in the Urban areas of Timaru, Temuka, Geraldine and Pleasant Point”. By comparison 1304 additional households are predicted for the remainder of the District, including Rural areas, Rural Residential development and the smaller settlements such as Cave and Pareora” (refer to page 42).

5.4 Allowing for the projected 540 dwellings (i.e. 18/yr x 30 years) in the Districts Rural Residential Zones, this results in a nett figure of 764 dwellings forecast to be built within the districts Rural Zones.
5.5 These figures are based on NZ Statistics forecasts which predict a 3:4 household ratio in favour of Rural Residential and Rural household growth areas versus Urban household growth with the District for the 2013-2043 period.

5.6 The Draft Growth Management Strategy (refer to page 43) seeks to alter this 3:4 household ratio in the main settlements compared to that in the rural area and remaining settlements to a 3:1 ratio in favour of new household growth within the existing urban areas of Timaru, Geraldine, Temuka and Pleasant Point.

5.7 Whilst the NZ Statistics 2013-2043 forecasts clearly demonstrates the increased aged population within the Timaru District, we foresee significant demand for modern household units to be constructed Rural Residential/Lifestyle areas utilising modern building materials, double glazing, efficient heating and insulation, solar power and the like.

5.8 As a generalisation, retirees from Rural areas including the ‘baby-boomer’ generation (born in the period 1946-1964), we anticipate would be predominately debt free and would seek to build modern dwellings in Rural Residential/Lifestyle areas where they have some control over landscape, topography, outlook, solar advantage, amenity and the like.

5.9 Such a new dwelling may be built subsequent to selling the ‘family home’ and prior to the construction or purchase of a smaller unit or villa within an Urban area or community facility such as a rest home or retirement village.

5.10 New Rural Residential/Lifestyle development also need to be considered in the context of the proximity to the employment community facilities to Pleasant Point, Temuka or Timaru. In this case it is a relatively short one way trip of 7-12 kilometres, which is considerably less than travel between Rural Residential/Lifestyle areas and CBD’s for many other regions throughout New Zealand.

6 CONCLUSION AND DECISION SOUGHT FROM COUNCIL

6.1 We consider that Council’s desire to achieve a 75% Residential to 25% Rural and Rural Residential ratio for new household units through to 2043 fails to recognise the Rural nature of the Timaru District, which is supported by the household projections which are a 60% to 40% split in favour of Rural and Rural Residential households.

6.2 We are competing with other districts for population and employment growth, which in turn generates and maintains a thriving and vibrant local economy.
6.3 Districts beyond South Canterbury offer extensive options for Greenfield Residential and also Rural Residential/Lifestyle development which may be more suited for a number of future retirees currently residing within the Timaru District and also new residents to the District, that do not wish to conform with the 75% of Residential household infill desired by Council’s Growth Management Strategy for the 2013-2043 period.

6.4 We note and support the concerns raised by the South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive, Wendy Smith with respect to the Draft Growth Management Strategy which “did not appear to reflect wider development in South Canterbury and called on the Council to be more aggressive in its growth targets.” (quoted from www.stuff.co.nz, refer to Appendix 5).

6.5 That same article also refers to Council’s Mayor Damon Odey stating that “the Council was bound to using Statistics New Zealand Data and he was confident it (the Draft Growth Strategy) was a robust plan. My ambition and my vision, for this district is to exceed those numbers”.

6.6 We strongly support the Mayors future and vision for the district, however we fail to see how Council will exceed the Statistics New Zealand projections without providing for larger areas of Rural Residential development.

6.7 We do also note however that the Council were only bound to using Statistics New Zealand Data for the Timaru Urban Area to comply with the NPS-UDC. Refer to the final paragraph on page 6 of the Growth Assumptions report to confirm the situation.

6.8 To provide some context, with reference to our immediate northern neighbours the Ashburton District, we refer to Appendix 9 which indicates the approximate boundaries of Council’s Residential D Zones highlighted in purple.

6.9 Within the Residential D Zone, subdivisions can be achieved on the basis of 4,000 square metre minimum allotment areas. Significant further capacity also exists within the Lake Hood complex, which has capacity for a total of 500 household units.

6.10 Putting this into context once again, the Ashburton Township has a population of 19,850, with an additional 12,400 living in the wider district (refer to the Appendix 10 for weblink). The Timaru District population statistics for 2013-2043 are copied from figure 13 of Council’s Draft Growth Management Strategy on the following page.
6.11 Clearly there is a significant and striking contrast between the Ashburton and Timaru District Councils, with significantly more Rural Residential/Lifestyle Zones established in the Ashburton District. (Noting that the Ashburton District is approximately 30% smaller than the Timaru District).

6.12 Similarly, large areas of Rural Residential/Lifestyle expansion have been provided for in the adjacent Waimate and Mackenzie Districts. In terms of the Operative Waimate District Plan, allotments can be achieved throughout the Waimate District within the Rural Zone subject to vacant lots having an area of at least 4 hectares (i.e. 42ha block could create a total of 10 allotments, with areas in excess of 4 hectares each). In addition, Rural allotments encompassing a dwelling built prior to 31 December 1999, can be reduced below 4 hectares in area.

6.13 Within Mackenzie District, beyond the Mackenzie basin subzone (which all land approximately east of Burkes Pass), there is no minimum rural allotment size or cap on the number of Rural or Rural Residential allotments that can be created.

6.14 Many current or future Timaru District residents may consider the Ashburton, Mackenzie or Waimate Districts (or in fact any other District in the Country) to be a more appealing alternative in the period through to 2043, given the extensive choice available for Rural Residential/Lifestyle Development outside of the Timaru District.

6.15 Based on the foregoing assessment and a review of Councils Draft Growth Management Strategy, we would now seek the adoption of an alternative option for Rural Residential/Lifestyle Growth being the “Levels 3” Rural Residential Growth area as identified in Appendix 4, with a minimum nett allotment area of 2 hectares.
6.16 Based on the various matters addressed previously in this submission, we cannot agree with Council’s expectation of only 7 new households per year within the proposed Rural Residential areas, excluding the Timaru Fringe until 2043. The “Levels 3” Rural Residential option we believe can provide for choice in the future Rural Residential/Lifestyle housing market, with a total area of approximately 60 hectares or 30 additional household units based on a 2 hectare minimum nett area requirement.

6.17 The ‘Levels 3’ area is readily accessible from existing sealed roads, can be readily serviced by private means (with the exception of water which may be possible from the Seadown Water Supply) and is also beyond areas of versatile soils based on the current Rural 1 zoning.

6.18 ‘Levels 3’ is similar to ‘Levels 2’ in terms of the relevant weighted attributes applied by Council in the draft Growth Management Strategy. By way of a direct comparison between Council’s ‘Levels 2’ option and the proposed ‘Levels 3’ Rural Residential Growth option, we note the following advantages of the ‘Levels 3’ option.

6.18.1 A smaller total land area of 60 hectares which can achieve consolidation and reduce land fragmentation. Similarly, the number of land owners in the ‘Levels 3’ is reduced, which can enable development to proceed more readily.

6.18.2 The ‘Levels 3’ option eliminates a large area of land subject to flood hazard between Falvey Road and the Pleasant Point Highway (SH 8) from within the ‘Levels 2’ Rural Residential Growth Option.

6.18.3 The addition of further sealed road frontage to Rolling Ridges Road provides for more flexibility in the roading network and also has the potential to enable further subdivision to proceed from the south Rolling Ridges Road and also from the Pleasant Point Highway (SH 8).

6.18.4 The suggested 2.0 hectare minimum nett allotment area within the ‘Level 3’ option would reduce the total number of new household units to 30, based on a catchment area of 60 hectares. Such a catchment size is considered to be viable sustainable for private and individual on site effluent and stormwater disposal systems.
6.19 On behalf of the registered owners of Lot 4 DP 72917 and Lot 1 DP 405818, we extend an invitation to the Commissioner and hearings panel to visit the subject property at their convenience and we thank you for your time in considering this submission.

Prepared on behalf of:
N A & S I Walker

By:
A S Rabbidge
BSurv (Credit), MNZIS, CSNZ, Associate NZPI, Director – Milward Finlay Lobb Limited

15 May 2017

ATTACHMENTS
Appendix 1 Site plan of the land owned by N A & S I Walker and neighbouring properties at a scale of 1:4000.
Appendix 2 Environment Canterbury – Aerial Photo sourced online on 5 May 2017.
Appendix 3 Timaru District Council Zone Map 22.
Appendix 4 Proposed ‘Levels 3’ Rural Residential Growth Option.
Appendix 6 Ashburton District Plan – Planning Map Legend and Urban Ashburton zoning index.
Growth Management Strategy not 'ambitious' enough for Timaru, business leader says

The South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce chief executive says the Timaru District Council's Growth Management Strategy was not ambitious enough.

Divisions appear to be emerging between the South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce and the Timaru District Council following claims the council's draft Growth Management Strategy is not "ambitious" enough.

Chamber of Commerce chief executive Wendy Smith said the newly released strategy, which uses Statistics New Zealand data, did not appear to reflect wider development in South Canterbury, and called on the council to be more aggressive in its growth targets.

Meanwhile a senior economist says the council should be planning for a future where dairy intensification is not a key driver of the regional economy because of growing environmental concerns.

South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce chief executive Wendy Smith.

Timaru District mayor Damon Odey was disappointed by Smith's comments and said the chamber should be working with the council.

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* 2000 more homes needed to cope with growth
* Long-term strategy required to address ad-hoc development in Timaru

"[The] Chamber is looking like a big wheel when they should be working alongside the council."

Timaru District Mayor Damon Odey.

Suggestions about dairy intensification in the regional economy were generalist, and if done properly, dairy intensification would not further impact the environment, he said.

Their comments follow the release of the council's Growth Management Strategy on Thursday. The draft strategy is a 30-year blueprint which allows the district to respond to growth pressures and changing demographics.

The draft document indicates dairy intensification, alongside expansion of Washdyke and Timaru's port, local factories, forestry and the freight sectors, was expected to remain a major driver and contributor to the local economy over the next 30 years.

Council district planning manager Mark Geddes holds the draft Growth Management Strategy on Thursday.

Chamber chief executive Wendy Smith was pleased the council had carried out the work on the strategy.

However, she believed it was not as ambitious as it should be.

The extent of development taking place, with tourism development in the Mackenzie Country and associated growth, the impact of the Port of Tauranga investments, impact of irrigation now and further irrigation projects in the works, might not be accounted for in "typical Statistics New Zealand numbers", Smith said.

"We would suggest them to be more ambitious in its growth strategies."

The council should look to further growth, with a two-stage approach, ensuring an ambitious growth plan and a separate model for infrastructure and investment, she said.

A second, more conservative, model would protect the council from "unreasonable obligations".

Infometrics senior economist Benje Patterson said, while the district had seen "enormous" expansion in the dairy industry, dairy farm intensification was likely to "stop" because of growing environmental concerns.

The district would eventually see a dairy "de-intensification", but when that would occur was "difficult and uncertain to predict", Patterson said.

In the year 2000, there were approximately 28,000 cows in the Timaru District. Now there were more than 130,000 cows, he said.

There was growing public awareness of the impact dairy intensification has on waterways, significant media coverage, and global concerns around environment.

He urged the council to start considering what the "downside" could be for Timaru.

"That's not to say the dairy sector couldn't continue to grow."

Diversifying into other higher value processing, such as Fonterra's new mozzarella plant, could drive the dairy industry in the district, he said.
However, Odey said he was disappointed in Smith’s comments and said the council consulted with the chamber, and other stakeholders, throughout the process.

The council had sought clarification about the stats being used in the process, “because we did challenge” them, Odey said.

“That’s a pretty standard measure, to use Stats NZ data.”

The council had very strict measures in place to ensure concerns around dairy intensification.

He said comments about the future of dairy intensification in Timaru were “generalist”.

Dairy intensification, when done properly, and in conjunction with other work such restoring water ways, “won’t cause further impact to the environment”, he said.

Odey said the council was bound to using Stats NZ data, and he was confident it was a robust plan.

“My ambition, and my vision, for this district is to exceed those numbers.”

The plan would be discussed at the council meeting on Tuesday during a publicly excluded session.

- Stuff

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Recommended by
Ashburton District Council should be consulted before undertaking any activity in the vicinity of Mean High Water to establish the actual line of Mean High Water.
Ashburton, New Zealand
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Ashburton (Māori: Hakatere) is a large town in the Canterbury Region, on the east coast of the South Island of New Zealand. The town is the seat of the Ashburton District, a territorial authority encompassing the town and the surrounding rural area, which is also known as Mid Canterbury. It is 85 kilometres (53 mi) south west of Christchurch and is sometimes regarded as a satellite town of Christchurch.[4]

Ashburton township has a population of 19,850, with an additional 12,400 living in the wider district. The town is the 23rd largest urban area in New Zealand and the third-largest urban area in the Canterbury Region, after Christchurch and Timaru.

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Naming

Ashburton’s historic train station before it was demolished in 2013[5]

Ashburton was named by the surveyor Captain Joseph Thomas of the New Zealand Land Association, after Francis Baring, 3rd Baron Ashburton, who was a member of the Canterbury Association. The town is laid out around two central squares either side of the railway line and main highway, Baring Square East and Baring Square West.

"Ashvegas", Ashburton’s common nickname, is an