

To Sarah Mitchell
APL Property Queenstown Ltd

Re: Proposed Closure of Glenorchy Road, 27 October, for Targa Rally

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for your letter of 6th August.

The Glenorchy Community Association is unable to offer support for the proposed road closure as there would be a significant inconvenience to the resident and business community and we are unable to perceive any benefits.

The organisers of the event have not approached the GCA - our recent August meeting would have been a good opportunity - and our September meeting will be too late for meaningful input into the process.

The event will have been in the planning stage for many months and the organisers have already published the stage details in the media. Meaningful consultation has been replaced with assumptions.

This is, sadly, exactly the same situation as occurred last time the rally was held in 2014 when the community was pretty much presented with a fait accompli. Since the public notice was posted, I have had several comments from community members expressing opposition to the closure.

In 2014 a number of community volunteers acted as marshals for the event to raise funds for our museum project. Feedback is that they were very poorly managed, with many of them left for several hours without any communication. Tellingly, the museum group have declined an invitation to assist this year.

In the 2014 event, some of the marshalls encountered angry exchanges from Queenstown bound contestants who were unhappy that traffic had been allowed to travel up the road to Glenorchy (the delay caused by a crash meant the road had to reopen before the event was finished).

Communications around the crash to volunteer marshalls were non-existent and, as was witnessed with the recent wash out and closure of the road, communications between some parts of the road simply are not possible.

A lot has changed since 2014. Tourism growth has been huge and the impact of a road closure would be much greater.

In 2014 the organisers made use of the waterfront reserve by the wharf for contestants to park up and service their vehicles before the return leg. The GCA is

well advanced in a plan of works in conjunction with Council to make this area vehicle free and would not wish to see the area used as a car park for the event.

The GCA has agreed to use the 2016 Glenorchy Visioning Report, now part of our Community Plan, as an aid to decision making. We cannot see how the closure and use of the road for a private motorsports event advances the cause of our vision in any way.

Of course, Council may still choose to grant the closure, but if so it will not be with our blessing.

Regards,

John Glover
Chairman