

**BEFORE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED ON
BEHALF OF OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**

RM 20.005

IN THE MATTER of an application for resource
consent

PISA HOLDINGS LIMITED

Applicant

BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF MARK JEREMY MASON

**GALLAWAY COOK ALLAN
LAWYERS
DUNEDIN**

Solicitor on record: B Irving

Solicitor to contact: B Irving

P O Box 143, Dunedin 9054

Ph: (03) 477 7312

Fax: (03) 477 5564

Email: phil.page@gallawaycookallan.co.nz

Email: bridget.irving@gallawaycookallan.co.nz

BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF MARK JEREMY MASON

Introduction

1. My full name is Mark Jeremy Mason.
2. I am the sole shareholder of Mark II Ltd T/A as Quest Farm Wines. Since 1999, Mark II has owned 81 ha of land which is irrigated with a share of Permit 95789.

Mark II system and water use

3. We work with Albany Heights and Chard Farm to share and manage water within a dam that is fed by a branch race from the 9 Mile race. We use a control gate to direct water into the dam when necessary and water is available.
4. Water is delivered from the dam to Mark II via a dedicated 56mm valve outlet and a water meter. An irrigation pump pumps water through filters to 5ha of our vines or another storage dam approximately 700 m away. We also provide stock drinking to the property from this dam.
5. The vines are irrigated by inline drip line. This is a low rate per vine because we have 3400 plants/ha which is a relatively high density. The effect of this planting regime is to force to plants to send their roots deeper and reduces the amount of water they need per vine. The balance of our land is currently used for pastoral farming.
6. I have been electronically recording weather at the site for the last ten years. This has given me the understanding and confidence to expand my viticultural/horticultural operations and move away from livestock on the better soils. To this end I have brought a power connection from the southern boundary down past the top dam to the bottom dam to run a 35 kva pump.
7. We have begun clearing more north facing slopes of rocks to establish vines. We are also replanting some of the original vineyard to a denser spacing regime again.
8. Mark II is a single vineyard niche fine wine exporter. This business plan can be hampered by erratic cropping levels due to dry growing

seasons. This makes the water supply particularly important to reduce the risk of dry seasons and smooth out cropping levels. We have invested heavily to this end including \$90,000 to get power to irrigation pumps, \$110,000 in the back up storage dam, \$20,000 in irrigation pumps. Our vine replanting programme is costing us approximately \$100,000ha over the first 3 years while we establish the vines.

Mark Jeremy Mason