



**WALKINGACCESS**  
ARA HĪKOI AOTEAROA

5 February 2013

Mr T Boylan  
Planning Manager  
Invercargill City Council  
Private Bag 90104  
INVERCARGILL 9840

Dear Mr Boylan

Clare Lenihan (Barrister of Invercargill) has asked me to provide you with a client reference to support her application to you to be recognised by your council as a Hearing Commissioner for the purposes of the Resource Management Act. I am pleased to do so.

The New Zealand Walking Access Commission has engaged Clare since June 2012 to provide written legal advice and to appear as counsel for the Commission at a hearing by a district council in respect of an application to stop a road (Local Government Act).

Clare's written advice is thorough, carefully constructed, easy to read and timely. Clare pays attention to detail and explores issues in a measured way. The quality of her work means that the Commission can provide quality advice to other parties knowing that the underpinning work is sound.

Clare's work for the Commission as counsel was excellent. Clare is adept at assessing the merits of evidence and arguments, was respectful to all parties at the hearing while strongly and articulately advancing the Commission's case. Clare was skilled at developing and framing her arguments and used these skills to co-ordinate expert witnesses and guide them in the drafting statements of evidence.

Clare was trusted by the Commission to liaise with legal advisers for the other parties and the Commission had no hesitation in accepting her advice.

Clare is friendly, engaging, thoughtful and courteous. She maintains a client-focus, listens actively to the views and opinions of others and is able to identify core issues. Commission staff speak highly of her inter-personal skills.

I have no hesitation in supporting Clare as a hearings Commissioner for the council.

I can be contacted on ((04) 8158510) should you wish to discuss this reference.

Yours sincerely

Mark Neeson  
Chief executive