

BEFORE THE PANEL CONVENER

FTAA-2603-1186

UNDER the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (“**the FTAA**”)

IN THE MATTER of an application by **Ridgeburn Limited** for approvals under the FTAA for a referred project, Ridgeburn (“**Application**”)

STATEMENT OF RUSSELL COOK REGARDING QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

22 JUNE 2026

STATEMENT OF RUSSELL COOK REGARDING QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

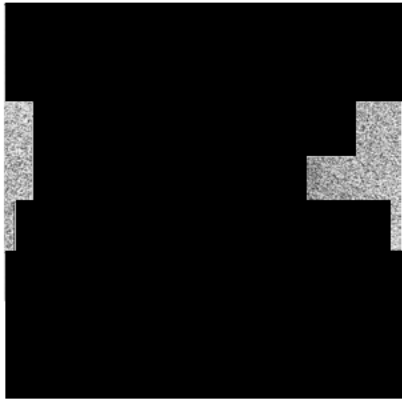
1. My full name is Russell Cook. I am Principal Archaeologist at Origin Heritage, based in Arrowtown/Dunedin New Zealand.
2. Along with my colleague Riley Christie I prepared the report Archaeological Assessment for Morven Ferry, Arrow Junction dated July 2026 (“**the Report**”) regarding archaeological aspects of the application under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 (“**FTAA**”) by Ridgeburn Limited (“**the Applicant**”) for the Ridgeburn proposal (“**the Application**”). The Report was written by Riley Christie and me, reviewed by Christopher Jennings and me, and authorised by me. It was lodged as part of the Application on behalf of the Applicant. I am authorised to make this statement on behalf of Riley Christie, who have confirmed its accuracy to me.
3. I have the following qualifications and experience relevant to the matters addressed in the Report:
 - (a) Masters level qualification in archaeology and 15-year experience as an archaeological consultant.
 - (b) Experience working in Otago and Southland from March 2019 to present with a focus on Central Otago and Dunedin.
4. The relevant qualifications and experience of my colleagues are set out in **Attachment A** and **Attachment B** respectively to this supplementary statement.
5. While the Report has not been prepared in the form of evidence to be presented at a hearing, I confirm that, subject to the caveat set out in paragraph 6 below:
 - (a) I have read the Expert Witness Code of Conduct set out in the Environment Court’s Practice Note 2023 and have complied with the requirements in the Code of Conduct in preparing the Report.
 - (b) Except where we state that we are relying on material provided by another person, the Report is within our collective areas of expertise.

- (c) We have not omitted to consider material facts known to us that might alter or detract from the opinions expressed in this evidence.
6. I make the following observations with reference to the requirements of the Code of Conduct regarding the scope of the Report, the analysis and assessment undertaken by me, and the content of the Report:
- (a) Reasonable time and budget constraints meant that the assessment only involved desk-based research and a visual inspection of the project area. No targeted intrusive investigations like test pitting were able to be undertaken.
 - (b) Access restrictions and health and safety concerns meant it was not possible to directly view some areas that make up part of the project area, though a visual inspection via drone was carried out in such instances.
 - (c) No images have been able to be located that clearly show the project area prior to 1900.
 - (d) The scope of the history was limited by reasonable time and budget constraints.
 - (e) Being adjacent to a flight path, aerial drone footage was limited in height and in scope due to safety requirements.
7. While the Report is subject to a standard disclaimer stating that the report is not for use by persons other than the Applicant, I can confirm that the Report can be relied upon by the Panel and participants for the purposes of considering the Application under the FTAA.

DATED this 22 day of June 2026

Russell Cook

Russell Cook – Principal Archaeologist



CHRIS JENNINGS

Principal Archaeologist

QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

PhD, Archaeology, University of Queensland, 2023

Master of Arts, Anthropology, University of Otago, 2009

BA(Hons), Anthropology, University of Otago, 2005

AFFILIATIONS

Member of New Zealand Archaeological Association

BACKGROUND

Chris has a BA(Hons) and MA in Anthropology from the University of Otago and a PhD from the University of Queensland. His primary research focus was on stone tool production in Murihiku, and he maintains an ongoing interest in the archaeology of southern New Zealand. Chris is the current president of the New Zealand Archaeological Association and has worked as a field archaeologist for over 20 years throughout New Zealand, Australia and in Papua New Guinea. In addition to his specialisation in stone tool analysis, Chris has extensive experience in archaeological survey, excavation and Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

KEY SKILLS

Technical skills.

- Experience of managing a range of archaeological and heritage projects across New Zealand from conception to completion.
- Extensive knowledge and experience of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga archaeological authority process and management of authority conditions, and extensive knowledge of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.
- Ability to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for mapping and documenting archaeological features.
- Development of drone-based photogrammetry modelling for archaeological, conservation, and maintenance analysis.
- Creation of 3D models of artefacts and archaeological features using photogrammetry.
- Archaeological survey, including GPS mapping and on-site recording of a range of pre-contact Māori and post-contact sites throughout New Zealand.
- Stone artefact technological analysis.
- Proficient research skills with a focus on pre-contact Māori and post-contact South Island sources.

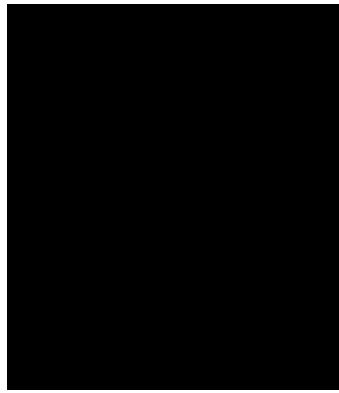
Managerial skills

- Liaison with Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.
- Liaison with regional and local councils as well as local iwi for archaeology and heritage requirements.
- Management of field teams.

Relevant Work Experience

- Employed as a consultant archaeologist since 2009.
- Experience working in Otago and Southland from 2009 until present with a focus on Otago and Southland sites.





RILEY CHRISTIE

Archaeologist

QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

Bachelor of Arts majoring in Archaeology (Honours), University of Otago, 2022

Bachelor of Arts majoring in History & Archaeology, University of Otago, 2021

RPAS Pt 101 M/R Pilot Certificate

AFFILIATIONS

Member of New Zealand Archaeological Association



BACKGROUND

Riley is a graduate from Otago University, having completed a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Archaeology in 2022. She is originally from Wānaka and is familiar with and invested in the historic landscape of Dunedin and Central Otago. From her time working for the Southern Pacific Archaeological Research (SPAR) and Origin Consultants, she gained experience in undertaking historic site analysis and research. Riley's archaeological experience includes sites in both Canterbury and Otago, spanning both historic and pre-contact periods. She has also conducted research into Papua New Guinea zooarchaeology and analysis of pre-contact Māori faunal remains throughout the duration of her Honours year.

The primary area of her work has been on historic sites with a focus on the analysis of ceramics, glass, metal, and fauna. She also spent time tutoring in both history and archaeology for the University. Currently she is undertaking a wide range of tasks, including fieldwork and report writing for 19th century post-contact sites.

KEY SKILLS

Technical skills

- Knowledge of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.
- Experience in dietary isotope preparation.
- Experience in excavation of colonial and Māori archaeological sites.
- Ability to use Geographic Information Systems for mapping and documenting archaeological features.
- Experience in archaeological survey including GPS & on-site recording.
- Adept at historic artefact analysis from sites (ceramics, fauna, glass, metal) and associated data entry, recording and processing.
- Ability to undertake site analysis and investigation.
- Skilled in historic and archival research, including the use of online and physical sources.
- Experience in faunal analysis of New Zealand historic and pre-contact sites, and Papua New Guinea south coast sites.
- Certified as an RPAS pilot under Part 101, which allows for drone flight in controlled areas and signifies understanding of relevant aviation laws and rules.

Managerial skills

- Liaison with Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga as part of the archaeological authority process.
- Quality control within a multidisciplinary office team.
- Co-ordination and briefing of consultants for on-site archaeological assessment and management.