

## **Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review**

**Lease name: EMERALD HILLS**

**Lease number: PO 158**

### **Fish & Game Report**

As part of the process of Tenure Review Fish & Game councils may provide advice on significant inherent values within the pastoral lease, and the information may be incorporated in the Conservation Resources Report. The advice is part of the information gathered and assessed for the development of a preliminary consultation document.

The report attached is released under the Official Information Act 1982.

**July 09**



## **Sports Fish and Game Bird Resources Report for the Emerald Hills Pastoral Lease**

Prepared by the  
Otago Fish and Game Council

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to advise the Commissioner of Crown Lands on sports fish and game bird values present on the land included in the Emerald Hills Crown pastoral lease. The lease is being considered for land tenure review and disposal under the provisions of the Crown Pastoral Land Act. As well as habitat values the report covers angling and hunting values and associated access issues.

Information for this report has been researched and prepared by Otago Fish and Game Council staff.

The Emerald Hills pastoral lease runs from the Rock & Pillar Ranges down towards the railtrail near Hyde. Contained within the property are the headwaters of the Cap Burn, Scrub Burn and other unnamed tributaries of the Taieri River. A detailed description of the property and its boundaries is described in the Department of Conservation resources report.

### **General Resources Information**

Within the lease block there are streams with sports fishery values although these are mainly towards the lower altitude areas of the property. The upstream limit that sports fish are found correlates with fish barriers in the form of waterfalls and cessation of flows due to water extraction.

The size distribution of fish collected during the inspection indicates that sports fish spawning occurs within the property. This recruitment may provide sports fish to replenish the regionally important Taieri River fishery (Otago Fish & Game Sports Fish Management Plan).

The property contains excellent habitat for upland game-bird species and the California quail was observed on the property and can be found along the Rock & Pillar Ranges.

### **Fish and Game Recommendations**

1. Marginal strip protection for waterways within the pastoral lease is included in any recommending report prepared. This is required to ensure riparian vegetation and the instream environment is not significantly altered.
2. Vehicle access across free-hold land to public land for guns and dogs is provided to facilitate recreational opportunities.
3. Fish & Game understand that we have the same access rights for management as the Department of Conservation although this has not been formally confirmed. In the interim we request that wording be added to the proposal which confers the same access

*Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats*

Otago Region

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