

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: ROBROSA

Lease number: PO 252

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.

August

06



Robrosa Pastoral Lease

Otago Fish & Game Resources Report

Section One – Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise the Commissioner of Crown Lands on the sports fish and game bird values present on the land included in the Robrosa 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.

1.2 Location

The Robrosa property is located in the lower end of the Cardrona Valley. The lease land runs from the Cardrona Valley Road up to approximately 2000m masl in the headwaters of Luggate Creek.

Section Two - General Resources Information

2.1 Sports Fisheries Habitat Values

The Cardrona River contains valuable spawning, juvenile rearing and adult habitat for brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Adult sports fish from the Clutha River and resident fish spawn in the Cardrona River. In addition, the Cardrona River has been suggested as providing important spawning habitat for adult rainbow trout from Lake Dunstan. The value of the river is somewhat limited during summer due to water taken for irrigation, but nonetheless there are still important values present.

There are historical records of rainbow trout being released into the headwaters of Luggate Creek. However, most rainbow trout fisheries are associated with lakes and it is doubtful if any of the trout survived to reproduce. Recent surveys found no sign of rainbow trout within the Robrosa property and downstream barriers suggest they are unable to access the upper reaches. The upper catchment of Luggate Creek is important in maintaining water quality and quantity for both economic and environmental purposes. The lower reaches of Luggate Creek have high fishery habitat and some recreational values.

There are many other creeks on the lease property, but in general these flow down steep gradients and contain little sports fish habitat.

2.2 Sports Fisheries Recreation Values

There are limited angling opportunities present on the section of the Cardrona River flowing through the lease property.

2.3 Game Bird Habitat Values

The property contains habitat suitable for California quail (*Lophortyx californicus*), although there is no information on their presence or otherwise. However, in saying this, a detailed inspection has not been undertaken and historically Quail were present in the upper areas of the lease land. The habitat is somewhat degraded, from a game bird perspective, due to stock grazing but would recover with time.

2.4 Game Bird Recreational Values

There are no records of upland game bird hunting on the Robrosa property. However, there are many examples in Otago where access to upland game habitat was difficult or denied by lessees and therefore information on recreational hunting is often underestimated.

Section Three - Fish and Game Recommendations

3.1 Fisheries

Section 24 marginal strips need to be laid off along the Cardrona River if they do not already exist. This is needed to ensure some form of public access is maintained alongside the river.

3.2 Game Birds

All the land within the Luggate Creek catchment should be returned to crown ownership to protect upland game habitat and water quality and quantity in Luggate Creek.

3.3 Access Requirements

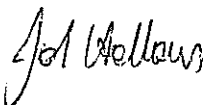
Access for guns and dogs is required across any free-hold land to land returned to the Department of Conservation.

A public vehicle access easement is needed to allow easy access to recreational hunting areas.

Provisions should be made for Fish & Game employees to access areas of freehold land for sports fish and game management purposes.

Dated: 6 July 2006

Signed



John Hollows
Environmental Officer