

## **Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review**

**Lease name: Stonehurst**

**Lease number: Po 276**

### **Public submissions**

These submissions were received as a result of the public advertising of the preliminary proposal for tenure review.

**November 03**



FEDERATED MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc.)  
P.O. Box 1604, Wellington.

22 August 2002

The Commissioner of Crown Lands,  
C/- DTZ New Zealand Ltd.  
Land Resources Division  
PO Box 27  
ALEXANDRA



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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT"

Dear Sir

**Re: Preliminary Proposal for Tenure Review, Stonehurst Pastoral Lease.**

I write on behalf of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc. (FMC) which represents some 13,000 members of tramping, mountaineering, climbing and other outdoor recreation clubs throughout NZ, and indirectly represents the interests and concerns of many thousands of private individuals who also enjoy recreation in the back country.

On their behalf, FMC aims to enhance and have formally recognised, the recreation opportunities on leases under review, to protect significant inherent values, and to ensure public access on high country pastoral leases through the tenure review process.

FMC fully supports the aims of tenure review: "*to promote the management of reviewable land in a way that is ecologically sustainable... .. to enable the protection of the significant inherent values of the reviewable land... .. and to make easier the securing of public access to and enjoyment of reviewable land*" (Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998, S.24).

FMC is grateful for this opportunity to comment on the preliminary proposal for Stonehurst Pastoral Lease.

**THE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL**

The following designations and protective mechanisms are included in the proposal:-

- (1) 2070ha (*approximately*) to be designated as land to be restored to full Crown ownership and control as a conservation area under Section 35 (2) (a) (i) of the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998.
- (2) 775ha (*approximately*) to be disposed of by freehold disposal to J C F James under Section 35 of the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998 subject to protective mechanisms.

**Protective mechanisms:**

- (a) An easement under Section 40 (2) (c) Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998 to provide for public access by foot, non-motorised vehicle powered by a person, and horse to the proposed conservation area.
- (b) An easement under Section 40 (2) (b) Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998 to provide for conservation management access to the proposed conservation area.
- (c) A conservation covenant under Section 40 (2) (b) Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998 over approximately 230 ha of the proposed freehold land.

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**FMC POSITION**

FMC supports the general principles of tenure review and also supports the general thrust of the changes proposed for Stonehurst pastoral lease. We note that this is a relatively small pastoral lease (less than 3,000ha) but one which occupies an important position on the crest and flanks of the Rock and Pillar Range. The reason this lease is important is that the upper part constitutes a critical component of the proposed Rock and Pillar Conservation Park which DOC has foreshadowed in the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) for Otago. It is important that the boundary on Stonehurst between proposed freehold and conservation land on front faces of the Rock and Pillar Range harmonises with the corresponding boundaries on neighbouring properties. Those neighbouring properties are Kelvin Grove to the north and Burgan Run and Gladbrook (up to Trig B at 1,100m on the crest of the range) to the south.

On Burgan Run, the recommended boundary between conservation land and freehold land was at about 800m on the front face of the range, while Gladbrook is not in the tenure review process. To the north, on Kelvin Grove, the corresponding recommended conservation land/freehold boundary also followed very close to the 800m contour. The logic of this is therefore, that the freehold/conservation land boundary on Stonehurst should also follow close to the 800m contour across the face of the range, in order to maintain landscape integrity. FMC notes that this point was made in the Conservation Resources Report: *"The demarcation between the land that is freeholded and left in Crown ownership should be consistent with the adjoining properties so that the existing landscape character of the overall eastern scarp of the Rock and Pillars is retained"*.

FMC notes that in the Preliminary Proposal the proposed freehold/conservation land boundary runs along the crest of the range, and that the land down to about the 800m contour is proposed for protection under a Conservation Covenant. This is not the preferred protective mechanism as stated in S24 of the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998. FMC does not accept that this is a satisfactory way of protecting the significant natural and landscape values of this highly visible area near the crest of the range, or of harmonising landscape effects of the new boundaries with those on adjoining properties.

FMC is pleased to note that to a significant extent the recommendations we made at the time of the Early Warning Meeting in 1997, have been adopted in the Preliminary Proposal. Where our recommendations have not yet been adopted we submit that these should be revisited in further dealings with the lessees. For your information we reproduce as Appendix 1, the 1997 Early Warning recommendations.

**Land to be disposed of as freehold**

FMC notes that the Preliminary Proposal document states in paragraph 3.2 that the land to be disposed of by freehold disposal to J C F James, subject to protective mechanisms consists of an area of approximately 775ha. The designation states: *"This area contains the flats at the eastern end of the property together with the eastern flank of the Rock and Pillar Range. Within this area approximately 180 ha has been cultivated into permanent pasture, a further 400 ha has been oversown and topdressed with the balance being unimproved tussock grasslands and cushionfield. The upper portion of the eastern face of the Rock and Pillar Range is to be protected by a conservation covenant as described subsequently"*.

The proposed freehold is to be subject to the following protective mechanisms:-

- (a) *"An easement to provide for public access by foot, non-motorised vehicle powered by a person, or horse over the route marked "a-b-c" to provide access to the conservation area. This access route provides easy access from Gladbrook Road to the upper level of the cultivated land and then via an existing farm track to the crest of the Rock and Pillar Range.*
- (b) *An easement to provide for conservation management access over the route marked "d-b-c" for conservation management purposes. This route provides for vehicle access across the farm paddocks and then links to the vehicle track in common with the public access up the face of the Rock and Pillar Range.*
- (c) *A conservation covenant to protect significant inherent values on the upper levels of the Rock and Pillar Range from approximately 700 metres to the crest of the range at 1100 m.a.s.l. The vegetation within this area comprises narrow leaved snowtussock leading to cushionfield at the higher altitudes with mixed shrublands in some of the gully systems. The area up to approximately 900 m.a.s.l. has previously been oversown and topdressed and is managed as an integral part of the farming system. Consideration was given*

*to separating this area at approximately 900 m.a.s.l. but this was considered impractical for both fencing and also due to landscape impact. A conservation covenant provided the opportunity for conservation management of this transition area between the farmland and the conservation land beyond the crest of the range".*

FMC does not accept the conclusion that separating the area at approximately 900m is impractical for reasons both fencing and landscape impacts. Instead we believe that the recommendation in the Conservation Resources Report should have been accepted:- *"That the pastoral lease tenure review negotiations on Stonehurst proceed on the basis that the Crown seeks to retain ownership and transfer to DOC, for conservation purposes all that land hatched black, to be known as the Rock and Pillar Conservation area".* [Note that the lower boundary of the area recommended to become conservation land was situated in the vicinity of the 800m contour].

Furthermore we do not accept that *"A conservation covenant provided the opportunity for conservation management of this transition area between the farmland and the conservation land beyond the crest of the range"*, because the preference clearly stated in the Crown Pastoral Land Act is for *"restoration of the land concerned to full Crown ownership and control"*.

We discuss these matters further in the next section where we refer to the significant inherent values of the land concerned.

### **Transfer to Crown ownership and control**

DOC has conducted an assessment of the natural values of Stonehurst and concluded that:- *"The summit and upper and mid valley slope portions of Stonehurst have impressive natural values by virtue of the extensive summit plateau, the solifluction lobed valley slopes, the intact vegetation communities, and the interconnectedness of the altitudinal sequence. The topographical and bioclimatic sweep imparts wide ecological diversity. Vegetation is comparatively intact down to 750 m and if the altitudinal sequence needed to be extended, the semi-natural or depleted tussock grasslands down to approximately 600 m show promise for recovery and rehabilitation if disturbance was removed. The great majority of the summit plateau and upper and mid valley slopes of the property contain significant intact botanical values. These values extend downhill to the 800 m contour, with less intact native vegetation extending down to the 600 m contour"*.

There are a number of statements in the Resources Report which substantiate these conclusions:

Landscape Unit 3 includes the crest along the Rock and Pillar Range and the scarpland which runs along the eastern face of this mountain range.....Along the crest the snow tussock is intermingled with Hebe and Drachophyllum with this continuous natural cover extending down to about 750m. It is a managed natural landscape with the overall impression of retaining the appearance of tussock grassland down to about the 750m level.

The Stonehurst portion of the extensive intact tussock grassland on the summit plateau, with its relative lack of human modifications and easy public access is ranked as an outstanding natural landscape. The eastern slopes of the Rock and Pillar Range are a significant natural landscape setting for the developed farmland and settlements of the Strath Taieri Plain.

Approximately 80 to 85% of the property is dominated by indigenous tussock grassland, concentrated above the 820m contour. The great majority of it is narrow-leaved snow tussock in comparatively intact condition. The homogeneity of the widespread snow tussock on rolling interflaves is broken by the fingers of wetland vegetation, sharply delineated from the interflave tussock grassland.

The Report recognised the importance of landscape integrity along the front face of the Rock and Pillar Range:- *"The demarcation between the land that is freeholded and left in Crown ownership should be consistent with the adjoining properties so that the existing landscape character of the overall eastern scarp of the Rock and Pillars is retained"*.

With regard to the originally recommended Conservation Area the Report stated:-

*"This area extends from about the 800m contour on the eastern face of the range westwards to the property back boundary with the Loganburn Reservoir and the Logan Burn and is justified as follows:*

- *An area of significant natural landscape, ranked as outstanding, including the upper eastern slopes of the range, the summit plateau and the visual backdrop to the Loganburn Reservoir. It has high public accessibility.*
- *The peneplained summit plateau is a distinctive Otago landform feature. Rock bluffs are an important feature bordering the Logan Burn.*
- *The area identified has very high natural values due to its ecological diversity with a broad range of bioclimatic zones and topographic variety. Vegetation is comparatively intact above 800 m.*
- *Invertebrate faunal values are considered to be of national importance due to species richness, new species, and the distributional overlap of many species (biogeography). Of particular note is the autumn emerging moth fauna."*

For all these reasons FMC submits that the proposed Conservation Covenant is an inadequate protective mechanism. Instead, we prefer, as does the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998, the *"restoration of the land concerned [from about the 800m contour on the eastern face of the range westwards to the property back boundary] to full Crown ownership and control"*.

#### **Easements**

FMC notes that there are two formed legal roads on, or adjacent to, Stonehurst. These are the historic Dunstan Road, which crosses the western plateau part of the property, and Gladbrook Road which leads to the homestead.

In addition there is Crown land used for irrigation purposes which provides access to Loganburn Dam.

We note that an easement is proposed for non-motorized public use up a track on the front face of the range from Gladbrook Road, through the proposed Conservation Covenant area, to the new conservation land at the top of the range

Subject to our concerns about the proposed covenant area, FMC accepts that this will provide satisfactory access over Stonehurst.

#### **Conservation Management Strategy for Otago**

The objective for the Rock and Pillar Special Place is:- *"To nurture and encourage the study of natural processes to allow healing of the vegetation after grazing and fire and to improve landscape values. To continue to document the values and permit research where it will lead to conservation benefits. In the case of the Rock and Pillar Range, to extend the reserve along the summit and to take in altitudinal sequences and secure access where opportunities arise"*.

The implementation statements indicate that this will be achieved by:-

- *"Pastoral lease tenure review on properties on the Rock and Pillar Range will provide opportunities to achieve protection of areas of significant landscape, scientific, natural and historic resource and recreational value. Overall management of these new areas with the existing reserve will confer net conservation and management benefits (eg, fencing), and will provide extensive recreational opportunities. Management of contiguous areas will be integrated and public awareness developed through the concept of a Rock and Pillar Conservation Park.*
- *Legal access to land administered by the department will be negotiated and vehicular access and parking secured at key access points"*.

Finally, we would point out that in the CMS, the stated priority for the Rock and Pillar Special Place is:-  
*"Negotiation, principally through pastoral lease tenure review, of an extended protected area along the crest of the Rock and Pillar Range will be a priority in this Special Place"*.

FMC sees the tenure review of Stonehurst as offering excellent opportunities to advance these aims and objectives.

### CONCLUSIONS

The tenure review of Stonehurst pastoral leases provides an ideal opportunity to progress the objective stated in the CMS for Otago for the Rock and Pillar Special Place. It also provides an opportunity to move closer to the establishment of the Rock and Pillar Conservation Park. FMC strongly urges DOC to take the appropriate action to achieve these objectives.

With regard to the designations proposed in the Preliminary Proposal, FMC is concerned about the boundary between proposed conservation and freehold land, and the proposed Conservation Covenant area between about 800m and the crest of the range.

We submit that the conservation land boundary should be located close to the 800m contour so that the boundary *"be consistent with the adjoining properties so that the existing landscape character of the overall eastern scarp of the Rock and Pillars is retained"*, as recommended in the Conservation Resources Report.

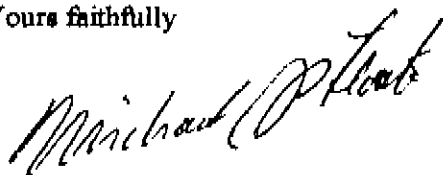
This would be resolved if instead of the proposed conservation covenant over the land down to about the 800m contour, the land was to become conservation land.

Furthermore, we do not accept that the preference for *"restoration of the land concerned to full Crown ownership and control"* clearly stated in S24(b) Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998, has been adopted in this Preliminary Proposal.

We urge that discussion be re-opened with the lessees to seek an improved arrangement which would include the matters we have detailed above.

Finally, we appreciate this opportunity to comment on the Preliminary Proposal for the tenure review of Stonehurst pastoral lease, and wish to be heard in support of this submission if a hearing is held. We would be happy to be involved in further discussions regarding any of the issues discussed in this submission.

Yours faithfully



bp  
Barbara Marshall  
Secretary, Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc.)

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## Appendix.1 FMC Recommendations to Early Warning Meeting March 1997

### 1. General Matters of recreational concern over all Rock and Pillar properties

1. Landscape values and natural values are very important on front faces: The upper boundary of proposed freehold land must be coordinated along the length of the Rock and Pillar Range (Fig 1). In general about 900m would be ideal, but there may be cases where some grazing could be justified and sustainable up to 1100m.

In such cases there are three alternatives: -(in order of preference)

- (a) Land to be transferred to DOC: lease back with conditions, and subject to monitoring
- (b) Special lease with conditions as above
- (c) Land freehold subject to Covenant with strict no-bum, and stock limitation conditions.

2. All land above 1100m (this is the maximum altitude, a lower limit would be preferred) to be aggregated into Rock and Pillar Conservation Park on the basis of:-

Tussock grassland and sub-alpine vegetation values (Fig 2)

Scenic values (Fig 3)

Recreational opportunities including tramping, mountain bike use, X-C skiing (Fig 4).

3. Access to Rock and Pillar Conservation Park, along the range, and appropriate entry/exit points to be coordinated through the tenure review process. Some important examples which include the properties in the current Early Warning discussion are:-

From Dunstan Road to McPhies Rock (Fig 5) McPhies Rock -  
Museum Rock - Summit Rock Access to Ski Club Hut via  
Glencrag/Camberleigh Exit routes to the north to Patearoa,  
Hyde etc. Exit via the Burgan/Stonehurst at the south end.  
Coordination with the Central Otago Rail Trail (Fig 6).

### 2. Specific matters related to Stonehurst P9276 (Middlemarch)

1. All land above 1100m to be transferred to DOC (or a lower altitude limit if quality of tussock grassland and co-ordination of the boundary along the front of the range merits this) (Fig 7).

2. Back Block and Middle Block to be transferred to DOC.

3. Top Block and adjacent block at the same altitude to be transferred to DOC or with lease back of grazing under specified conditions and subject to monitoring. (Note that these blocks include a significant area of LUC Class VIIe land).

4. Top boundary of the proposed freehold land to conform with other properties along the range.

5. Access to the shore of Loganburn Reservoir to be provided (Fig 8).

6. Public use of Howells Hut to be negotiated (Fig 9).

7. Protection of the natural conservation values of the bush remnants in some gullies on the front faces is required (Fig 10): This could be in the form of Conservation Reserve (to be preferred) or under Covenant.

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August 27, 2002

Dunstan 4WD Club,  
C/o 57 Amott St,  
Alexandra.

22 August 2002.

DTZ NEW ZEALAND  
ALEXANDRA  
28 AUG 2002  
RECEIVED

The Commissioner of Crown Lands,  
C/o DTZ New Zealand,  
Land Resources Division,  
PO Box 27,  
Alexandra.

Dear Sir,

**Subject: Crown Pastoral Land Act, Stonehurst Tenure Review, Preliminary Proposal.**

We wish to see access provided for all New Zealanders, by foot and all modes of transport, both onto and through all high country areas reverting to Crown Land under the Tenure Review process.

To achieve this it is extremely important that suitable access for public 4WD vehicles be provided from public roads through areas of lands being Freeholded to all larger areas of Crown Land being withdrawn from the present lease. This is even more important where contiguous areas are to be the subject of Tenure Review at differing times and hence the most appropriate on / off routes at opposite ends of the greater area of Crown Land cannot be considered in relation to a specific Pastoral Review Proposal.

The Dunstan 4WD Club has a current membership of approximately 60 and is itself a member of the international 'Tread Lightly' organisation. It organises for its members, some 20 - 4WD trips per year. These vary in difficulty and length from a half to three days with the majority of trips being located in Central Otago. Its trips are currently repeated every 1 to 4 years.

The club reviews the following in scheduling and setting its quarterly Trip Calenders:

1. Is it within handy reach of its predominantly Queenstown-Alexandra membership?
2. What is the number of properties to be crossed en-route?
3. Is the route generally along an existing track?
4. What is the track difficulty rating?
5. Are there a variety of landform, vegetation, and riverscape for enjoyment and photostops?
6. Has it historical exploration, access, mining or early settlement areas to view?
7. Are their suitable smoko and lunchstops?
8. Has it an ability to be linked to another nearby route to provide for an optional weekend trip?
9. What is a suitable frequency for repeating the trip?

We the committee having read the "Proposal" consider that the objectives of the Crown Pastoral Land Act, Part 2, Tenure Reviews, General, Cl. 24 (c) Subject to paragraphs (a) & (b), to make easier - (i) "The securing public access to and enjoyment of reviewable land." will be severely compromised by the present proposal and as a result are unable to support it in full.

The Stonehurst review together with those of adjacent Stations will result in a large block of Crown Land along the crest of the Rock & Pillar Range and hence public access to an area of high country not readily able to be visited at present. With suitable access to the immediate area already available from the Old Dunstan Trail it will in the future become possible for our club to traverse the length of the ridge. However, because it is not clear whether the summit track is entirely within the proposed Crown Land we request free passage over it, according to the conditions detailed below, in all areas in which it lies within the area of the Proposed Conservation Covenant.

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The Dunstan 4WD Club requests that changes to reflect the following, be incorporated into the easement documents to safeguard the interest of bona fide 4WD recreation groups and for those who wish to partake in organised events on occasions in order to try their vehicles and / or experience the normally inaccessible back country in a controlled and safe manner:

- a) that easement documentation be required to provide for summer access to recognised 4WD Clubs affiliated to "Tread Lightly" and Community organisations running non profit fund raising events across the Freehold land on the alignment described.
- b) that permission for access be by a permit system administered by DoC (it is suggested that a maximum of 5 permits per year be granted)
- c) that such permission be required to be approved by the Freehold landowner whose permission for free access should not be unreasonable withheld but subject to normal high country and grazing considerations being respected, eg - track and weather conditions, lambing, gates, fires, rubbish removal.

The club wishes to be notified of any other access or 4WD type submissions to the Proposal and the dates of any hearings. We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

Yours faithfully,



Ross Jones,  
President.

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Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Incorporated  
Upper Clutha Branch  
PO Box 38  
LAKE HAWEA



FOREST  
& BIRD

28 August 2002

The Commissioner of Crown Lands  
C/- DTZ  
Land Resources Division  
PO Box 27  
ALEXANDRA



Dear Sir

**Submission on preliminary proposal for tenure review  
For Stonehurst Pastoral Lease**

Thank you for sending us a copy of this proposal. We would be pleased if you would accept and seriously consider this submission from our branch of Forest and Bird.

Forest and Bird is well known throughout New Zealand for its work in protecting the environment, and the interests of the public in this respect. Our society supports the aims of the Tenure Review process, and our branch takes a strong and active interest in the process throughout Central Otago, the Upper Clutha and Wakatipu Basins.

We have inspected Stonehurst on foot, walking from the edge of the ploughed paddocks (at approximately 300m a.s.l.) to where the proposed conservation covenant area of 230 ha adjoins the Land to be restored to full Crown ownership and control as a conservation area (at approximately 1000m a.s.l.). We were encouraged by the extent of the tussock cover and shrubland remnants remaining from where the ploughed land finished right up to and including the tops with very few weedy species apart from some gorse along the sides of the formed track.

We believe that the proposal to restore 2070 ha of land to full Crown ownership and control as a conservation area under Section 35 (2) (a) (i) of the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998 is excellent as this augments the existing conservation land on the Rock and Pillars.

**Proposed conservation covenant**

Ranging in altitude from 700 masl to 1100 masl, the area proposed for a conservation covenant on freeholded land has an excellent cover of tussock *Poa cita* on the lower parts and increasingly *Chionocloa rigida* and with extent of native vegetation between increasing with altitude. Rock outcrops provide a refuge for broadleaf, coprosmas, *Melicytis* and *Aciphylla*. We consider the altitude makes this land marginal for topdressing and oversowing and rather than providing a landscape buffer between intensively farmed land below and the conservation land above we feel this proposed land management regime will gradually pull the farmed aspect higher up the slopes of the range.

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ROYAL FOREST AND  
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The DOC report on Stonehurst identifies that "Vegetation is comparatively intact down to 750m and if the altitudinal sequence needed to be extended, the semi-natural or depleted tussock grasslands down to approximately 600 metres show promise for recovery and rehabilitation if disturbance was removed."

We also disagree with proposals to allow burning of the tussock cover subject to the prescribed tests of recovery. The DOC report on Stonehurst to the Commissioner of Crown Lands identifies that the uncontrolled spread of fire is a serious risk in the Rock and Pillar Range.

How is it proposed to prevent the fire spreading into the conservation area above? The DOC report identifies that the visual landscape integrity of this tussock land would be compromised by further insensitive sitings of amongst other things firebreaks. This comment was made in the context of the Loganburn Reservoir but it is equally applicable to the rest of this landscape. We would argue that this is pertinent to the boundary between the proposed Crown conservation land and the proposed conservation covenant. How would the spread of fire between the two areas be prevented?

While on our inspection we witnessed the fire described in the attached ODT newspaper article which was a sobering reminder of how little real control we have over fire once it is lit. Given that 98% of fires in the high country spread from 'controlled burns' (Alan Mark – Personal communication) it is our opinion that controlled burns are not an effective method of preventing the extensive fires that are feared from the build up of combustible material in the tussock grasslands. Rather than preventing the uncontrolled spread of fires they are largely the cause of them.

It would be important to eradicate the gorse along the access track to prevent any further spread. Generally we saw very few weedy species, only the gorse and a very small amount of Hieracium in this part of the property.

### Land to freeholded

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We agree the land should be freeholded from Gladbrook Road to where the ploughed land finishes at the narrowest part of the run at approximately 300m a.s.l. From this point upwards though we have some reservations particularly in respect of the gully that heads up to the north of the access track. This gully contains relatively intact altitudinal sequence of native shrubby vegetation which is generally under-represented in conservation land. There is a particularly good selection of tall tussock and native shrubs – broadleaf, *Olearia* species, *Hebe*, *Coprosma* species, *Melicytus*, hard fern, toe toe, mountain flax, . Following up the gully there are kowhais, *Dracophyllum* species, *Astelia*, *Acipylla* species, a large leaf *Olearia* and mountain flax. There is a good cover of silver tussock on the sides of the gully. The spurs are well covered with silver tussock but are largely interspersed with introduced grasses at the lower altitude apart from the rock outcrops that provide a refuge for woody plants and some species like geranium, and several fern species. The native content of the vegetation between the tussocks increases with altitude. At 900m a.s.l. native species predominate.

We would like to see the land above 300m a.s.l. to the north of the proposed access retained by the Crown for conservation to protect the conservation values of this gully. The land to the south of the access track above 300m a.s.l. to be freeholded with a conservation covenant to

900 metres. All the land above 900m a.s.l. to be restored to full Crown ownership for conservation purposes.

### **Access**

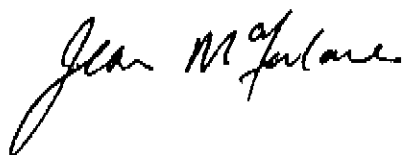
The access easement to the proposed conservation area – the existing farm track above 300m a.s.l. - has a manageable gradient and a good walking surface and provides great views of the surrounding countryside. We enjoyed our walk and predict it will become a popular day walk.

### **Conclusion**

- 1 We would see this as a good proposal if the Crown were to consider this property for whole property purchase. The DOC report identified all the land above 600m a.s.l. would recover if protected and the gully to the north of the proposed access track above 300m a.s.l. is also very worthy of protection in our opinion.
- 2 Failing the acceptance of the above we would like to see the following outcomes from the Tenure Review of Stonehurst.
  - i The land above 300m a.s.l. to the north of the proposed access track be restored to full Crown ownership and control as a conservation area.
  - ii The land above 300m a.s.l. to the south of the proposed access to be freeholded to 900m a.s.l. but with the protection of a conservation covenant which would help protect the high conservation and landscape values of this land. We would be opposed to any deliberate burning of tussock on this land.
  - iii All the land above 900m a.s.l. to be restored to full Crown ownership and control as a conservation area.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours faithfully



Jean McFarlane  
Chairperson

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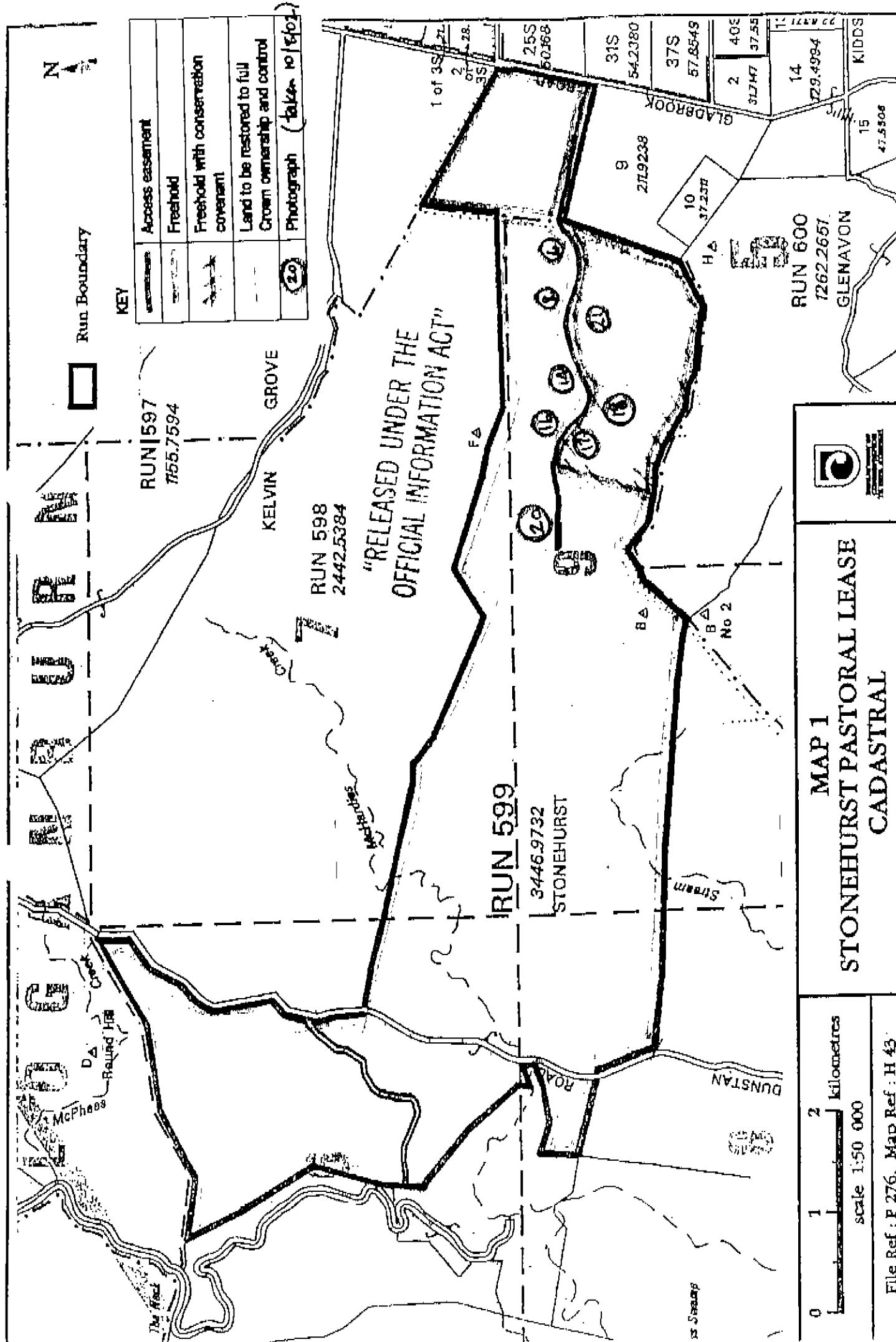
# Burn-off blows up

Staff Reporter

Wind hampered efforts to extinguish a fire in Kiddle Rd, Middlemarch, on Saturday. Middlemarch volunteer brigade chief, fire officer Warren Tisdall said the call was to a controlled burn in a paddock which had been blown out of

control by the wind. The blustery weather then hampered the brigade, who had to "sit and watch it for a while until the wind died down. We then just had to control it and stop it from spreading into a neighbour's property," Mr Tisdall said. The fire crew was at the scene for about two hours.

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**MAP 1**  
**STONEHURST PASTORAL LEASE**  
**CADASTRAL**

0 1 2 kilometres  
 scale 1:50 000  
 File Ref : P 276, Map Ref : H 43