

## Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name : *The Wolds*

Lease number : PT 008

### Public Submissions Part 15

These submissions were received as a result of the public advertising of the Preliminary Proposal for Tenure Review.

These submissions are released under the Official Information Act 1982.

*August*

*12*

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22 FEB 2011

#### Submission to the WOLDS Preliminary Proposal

This submission requests that the Preliminary Proposal for the Wolds be withdrawn as it fails to protect the extensive outwash plains, the Maryburn wetland catchment, the Tekapo River terraces and slopes of Mary Range, Paterson Ponds and the outwash terraces on the unoccupied Crown Land which have been identified by expert botanists, entomologists, ecologists and Department of Conservation Staff as having significant values that warrant protection as public conservation land under the objects of the Crown Pastoral Lands Act, (CPLA).

The proposal also fails to provide secure public access to enable the public to enjoy the prominent Mackenzie Basin landmark, Mt Mary from SH8.

The specific aspects of the proposed preliminary proposal that do not meet the objects of the Crown Pastoral Lands Act include:

#### All of the Maryburn Wetland catchment and Maryburn Stream – Extension to Proposed Scientific Reserve

This area has outstanding values associated with wetlands, and streams, shrubby moraines and short tussock grasslands. It contains habitat for threatened species. To fulfill the objects of the CPLA this area needs to be protected as public conservation land as an extension to the proposed Scientific Reserve.

#### Western slopes Mary Range overlooking Lake Pukaki – Public Conservation Land

- This area contains outstanding landscapes, nationally rare wetland ecosystems and important dry land vegetation and shrublands, remnants of pre human vegetation. To fulfill the objects of the CPLA this area needs to be protected as public conservation land.
- To ensure secure public access and public enjoyment I ask that there be public access to Mt Mary from SH 8 as well as seek access along the track from the Pukaki Canal over the existing farm track that lies on The Wolds. It is a key recreation route and has panoramic views overlooking Lake Pukaki.
- Seek funding to support DOC in controlling the wilding pines that the lessee has abandoned.

#### Southeast Face Mary Range – Landscape Covenant

This area has relatively unmodified landscapes with remnant short tussock grasslands and shrublands that are highly visible from a major tourist route. A Reserves Act Landscape Covenant is needed to protect the landscapes associated with remaining indigenous vegetation, the uncluttered open landscape and extensive views.

#### Tekapo River Terraces – Extension to Proposed CA 1

The proposed CA1 needs to be extended to protect all of the special values, including habitats for threatened plants, lizards and birds.

#### Outwash Plain east of Mary Range and SH8 and NE Triangle Unoccupied Crown Land – Conservation Area

These areas contain important landscape and conservation values associated with threatened environments, habitats and species and relatively natural open, highly visible landscapes adjoining a major road and tourist route...

The Preliminary Proposal needs to be withdrawn and put on hold until a vision for the Mackenzie is agreed on.

*This unique area needs protection, not exploitation!*

Yours sincerely



125178



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14<sup>th</sup> February, 2011

**Submission To: The Wolds Preliminary Proposal**

**The Preliminary Proposal needs to be withdrawn**

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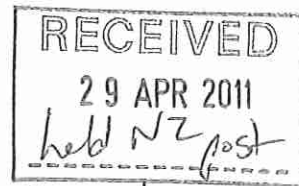
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Yours sincerely,  
Jo-Anne Vaughan



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prior to closing date.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands  
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## **SUBMISSION ON PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS FOR TENURE REVIEW ON THE WOLDS AND MARYBURN LEASES IN THE MACKENZIE COUNTRY**

- **The Mackenzie country**, in its entirety, is a visual history of our past from ancient times up to the present day. Tectonic upheaval and glaciation together with climatic extremes has produced glorious scenery and special landforms such as kettlehole wetland and unique high country plant species, *Aciphylla*, *Carmichaelia*, tussocks etc, which provide habitat for equally unique animal life, lizards, grasshoppers and specialized insect life etc. The hundreds of native plants and animals that live in the McKenzie basin and surrounding hills greatly add to both New Zealand's total species list and that of the world.
- **The landscapes, plants and animals** of the McKenzie basin and surrounding area are 'significant inherent values' identified under the Crown pastoral Lands Act 1998 (CPLA) and must be protected preferably under full crown ownership and control. This area has been recommended for a McKenzie public conservation park.
- **After European settlement** international botanists and zoologists quickly recognized that New Zealand's flora and fauna were like no other and systems were established to protect them. In addition to plant and animal life the landscapes were recognized by geologists and other earth scientists as revealing an amazing past history.
- **The ancient glaciated landscapes** displayed so vividly in the McKenzie area are New Zealand's equivalent to European monuments such as the white cliffs of Dover, Giant's Causeway, Maiden Castle etc. This landscape, tussock foreground and mountainous backdrop, is equal in magnificence and for scientific value to any in the world. This fact is supported by the



huge numbers of visitors to the area and under the CPLA Section 24 ( c ) (1) has to "make easier the securing of public access to and enjoyment of reviewable land".

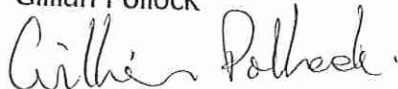
- **These vistas** have remained visible for all to enjoy because the land has been lightly used by leasehold sheep farmers.  
The current proposals to sell off large areas of McKenzie country ie The Wolds and Maryburn, would be devastating for this land.  
The irrigation and greening of it would cause the extinction of most plant and animal species which evolved here.  
The small areas proposed for conservation will be swamped by the effects of development.
- **Sub-division**, buildings, suburban home gardens and exotic forestry will artificially partition the landscape and destroy the continuum of vistas which attract nearly a million tourists a year who put \$4 billion annually into the economy.
- **Irrigation** will irreversibly destroy the 68 rare and threatened local plant species and therefore the animal life dependant on it. A vast amount of water is required to maintain a dairy farm and this will come from the clear mountain braided rivers which themselves are special and which support native fish, insects the rare black stilt and other bird species. Fertilizer run-off and effluent will be devastating for the ecosystems and food chains which support the plant and animal life
- Most of the least modified land with high conservation values in the McKenzie country is crown-owned pastoral lease, owned by all New Zealanders. Freeholding this before the outcome of the collaborative process would deny New Zealanders their inherited rights and responsibilities.
- The Mackenzie should be a dry-land conservation park managed by the Department of Conservation which is qualified to protect the natural values New Zealanders care for and which we have a responsibility globally to look after.
- QEII covenants that the government presumes will protect the wild life values will fail as such covenants do not necessarily allow for public access, are difficult to enforce and have no public accountability. New landowners may have no knowledge of the special nature of local flora and fauna and no knowledge of how to care for it. If their main focus is on making money they are unlikely to worry about the care of species.

- **The Maryburn and The Wolds** tenure review proposals offer no protection for most of the important features that are a part of the land under lease.

**The Government should develop a strategic vision to protect the Mackenzie, including:**

1. A Mackenzie drylands park in the northern part of the basin.
2. A halt to tenure review.
3. Proper protection for landscapes and biodiversity on all remaining pastoral leases.
4. Proper protection for the lakes and lakeshores, rivers and their margins.
5. An end to ecologically destructive land use changes.
6. All political parties should adopt policies which will protect the high country and Mackenzie's biodiversity and landscapes.
7. The collaborative process should be given time to develop and function fully for the best outcome in the Mackenzie.

Signed: Gillian Pollock

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gillian Pollock".