

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: BEN DHU

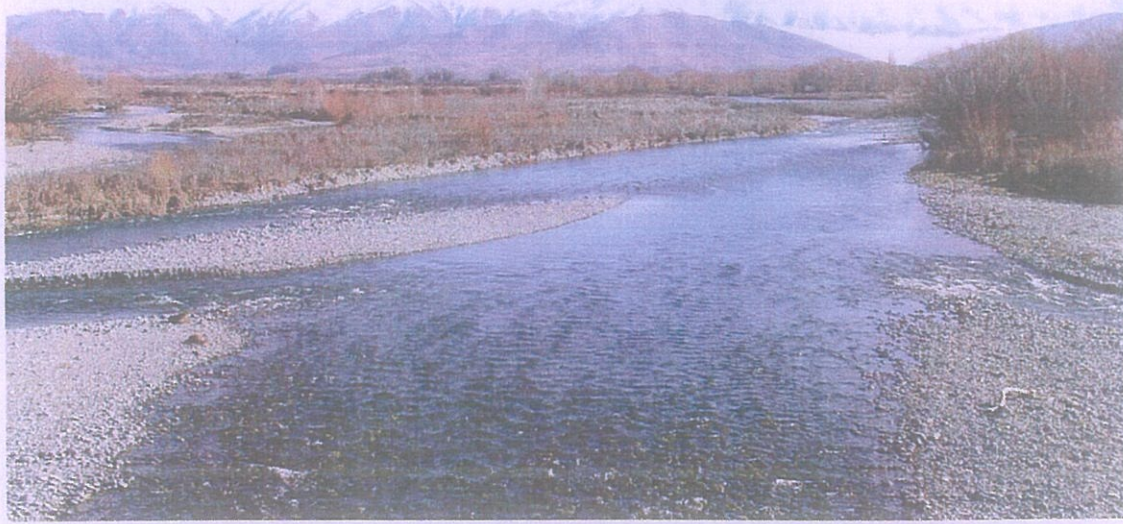
Lease number: PO 222

Public submissions – Part 2

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

May

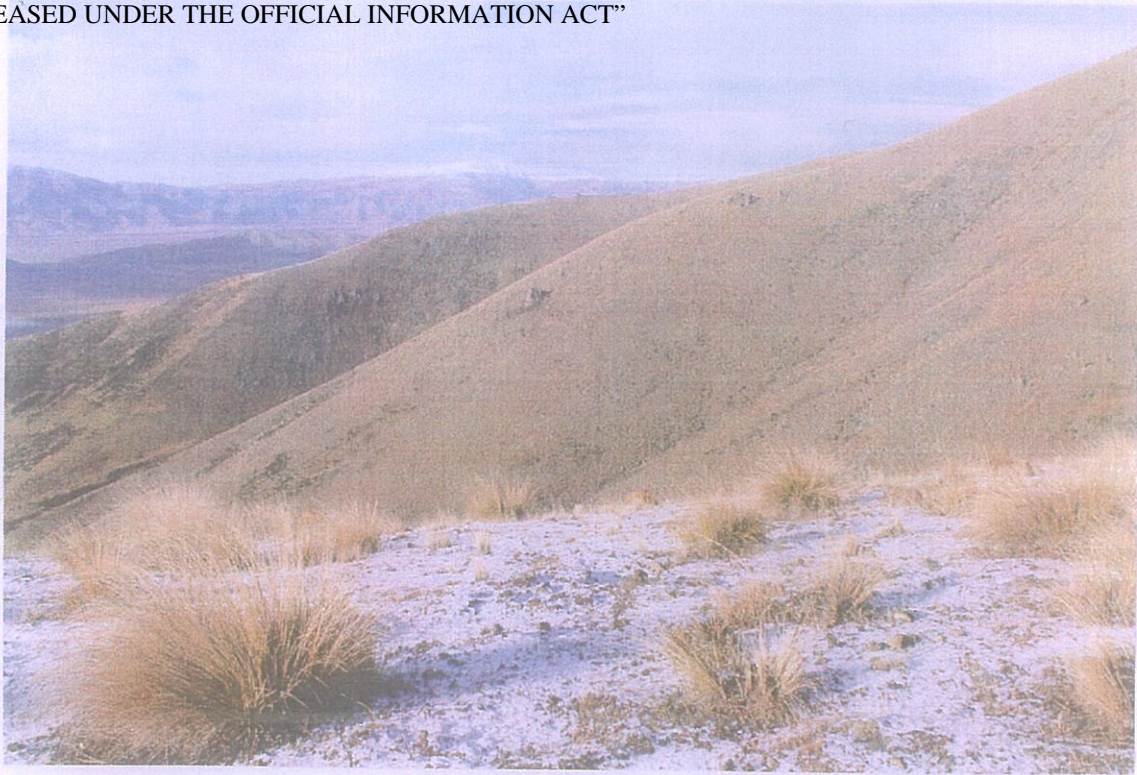
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The landscape of Ben Dhu Station is probably its most important inherent natural value. Not only is it important in its own right but more significantly as part of the backdrop and visual enclosure of the Omarama basin. The snowcapped skyline and fluted front faces can be clearly seen from SH8 which is a major tourist route from Christchurch to Queenstown.



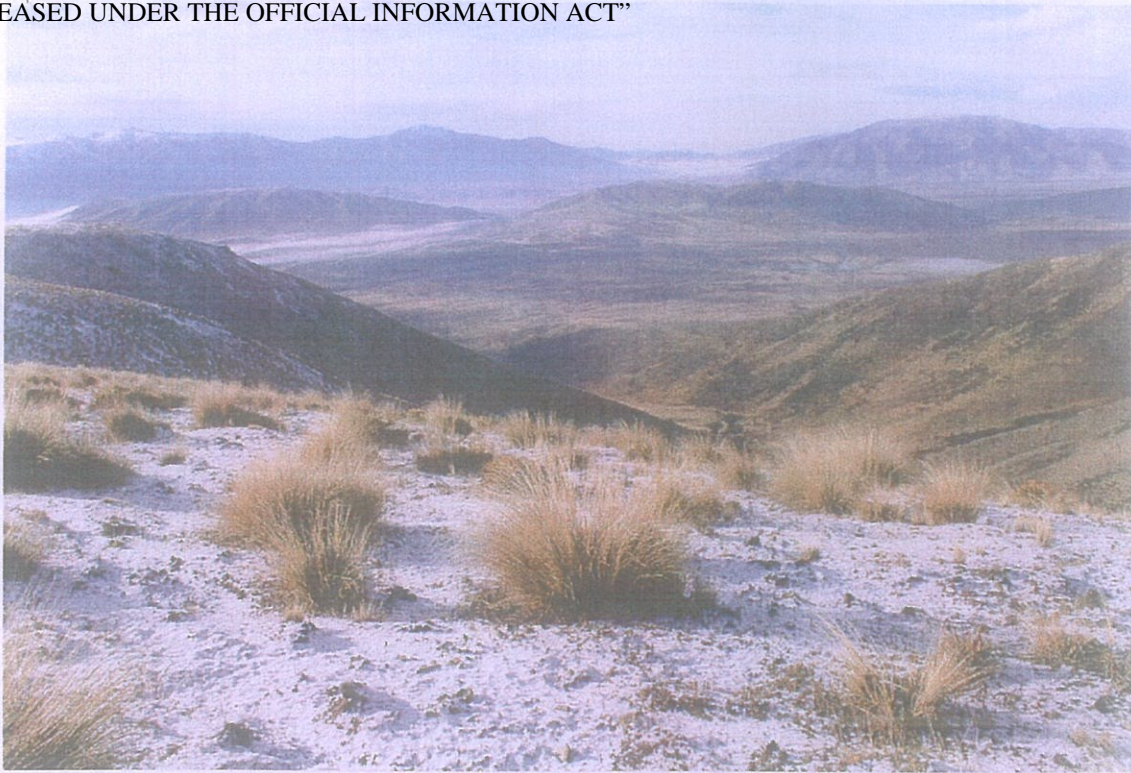
The Diadem Range is impressive from a distance and seems to beckon outdoor recreation people. At present access is difficult but could be made easier through the tenure review of Ben Dhu. In the Conservation Resources Report public foot access was proposed to point 1,067m near the northern end of the property, but this is not included in the Preliminary Proposal. This deficiency is inconsistent with the Crown Pastoral Land Act and should be rectified before the review is finalised.



The proposed Conservation Area CA1 is significantly smaller than the area identified in the Conservation Resources Report as containing significant inherent values. This area extends along almost the whole length of the Diadem faces. To satisfy the requirements of the Crown Pastoral Land Act the entire area containing significant inherent natural and landscape values should be included in the new Conservation Area.



At the south end of the Diadem faces on Ben Dhu Station the tussock grassland is quite sparse and appears to suggest it has been severely burned in the past. The stature of the tussock is somewhat higher on shady faces than on sunny sides, but nowhere is it outstanding and is significantly invaded with Hieracium. Nevertheless, this area has been recommended for return to full Crown ownership and control as a Conservation



The tussock grassland at the northern end of the Diadem faces on Ben Dhu appears very similar in stature and biodiversity to the tussock grassland at the southern end (previous illustration). If the latter area, which carries quite sparse tussock, qualifies for protection on account of its significant inherent values, then so too should the tussock at the northern end (as far as point 1,067m). There is no provision in the Crown Pastoral Land Act for protecting only representative areas.



The Conservation Resources Report states that *"The Diadem faces are significant in that they form part of the visual enclosure of the Omarama basin. From a distance they appear as a tussock covered range top"*. These important aspects of the landscape underpin the significant inherent value of the entire skyline of Glen Dhu Station, and add to the justification for its recognition as a new Conservation Area.