

## **Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review**

**Lease name : BROOKSDALE**

**Lease number : PC 126**

### **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.

**April 04**

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**Fish and Game Resources of the Brooksdale Pastoral Lease, North Canterbury**

*Prepared by the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council as a Contribution to the Drafting of a Preliminary Proposal for a Tenure Review Project Plan*

**August 1999**

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**Preamble**

This report has been prepared under the provisions of the Crown Pastoral Lands Act (1998), Part 2, Tenure Review.

**Part 1 – Introduction**

**1.1 Brooksdale**

The Brooksdale pastoral lease comprises a number of significant habitat areas for sports fish and game birds. The lease partly borders the regionally significant trout fishery of Lake Lyndon. It also incorporates the lesser known Lake Rubicon fishery.

A small spring-fed tributary of the Porter River exists on the lease and is utilised by spawning rainbow trout. Game birds frequent both of the aforementioned lakes, and use them and their adjacent riparian areas for nesting and moulting. Game birds also inhabitant the Kowai River bed and the surrounding leased land.

**2.0 Fish and Game Values on the Brooksdale Pastoral Lease**

**2.1 Fisheries Values**

Results from the 1994-1995 National Angler Survey have indicated that several of the waters in the Brooksdale lease are popular amongst anglers from the Canterbury region. Lake Lyndon attracted 3259 fishing days over the surveyed fishing season, while the Porter River was credited with 370 days. Lake Rubicon did not feature in the survey results. This fact was likely to be a reflection of the bias of the survey technique against areas of lower usage. From the information obtained, Lake Lyndon was second only to Lake Coleridge as the region's most popular sports fishing lake.

Both lake's Lyndon and Rubicon have self-supporting populations of rainbow trout. There are also brown trout in Lake Lyndon. At Lake Lyndon, the trout spawn along the lakeshore and also in the inlet stream that originates near Porters Pass. However, variable water flows in this stream can either prevent the fish from moving upstream from the lake to spawn, or as happens from time to time, leave spawning fish stranded as it becomes dewatered.

Lake Rubicon has received supplementary releases of rainbow trout by the form North Canterbury Acclimatisation Society over the years. The last releases were in 1989, when 300 yearling rainbow trout from the Wanaka hatchery were released there. At the time, this was done to supplement declining numbers in the lake caused by the limited availability of spawning habitat and increased angler pressure. Rubicon has been selected as a fishery in the Council's 1999 – 2004 trout enhancement programme. This will see 500 yearling trout released into its waters over each of the years between 1999 and 2001.

Assurance of public access is a major condition on any fish enhancement work undertaken by the Council.

## **2.2 Game Bird Values**

Ready information on game bird hunting in the Brooksdale pastoral lease is not available. However, suitable habitat for waterfowl does exist on the lease, and game bird shooting is known to occur at both lakes Lyndon and Rubicon. Habitat suited to upland game birds, like California quail and chukor, is also present.

Both Canada geese and paradise shelduck frequent the lease, as do mallard and grey duck. Occasionally, shoveller duck are also likely to be present. Paradise shelduck moult on Lake Rubicon in particular, and are counted each January as part of an aerial trend count of the North Canterbury region.

Paradise shelduck have the capacity to build up to high levels if not harvested by hunters in foothill country such as that on the Brooksdale lease, so access to licensed hunters can be considered of importance for both recreational and management control purposes. At present Canada geese numbers do not appear to be a problem on the lease.

Upland gamebirds, such as California quail and chukor may exist in moderate numbers, and may therefore attract hunters if the opportunity to hunt for them is provided.

## **Part III – Recommendations**

To promote the ecological management of reviewable land in a way that is ecologically sustainable (as per Sec. 24 (a) (i) of the Crown Pastoral Land Act (1998)) and to enable the protection of significant inherent values on reviewable land (as per Sec 24 (b) of the Crown Pastoral Land Act (1998)), the Council makes the following recommendations.

### **3.1 Sports Fish (Map 1)**

1. Suitable riparian protection should be established around the Lake's edge to exclude livestock from the lakeshore (spawning areas for trout) and the lake itself (impacts on water quality). The appropriate size of such strips should be at least 20m from the lake's edge.
2. The inlet stream into Lake Rubicon should have a riparian strip of at least 10m in size established on both sides of it. This strip should be fenced to exclude livestock, which can cause damage to redd sites and also lower water quality.
3. A minimum riparian strip of 20 metres should be established between the lease and the areas where it borders Lake Lyndon. This is recommended so to mitigate against the effects of land use, including the undertaking of production forestry activities.
4. A riparian strip of at least 10 metres (both respective sides) should be established along the Lake Lyndon stream, which flows adjacent to SH 73. This strip should be fenced so to keep livestock out of the stream. This is recommended as a means of preventing the trampling of redd sites by livestock and the deposition of silt into the stream bed.
5. The unnamed spring creek (see map 1) which originates near the Porter Heights ski road turn-off (and is a tributary of the sometimes flowing Dry Stream and the Porter River). This waterway should have a 10 metre riparian strip established on either side of it as a means of mitigation against the adverse effects of land use.

**3.1.2 Access (Map 2)**

1. Legal public access should be provided from SH 73 to Lake Rubicon. This access should permit anglers and game bird shooters to reach the lake (therefore it should allow the carrying of guns and dogs across). Access should allow access by vehicle, bicycle and walking.
2. Legal public access should be provided for around the entire shore of Lake Rubicon, for both anglers and game bird hunters (with guns and dogs).
3. Legal public access should be provided up the Kowai River. This access should permit dogs and guns, thus allowing recreational game bird hunting to occur.
4. Legal public access should be provided in a strip of at least 20 metres around the edges of Lake Lyndon which border the present pastoral lease.
5. It is recommended that provision be made for the public use of the huts situated up the Kowai River, by recreationists. This would provide accommodation for users and a safe haven in times of adverse storm events.

**Attachments:**

1. Map 1 Habitat Recommendations
2. Map 2 Access Recommendations.

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**Attachment One**

**Map of Recommendations – Brooksdale pastoral Lease**

**HABITAT**



**Attachment Two**

**Map of Recommendations – Brooksdale Pastoral Lease**

**ACCESS**