

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name : CAMBRIAN

Lease number : PO 375

Conservation Resources Report - Part 3

As part of the process of Tenure Review, advice on significant inherent values within the pastoral lease is provided by Department of Conservation officials in the form of a Conservation Resources Report. This report is the result of outdoor survey and inspection. It is a key piece of information for the development of a preliminary consultation document.

Note: Plans which form part of the Conservation Resources Report are published separately.

These documents are all released under the Official information Act 1982.

May

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(c) **Shady south facing steep slopes on the north side of Donald Stuarts Creek**
Catchment characterised by several steep rocky outcrops.

In general, mid slopes in this vegetation zone retain a lesser native flora component than the opposite side of Donald Stuarts Creek. Extensive burning and AOSTD has resulted in widespread establishment of introduced pasture species. Most manuka and kanuka is confined to the opposite (warmer) side of Donald Stuarts Creek (previously described).

Localised areas within this zone do support native vegetation remnants.

A small area above 900 m.a.s.l. supports relatively intact *C.rigida* and associated native communities with a significant component of *Hieracium lepidulum* (tussock hawkweed) and *H.pilosella* (mouse ear hawkweed). A rocky bluff within the area supports a more intact native flora including *Celmisia gracilentia*, *Leucopogon fraserii*, *Gaultheria crassa*, *Anisotome aromatica*, *Helichrysum bellidioides*, *Corallospartium crassicaule*, *Pentachondra pumila*, *Myrsine nummularifolia*, *Pentachondra pumila*, *Helichrysum intermedium*, *Brachyglottis bellidioides* and *Coprosma ciliata*.

At least five isolated rocky outcrops which have served as fire refugia, support remnant Halls totara. One of these areas has recently been subject to an accidental burn which appears to have killed several trees. Other native shrub species growing amongst Halls totara include *Corokia cotoneaster* and *Coprosma rugosa*. One Halls totara/kanuka remnant situated at 750 m.a.s.l. on the lower northern side of Donald Stuarts Creek is larger than others, and supports numerous saplings and seedlings. The area measures approximately 100m by 70m including a neighbouring *Discaria toumatou* shrubland with numerous emergent *P.hallii* saplings. Large *C.rigida* tussocks are also present in this area which has not been burnt for some time. This area is depicted in Photo 3.

South facing slopes above the lower northern side of Donald Stuarts Stream support an impenetrable thicket of fertiliser induced *Discaria toumatou* with a thick ground cover of introduced pasture species and scattered *Poa cita* (silver tussock).

A small wetland is situated on a flat to gentle ridge at approximately 1100 m.a.s.l. in the north eastern corner of the property. This wetland supports a virtually pure cover of *Oreobolus pectinatus* (comb sedge). Scattered throughout the wetlands are numerous insectivorous *Drosera arcturi* (sundew), while *Carex gaudichaudiana*, *Gnaphalium spp*, *Coprosma perpusilla* and *Sphagnum* moss vegetate the margins.

Significance of Vegetation

C.rigida and associated bluff communities are fragmented and of limited extent in this topographic zone and are subsequently of moderate to low conservation value.

Halls totara groves are of ecological and conservation significance as they are uncommon, disjunct and restricted in extent. These groves represent an important relict of what may once have been a dominant plant community in this part of Central Otago" (Grove 1994).

The small alpine wetland is in exceptional condition and despite its limited extent is considered to be of high conservation value. Whilst similar areas exist at higher altitude on the Dunstan Mountains, there are few examples at this relatively low altitude (~1100 m.a.s.l.).



Photo 3. Halls Totara in lower Stuarts Creek