

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name : CAMBRIAN HILLS

Lease number : PO 069

Conservation Resources Report - Part 4

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 07

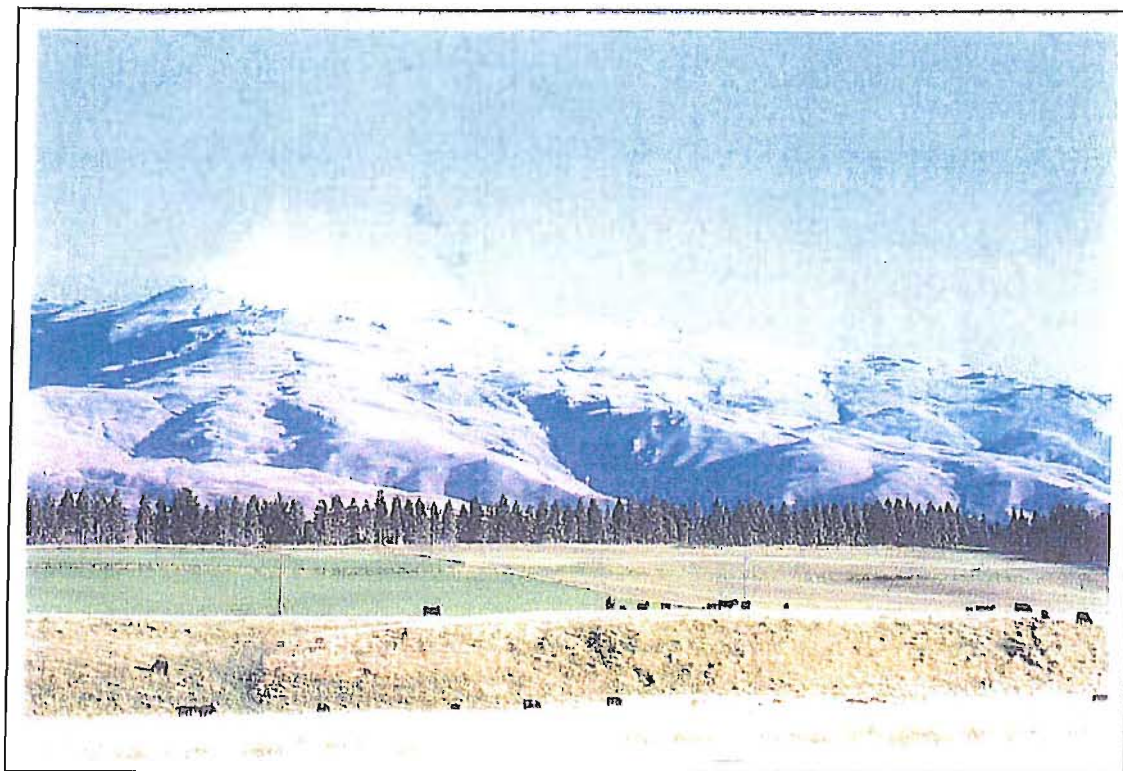


Fig. 1. Cambrian Hills is a relatively small pastoral lease of 3,000ha situated at the northern end of the Dunstan Mountains overlooking the lower reaches of Dunstan Creek and the Manuherikia Valley. It extends from about 600m at Cambrians village to 1,600m at its back boundary with the Lauder Basin Conservation Area. Unfortunately, this property does not provide good access to the landlocked Reserve because the only available tracks are on neighbouring properties.

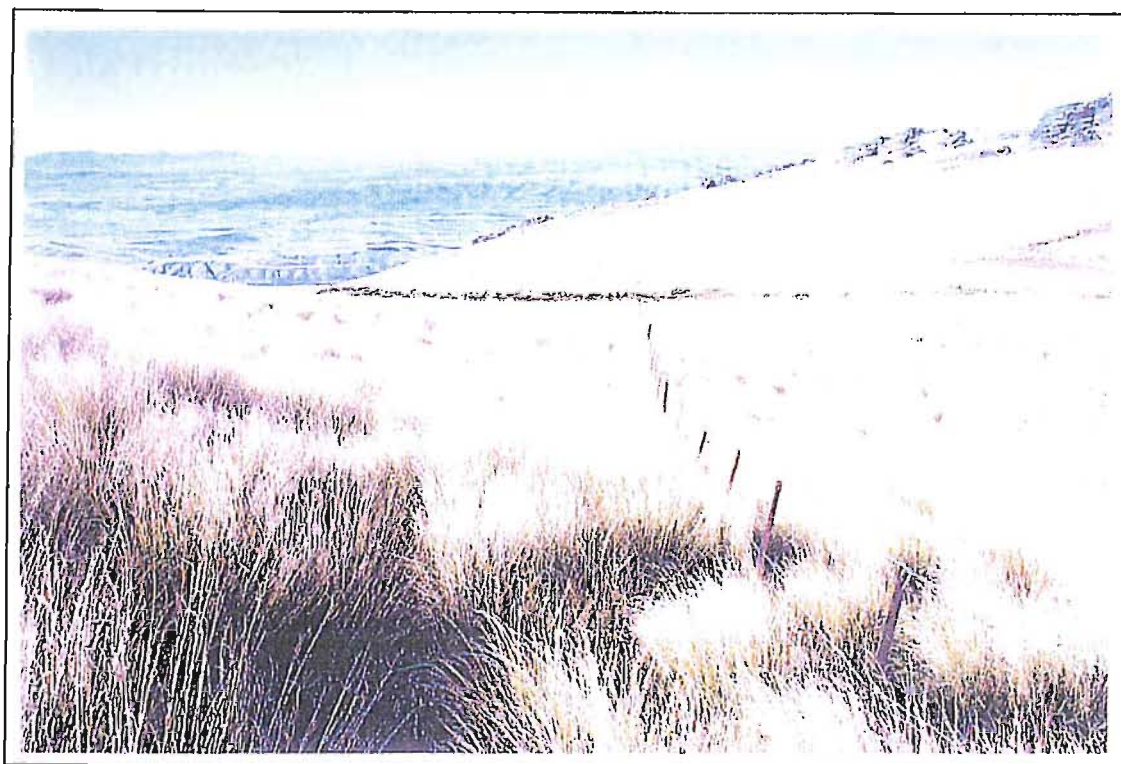


Fig. 2. This fence separates the Lauder Basin Conservation Area (right) from Cambrian Hills pastoral lease (left). Pristine tussock grasslands in the Reserve, which extend over the crest of the Dunstans, are only part of the 2,760ha RAP A1 identified by PNA surveys. Tenure review offers an opportunity to protect another 700ha on Cambrian Hills pastoral lease, part of which can be seen on the left.



Fig. 3. This view is looking from the eastern boundary of Cambrian Hills across Shepherds Creek to the western boundary at about 1,100m. This mid-altitude country lies almost entirely within the RAP A1 North Dunstan and should be protected as an outcome of this tenure review. Only the foreground, on the true left of Shepherds Creek should be excluded from the proposed Conservation Area.



Fig. 4. A track runs northwards from Dunstan Peak to Cluden Pass. This would provide a good mountain bike trip from St Bathans to the Lindis country and SH 8. However, both the track and Dunstan Peak itself are just outside Cambrian Hills pastoral lease and are therefore outside the scope of this tenure review.

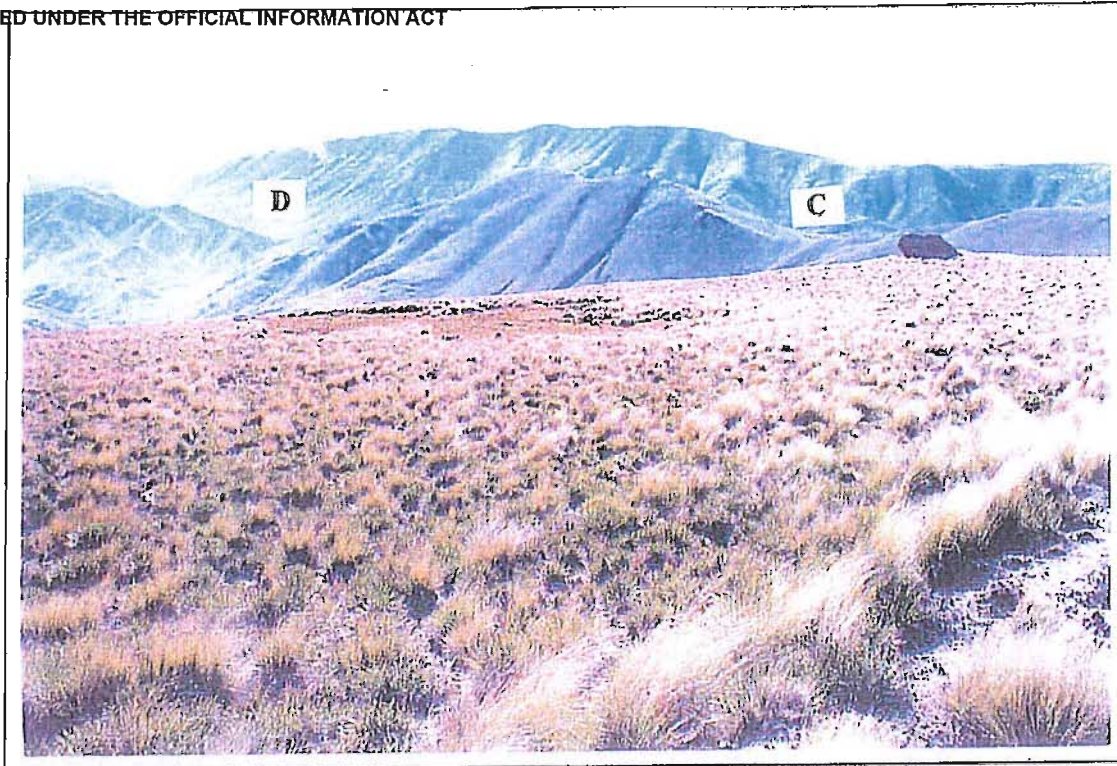


Fig. 5. The most northerly part of Cambrian Hills occupies some of the smooth northern slopes of the Dunstons and drains into the Cluden/Lindis river system. In this view the Cluden (C) and Dunstan (D) Passes over the Chain Hills can also be seen. The LUC Class VII land seen here may not be able to be managed in an ecologically sustainable way unless nutrient losses due to burning and removal of animal products are balanced by fertiliser application to replenish soil nutrient reserves.



Fig. 6. LUC Class VI land occupies about 600ha of the lower slopes below about 800m. This area has medium suitability for pastoral use and can probably be managed sustainably, so it appears suitable for freeholding. There is also some historic interest in gold workings which include water races like the one seen here leading to Vinegar Hill. Historic relics could be protected under covenant.

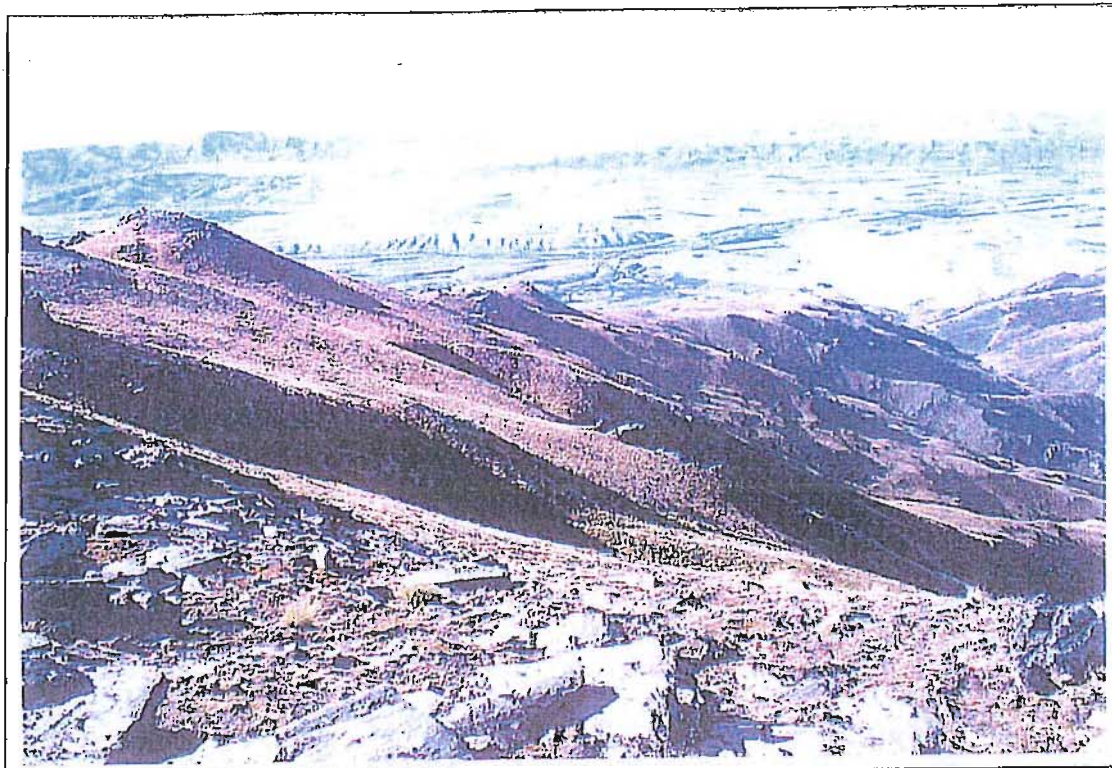


Fig. 7. A temporary, and only partial, solution to the lack of public access to the Lauder Basin Conservation Area might be to designate walking only access up the western boundary of Cambrian Hills. This would start on a farm track near Welshmans Gully and continue as a route up the spur seen in this view. This view over the Manuherikia Valley is from Trig 'I' at 1,644m, about 800m west of the boundary. It shows part of RAP A6 North Dunstan and the boundary which runs down the crest of the spur.

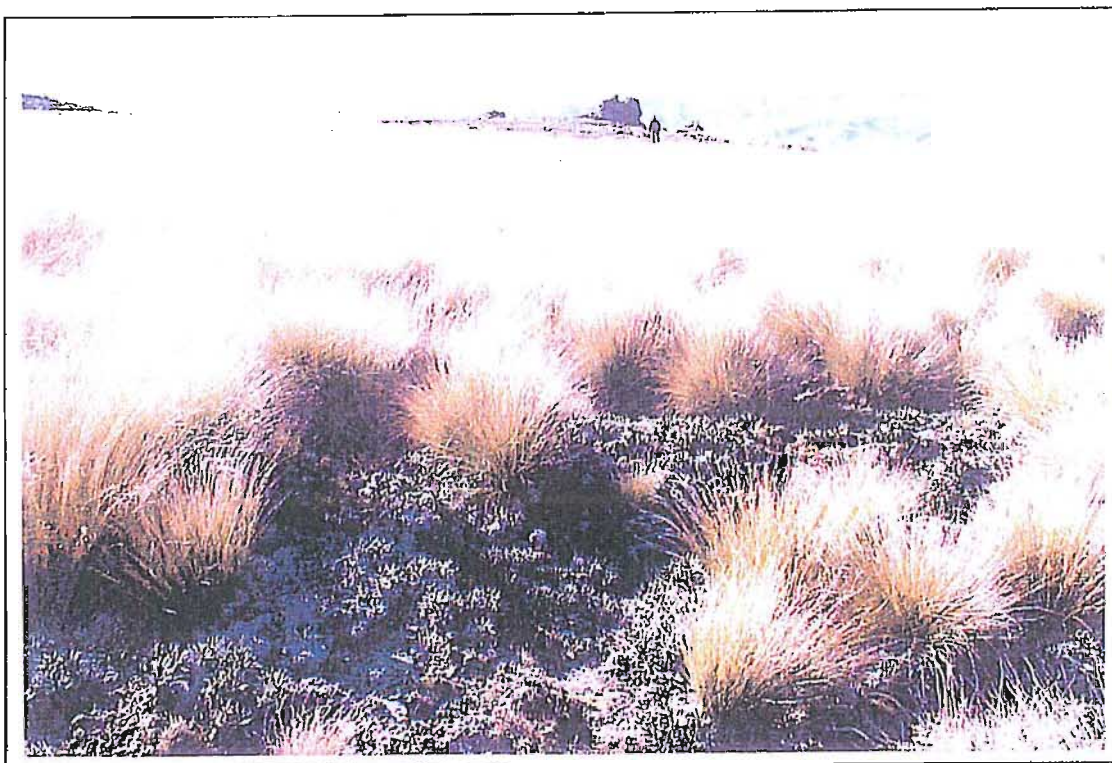


Fig. 8. The PNA survey reported that *"in the north of the Dunstan Mountains , the summit dome has very little cushion and herbfield. It is dominated by extensive dense slim snow tussockland"*. Where there are herbfields they make a strong contrast with the tussockland especially when the *Celmisia* are profusely flowering. This view shows part of RAP A1 North Dunstan at the head of Shepherds Creek basin .



Fig. 9. "Important remnants of forest vegetation include broadleaf forest particularly in the north, and more widespread Hall's totara treeland with traces of celery pine and bog pine. Matagouri shrublands are abundant throughout below 900 metres. Shrublands or scrub dominated by *Coprosma propinqua* are also widespread adjacent to streams, including some mixed scrub of high species diversity." There is a good example of one such forest remnant situated in the lower reaches of Shepherds Creek. The presence of waterfalls in this creek makes it a particularly attractive place to explore.

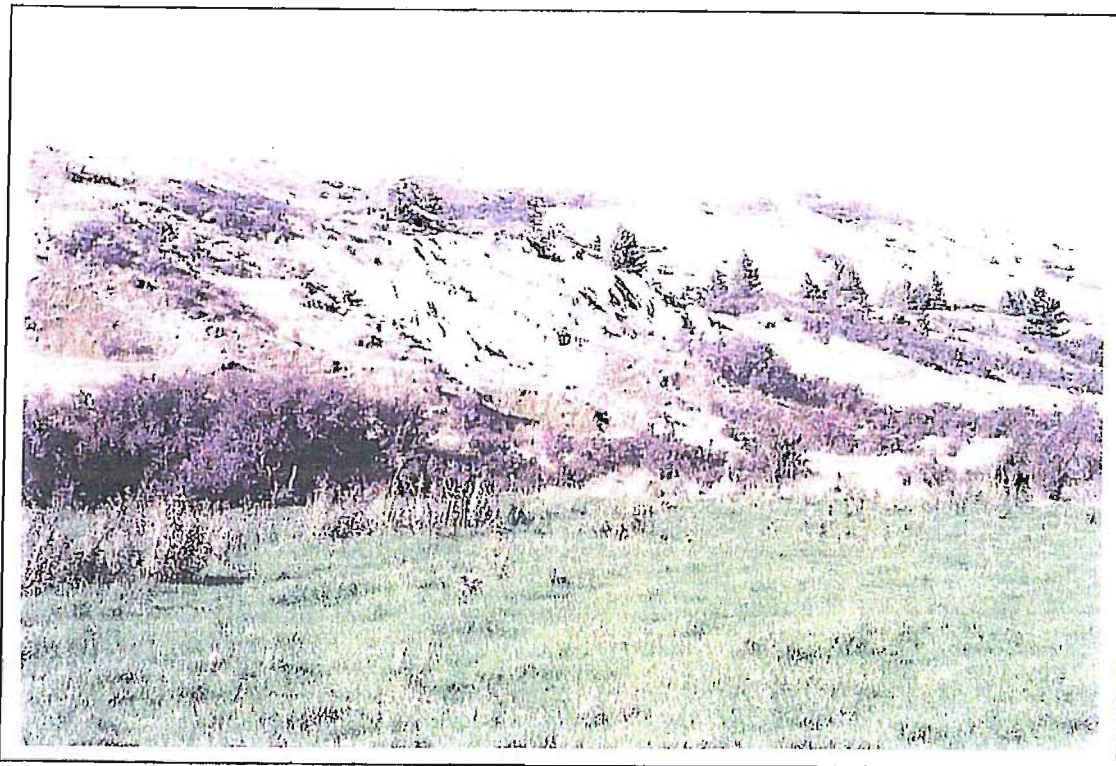


Fig. 10. Historic gold workings near Cambrians and Vinegar Hill, together with water races in this area and in Welshmans Gully, add interest to the area and might be protected under covenant. Farming operations could be allowed to continue so long as these historic features are not damaged by erosion due to animal grazing pressure. Wilding pine control will be required.