

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name : CLUDEN STATION

Lease number : PO 213

Conservation Resources Report - Part 2

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.

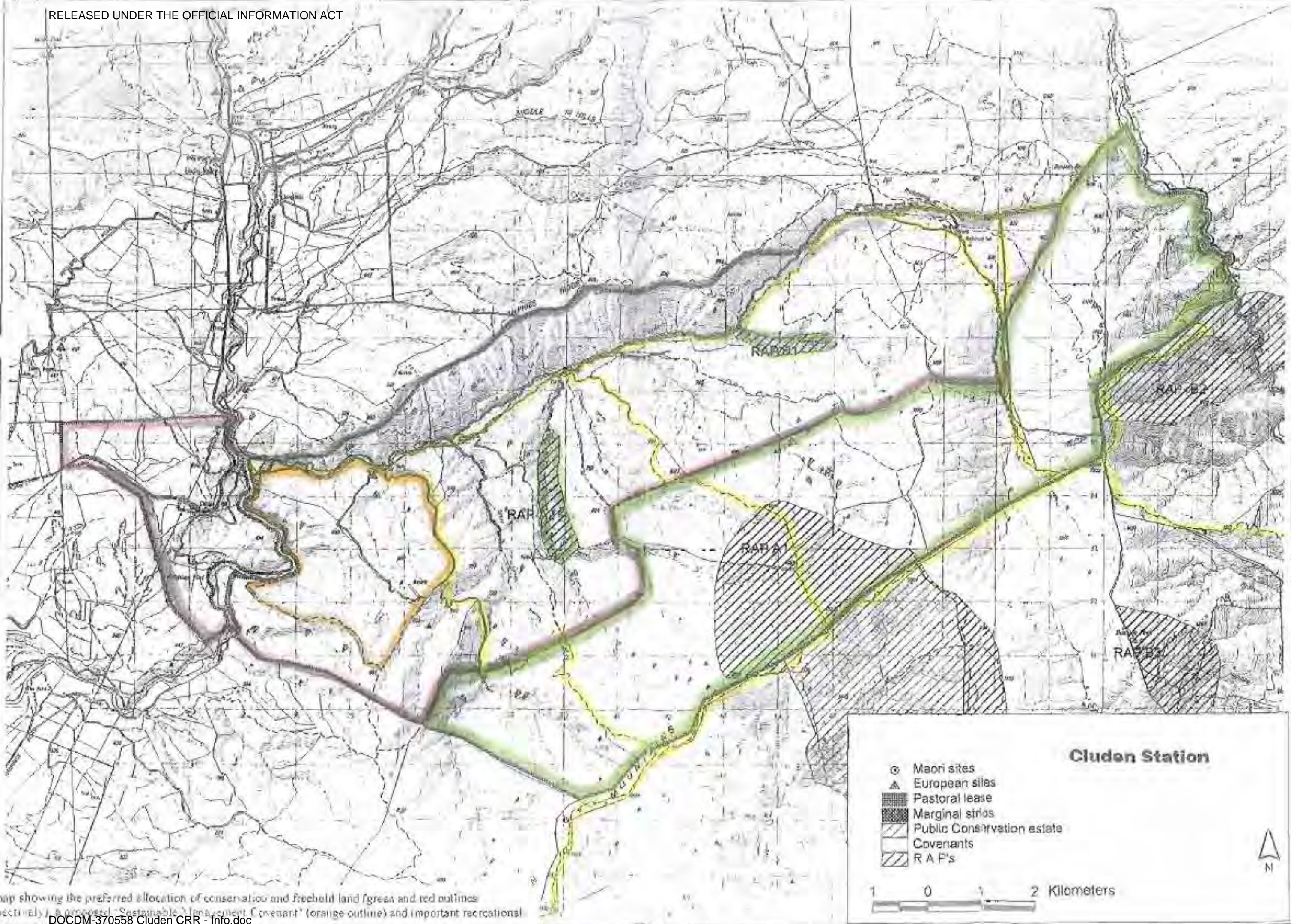
Note: Plans which form part of the Conservation Resources Report are published separately.

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

February

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APPENDIX 9: Photos – Cluden Pastoral Lease



A map showing the preferred allocation of conservation and freehold land (green and red outlines respectively), a proposed 'Sustainable Management Covenant' (orange outline) and important recreational access routes (thick black lines).



Fig. 1 Cluden Station spreads over some 12,000ha and occupies a commanding position at the northern end of the Dunstan Mountains. The view here is from one of several spurs leading down to the Cluden Stream. These spurs command expansive views of the Upper Clutha area which makes a very scenic backdrop to the many potential recreational opportunities on the Dunstan Mountains.



Fig. 2 This view shows the junction of the Cluden Stream and the Lindis River near the western boundary of Cluden Station. The Cluden Valley forms a natural east-west communication route between the Lindis and Dunstan Creek valleys and could provide recreational access to St Bathans. Topography rises from about 300m at the Lindis to more than 1,500m on the crest of the range.



Fig. 3 Cavalcaders take a break on the northern slopes of the Dunstan Mountains and look back to the Richmond Valley and Dunstan Pass (D). A legal road leads over the Pass to Dunstan Creek in the valley below the dominant escarpment of the St Bathans Range. Although no vehicle track crosses Dunstan Pass, there is a track over Cluden Pass to the right of this picture. It is important that public access is secured through tenure review.



Fig. 4 Cluden Station contains a wide range of land types including the downland in the foreground, very small areas of alluvial flats, semi-arid north facing slopes in the middle distance and rolling, tor-studded tussock tops extending up to 1,500m and more on the skyline. Much of this land has been classified LUC Class VIII with severe limitations for pastoral use.

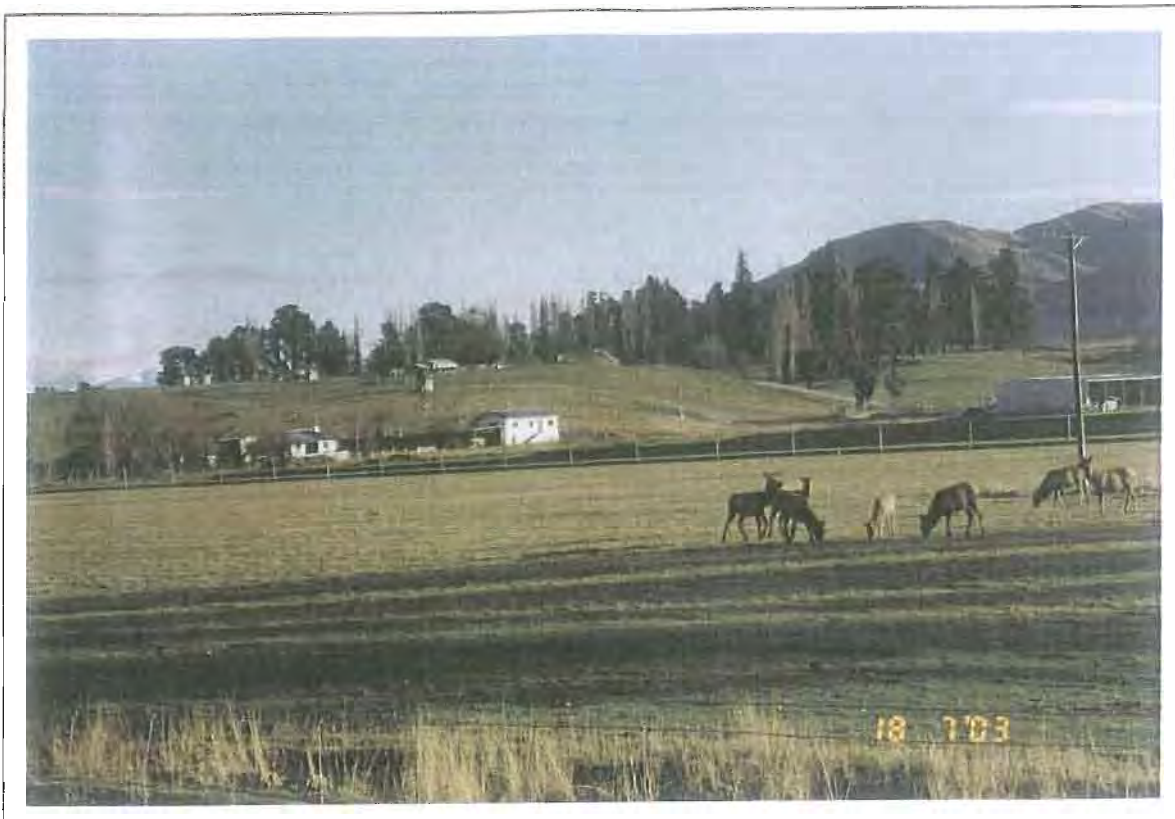


Fig. 5 Cluden Station homestead is situated near the Lindis Pass Highway where it passes through Tarras. There are irrigated flats in the foreground which support an intensive deer farming enterprise on freehold land. The homestead is on a low alluvial terrace in the middle distance, while the pastoral leasehold land begins some 6km closer to Lindis Pass, on Cluden Hill.

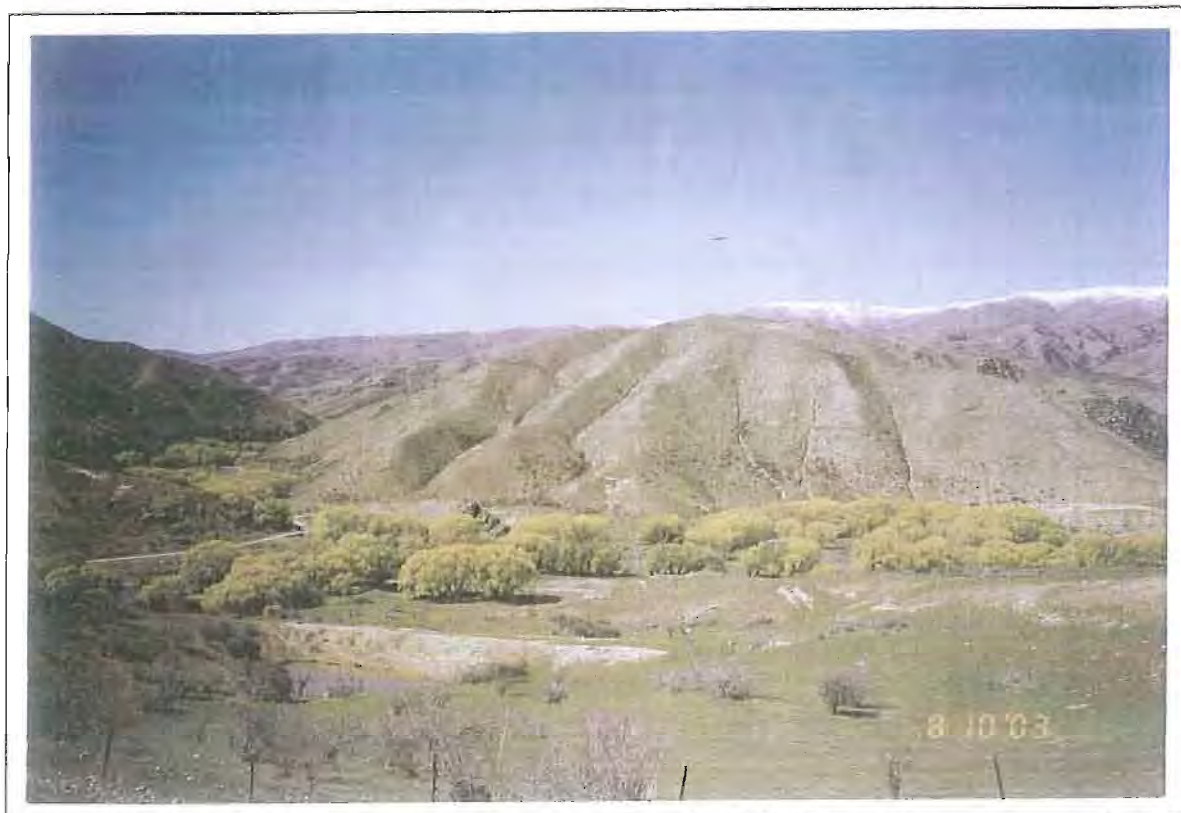


Fig. 6 The fresh spring growth of the willows contrasts sharply with the almost barren, semi-arid, Hieracium-infested north-facing slopes to the east of the Lindis River. It is hard to imagine how these slopes could be managed in a way that would promote ecologically sustainable land use. Conservation values, other than recovery potential in the absence of all grazing (including rabbits), are also low with the land in its present state.



Fig. 7 Here, one of the Otago Goldfields Cavalcade Trails makes its way along the Dunstan tops between Cluden Pass and Cloudy Peak. This route is likely to become more popular in future as traditional NZ trampers and outdoor people look for alternatives because they are being displaced from places like National Parks and the increasingly well known 'Great Walks' which are becoming dominated by overseas visitors.



Fig. 8 From the Dunstan tops there are expansive views to the Manuherikia and Central Otago, to the Upper Clutha and, on a fine day, as far away as Mt Aspiring and even Mt Cook. Such scenic experiences add greatly to recreational values of these great upland landscapes. Some small areas of stony, deflated soils can be seen in the middle distance before the tor-studded skyline is reached.



Fig. 9 There is a smaller area of Arrow Steepland soils on the shady faces, as seen here on the true right of Cluden Stream below McPhies Ridge, which is more productive, mainly because it is less arid than so much of the other north-facing depleted land. This land has been classified LUC Class VI with moderate limitations for pastoral use. With appropriate maintenance to replenish nutrients removed in animal products it should be possible to manage such areas in a sustainable manner so that they are suitable for freeholding.



Fig. 10 The best soils on Cluden Station are confined to very limited areas on alluvial flats on the floors of the Lindis and Cluden Stream Valleys. These have been classified LUC Class III with only minor limitations for pastoral use and are therefore eminently suitable to become freehold. The flats here are squeezed between the downlands and the semi-arid, degraded slopes to the east of the Lindis River.



Fig.11 Public access up the Cluden Valley over a legal road and beyond, to the Dunstan Pass is important for through trips to St Bathans, but it is also valuable for shorter, day trips by locals from the Upper Clutha. Here a group from Wanaka is enjoying a day trip in the mid-reaches of the Cluden Stream, with the kind permission of the runholder to make the return trip via McPhies Ridge.



Fig. 12 The Cluden Bridge over the Lindis River not only gives access to the Cluden Stream and its valley, but is also a convenient starting point for gentle walks along the banks of the Lindis River. Although marginal strips have been laid off, in places these are not wide enough to negotiate bluffs and wetlands adjacent to the river. Appropriate widening should be included in the tenure review provisions.



Fig.13 There has been a traditional camping spot beside the Lindis River, near Cluden Hut, for many years. This is thought to be only partly on the marginal strip and it would be beneficial to recognise this recreational use by establishing a small Recreational Reserve through tenure review.

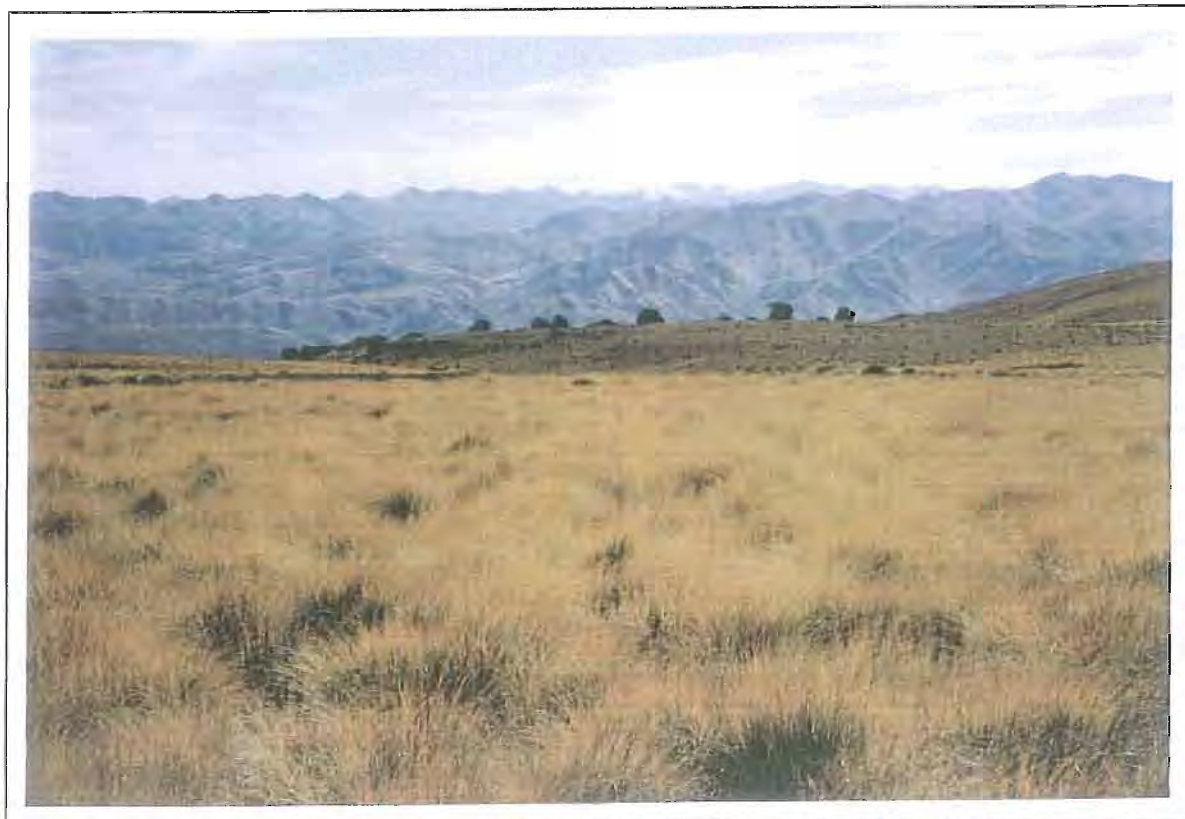


Fig. 14 Several significant inherent values are illustrated in this view on the crest of the Dunstan Mountains, along the back boundary of Cluden Station. These include the healthy tussock grasslands, the wide-sweeping tussock and tor landscapes, and commanding views over the Otago block mountains to the main divide.

APPENDIX 9: Photos



Cluden lower country, looking from Little Cluden block. McPhies Ridge to left, Lindis River with willows in centre left and Lethbridges to right.



Lower Ewe and Rats Tail blocks. Hawkweed dominated degraded country with sweet briar occupying gullies and some faces.



Grassy flats beside the Lindis River are popular with campers and picnickers. Several baches are located nearby on the pastoral lease.



"Cluden Hut"- one of several baches near Lindis River on the pastoral lease.



Diverse shrubland in upper Lethbridges, with *Olearia lineata* tree to right, and *Carmichaelia kirkii* growing near creek bed. The shrubland is relatively open with sweet briar common.



Diverse riparian shrubland in unnamed tributary of Cluden Stream (RAP A2). One of largest known populations of *Carmichaelia kirkii* here, with *Pachycladon cheesemanii* in bluff systems.



Lower slopes of Blue Slip with mouse ear hawkweed to 80%, bare ground 10-20%, *Raoulia australis*, *R. parkii*, *Vitadinia australis*, *Hieracium praealtum*, *Melicytus alpinus*, chewed down matagouri and *Carmichaelia petriei* and *Pimelea oreophila*.



Shrublands in eastern Blue Slip block. Three Corner block right skyline.



Diverse shrublands in eastern Blue Slip block.



Diverse riparian shrubland in lower-mid Cluden Stream. Lower slopes of McPhies Ridge (in right of photo) are dominated by sweet briar and exotic pasture species.



Diverse shrubland with *Coprosma propinqua*, *Coprosma intertexta*, *Olearia bullata* on western side of Richmond Valley (Shaws Block).



**Unnamed *Melicytus* species, hanging over rock outcrop in mid Cluden Stream.
(McPhies 3 block).**



**Degraded fescue tussockland at 1200m, junction of Rats Tail, Vercoes and Three
Corners blocks.**



Head of Vercoes, western end of property.



Rock outcrops along North Dunstan Mountain tops, Vercoes.



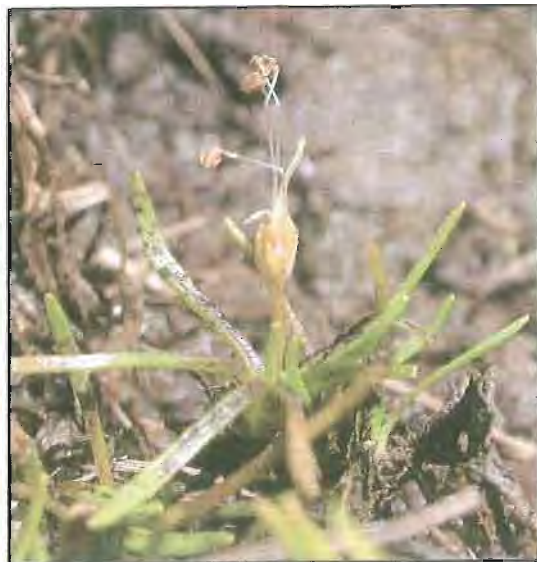
Cushionfields on North Dunstan Mountain summit with *Hebe buchananii*, *Celmisia sessiliflora* and *Hebe lycopodioides*.



Extensive slim leaved tussockland (RAP A1) on summit of North Dunstan Mountains.



Good quality slim leaved tussockland in Harleys block, North Dunstan Mountains.



Threatened plants *Myosotis cheesemanii* and *Plantago obconica*, both found on summit of North Dunstan Mountains



Degraded tussockland below about 1300m in Shaws & Top Richmond blocks. Scattered slim tussocks are present with fescue tussock and mouse eared hawkweed. Chain Hills in background.



Bluffy gorge in Top Richmond block supports diverse shrublands and uncommon species on bluffs. The invertebrate fauna is diverse here. Surrounding country is degraded, dominated by mouse eared hawkweed with fescue tussock.



View into Dunstan Creek and St. Bathans Range from Chain Hills.



Head of Richmond Valley showing good tussockland, with shrubland at the right.



Slim leaved tussockland with *Aciphylla aurea* and *Carmichaelia vexillata*, Chain Hills.



Roys Peak gecko or a new species of gecko, found on the Chain Hills.