

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: CLUDEN STATION

Lease number: PO 213

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.

February 05



Cluden Station Crown Pastoral Lease

Resource Report prepared by John Hollows
for the Otago Fish and Game Council

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise the Commissioner of Crown Lands on the sports fish and game values present on the land included in the Cluden Station Crown pastoral lease. The lease is being considered for land tenure review and disposal under the provisions of the Crown Pastoral Land Act. As well as habitat values the report covers angling and hunting values and associated access issues.

Information for this report has been researched and prepared by Otago Fish and Game Council staff.

2. General Description

Cluden Station is a large parcel of land located between the Lindis River and Dunstan Creek, to the north of Tarras. The property consists of some river terrace land with the largest proportion being rolling hill country. The gullies through which water flows are generally steep side and incised in nature with the riparian edges commonly consisting of thick, sometimes impenetrable Briar and Matagouri. Waterways on the property suffer from low flows during summer resulting from a combination of natural low flows and/or in the case of larger streams water extraction.

3. Habitat values

3.1 Sports fish

The Lindis River provides the main habitat for adult sports fish (brown trout, *Salmo trutta*) within the Cluden property. Many other waterways within the property are suitable for and utilised by brown trout for spawning and juvenile recruitment. In particular, Cluden Stream and many of its tributaries contains a large amount of habitat, for spawning and juvenile recruitment (Figure 1.) (see waters identified in 6.1, Habitat Protection).

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

Otago Region

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Figure 1. Un-named tributary of Cluden Stream with good habitat for sports fish spawning, juvenile rearing, and adult habitat.

A healthy population of brook char (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) were found in a tributary of Dunstan Creek (E2250744 N5599090) (Figure 2). The stream contained spawning, juvenile rearing and a limited amount of adult habitat.



Figure 2. Brook char (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)

3.2 Game birds

The Briar and Matagouri covered faces and flats within the property provide excellent habitat for upland game birds (Figure 3). Large coveys of adult California quail (*Lophortyx californicus*) and their young were noted on most mid-range altitude areas of the lease property with thick cover.



Figure 3. Habitat suitable for California quail on Cluden Station.

Higher up, above the tussock line, good habitat for chukar (*Alectoris chukar*) (Figure 4) was noted with one pair sighted and several others identified by their distinctive call.



Figure 4. Broken, rocky, high country habitat suitable for chukar on Cluden Station.

The river flats along side Cluden Stream and the Lindis River provide good habitat for paradise shelduck nesting, juvenile rearing and adult habitat.

4. Recreational Values

4.1 Sports fish

The main fishery values within this property lie in recruitment for Clutha River and Lake Dunstan fisheries. Although some anglers favour the Lindis River early in the season, the main value of this water would be in fisheries recruitment. The Lindis River, Clutha River and Lake Dunstan receive 147, 36,650, and 19,872 annual angler visits respectively (2002 National Angler Survey) highlighting the importance of these waterways to the central lakes fishery.

The brook char in the Dunstan Creek tributary have little recreational value but are important in that some adult fish may drop into Dunstan Creek, thereby becoming available to anglers.

4.2 Game birds

The Cluden lease property provides good upland game hunting opportunities with good numbers of California quail and low numbers of chukor known to inhabit the property.

Low numbers of paradise shelducks were noted along Cluden Stream and the Lindis River. These would provide limited hunting opportunities.

5. Access

Angling and hunting access on the Cluden property in at the lease holders discretion.

6. Fish & Game Perspective

6.1 Habitat Protection

The Lindis River requires section 24 marginal strip protection if it is not already proposed. Cluden stream, Big Spur Creek, and the unnamed tributaries that flow into Cluden Stream at GPS points E2239870 N5596255, E2240885 N5596725, E2240025 N5596634 and E2243195

N5597149) require marginal strip or covenant protection to prevent activities that may impact on sports fishery values.

The catchments of Big spur Creek and the un-named tributaries that flow into Cluden Stream at points E2239850 N5596235, E2240010 N5596345, E2240010 N5596725 require some form of protection that prevent burning or spraying. This would not exclude the current level of stock grazing continuing. This is required to keep some areas around the Matagouri and Briar open and suitable for California quail habitat. This should extend from the Cluden River flats up to the higher altitude levels.

6.2 Access

The formed road that links State Highway 8 (approximately E2233625 N5594339) down to the Lindis River needs to be given road reserve status or some other mechanism that will ensure public vehicular access to the Lindis River.

Dated: March 1 2004.



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Otago Fish & Game Council