

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name : CRAIGROY

Lease number : PO 233

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.

March

06

PHOTOS:



Photo 1: Duffers Saddle Road winds its way up towards the crest of the Old Woman Range. Golden speargrass gives the landscape an orange hue, while frequent tors contribute to an impressive landscape.

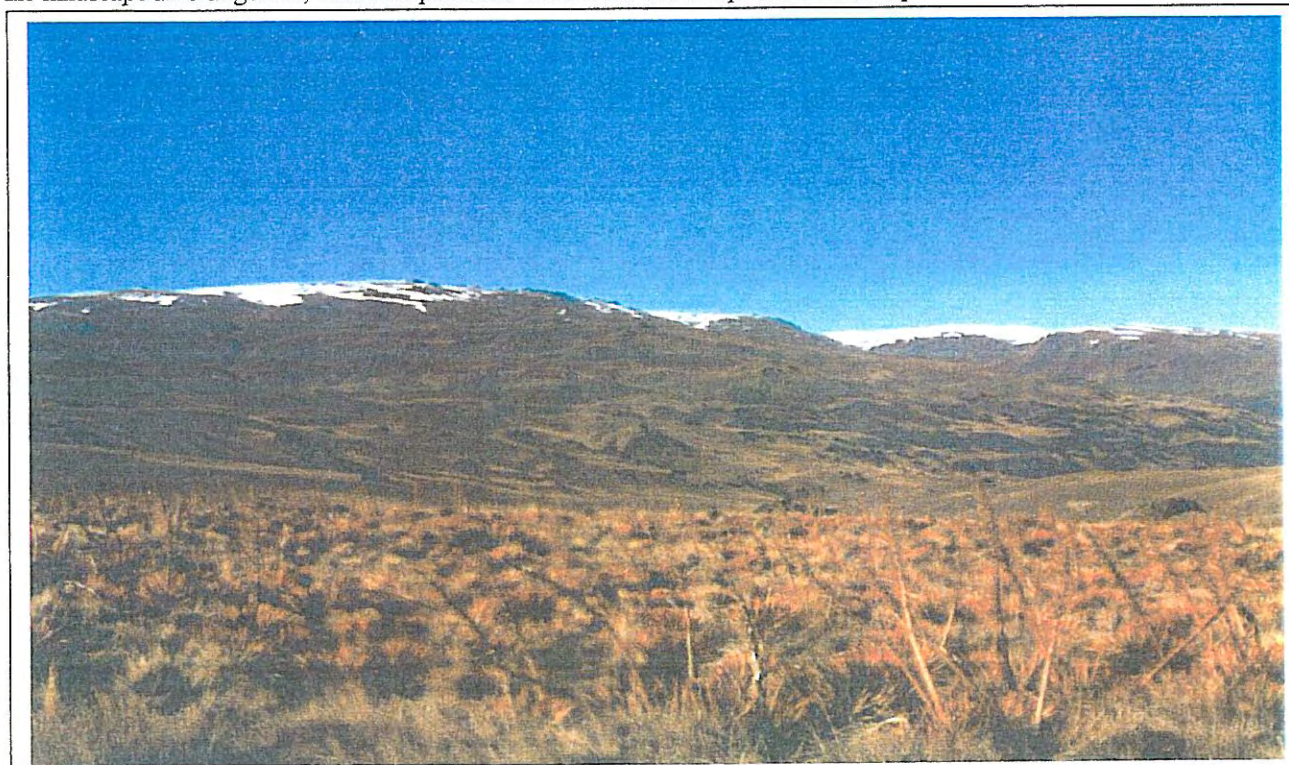


Photo2: The montane slopes are tor studded, with matagouri shrubland becoming common where fertiliser has been applied near Coal Creek.



Photo 3: The Nevis Valley. Important historic and ecological values are present on the flats (true right of Nevis River), except where cultivated.



Photo 4: The rare sedge *Carex muelleri* is extensive on river flats north of Coal Creek (the shorter tawny 'tussock'), where it is present with fescue tussock, matagouri and porcupine shrub.



Photo 5: Barn Creek gorge supports the rare broom *Carmichaelia compacta*, with tree daisy, coprosmas and scattered *Carex kaloides* by the stream.



Photo 6: Snow totara shrubland at Barn Creek; located on boulderfields, sweeping over tors, and scattered in tussockland. Where accessible, it has been browsed.

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LETTER FROM LINZ
WEBSITE

File: PAL 14-04-241 & PAL 14-04-233

14 June 2004

David Paterson
QV Valuations
PO Box 215
DUNEDIN

Dear David

Ben Nevis and Craigroy Tenure Reviews- SIVs in Proposed Hydro Lake Footprint

As you requested, the department has assessed the type, extent and distribution of the significant inherent values within the footprint of the proposed hydro lake, as defined on the plan (dated 2 February 2002) supplied by the lessee.

Of particular importance is the presence within the footprint of threatened plant species and their habitat; and historic sites.

Threatened Plants

The most significant plant species are:

- a) *Leptinella* (a) (CHR 515297; Clutha River) (a tiny button daisy) found on small hummocky gravel pavements, known elsewhere only at Pisa Flats (Clutha valley) and awaiting taxonomic description as an Otago endemic; and
- b) *Myosotis pygmaea* var. *glauca* (a forget-me-not) found on convex steep slope of the lower flat near Nevis River, spreading from natural habitat onto mining tailings.

Leptinella (a) (CHR 515297; Clutha River) and *Myosotis pygmaea* var. *glauca* are respectively ranked Nationally Critical and Nationally Endangered on the Threatened Species list, the highest and second highest ranking according to threat of extinction.

The department does not have a thorough, up-to-date and comprehensive knowledge of the extent and characteristics of other populations of these plants in either the Nevis Valley or in similar habitats in Otago i.e. Manuherikia Valley. Conclusively determining the significance of the populations of these occurring within the footprint is therefore not possible.

Subsequently, the department recommends that the lessee employ a contractor to survey both the recorded populations of these species and similar habitat within the Nevis Valley, for the purpose of better determining their extent and distribution. Such a survey would be best conducted in spring and the department would recommend Neil Simpson as a contractor (C/o Conservation Consultants, PO Box 478, Queenstown, ph (03) 442 2035), given his familiarity with the area and these species. The department would make available to the contractor its records of these species distribution and would also advise of likely key potential habitats.

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Historic Resources

The recorded historic resources within the footprint comprise of a Moa Hunter site and sites associated with gold mining.

To the department's knowledge, the most significant site is the Moa Hunter site (site record number F42/7, information held by Central Otago File Keeper of the NZ Archaeological Association [Dr Jill Hamel, 42 Ann St. Dunedin]), located adjacent to Schoolhouse Creek near Trig Y. The contribution made by the historic resources (associated with gold mining) that lie within the footprint to the overall sequence of unusually intact systems of alluvial gold mining sites within the Nevis Valley is also of considerable significance.

However, the department does not have the requisite detailed knowledge of all the individual historic sites within the footprint, necessary to enable a full assessment of the proposal's impact. Again therefore, the department recommends that the lessee employ a contractor to determine the extent and distributions of these resources. The department would recommend either Dr Jill Hamel or Peter Petchey (36 District Road, Sawyers Bay, Pt Chalmers) as possible contractors and as per the threatened plants the department will assist the contractor to the best of its abilities.

Please note that the lessee would be required to gather the information on the extent and distribution of significant values, including botanical and historic resources, whilst formulating their application for the necessary resource consents.

If you require clarification or any further information please do not hesitate contacting me.

Endorsed

HCTRM

Tony Perrett / /

Yours sincerely

Bruce Hill
for Conservator

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