

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: DINGLEBURN

Lease number: PO 151

Public submissions – Part 2

These submissions were received as a result of the public advertising of the preliminary proposal for tenure review.

May

04

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389

Suzanne Smith

From: cpearson86@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, 17 January 2004 4:29 p.m.
To: Suzanne Smith
Cc: mike.floate@xtra.co.nz
Subject: Submission on Dingleburn tenure review

DTZ NEW ZEALAND
ALEXANDRA
19 JAN 2004
RECEIVED

Dear Sir:

I would like to send in the following submission on the Dingleburn Tenure review which closes Jan 19th.

In general I strongly support this proposal because I believe that the outcomes of this tenure review will go a long way towards achieving important objectives and priorities for the Hawea – Lindis Special Place declared in the Conservation Management Strategy for Otago. I applaud the proposal that 10,110ha (CA1, CA2, CA3 and CA4) be restored to full Crown ownership and control as Conservation Area. I am concerned however, that over a distance of about one kilometer between Bricks Gully and Yards Gully (near the head of Lake Hawea) a proposed 20m wide strip of freehold land along the road would isolate a section of CA1 near the shore of the lake. I presume this proposed freehold strip is to provide farm access across proposed conservation land for management purposes, but in similar circumstances such access is usually provided by way of an easement over conservation land in favor of the holder and I see no reason why that cannot be done in this case.

I have no objection to the other special provisions in favor of the runholder (ie the granting of a concession licence for guided hunting over an area of some 900ha in Conservation Area CA5 or a Right of Way easement concession for stock driving ect.)

PS I am 2/3 of the way through a 3 year posting in the US. We will be back in about a year though and I am watching the tenure review scene.

Best Regards

Chris Pearson
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National Geodetic Survey
Illinois Geodetic Advisor
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Our ref: SBC-08-34

16 January 2004

Commissioner of Crown Lands
c/- DTZ New Zealand Ltd
Land Resources Division
PO Box 27
ALEXANDRA



Dear Sir

SUBMISSION ON TENURE REVIEW OF DINGLEBURN PASTORAL LEASE

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Preliminary Proposal for the tenure review of the Dingleburn Pastoral Lease. The board is pleased with the high quality of the maps, photos and background information associated with this proposal, and it hopes that future Preliminary Proposals will be prepared to a similar standard.

In general, the board considers that the Preliminary Proposal represents a good outcome, in terms of the total area to be protected and the range of altitudinal sequences or transects within the areas to be protected.

To be more specific, the board supports the following aspects of the preliminary proposal:

- the designation of about 16572 ha as land to be restored to Crown control as conservation areas;
- the retention of about 8000 ha of ex-Hawea State Forest land as conservation area;
- the proposed conservation covenants CC1 and CC2 over areas of about 80 ha and 40 ha, respectively.

The board believes that the proposal should be changed as follows:

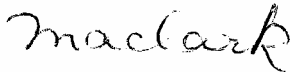
- the proposed conservation covenants CC3, CC4, CC5 and CC6 over areas of about 45 ha, 80 ha, 120 ha and 1700 ha, respectively, should become conservation areas, because this is justified by the significant inherent values to be found in them;
- a condition prohibiting burning should be included in the covenants and grazing concessions;
- the hunting concession should include a condition requiring a cull of deer if the numbers exceeded a certain level.

Finally, the board draws attention to the following details in the Appendices:

- Appendix 2, Schedule 2, Special Condition 3 - this condition is not specific enough or strong enough to ensure the ongoing protection of 'the particular Values specified in Schedule 1'(BACKGROUND C);
- Appendix 2, Schedule 2, Special Condition 5 - the Minister of Conservation should be 'him' not 'her';
- Appendix 3, Schedule 2 - there are no stock limits. Is this an oversight?;
- Appendix 6, page 10 - no allowance has been made for inflation.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on this proposal and we are willing to elaborate on any of the issues we have raised.

Yours faithfully



P P

Fergus Sutherland
Chairperson

Upper Clutha Branch

16th January 2004

The Commissioner of Crown Lands
C/O DTZ NZ Ltd
Land Resources Division
PO Box 27
ALEXANDRA

Dear Sir

DINGLE BURN - Submission on Preliminary Proposal.

We would be pleased if you would accept this submission from our branch of Forest and Bird. Our branch has at present a membership of 184 members and every member takes an interest in tenure review as it is an issue that is ever present in our area. Our Society nationwide has 56 branches and a total of 40,000 members and is well known for its work in protecting the natural values of New Zealand. The society feels it is extremely important to have input at this stage of the tenure review process.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr and Mrs Mead for their help in showing us over the property. It was very generous of them to give of their time in the way they did.

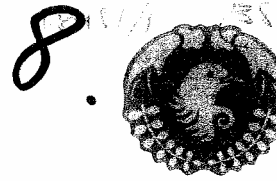
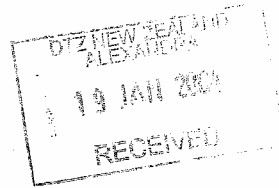
With some reservations, we see this is a good proposal, both for the public of New Zealand and also the holder. We will make recommendations for some alterations in the submission.

Forest and Bird also fully supports the recently announced complementary objectives to the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998. (Refer to EDC Min 5/3; CAB Min (03) 11/5) These are:-

- *To promote the management of the Crown's high country in a way that is ecologically sustainable.*
- *To promote the significant inherent values of reviewable land by the creation of protective mechanisms; or preferably, by the restoration of the land concerned to full Crown ownership and control.*
- *To secure public access to and enjoyment of high country land for the people to enjoy.*
- *To ensure that conservation outcomes for the high country are consistent with the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.*
- *To progressively establish a network of parks and reserves.*

Dingleburn is on the western and northern side of three other runs in the tenure review process. Ben Avon and Longslip, which have already had preliminary proposals put before the public, and Lake Hawea which is also in the tenure review process, and on which we have reported at the early warning stage. These runs, together with the stewardship land ex Hawea State Forest, will make up a large and important block of country between the Ahuriri River and the Hunter River and Lake Hawea water systems.

This large area has significant inherent conservation values and when returned to Crown ownership and control as conservation land will admirably meet the new Government Complementary Objectives to the CPLAct 1998: "...h. Progressively establish a network of high country parks and reserves..."



FOREST
& BIRD

ROYAL FOREST AND
BIRD PROTECTION
SOCIETY OF
NEW ZEALAND INC

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As most of the land to be protected by being returned to full Crown ownership and control, or by way of protective covenants, commences at lake or river level, 346ms, and runs up to the mountain tops at over 2000ms it will also encompass the biodiversity contained in some of the lower country and meet the requirements of: “... g. *Ensure the conservation outcomes for the high country is consistent with the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy...*”

It is pleasing to note that notice has been taken of some of the issues raised, and recommendations made, at the Early Warning Meeting of NGOs held in Alexandra on 2nd November 1999 and have been adopted in this proposal

General description of proposal as presented:

1. 10,110 ha (*approximately*) to be designated as land to be restored to full Crown ownership and control under Section 35 (2) (a) CPL Act as a conservation area.
2. 6462 ha (*approximately*) to be restored to Crown control under Section 35 (2) (b) and 36 (1) (a) CPL Act as a conservation area subject to qualifications:

Qualifications:

- (a) Concession for sheep and cattle grazing under Section 36 (1) (a) CPL Act over an area of approximately 140 hectares comprising four discrete areas of fan within the Hunter Valley for a term of 15 years for up to 200 stock units per annum. We believe 15 years is too long, people will forget it is a concession. We would recommend 7 years.
 - (b) Concession for sheep grazing under Section (36) (1) (a) CPL Act over an area of approximately 6322 hectares, comprising land between Timaru Creek and the Dingle Burn for a term of 10 years for up to 600 stock units per annum. Here again we would recommend 7 years.
 - (c) Concession licence for commercial guided hunting under Section (36) (1) (a) CPL Act over an area of approximately 900 hectares, located of the ridge line between Dingle Peak and Maungatika for a term of 15 years.
 - (d) Right of Way concession under Section 36 (3) (b) CPL Act for droving stock on a route from Timaru Creek to the Dingle Burn.
 - (e) Concession licence under Section 36 (3) (b) CPL Act for access for farm management purposes across marginal strip at the Dingle Burn Bridge for a term of 30 years.
3. 7135 ha (*approximately*) to be designated as land to be disposed of by freehold disposal to the holder under Section 35 (3) CPL Act, subject to part IVA of the Conservation Act 1987, Section 11 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 and the following protective mechanisms under Section 40 (1) (b) CPL Act.

Protective mechanisms:

Under Section 40 (2) (a) CPL Act:

-3-

(a) Conservation covenant under section 77 of the Reserves Act 1977 over five individual areas totaling 365 ha (*approximately*) for the purpose of preserving the natural landscape amenity and natural environment.

(b) Conservation covenant under Section 77 of the Reserves Act 1977 over one area totalling 1700 ha (*approximately*) for the purpose of preserving the natural landscape. We believe that burning should not be permitted under this covenant as fire can easily travel into land under Crown control.

Under Section 40 (2) (c) CPL Act:

(c) Easement under Section (7) (2) Conservation Act 1987 to provide for public access variously by motorised vehicle, on foot and by non motorised vehicle, and for access for management purposes on a route from the end of the Dingleburn legal road to the Dingle Burn and the Hunter River.

(d) Easement under Section 7 (2) Conservation Act 1987 to provide for public access on foot and by non-motorized vehicle from the Dingle Burn bridge to the Dingleburn Conservation Area.

4. 8,000 ha (*approximately*) to remain as conservation area under Section 37 (1) (a) CPL Act comprising ex-Hawea State Forest land between Timaru Creek and the Dingle Burn.
5. 90 ha (*approximately*) of Conservation land to be disposed of by way of exchange with other land designated by the proposal under the Conservation Act 1987 under Section 37 (1) (c). This area comprises small portions of land, which result from rationalisation of the present bush line boundary between Conservation Area and land designated in the disposal to be disposed of to the holder.

Conservation values:

- The landscape values on this property are high and are very significant. Dingleburn as seen from SH6 presents a large block of rugged country surrounding Corner Peak which stretches from Timaru Creek to Silver Island and the Peninsular. The Peninsula is the junction between the rugged Corner Peak block to that land of a less rugged nature further north up the Hunter valley, and the higher country towards the head of the Dingle Burn itself. See photos attached.
- The recreational values of the whole property are extremely high; offering varying opportunities to a growing number of New Zealanders and visitors alike. Fishing, hunting, tramping, climbing, mountain biking and general nature appreciation to mention some of the main activities that will be able to be undertaken when access becomes more readily available and better known after the review.
- The high altitude snow tussock, *especially the Chionochloa macra*, sub-alpine, and alpine vegetation is in a relatively unmodified state and of high quality.
- On Dingleburn we are able to see and to protect the vegetation and biodiversity representative of the higher rainfall country in the north in the Hunter Valley, to the lower rainfall country in the south at Timaru Creek. This is a distance of 45 ks. which is very significant.
- The areas of kanuka and native bush that have not been modified by farming practices are valuable areas representative of what was present during pre-pastoral farming days.

Land to be designated as freehold for disposal:

- This could be described as being in three sections
- The northern or top section consists of a narrow strip of land extending over 20ks from the mouth of the Dingle Burn, to about 4ks above the mouth of the Hunter river. This takes in all the lower fans of the various creeks and streams coming off the main Mt Barth to Mt Jones ridge. The bottom 5ks of this ridge rises to approximately 1300ms just south of Mt Jones. This section faces west and contains covenants CC1 to CC4.
- The centre section consists of the Peninsula, the lower flats and terraces of the Dingle Burn around the homestead, and all the open and clear lower faces and spurs on the north side of the ridge running from Corner Peak to Maungatika. It rises to about 1400ms in parts and faces the north. It contains Covenant CC5.
- The southern or lower section takes in a small strip of lower country containing the fans and faces on the south and southwest side of Corner Peak and the back faces of either side of Deer Spur Creek. This section contains CC6.
- The rainfall variation over the whole 45ks running from north to south is considerable.

We believe this proposal has been well devised when we take into consideration the large variations in the land, its aspect and climate. Credit must be given to the lessees, LINZ the agent for the Crown, and the delegate from DoC in arriving at what is proposed.

From what we were able to see, an attempt has been made to protect a large proportion of the lower indigenous vegetation wherever possible by either fences or natural boundaries.

While initially, immediately after the review is completed, there may be some loss of income due to decreased stock numbers, we see that there is still room for development on the fans and faces to the north of Dingle Burn. One of the main hindrances at the moment to the development of these fans and faces is bracken fern. Up until recently this has been controlled to some extent by burning, but now that this has practically ceased better control is being achieved by spraying. Although more expensive, spraying is more effective and permanent. However development will also depend on the funds available for development.

To be ecologically sustainable the land has also to be economically viable for pastoral purposes. If the land is fertilised on a regular basis we see no reason why Dingle Burn cannot function in the way it is at present after a period of adjustment resulting from the review.

When all the fans and faces have been developed there will be, at certain times of the year, a distinct visual difference between the developed pastures and the native bracken and bush. The pastures will be green in the spring in contrast with the other vegetation, and thus be more prominent in the landscape.

Land to be returned to full Crown ownership and control:

We fully approve the proposal that 10,110ha (CA1, CA2, CA3 and CA4) is to be restored to full Crown ownership and control, this is most pleasing. We note the five “**Qualifications**”. As these all have a time limit on them we see these as part of the adjustment process as happens after tenure review, ut we would recommend that this be shortened.

However we are concerned that there is to be a strip of freehold land 20m wide between Bricks Gully and Yards Gully passing through part of CA1 near the shore of the lake which will have the effect of isolating that part. This is not mentioned in the Proposed Designation Report. We also see this as a break in the continuity of the whole access route to the Hunter Valley. While we appreciate that there has to be access for farming purposes, we believe this could be covered by way of an easement in favour of the occupier.

We are also pleased that in the proposal some 6,462ha (CA5 and CA6) is to be returned to Crown ownership and control as Conservation Areas with certain qualifications. These qualifications will meet with our approval provided that they are regularly monitored for fence damage or damage to the bush due to the increased pressure put on by perhaps the same stock numbers being put on a smaller area. If any damage becomes apparent, adjustments may have to be made. There should be provision in the schedule attached to the document to cover this.

As it is proposed to freehold the entire face above the Dingleburn road which is very visible from SH6 across Lake Hawea the landscape protection provisions on Covenant Area CC6 should be extended to cover this.

Easements and Access:

The whole success of this review will be dependent on the provisions being made for public access to the Hunter Valley and the Dingle Burn.

We would like it noted that there is to be provision for car parking at the yards ‘b’ not at ‘a’ as shown on the map.

As we see it there will be mainly two types of people requiring access. There will be a cycling group wanting to cycle up the Hunter valley, perhaps cross the river and cycle down on the true right of the river if permission can be obtained. Considering the terrain to be covered, which is mostly on the marginal strip, cyclists will require a higher standard of surface for the whole of their journey than those on foot. Then there will be those intending to fish the Dingle Burn, climb or hunt in the area or perhaps traverse right through to the Ahuriri River. These will be mainly on foot as cycling is possible to the Dingle Burn, but not up it.

We are concerned that in paragraph 3.5.1.2 (i), it is stated that the route is to be formed. In our view formed could mean anything from a poled route with a few benches in places, to a formed track up to say two metres wide. As the type of track/route is crucial to the whole outcome of the Dingleburn review, we see there being no specifications for this formed track attached to the proposal as a serious omission. Before we would approve any substantive proposal we would like to see the specifications for this track from ‘c’ to ‘p’. We would in fact also like more assurance that an adequate track will be the outcome of this review.

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While we appreciate Mr and Mrs Mead's desire for privacy we feel that provision could be made for those on foot only to traverse from point 'c' to 'e' at the mouth of the Dingle Burn. If this was a poled route close the foot of Peninsula Hill it would in our opinion, be inconspicuous and sufficiently distant to maintain their privacy.

It is suggested in the Designation Report that the road between the end of the present legal road end, about 3ks north of Timaru Creek, to the homestead around Rocky Point be retained as Crown land and upon agreement of the Queenstown Lakes District Council, adopted as a legal road under that authority. We believe every effort should be made to see that this be the long-term aim, but being aware of the nature of the road and the dangers it presents we believe the arrangement to have it as an easement for public access is perhaps best in the meantime.

Having easements for foot traffic from points 'x' to 'y' and 'z' meets with our approval.

So too enlarging the marginal strip up the lower Dingle Burn and the arrangements for walking access above the bridge.

The terrace above the south bank of the mouth of the Dingle Burn, contains a mature stand of kanuka which is of significant inherent value due to its increasing rarity. This area (CA2) covers approximately 2ha. and will, it is suggested, provide a suitable camping site for those visiting the area via the easement or by boat. While we appreciate and are pleased that this area of kanuka is to be returned to Crown ownership and control, and that an area for camping is being made available at this point, we cannot see that the kanuka will receive any protection whatsoever if it is also to be used as a camping ground.

To retain in a healthy condition a living kanuka forest such as this, it is necessary that it lives and develops new and younger growth all the time. This will never happen if people are camping under and in it. While having a camping ground in this area of the property is a sound idea of which we fully approve of, we recommend that a larger area of land be set aside in the lee of the kanuka be provided.

In Conclusion:

We see this as a good proposal and if our requests for some minor changes which we have mentioned in this submission are met, it will be even a better one.

Attached are photos of Dingleburn from SH6.

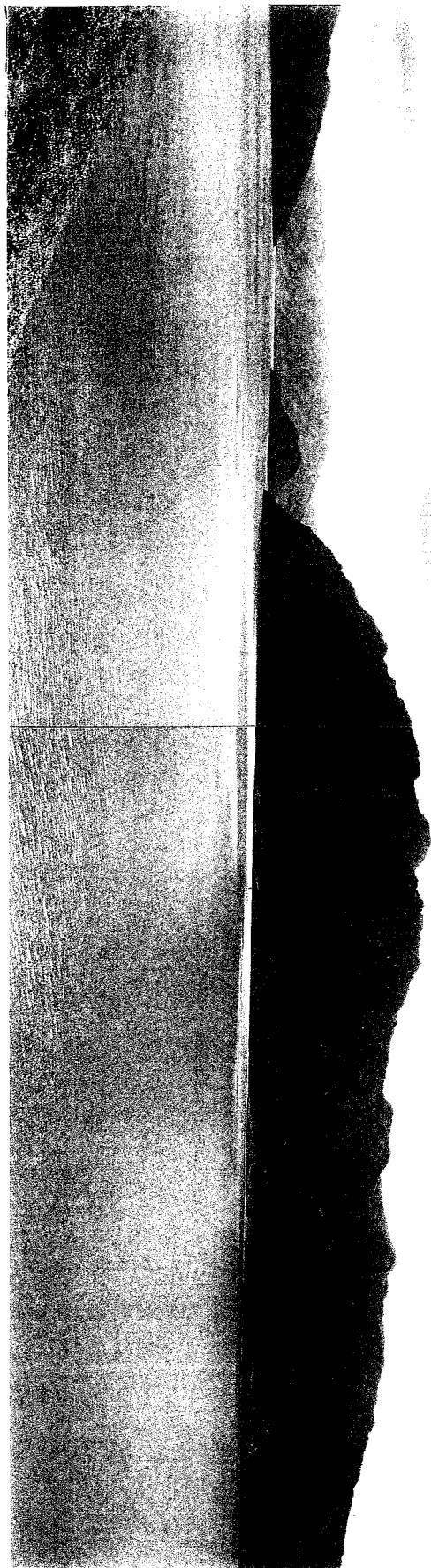
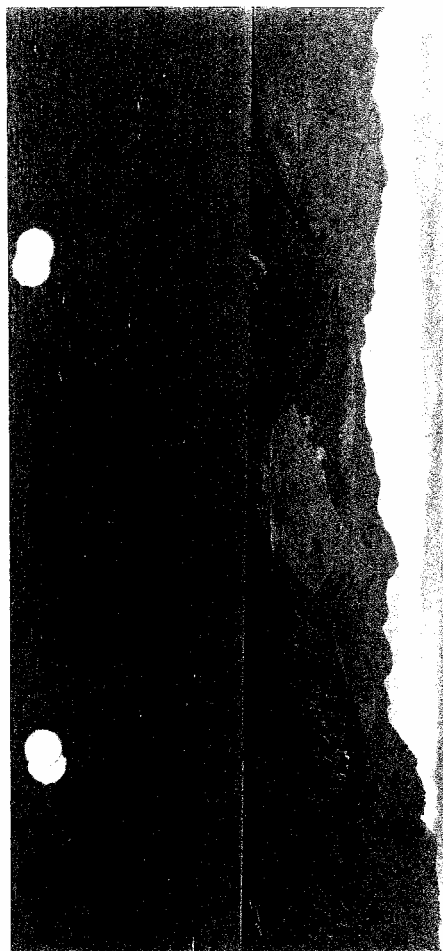
We would like to thank you for the opportunity to have this input and we look forward to seeing the final outcome. Also once again we thank Mr and Mrs Mead for showing the two NGOs around the property. We feel it was an exercise of benefit to both the Meads and the NGOs.

Yours faithfully

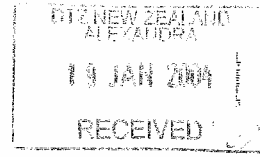


John L Turnbull

For and on behalf of Upper Clutha Branch Forest and Bird



Handwritten notes:
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9.

15 January 2004

Commissioner of Crown Lands
C/- DTZ New Zealand Ltd.
Land Resources Division
PO Box 27
ALEXANDRIA

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission on Dingle Burn Station Tenure Review

1.0 Introduction

The Otago Fish & Game Council wishes to submit on the preliminary proposal prepared by DTZ for the Dingleburn Pastoral Lease property.

The property has significant inherent values for anglers and hunters. Lake Hawea, the Hunter River, the Dingle Burn, Timaru Creek and Dingle Lagoon all support important sports fisheries and are valued and used by anglers. Continuing public access to those fisheries and protection of sports fish habitat values are key issues for Fish and Game.

Dingle Lagoon is significant as it is the only large wetland in the area and contains a large number of native and introduced bird species as well as sports fish. The lagoon qualifies for marginal strip protection under the Conservation Act 1987 (Part IVa, Marginal Strips), yet this has not been specified in the report.

The property provides access to the head of Lake Hawea and the Hunter Valley.

The linkages between this tenure review proposal and the establishment of both public roads and marginal strips is not clear. This is a generic problem with tenure reviews which needs to be addressed to enable meaningful public participation in the process and to ensure beneficial public interest outcomes. In this case there is limited reporting on existing or proposed marginal strips and no discussion about the potential to establish public roading within the property.

Fish and Game assumes that there are either existing marginal strips in place on Lake Hawea forshore, the Hunter River, the Dingle Burn, Timaru Creek and Dingle Lagoon, or that strips will be established as a consequence of tenure review, or that strips are not required because the land concerned will be conservation land.

2.0 Comments on the Proposal:

In general the proposal does not adequately protect significant sports fishery values and more particularly associated public access within or across the lease property. Specific outcomes are discussed below

Timaru Creek

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and this information

Otago Region

Cnr Hanover & Harrow Sts, PO Box 76, Dunedin, New Zealand. Telephone (03) 477 9076 Facsimile (03) 477 0146

The proposal to restore land adjacent to Timaru Creek to the Crown as conservation area is **supported**. This will protect existing sports fishery and habitat values and public access. The existing public road provides secure access to the area.

Dingle Burn, Dingle Lagoon, Lake Hawea and Hunter River

Anglers presently access the Dingle Burn with the permission of the lessee by driving along the formed road to the Dingle Burn. This allows them to tramp to popular fishing water upstream.

The public road ends at point 'a' as defined in the DTZ report (near cattle yards) and a public motorised vehicle access easement is proposed beyond that point for three or four kilometres, ending in a proposed car park at point 'b'. A public access easement for non-motorised vehicles and pedestrian traffic is then proposed along the formed road to point 'c' and then deviates from the formed road by running around the peninsula to the mouth of the Dingle Burn and on along the Hawea lakeshore and up the Hunter Valley.

A vehicle easement for management purposes (for DoC but apparently not for Fish and Game – refer pge 12) continues up along the formed road past Dingle Lagoon to the homestead and up the Dingle Burn ('d', 'e', 'f') and also up the Hawea lake edge and the Hunter ('e', 'h', 'k', 'l', 'm', 'n', 'o', 'p' etc.).

The proposal poses some serious problems.

- Anglers will have to undertake an impractically long tramp to get into the Dingle Burn from the proposed carpark at point 'b'. This involves going around the peninsula and then up the river along a 40 metre marginal strip.
- The Dingle Lagoon marginal strip will be landlocked and will not be legally accessible by anglers or other recreational users. An accessway past the lagoon could serve the dual purpose of providing access to it and providing more direct public access to the Dingle Burn
- The future option of establishing a public road up to the Dingle Burn and beyond to the head of Lake Hawea and the Hunter Valley will be lost if the opportunity is not secured now. At the present time the public most commonly access the Hunter valley by vehicle with permission from the lessee of Hunter Valley Station. The Crown needs to preserve its options with regard to access into the Hunter Valley on the Dingle Burn Station side given the lack of any secure public access at the present time
- There is no formal protection for the Dingle Lagoon outlet stream which is not large enough to qualify for a marginal strip.

3.0 Recommendations

Fish and Game requests that:

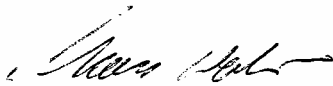
- a) A public vehicle access easement or public road be established from point 'a' to a point immediately adjacent to the Dingle Lagoon to provide for practical access to the lagoon and up the Dingle Burn. A car park easement be established at this point. We note that Queenstown Lakes District Council is supportive of some extension to the existing public Dingle Burn Station road.
- b) A strip of land underlying the proposed vehicle access easement for management purposes to the Dingle Burn and on up the Hunter Valley be retained by the Crown with an easement back to the lessees. This will preserve public access options for the future. This is critically important. The Southern Lakes area is changing rapidly and the public's interest in access to the backcountry needs to be provided for not just in the immediate future but also in the long term.
- c) The new track construction proposed around the Hawea lakeshore be funded as part of the tenure review process. Consideration should be given to funding for public toilet facilities at the car park areas as well. We consider this is necessary and in keeping with other facilities such as those found at the mouth of Timaru River.
- d) Vehicle easements relating to DoC for management also apply to Fish and Game.

- e) A conservation covenant be applied to land on either side of the Dingle Lagoon outlet stream to protect sports fish habitat values.

4.0 Conclusion

The public have enjoyed very good access through Dingle Burn Station for recreational purposes due to the generosity of the existing lessees. The property is one with very important recreation values and it is critical that those be properly provided for through this tenure review. Public access to the head of Lake Hawea, to the Hunter Valley and to the Dingle Burn are essential outcomes of this review. Access needs to be practical in accommodating different recreational activities and the expanse of land involved. In Fish and Game's view the preliminary proposal does not go far enough in protecting and providing for practical public access through the property.

Yours faithfully



**Niall Watson
Manager**

10. P1151/1
375



The Land Rover Owners Club (Otago) Incorporated
P O Box 47
DUNEDIN

19 January 2004

The Manger
DTZ New Zealand
P O Box 27
ALEXANDRA

Attention: Suzanne Smith

Dear Madam

Re: Tenure Review – Dingleburn Pastoral Lease

In respect of the above Review we, the Submitters, would like to record the following submission.

1. Background
 - 1.1 The Submitters are comprised of the New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association Incorporated, Land Rover Owners Club (Otago) Incorporated (LROC) and the Southland Land Rover Owners Club Incorporated. The members of these organisations have an active interest in outdoor pursuits which include tramping, climbing, hunting, camping and conservation. These factors were combined into a common interest in the use, maintenance and understanding of four wheel drive vehicles.
 - 1.2 It has always been an integral part of the Submitters activities that they are concerned about access to and the care and maintenance of tracks and evidence of land degradation. Stewardship of the land is important to the Submitters and this is demonstrated by the fact that both the New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association and LROC are party to and supportive of the "Off Road Code of Ethics". Both the National Association and the Land Rover Owners Club (Otago) Incorporated are affiliated to the International "TREAD LIGHTLY" programme. The Southland Land Rover Owners Club Incorporated adheres to the principles of "TREAD LIGHTLY".
 - 1.3 "TREAD LIGHTLY" is an educative programme targeting all off road users. The purpose of the programme is to encourage and initiate awareness

programmes to promote a responsible attitude to all those who participate in outdoor recreation. The rights of all those pursuing recreation to have access to public areas pursue their legitimate rights provided that there is minimal impact on the environment is a foundation stone of the programme. Members of the Submitters have for many years had access to tracks in and around the areas included in the Dingleburn Pastoral Lease.

- 1.4 We have no problem with other user groups using the tracks in these areas but see no reason why areas should exclude one group and encourage others. Indeed many of our members also use the area for recreational activities other than four wheel driving. We as a user group have never demanded large amounts of expenditure be spent exclusively for our particular interests and have always expected to most of the work required to make tracks passable for our vehicles.
2. What the Submitters Would Like to See Happen
 - 2.1 The Submitters would like to see the continuation of vehicle access continued for the general public.
 - 2.2 It is submitted that with clearly defined and well used tracks already in existence in the area this is an appropriate case for continued freedom of vehicle access.
 - 2.3 It is further submitted that to allow continuation of the existing vehicle access is not incompatible with the retention and preservation of the natural or scenic value of the area.
 - 2.4 There is a large number of people who have, or will have in the future, obtained benefit and enjoyment as a result of driving into the area by four-wheel drive vehicle.
 - 2.5 Retaining the existing track system will not necessarily lead to an increase in numbers of vehicles using them but will simply retain status quo. If there are concerns about vehicle numbers increasing then it is submitted that rather than excluding vehicles per-se, a permit type system could be introduced. Whereby for a nominal fee permit holders could have vehicle access to the area.
 - 2.6 In particular, there is a safety aspect in keeping tracks for four wheel drive vehicles available. In the past these vehicles have provided a search and rescue service to trampers, cyclists and hunters. Some of club members have provided transport for trampers, hunters and cyclists who had become lost, hurt and unable to ride and found while we have been on such tracks.
 - 2.7 The area is not overused by four wheel drive vehicles. There will always be, in some people's minds, the view that there may be a conflict of use between vehicles and other visitors. Some may even have the opinion that some areas should be for their own private exclusive use, but to most enlightened reasonable users of this area, operating in a sensible and responsible manner,

there should be no real unselfish conflict of use between the various user groups. If user numbers were to soar far beyond what they are now, then some directional controls may need to be proposed. Users should themselves be responsible to use this area in a safe and sensible manner.

This submission is made by:

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Signature of person authorised to sign on behalf of the Submitters

Date

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