

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: EARNSLAW STATION

Lease number: PO 047

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.

July

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Fish and Game Resources Report for the Earnslaw Pastoral Lease

Prepared by the
Otago Fish and Game Council

Section One – Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise the Commissioner of Crown Lands on the sports fish and game bird values present on the land included in the Earnslaw 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.

1.2 Location

The Earnslaw pastoral lease is a large lease area in the Rees and Dart River Valleys. The westerly portion of the lease is predominately hill block containing Mount Alfred and wedged between the Dart River, and Diamond Lake and Diamond Creek. The easterly and larger portion of land is bordered by the Rees River and contains a large proportion of steep bush and alpine landscapes.

Section Two - General Resources Information

2.1 Sports Fisheries Habitat Values

The Rees and Dart Rivers provide habitat for spawning, juvenile and adult sports fish life stages (Brown Trout, *Salmo trutta*, Rainbow Trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss* and Salmon, *O. tshawytscha*).

In addition, many of the river tributaries contain spawning and juvenile rearing areas but become steep and not suitable for spawning within a short distance of leaving the river

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

Otago Region

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flats. The majority of the tributaries flowing from the "Mount Alfred" block are important to water quality, and spawning and juvenile recruitment to the Diamond Lake, Diamond River, and Reid Lake fisheries.

2.2 Sports Fisheries Recreation Values

The Dart and Rees rivers are valuable fisheries, with the Rees River being of particular importance as a backcountry fishery. Many of the tributaries of the Rees River contain angling opportunities with Lennox Creek noted as providing good angling opportunities, especially early in the season.

2.3 Gamebird Recreation Values

Paradise Shelducks and Canada Geese are the most commonly game birds encountered in the area and provide locally important recreational hunting opportunities.

2.4 Other Recreational Values

No other recreational values identified.

2.5 Access Information

An unformed road exists along the true-right hand bank of Diamond Creek/Lake Reid. This road may be useful for game bird or fishery management purposes.

Section Three - Fish and Game Recommendations

3.1 Fisheries Habitat Values

All tributaries marked on the "Mount Alfred" block and those flowing into the Rees River should have formal protection. A section 24 marginal strip is required on these waters where applicable or conservation covenants where the stream width is less than 3m.

All current marginal strips within the pastoral lease property should be replaced with section 24 marginal strips.

The Crown should retain the section of pastoral lease land below, and including, the unformed road, flowing alongside Diamond Creek to protect the wetland areas on the flats from stock damage. A fence should be constructed along the topside of the unformed legal road to prevent stock damage to the wetland areas.

3.2 Fisheries Recreation Values

Recreational fishery values would be adequately protected by the measures outlined in 3.1.

3.3 Recreational Game Bird Values

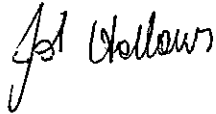
Limited value to game bird hunters with what values exist able to be protected by measures outlined in 3.1.

3.4 Access Views

No issues identified.

Dated: Wednesday, 6 November 2002

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hollows". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

John Hollows
Resource Officer
Otago Fish and Game Council