



Land Information  
New Zealand  
*Toitū te whenua*

## **Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review**

**Lease name : LONGLANDS STATION**

**Lease number : PO 260**

### **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.

This report is released under the Official Information Act 1982.

**April**

**14**



## **Longlands Station Tenure Review Fish and Game Resources Report Otago Fish and Game Council March 2013**

The following is a statement of sports fish and gamebird values provided for the purposes of a tenure review on Longlands Station, under the Crown Pastoral Lands Act 1998. This statement is prepared by the Otago Fish and Game Council on the basis of its historical understanding of the property.

### **Sports Fisheries**

Longlands Station sits at the headwaters of two major river systems – the Shag River and the Taieri River, by way of the Swinburn tributary.

The headwaters of the Shag River above the SH85 bridge support a population of small brown trout. Brook char have also been recorded in the headwaters of this river in the past, but these may have been pushed by way of competition to the extreme headwaters of the Shag River, as recent electric fishing records (2012) found no evidence of them. The population of brown trout in this section of the river has some limited contribution to the fishery in the lower river.

The Swinburn tributary on the western side of the lease contains brown trout spawning habitat, juvenile habitat, and a small adult population. This habitat contributes directly to the fishery in the Kyeburn and Upper Taieri rivers.

The streams are subjected to regular flushing particularly in the spring which probably limits spawning success and hence why trout populations are low.

### **Game Birds**

The property provides habitats for gamebird species including Grey, Mallard, (their hybrid), and Paradise Shelduck, and Californian Quail but has very few wetlands.

### **Summary**

The main sports fishery value on the lease is the Swinburn tributary, and this value is primarily for spawning and downstream recruitment. It is suggested that as a result of this tenure review, that the land on which the stream sits be removed from the lease and return to the Crown as riverbed.

Similarly, the Swinburn should have the status of its marginal strip clarified. Public cadastral data layers available to Otago Fish and Game (from LINZ) do not show a marginal strip on

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

**Otago Region**

the Swinburn, whereas the Conservation Resources Report (DOC, 2012) indicate that that a marginal strip (presumably non-movable) has been placed on the stream in the past and does exist.

If the marginal strip does exist, then this should be digitised and made publically accessible as part of this review. If the marginal strip does not exist, then a movable marginal strip (Part 4A, Conservation Act 1987) should be placed on the portion of the Swinburn that passes through the current lease.

### **Other Small Waterways**

There are several other small mountainous creeks within the property boundary that enter the Swinburn and Shag River, but these will be of little importance.

### **Copper Tussock Wetland**

Copper tussock wetlands such as the one on this pastoral lease east of SH83 are now rare in this sub-alpine setting, and this should be removed from the lease and protected. Otago Fish and Game request that public access to this wetland be made available.

### **Marginal Strips and Roding**

If the marginal strip along the edge of the Swinburn exists, as stated in the Conservation Resources Report (DOC, 2012) then it should be retained, however, its current alignment may not be practical and may not reflect recent changes in the streambed. Therefore, if the opportunity exists to resurvey it, this should be undertaken.

The legal road bisecting the two current parcels of conservation land should be retained as this provides public access to the Kakanui Conservation Area beyond the lease. If the opportunity permits, a ground survey of this road may be able to place it on a more practical alignment.

### **Water yield**

Existing tall tussock grasslands on the property provide valuable water yield services to both the Shag and the Taieri catchments. Therefore, whilst some grazing on this land may be possible, activities such as burning and oversowing which damage and remove tussock cover will reduce the water yield. The downstream Shag River fishery has undergone a significant decline (Trotter, 2012) in recent years, with part of this decline being attributed to a reduction in summer flows in the river. Trotter quotes:

*Maximum water yield is obtained from natural undisturbed tussock cover (Mark & Rowley 1976). Further loss of tussocklands and spread of Hieracium (hawkweed) are also likely to impact on water yield and summer river flows.*

A conservation covenant over tussock values on this property is recommended, in order to prevent burning and oversowing, but permit the grazing of animals within defined levels,

and to provide for ongoing monitoring. The long term aim of this covenant should be to enhance the tussock cover for its downstream values.

### **Recreational Hunting**

Game bird hunting opportunities are limited on the property but hunters have been invited by the station owner and on request. It is likely that tenure review outcomes will have little effect on the current situation.

### **Recommendations**

- 1) That the status of the Swinburn marginal strip be clarified, and if it does not exist, that a marginal strip be placed on the part of the Swinburn that passes through this lease.
- 2) That the bed of the Swinburn stream be removed from the lease, and returned to the Crown as riverbed.
- 3) That the existing legal road bisecting the lease be retain, and surveyed to a more practical alignment if possible.
- 4) That existing tussock values with water yield values on the property be protected by way of a conservation covenant which prevents burning and oversowing, but allows for grazing within a defined regime.
- 5) That the copper tussock wetland adjacent to SH83 be sufficiently protected and that public access to the wetland be created.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Wilson  
Environmental Officer  
Otago Fish and Game Council

### **References:**

Longlands Station Conservation Resources Report, Department of Conservation, 2012

Shag River Fishery Review, Morgan Trotter, Otago Fish and Game Council Report, 2012