

## **Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review**

**Lease name: GLENROCK (RAKAIA)**

**Lease number: PC 140**

### **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.

**December**

**05**

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**Fish & game resources of the Glenrock Pastoral Lease, North Canterbury**

Prepared by the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council as a Contribution to the Drafting of a Preliminary Proposal for a Tenure Review Project Plan

December 1999

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**Preamble**

This report has been prepared under the provisions of the Crown Pastoral Lands Act (1998), Part 2, Tenure Review.

**Part 1- Introduction**

**1.1 Glenrock.**

Glenrock Pastoral Lease (PL) consists of a narrow property and medium sized run. The mountainous northern boundary of Glenrock station adjoins the upper Rakaia River between the Glenariffe and Redcliffe Pastoral Leases. A high altitude basin comprising of a wetland forms the central part of Glenrock and is referred to as Redcliffe Saddle. The southern boundary of the run is comprised of Cookies Flat which forms the upper catchment of the Swift River which is a tributary of the North Ashburton River. An area comprising about one sixth of Glenrock, on the southern boundary, forms the catchment of the Ashburton River and lies within the Central South Island Fish and Game region.

**1.2 Physical Description.**

**1.2.1**

The eastern boundary of Glenrock PL is located 110 kilometres west of Christchurch in the upper Rakaia River. Glenrock traverses two catchment districts- 85% lies along the South Bank of the Rakaia River and 15% in the headwaters of the Swift River that is a tributary of the Ashburton River Catchment.

The property is bounded by the Rakaia River to the north and by Glenariffe PL and the Black Hill Range to the west and Redcliffe PL to the east. The southern boundary is the upper catchment of the Swift River.

Two four-wheel drive tracks provide access into the central part of the lease comprised of the Redcliffe Saddle Basin. One track originates at the Redcliffe Station homestead and a second track on the Redcliffe PL. Both tracks link up and extend south to the Swift River. There is no track access to the mountainous western side of Glenrock PL that constitutes about 75% of the PL.

**1.2.2 Geology.**

The mountainous western side of Glenrock PL that constitutes about 75% of the PL is comprised of undifferentiated greywacke.

**1.2.3 Climate.**

Rainfall predominantly comes from a westerly and southerly direction with an average annual rainfall of 750mm recorded at the Redcliffe Station homestead on the northern boundary of Glenrock PL. Snowfall is common from May to August. Northwesterly winds predominate.

#### 1.2.4 Topography and waterways.

Most (about 80%) of Glenrock PL consists of high relief topography from 500 to 1800 m.s.l. The remainder of Glenrock is comprised of a basin between two mountain ranges at an altitude between 800-900 m.s.l.

There are numerous small mountain creeks flowing from the northern side of Glenrock PL into the upper Rakaia River. These mountain creeks are ephemeral waterways flowing off steep mountainsides.

There is a wetland comprised of two tarns in a basin located at the Redcliffe Saddle. The Redcliffe Saddle wetland basin comprises the only area of flat relief in the Glenrock PL. The remainder of the lease is comprised of steep relief. A small tributary of the Swift River drains the southern boundary of Glenrock Station.

#### 1.2.5 Vegetation.

The mountainous section of the station is primarily a combination of fescue tussocks and exposed substrate. The Redcliffe Basin is comprised of tussock and matagouri scrubland with some wetland plant species.

### Part 2- Fish and game values on the Glenrock Pastoral Lease- North Canterbury fish and game region.

#### 2.1 Sports Fish.

Glenrock PL has no waterways of fisheries values within the boundary of the North Canterbury fish and game region. The only waterways within the North Canterbury Fish and Game region run off steep mountain sides and do not support any notable introduced salmonid populations.

These streams also contribute little towards the total flow of the Rakaia, so it is unlikely that land use activities in the catchment of these streams would result in any deleterious effects on the Rakaia River.

#### 2.2 Gamebirds

Canada geese, paradise shelduck, mallard and grey ducks all frequent, in low numbers, the Redcliffe Saddle Basin. The wetland in the basin provides nesting sites for Canada geese, paradise shelducks and mallard and grey ducks.

The remainder of Glenrock PL is comprised entirely of steep mountain sides with no habitat for waterfowl. It is possible that the area supports low numbers of Chukar (an upland gamebird species).

#### 2.3 Recreational Values

Glenrock PL has no recreational fisheries values within the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Regions' boundary.

Technical gamebird hunting information is lacking for the Glenrock Pastoral Lease. Glenrock PL is not a targeted gamebird hunting area and this relates to the relatively low numbers of gamebirds on the station compared to other areas within the Rakaia Catchment. The Redcliffe Saddle Basin is likely to attract attention from the occasional waterfowl hunter, notably for Canada geese and paradise shelducks. The occasional specialist hunter may target Chukar.

### Part 3 - Recommendations

To promote the ecological management of reviewable land in a way that is ecologically sustainable (as per Sec 24 (a) (i) of the Crown Pastoral Land Act (1998)) and to enable the protection of significant inherent values on reviewable land (as per Sec 24 (b) of the Crown Pastoral Land Act (1998)), the council makes the following recommendations.

#### 3.1 Sports Fish

Riparian buffers of twenty metres should be established along Cascade Glen, Donald and Redcliffe Streams as these mountain creeks flow in to the upper Rakaia River Catchment (Attachment 1). The Upper Rakaia River is of international significance to chinook salmon and of national significance to brown trout (Unwin and Davis 1983).

#### 3.2 Game Birds

Riparian strips should be placed around the Redcliffe Saddle wetland to allow habitat values for nesting waterfowl to be preserved. Redcliffe Saddle wetland has a riparian margin of Carex, bog rush and exotic grasses which provide a habitat for waterfowl.

The council also recommends the protection of the margins identified on the attached map around the Redcliffe Saddle wetland from adverse impacts resulting from burning or track development.

Changes in landuse such as pine plantation forestry may also impact upon the wetlands on the Redcliffe Saddle.

Provision should be made for hunters to use firearms and dogs on the Redcliffe Saddle wetland for waterfowl hunting.

It is important for hunters that the access tracks to the Redcliffe Saddle Basin wetland (originating on Redcliffe PL) are maintained (refer Attachment 1). It is also important the Fish and Game Council secures the right of access for gamebird hunters to cull Canada Geese over the entire property when necessary under the South Island Canada Goose Management Plan. Goose culling may take place from either the ground or shooting from helicopters.

#### 3.3 General

The negotiation of an access strip for hunters onto the lease would be desirable. This is required so that hunters can reach the other access ways on the lease. This access would need to be negotiated across freehold land.

### Concluding Statement

This report summaries the sports fish, game bird habitat and recreational values identified as significant on the Glenrock Pastoral Lease. It also presents the recommendations of the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council for the protection of these values.

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**Attachment:**

- 1- Map showing
- access tracks for hunters
- sites recommended having a 20 metre riparian strip on both sides of the water course
- general access

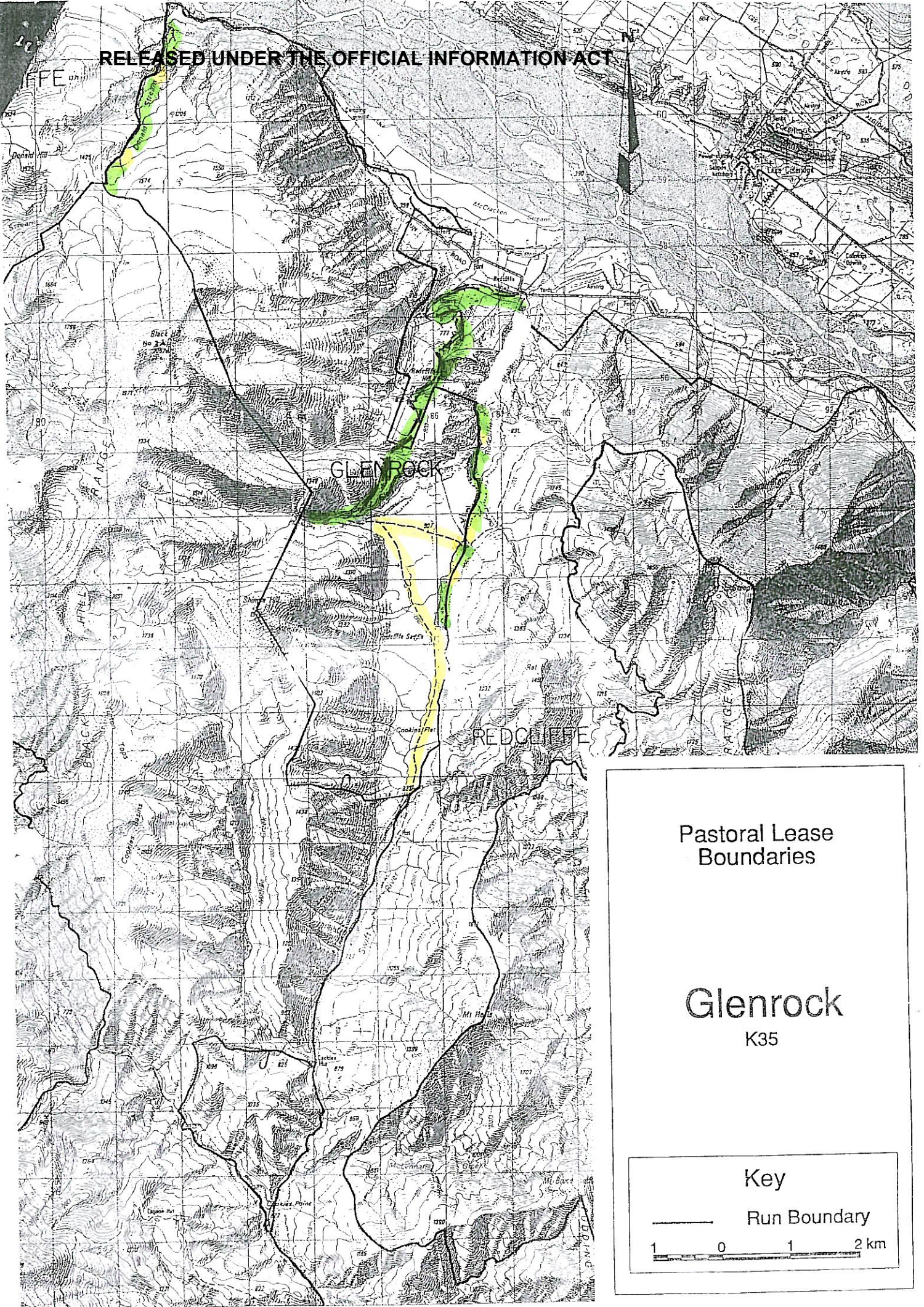
**References.**

Unwin, M. J. and Davis, S.F. 1983. Recreational fisheries of the Rakaia River. New Zealand Freshwater Fisheries Reports. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Freshwater Division. 110 p

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Pastoral Lease  
Boundaries

Glenrock

K35

Key

Run Boundary

1 0 1 2 km