

## **Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review**

**Lease name: HOME HILLS**

**Lease number: PO 383**

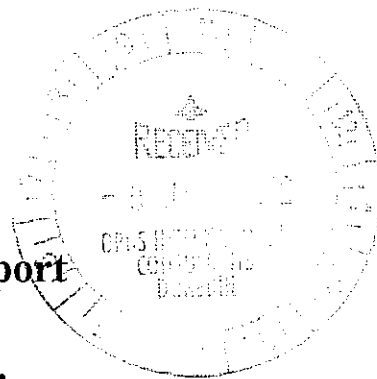
### **Fish & Game Report**

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.

**April**

**06**



## **Fish and Game Resources Report for the Home Hills 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 Home Hills 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*

Home Hills Crown Pastoral Lease is bordered by the Manuherikia River to the West, is between two to four kilometres in width, and includes approximately 1/3 of the bed of Falls Dam. Ten Chain Creek and Pegleg Gully approximately define the lease properties northern and southern boundaries respectively.

### **Section Two - General Resources Information**

#### *2.1 Sports Fisheries Habitat Values*

Falls Dam provides a large quantity of good habitat for adult and juvenile trout.

The upper Manuherikia River contains important fish habitat for brown trout and to a lesser extent brook char spawning and rearing. In addition, many of the tributaries (see section 4.1) that flow into Falls Dam and the Manuherikia River provide valuable spawning and juvenile rearing habitat for brown trout and brook char and are important for juvenile recruitment and the sustainability of the fishery. Some of the smaller creeks are ephemeral due to irrigation extractions and summer low flows but still have sufficient water for successful spawning in most years.

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

**Otago Region**

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### *2.2 Sports Fisheries Recreation Values*

Falls Dam and the Manuherikia River are regionally important fishery waters. The smaller tributaries feeding these waters have limited recreational values due to their small size but are important for the values identified in 2.1.

### *2.3 Gamebird Habitat Values*

Falls Dam and the surrounding waters provide important breeding, rearing, moulting and feeding habitat for Canada geese and paradise shelduck.

Some areas of the lease property contain native grasses, scrub and matagouri, which provides habitat for Californian quail.

### *2.4 Gamebird Recreation Values*

Falls Dam provides hunting opportunities for Canada geese, paradise shelduck and mallard duck hunting. There is a long historical tradition of waterfowl hunting in the area that continues today.

Upland game (quail) occur on Home Hills and provide some recreational hunting opportunity.

### *2.5 Other Recreational Values*

Falls Dam is used by the public for boating and picnicking over the summer period, often in association with angling.

There are a number of anglers' huts (14) on the property which facilitate public recreation in what is otherwise a relatively remote area at high altitude. While most of the huts are owned by individuals or families at least one is owned by an angling club. The huts have been in the area for many decades and are an integral part of the recreational values of the situation. Anglers 'camps' are also important features of other high altitude reservoirs such as Poolburn, Manorburn, Lake Onslow and Lake Mahinerangi. While the huts at Falls Dam have no formal tenure they have been established with the permission of former lessees.

### *2.6 Access Information*

Current access to Falls Dam is down the side of the Manuherikia River (4WD or foot access only) or via the dam wall where Fiddlers Flat Road ends. There is a road up the true left-hand side of the dam but access is not possible due to a locked gate.

Access to the reservoir shore, near where the upper Manuherikia River flows into the reservoir, has traditionally been from Home Hills Runs Road across the property but permission to use this access has recently been withdrawn.

## **Section Three – Consultation**

### *3.1 Consultation Undertaken*

Fish & Game have spoken with the leasee on several occasions regarding recreational access to the lake and the recreational hut issue. From these discussions we have been

assured that there "will be road access to the upper end of Falls Dam in one form or another by the opening of the angling season (October 1)". Access to a boat launching area upstream of Falls Dam was also agreed too during discussions, but the question of access through the leased property is still unresolved.

Hut owners and other recreational anglers and hunters have been consulted over access and reserve requirements.

### *3.2 Issues Identified Through Consultation*

The need for secure public vehicle access to and along the reservoir shore is a key issue which should be addressed in the review.

The second key issue is the need for a recreational open space on the reservoir shore adjacent to the upper river confluence. This should provide for day trippers as well as the existing angling huts.

The leasee considers that the road up the side of Falls Dam is a private road, expensive to maintain and posed difficulties for vehicle access during winter and storm events and does not wish for public road access up the side of the dam through the property. However the road has been regularly used by the public in the recent past

## **Section Four - Fish and Game Recommendations**

### *4.1 Fisheries Habitat Values*

Four named, and two unnamed tributaries of Falls Dam and the Manuherikia River contain important brown trout spawning and juvenile rearing grounds. These require formal protection in the form of marginal strips where applicable or conservation covenants where they fail to meet the 3 metre width criteria. The creeks are as listed below and require protection from where they flow into the river or dam reservoir, upstream to their source or where they leave the pastoral lease land.

Ten Chain Creek (NZMS 260 H40 9185 9010)

Hut Creek (NZMS 260 H40 6645 9100)

Gate Creek (NZMS 260 H40 6650 9010)

Johnstones Creek (NZMS 260 H41 6635 8950)

Unnamed tributary of Falls Dam (NZMS 260 H41 6565 8820) \*

Unnamed tributary of Falls Dam (NZMS 260 H41 6600 8865)

Falls Dam requires marginal strip or recreational reserve protection to safeguard game bird and fishery habitat values and access for recreational users. The existing anglers

huts are an integral part of recreational use in the area and should be provided for by retaining an area of land adjacent to the reservoir as a reserve for recreation

*4.2 Fisheries Recreation Values*

Recreational fishery values would be adequately protected by the measures outlined in 4.1.

*4.3 Game Bird Habitat Values*

Limited value to upland game birds.

High value habitat for water fowl, particularly on the reservoir shore

*4.4 Recreational Game Bird Values*

Existing values should be protected by measures outlined in 4.1.

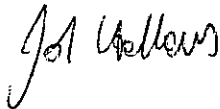
*4.5 Public Access*

Vehicle access should be ensured from Home Hills Runs Road to the top of Falls Dam, down at least to a point near where Johnstones Creek flows into Falls Dam.

Vehicle access above the dam wall should be allowed up as far as a point that will allow for boat launching at the southern end of Falls Dam (NZMS 260 H41 6550 8815, approximately 150m past the dam wall).

Dated: Monday July 8 2002

Signed



John Hollows  
Resource Officer  
For: The Otago Fish and Game Council