

## **Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review**

**Lease name: MT DIFFICULTY &  
KAWARAU STATION**

**Lease number: PO 353 & PO 234  
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 and Game Resources Report for the Mt Difficulty / Kawarau 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 values present on the land included in the Mt Difficulty / Kawarau 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 Kawarau / Mt Difficulty lease is located to the south of the Kawarau river and the east of the Nevis River encompassing the Carrick Range

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

#### *2.1 Sports Fisheries Habitat Values*

- **Kawarau River**

The Kawarau River below the Nevis river confluence has limited trout fisheries value due to the sediment input from the Shotover River and the steep fall of the river through this section.

- **Nevis River**

The lease bounds the east side of the lower 10 km of the Nevis River. This section of the Nevis has a steep gradient and is contained by a steep gorge. The is known to be a good population of rainbow and brown trout through this section although it is unlikely that there is any significant spawning in the gorge area. The last kilometre of the Nevis River below the confluence of Doolans Creek has a much flatter gradient containing some spawning values.

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

**Otago Region**

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- Long Gully

Long Gully is thought to contain some spawning in the lower reaches but it is unknown if spawning occurs up as far as the lease. There is a small population of trout in the creek.

- Bannock Burn

Spawning in the Bannock Burn is limited to an area just above the lake due to an obstruction in the burn. Irrigation and dry summers impact the river flows.

- Other minor tributaries

Size and dry summers limit the habitat of other tributaries on the lease.

### *2.2 Sports Fisheries Recreation Values*

The sports fisheries recreation values are limited to the lowest section of the Nevis River. Physical access to the Kawarau and Gorge section of the Nevis Rivers is very difficult, limiting is recreational opportunities. The other streams on the lease have no recreational value.

### *2.3 Gamebird Habitat Values*

There are good numbers of quail due to excellent habitat values on the lease above the Kawarau and Nevis Rivers. Historically there has been a population of chukor at the higher altitudes but the continuing presence of the population is unconfirmed. Occasional paradise shelducks and mallard ducks visit the property. It is not known if there is any breeding but it is unlikely.

### *2.4 Gamebird Recreation Values*

There has been traditional quail hunting on the property for many years.

### *2.5 Other Recreational Values*

No other recreational values identified.

### *2.6 Access Information*

The road around the true right of the Kawarau River is important for access to the quail hunters.

## **Section Three - Consultation**

### *3.1 Consultation Undertaken*

N/A

### *3.2 Issues Identified Through Consultation*

N/A

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

### *4.1 Fisheries Habitat Views*

Marginal strips should be laid off where they qualify to protect water quality. This includes water quality for spawning outside of the lease in Long Gully and Bannock Burn.

*4.2 Fisheries Recreation Views*

No issues identified on the lease.

*4.3 Gamebird habitat Views*

The further habitat protection is not required.

*4.4 Gamebird Recreation Views*

No issues identified.

*4.5 Access Views*

Practical anglers access to the lower Nevis River needs further consideration.

**Section Five - Bibliography**


Tenure Review Document

Crown Pastoral lands Act. (1998)

Land Status Report for Mt Difficulty / Kawarau.

Dated: Tuesday, 14 November 2000

Signed



Mark Nelson

Resource Officer

For: The Otago Fish and Game Council