

Crown Pastoral Land Other Crown Land

Lease name: MT IDA

Lease number: 00 090

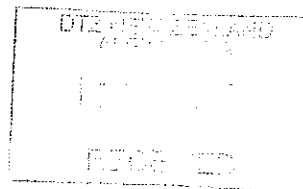
Public Submissions - Part 10

These submissions were received as a result of the public advertising of the Preliminary Proposal.

July

07

156



Commissioner of Crown lands,
C/- DTZ New Zealand limited
Land Resource Divison
P.O Box 27, Alexandra

In Confidence and without Prejudice
Mt Ida Syndicate Review

Harry Albert
Ranfurly Motels
1 Davis Ave
Ranfurly

Submission Statement

1. The aspects of the Preliminary Proposal that I support are; set out in the **Objects of Part 3**, mainly the section that describes the, Promote the management of the land in a way that is ecological sustainable, and to also securing public access to and the enjoyment of Crown Land.
As the business that I am involved in, is the Accommodation and Tourism based, this will mean that my customers will have access to a landscape that will be historic and of Cultural significance, outlining the Buster Gold Diggings and a landscape that is forever changing from season to season.

2. The reason for my submission are as follows; the reason for my submission is so that All New Zealanders can have and enjoy the unique flora and fauna that the Central Otago has to offer, the Hawkdun Range is a significant Mountain Range that dominates the Manitoto the potential for recreational use will expand and provide the opportunity for occasional hunting and 4wd Trips. In a time when the Queens Chain has been challenged by farmers and public access to crown land is restricted by farmers denying access through their property, it is becoming harder to find country that is accessible.

3. The Decision I would like the Commissioner of Crown Lands to make;
The decision I would like the Commissioner to make is outlined in the final paragraph of the Summary of Preliminary Proposal Oo090 as states; the most appropriate designation for the land is retention in full Crown ownership and control. The advice of the Department of Conservation that the land should be designated as conservation area.

In closing I would like to thank the Commissioner Of Crown lands, for the opportunity to have an input in this submission, and I agree with the Preliminary Proposal.

The Needs Of The Many, Outweigh The Needs Of The Few

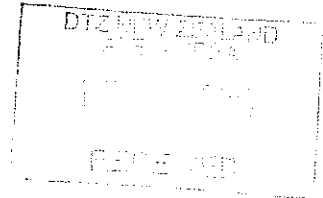
I also look forward to receiving a copy of the final outcome.

Kind Regards

Harry Albert

Harry Albert - 15/11/06.

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15 November 2006

The Manager
DTZ New Zealand Limited
Land and Resources Division
P.O. Box 27
Alexandra

To the Commissioner of Crown Lands

**RE 'Mt Ida Syndicate' - Part Run 362B and Run362C Mount Buster Survey
District comprising 8401.2739ha**

This submission is provided on behalf of a group of outdoor enthusiasts in relation to the 'Mt Ida Syndicate' Review of Other Crown Land.

This submission represents recreational land users who have been accessing the above area for the past 20-30 years.

Recommendations

We recommend that the licence be renewed and remain with the 'Mt Ida Syndicate'.

Background

For the past 20-30 years members of the group this submission represents have been using the area. The experiences that they describe have been nothing but positive.

The management of the road access and huts has been well managed to date. As recreational users, access has never been a problem and the work that the farmers have done appear to have minimal impact on the environment. The farmers lock the gates during winter months to minimise erosion and damage to roads from vehicle access. Access is still available on foot, mountain bikes or the like and we believe this to be very effective management of the area. It is nice to know that these pieces of New Zealand history and the history of the Syndicate are being preserved for future generations.

We have noted that of recent, the road down to the Otematata River has had a significant amount of work done. In addition, the work the Syndicate' did on the historic bridge was much appreciated. To do this work is labour intensive and can be costly. Our understanding is there are limited resources available to manage non lease hold Crown land. We are concerned that the resources available to maintain the access roads and huts would not be adequate.

Some of the group members, alongside many other tourists, have had the amazing experience of joining the farmers when they "take there sheep up the hill". The atmosphere at sunrise when we were preparing to head off for the day is incredible. You get to watch the sunrise over the Maniototo from horseback as you ride up the mountain. Riding through the tussocks, with sheep in front of you, and Aoraki in the distance. In the evening, eating a roast dinner cooked for hours in old coal range while listening to stories of previous years. This is an experience that I and I am sure many others will treasure for their life times and it would be a great shame for future generations of New Zealanders and tourists in the area to no longer be able to experience such a trip.

In addition, to these experiences group members have used the area as a training ground for multi-sport. The environment is perfect and again the access has never been an issue.

We believe that the current relationship works well and recommend that the licence be renewed.

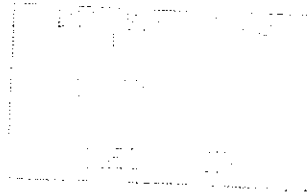
Regards

Nadine Bissex

On behalf of a group of recreational users
(Names available on request)

158

Robert Ross McMillan
Home Gully Road
Naseby



11th November 2006

Commissioner of Crown Lands
C/- DTZ New Zealand Ltd
Land Resources Division
P O Box 27
Alexandra

Mt Ida Syndicate Review of Other Crown Land

Dear Sir

We are writing in support of the Mt Ida Syndicate retaining their Pastoral Licence for summer grazing.

They need this to make their down land farms viable, as a runoff through the summer months. Summer grazing means they can run more stock which, in turn means more money for the community. i.e. Shops, businesses and jobs for shearers, farm workers and agriculture contractors.

The syndicate has proven that summer grazing is sustainable over the last one hundred and ten years. The syndicate pays rates which flows back into the community. They have maintained tracks and huts which have been available to recreational users.

Sheep grazing has lessened the fire risk to the high country, if this area is shut up then that risk will increase substantially. It would be a dastardly blow to take away the heritage of these hard working New Zealand born families, who contribute so much to the economy of this country.

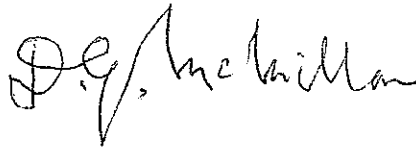
Summer grazing is not available elsewhere.

Yours faithfully

Robert Ross McMillan
Peter Ross McMillan

Handwritten signature of Robert Ross McMillan, appearing as "RR McMillan" with a flourish underneath.

Donald Grant Mc Millan

Handwritten signature of Donald Grant McMillan, appearing as "D.G. McMillan" in a cursive style.

Eunice McMillan

Handwritten signature of Eunice McMillan, appearing as "Eunice M. McMillan" in a cursive style.

Margaret Jane Hogg

Handwritten signature of Margaret Jane Hogg, appearing as "M.J. Hogg" in a cursive style.

Christine Marie Diack

Handwritten signature of Christine Marie Diack, appearing as "C.M. Diack" in a cursive style.

**Submission on behalf of
Mt Ida Syndicate
1897-2006**

They were men of sterling stuff
Who took the hill lease on.
The mountains lay there, raw and rough
Improvements nil, thereon.
The wild creeks were the boundary,
No fences, yards or huts.
Summer grazing was the key,
The spur was faith and guts.

Such names and deeds are legendary
In history and folk lore.
Respect and pride for high country
One hundred years, and more.
Experience is never cheap—
They've proved for all to see.
Environment and grazing sheep
Can live in harmony.

It became a treasured way of life,
Handed down from son to son.
Involving family and wife
Hard honest work, well done.
Though others search but never find
Some see their destiny
In simpler things of heart and mind—
Swags, camps and dogs and billy tea.

So don't kill off the mountain guy
He boosts economy.
The warmest wool the world can buy
Comes from our high county.
The finest wool the classer bales
To reach the weavers skills
For fashion catwalks global wide
Comes from Otago hills.

So don't shut up summer grazing
Don't let pressure groups dictate.
Common sense would be amazing
Don't shut Mt Ida Syncate.

**Ross McMillan
"Blue Jeans"**

Keith Mitchell,
Glenledi,
RD 2,
Milton,
Otago.
13/11/06.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to give my view on the proposed termination of the Mt Ida Syndicate Grazing Licence.

I have fished the headwaters of the Otematata River and Clear Stream on 29 days since 1992, and wish that it had been much more often. I have fished a lot of waters but there is nowhere else that gives me as much pleasure as in those valleys. The sparkling waters contrast with the towering cliffs, spires of rock, and arid faces sprinkled with matagouri and tussocks. The view over-looking the confluence of the Otematata River with its headwater tributaries lit up in the morning sun, being as spectacular as any I have seen.

The drive in from the Maniototo side never ceases to inspire awe. We usually go in when an anticyclone covers the South Island so that there is settled weather. This often means driving up through morning mist until suddenly bursting out into a sunlit vista of rolling tussock ridges stretching away for miles, tops sometimes snow covered, and further on the deep ravine of the Otematata River. Further along the road there is a view of Mt Cook, always a surprise to see it, considering how recently we have left eastern Otago.

One of the sights from the road that always arrest the visitor is a man-made one from gold sluicing days, the pile of pure white quartz shaped by wind and rain.

Quite apart from the economic necessity of grazing their sheep in this country, it is easy to see why the Mt Ida Syndicate members look forward to returning each year.

Travelling through this magnificent high country, at once both beautiful and scary, gives moments of extreme satisfaction. But we are only able to drive there because of the efforts of the syndicate in keeping the road maintained.

The syndicate members have always been generous allowing us to stay in their hut at Tailings Creek for which we have always been grateful.

The fact that the infrastructure: roads, fences and huts are already in existence and have been for many years, lends weight to maintain the status quo, which is what I hope will occur. Human traditional practice does have its place in some natural ecosystems. The fact that all the effort required over 109 years to put the infrastructure in place must count for something. It seems to me that the grazing of sheep for just one quarter of the year should be allowed to continue. The damage caused by sheep doesn't compare to that by the equivalent stock units of cattle.

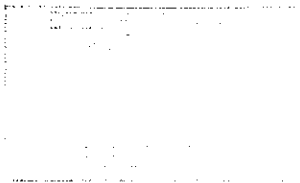
From a personal viewpoint, if the land is signed over to the Department of Conservation, then I can't see them keeping the road access open for the use of motor vehicles. From what I have seen, they don't seem to regard themselves as being in the business of maintaining roads. This would be a great shame as it is one of the great 4WD trips – and so close to Dunedin. Not that I go around advertising it to everyone, if it were possible I would rather selfishly keep it all to myself. Which, I think, is what members of the syndicate imagine is what Doc will do.

Yours faithfully,
Keith Mitchell.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Keith Mitchell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

160

83 Highcliff Road,
Andersons Bay,
Dunedin.



15/11/06

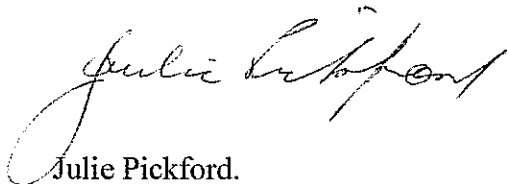
To whom it may concern,

As a user of the Mt. Ida syndicate Mount Buster area for many years, for hunting, hiking and family trips to the huts. We have generally been granted access. At different times when permission has been refused it was the result of other parties being in there at the time requested, fire risk, snow or when mustering was taking place.

We have always had a good repore with the land owners and it is obvious to me the land has been properly managed over 4 generations of occupation. The vegetation is in a healthy state, the huts and tracks are well maintained.

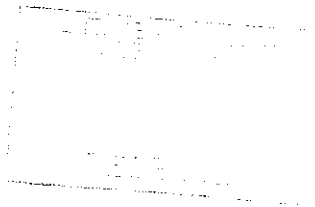
D.O.C. has not got the same record as some of the run holders. Access has been restricted in some areas, Birchwood station has no 4 wheel drive access to top huts. Molesworth station has limited access. Other D.O.C. estates are growing many weeds. So I ask you, why don't they try and manage what they have before taking more land to be 'locked up' for no one to use?

Yours sincerely,



Julie Pickford.

161



83 Highcliff Road,
Andersons Bay,
Dunedin.

15/11/06

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Yours sincerely,

Thomas Cardy.

(162)

Name Dave MartynAddress 29 Jessop St OamaruDate 14/11/06

The Commissioner of Crown Lands
 C/o DTZ NZ Ltd
 Land Resource Division
 PO Box 27 Alexandra
 Ph 03 448 6935

Re - The Mt. Ida Syndicate review of leased Crown Land.

I strongly support the continued lease arrangement of part Run 362B and Run 362C Mt. Buster to the Mt. Ida Syndicate and believe that under the Leasehold Agreement management by the Mt. Ida Syndicate we as New Zealand Citizens continue to inherit the following advantages.

Plants Vegetation growing in this area has cohabited along side the managed sheep grazing programme for one hundred and ten years and created a balanced habitat for this to continue.

Recreational Public Access Managed access is available to responsible persons by the Syndicate Chairperson. Advice on safety issues, climatic conditions, track and hut locations are given freely based on first hand knowledge of this area.

Huts Four huts are located in this area, they are used for accommodation and kept to a basic standard by the Syndicate. Huts in this type of country can mean the difference between survival and death.

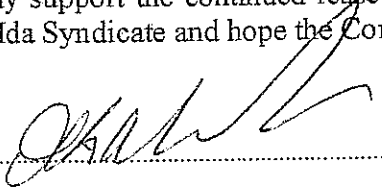
Tracks The Mt. Ida Syndicate have formed and maintained a significant amount of access tracks to ensure their grazing plan is well managed. These tracks also make access available for the following recreation activities - fishing, hunting, tramping, 4 wheel driving, horse riding, mountain biking. These tracks also provide emergency access for fire fighting, search and rescue.

Unique Historical Farming Practice For one hundred and ten years the same five farming families have been involved in the summer grazing of this high country land. Since 1897 the muster of five thousand ewes by eleven musters in late April has become a local tradition and a social occasion held in high regard within the local community.

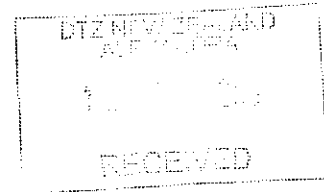
Local Economic Values The availability of this Leasehold Crown land strongly supports the farming operations in this area. Three of the five farming properties are reliant on this summer grazing to remain economical farming identities.

Local Council Rates Under the Leasehold agreement, rates are met by the Mt. Ida Syndicate which financially supports all persons residing in the Waitaki District.

I strongly support the continued lease arrangement of part Run 362B and Run 362C Mt. Buster to the Mt. Ida Syndicate and hope the Commissioner will support this community orientated view.

Signed 

(163)

Name J. A. McLeod.Address Glenmeruven 15 K.R.D. OamaruDate 11-11-06

The Commissioner of Crown Lands
 C/o DTZ NZ Ltd
 Land Resource Division
 PO Box 27 Alexandra
 Ph 03 448 6935

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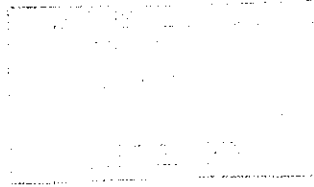
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Signed J. A. McLeod.

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37A Ventry Street,
Alexandra.
14/11/06



To Whom it May concern.

REFER... DTZ Tenure Review of Mt Ida Grazing
Blocks.

I wish to make an emphatic protest against the present attempt by DOC to wrest tenure of the Grazing Rights held by families who have been entitled for the last century or so to graze sheep over the summer months in the Mt Ida area.

Apart from the injustice involved in arbitrarily depriving families of a substantial source of income by such a takeover, the actual reasons and effects need to be closely examined.

There has been no suggestion that I have heard that the farming has been in any way detrimental to the health of the flora and fauna of the area.

On the contrary there has been convincing argument that the farmers concerned have been exemplary custodians. They have maintained access and freedom for the ordinary visitor to use the area without impediment.

The land concerned has been conscientiously cared for as one would expect from users who benefit personally from its continuing health.

DOC have an overwhelming obligation to prove that they would be in the long run, better landlords than the present incumbents and that their ownership would present the interested public with at least better access and opportunity to enjoy the unique features of the land under review.

For some time now, in the Media coverage and elsewhere, considerable dissatisfaction has been expressed as to DOC's ability to provide adequate care and attention required for their existing responsibilities and their reluctance to allow the general public to enjoy our own country has led to resentment and concern. DOC appears to have an unfettered right to claim ownership of whatever land it considers desirable to achieve its aims coupled with an insatiable appetite to extend their fiefdom.

The continuing restrictions by DOC of the public from the Upper Ahuriri Valley without apparent cause, is a case in point. Under the Williamson family's tenure, I and many others enjoyed free access and to my knowledge this was not abused. Fewer New Zealanders can now enjoy the freedom I did in the 1950s. And I do not believe the public has been benefited from the change

of tenure.

IF and I emphasise the word IF, it can be clearly and unequivocally proved that DOC WILL (NOT CAN) benefit the land and the citizens of New Zealand by effectively stealing land from caring farmers, then DOC does have a moral or justifiable right to act as they plan to do.

If on the other hand any future actions by DOC can NOT ensure such benefits, then they do NOT have a mandate from citizens of this country to proceed.

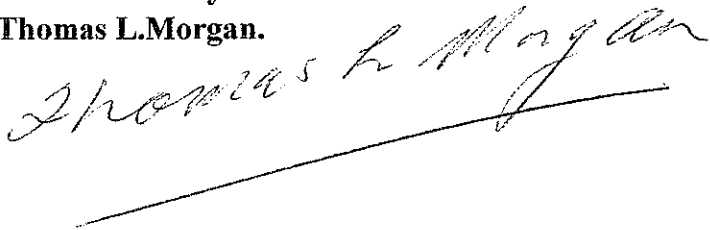
So there is a conflict between the proven caring husbandry of a small group of interested farmers who have been looking after this land for over a hundred years, and the intentions, no doubt worthy, of a group of idealists who will employ paid caretakers to take care of such a precious asset.

There is little doubt as to the better solution.

Your final decision must surely be a logical assessment in favour of DOC withdrawing and the status quo being maintained.

Yours faithfully,

Thomas L.Morgan.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas L. Morgan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name. A horizontal line is drawn across the page below the signature.

MT IDA SYNDICATE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL REVIEW SUBMISSION

T/W/E Richard and Julia King

ADDRESS Middle Hill Clarence Bridge Kaitiawa Rd

SUBMIT AN OBJECTION TO YOUR PROPOSAL FOR FULL CROWN OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF THIS LAND. IT SHOULD BE DISPOSED OF (PREFERABLY AS FEE SIMPLE) IN FAVOUR OF THE PRESENT HOLDERS TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE GRAZING CAN BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE AS BEFORE. FURTHERMORE THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE CONSIDERED:

(Legal Description of land concerned: Part Run 362B and Run 362C Mount Buster Survey District comprising 8401.2739ha.

General description of proposal: 8401ha (approximately) to be designated as land to be retained as land in full Crown ownership and control as a conservation area pursuant to Section 86(5)(a)(i) Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998.)

We submit an objection to the above proposal as we feel the area concerned is being managed by the present Stewardship more than sustainably.

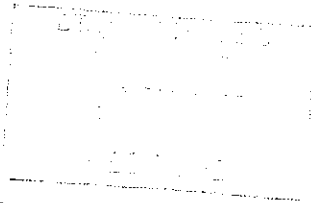
The SIVs are being conserved and protected now alongside sustainable management practices with summer grazing. If 10,000 ewes were to be grazed elsewhere by the owners, economically, it will put pressure and will have detrimental effects on the land they are to be grazed on. Without this summer grazing, the properties of the syndicate members would not be economically sustainable.

Current public access is available now, and if the area is retained in full crown ownership, the access would be reduced as it seems to be when land is controlled by the crown. Tracks would not be maintained by the crown.

Weeds and pests are managed sustainably by the current stewardship and the land is rated. This would not occur under Crown control.

It is imperative that this tussock grassland area is retained by proven methods otherwise it will become wasted land like all conservation estates.

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13 November 2006

58 Kilmore Street, PO Box 345, Christchurch

General enquiries: 03 365 3828

Customer services: 03 353 9007

Fax: 03 365 3194

or: 0800 EC INFO (0800 324 636)

Email: ecinfo@ecan.govt.nzWebsite: www.ecan.govt.nz

The Commissioner of Crown Lands

C/- DTZ New Zealand Limited

PO Box 27

ALEXANDRA

Attention: Ms Joan Gallagher

Dear Joan

**MT IDA SYNDICATE PASTORAL OCCUPATION LICENCE
SUBMISSION ON PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL FOR TENURE REVIEW**

Thank you for advising Environment Canterbury of the release of the Preliminary Proposal for tenure review of Mt Ida Syndicate Pastoral Occupation Licence. We appreciate the opportunity to review the proposal and make a submission in relation to the future management of this land.

Environment Canterbury has statutory responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) for the sustainable management of natural and physical resources of the region, including soil conservation, water quality and quantity and ecosystems, and for maintenance of biodiversity. In addition, Environment Canterbury also has statutory responsibilities under the Biosecurity Act 1993 for the management or eradication of animal and plant pests in accordance with regional pest management strategies. These responsibilities are entirely compatible with achievement of the objectives of Tenure Review, specifically to "promote the ecologically sustainable management of High Country land" and protecting land with "significant inherent values" by retaining it in Crown ownership.

The Canterbury Regional Policy Statement 1998 (CRPS) provides an overview of the resource management issues of the region, and sets out how natural and physical resources are to be managed in an integrated way to promote sustainable management. Key to the management of soils is the maintenance or restoration of a vegetative cover over non-arable land that is sufficient to prevent land degradation or the onset of erosion (Ch7 Objective 1). Sustainable management of water resources requires safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of water, including associated aquatic ecosystems and significant habitats of indigenous fauna and vegetation (Ch9 Objective 3). Policy 11 in Chapter 9 promotes land use practices which maintain or enhance water quality. Large landscapes are a feature of the Canterbury high country and the CRPS recognises the importance of protecting both the interconnectedness of landscape components and the vast, open nature of these landscapes.

Environment Canterbury has recently notified its Proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan (NRRP) to address the resource management issues identified in the CRPS and to provide more specific standards and methods, including rules, to achieve the objectives. The NRRP recognises the close relationship between land and water ecosystems by promoting the integrated management of soil and water resources across the region. In particular, the provisions of the plan emphasise the links between land use practices and the management of water quality.

Our Ref: PL5C-103; AG5T/158**Your Ref:****Contact:** Cathie Brumley

The Soil Conservation chapter (Ch8), Objective SCN1 seeks to: "...maintain soil quality and an intact and resilient vegetation cover sufficient to minimise the risk of induced erosion, safeguard the life-supporting capacity of the soil, and prevent, as far as practicable, the movement of soil into water bodies." The objective contains specific guidelines for intact and resilient vegetation cover. Policy SCN1 provides options to restore such a cover where it has become depleted.

Policy WQL5 of the Water Quality chapter includes a range of regulatory and non-regulatory methods to manage the riparian margins of rivers to maintain or improve water quality.

The Canterbury Regional Pest Management Strategy (2005) [which is a revised combination of the former CRPMS (1998) and the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Strategy Biodiversity Pests (2002)] identifies a number of species of plants and animals for control or management as pest species.

In line with these statutory responsibilities and documents, and Section 24 of the Crown Pastoral Lands Act (1998), Environment Canterbury technical and planning staff have reviewed the Preliminary Proposal for Mt Ida Syndicate Pastoral Occupation Licence to assess the impacts, if any, of this proposal on the sustainable management of the land, including pest management, indigenous biodiversity protection, recognition and protection of significant landscapes, public access opportunities, soil conservation and the integrity of the water bodies. Our comments and recommendations are listed below.

General comments

The Mt Ida Syndicate Pastoral Occupation Licence (POL) comprises a highly visible and natural landscape straddling the transition from Otago schist country to Canterbury greywacke country.

The natural values of the area are very high in terms of indigenous species diversity, species at the limits of their range, extensiveness and cohesiveness, quality and diversity of water bodies, and use for recreational activities.

A total of 98% of the land in the POL is Class VII land with severe limitations for pastoral use or Class VIII land unsuited to pastoral use. The remaining 2% of the land is Class VI land which is still limited in its potential for pastoral use. The area is characterised by broad plateaux dissected by steep incised valleys. Sunny faces often have depleted vegetation cover and extensive areas of bare ground.

The land contains some of the key water catchment for the Otematata River and Lake Aviemore. Streams traversing the land are generally of high water quality and inherently low nutrient status. The Otematata River is highly valued for its trout fishery and is also the main spawning river feeding into Lake Aviemore. Streams feeding into the Otematata are rich in the diversity and quality of native aquatic life. The extensive and intact tall tussock grasslands of the upper catchments are vitally important to retaining the values of these water bodies.

The Conservation Resources Report identifies the POL as having high significance for its landscape values, and as an integral link between the Otago and Canterbury landscapes. The significance of this landscape is due in large part to the retention and high quality of the indigenous vegetation cover and the lack of development of the area.

The authors of both the Preliminary Proposal and the Conservation Resources Report should be congratulated for producing a clear and thorough discussion of the range of values relating to the objectives for tenure review.

For these reasons Environment Canterbury supports the proposal to retain the land in full Crown ownership and control. The following discussion focuses on the specific values of the POL and the issues for their management.

Soil conservation

No Soil and Water Plan was developed for the Mt Ida Syndicate however the scale and frequency of burning required to open up the extensive tall tussock grasslands to grazing was a contentious issue for soil conservation management. In recognition of the remote nature of the land and the lack of access for fire control, the Waitaki Catchment Board subsidised the construction of more than 24 km of firebreak access tracks over the period of 1965 to 1985.

Indigenous Biodiversity

Examples of six Level IV Land Environments are present on the Mt Ida Syndicate Pastoral Occupation Licence (Leathwick et al. 2002)¹:

- Q1.1a, Q1.1c, Q1.1d, Q1.2a, Q2.1a, Q2.1b – Southeastern Hill country and Mountains, high elevation tops and range crests
- Q2.1a, Q2.2b – Southeastern Hill Country and Mountains, steep greywacke mid-slopes.

These six Land Environments are listed, in altitudinal sequence (highest to lowest) as they occur on the Mt Ida syndicate POL, in the table below. The table also shows the percentage of indigenous vegetation remaining in each land environment nationally, and the proportion of each environment that is already protected in existing reserves or conservation covenants. Threat categories are assigned on the basis of these figures (from Walker et al. 2005)²

Level IV Land Environment	% Indigenous Cover Remaining	% Protected	Threat category
Q1.1a	98.37	24.81	No threat category
Q1.2a	98.99	37.2	No threat category
Q1.1d	84.66	32.48	Not threatened
Q1.1c	91.23	19.26	Underprotected
Q2.1a	38	8.09	Critically underprotected
Q2.1b	66.39	4.72	Critically underprotected

The three highest altitude land environments present on the Mt Ida syndicate (Q1.1a, Q1.2a and Q1.1d) have, at a national and regional level, retained most of their indigenous cover, are already fairly well represented in the existing network of protected areas, and are therefore not considered to be threatened. The next highest land environment, Q1.1c, has also retained most of its indigenous cover but is somewhat less-well protected in the existing reserve network and has a threat category of 'Underprotected'. It is of very limited extent on the Mt Ida syndicate, however.

The two mid-altitude environments, Q2.1a and Q2.1b, have, throughout their overall range, lost more of their indigenous cover and are not well represented within existing protected areas. These are both assigned a threat category of 'Critically Underprotected'.

The preliminary proposal is that all the Mt Ida Syndicate pastoral occupation licence be retained in full Crown ownership and control as a conservation area. The main benefits to conservation of indigenous biodiversity from this proposal will be from protection of the indigenous tussock grassland and shrubland vegetation present on threatened mid-altitude environments. However, the vegetation and habitats of the adjoining high-altitude areas of the Mt Ida Syndicate land, although not threatened environments, are superb examples of their type, have very high landscape significance, provide ecological connectivity and buffering for the mid-slope environments, and are habitat for rare/threatened species such as New Zealand falcon and scree skinks. For these reasons the proposal is supported as contributing to the long-term protection of the significant natural heritage of the region.

Surface water resources

The POL contains some of the key water catchment for the Otematata River and Lake Aviemore. Streams traversing the land are generally of high water quality and inherently low nutrient status. The Otematata River is highly valued for its trout fishery and is also the main spawning river feeding into Lake Aviemore. Streams feeding into the Otematata are rich in the diversity and quality of native aquatic life. The extensive and intact tall tussock grasslands of the upper catchments are vitally important to retaining the values of these water bodies. The contribution that the extensive area of tall

¹ Leathwick J. et al 2002. Land Environments of New Zealand. Ministry for the Environment.

² Walker S., Price R. and Rutledge D. 2005. New Zealand's remaining indigenous cover: recent changes and biodiversity protection needs. Landcare Research Contract Report LC0405/038. 76 pp.

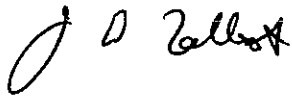
tussock grasslands over the high plateaux make to water yield will also be significant and should improve with the cessation of burning and grazing.

Recommendations

Environment Canterbury supports the Preliminary Proposal for tenure review of the Mt Ida Syndicate Pastoral Occupation Licence to designate all of the POL land to be retained in Crown ownership and control as a Conservation Area. The main grounds for support are that the proposal will provide a very good outcome for soil and water conservation in the headwaters of the Otematata river catchment and protect the highly significant inherent natural values identified for the area. In particular it will contribute to the protection of the water quality of the Otematata catchment and Lake Aviemore and will maintain the interconnectedness of the extensive natural landscapes of the Hawkdun, Ida and St Marys Ranges.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Preliminary Proposal.

Yours sincerely



John D Talbot

DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND PLANNING

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To; The Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Sir,

I would like to express my concern over the possible moving into DOC control the Mt Ida syndicate pasture area.

4WD touring/guiding access

I feel that the present leaseholders are managing this area very well and fear that if this land falls under Doc's control it will revert to a tract of land not available for the general public's visitations. This area is not really accessible by many other means than that of 4WD. Under Doc's protocol I can see this area being locked to 4WDing as are other areas under Doc control. It is only a 'few' brainless that muck it up for the majority and these under the present control are dealt with as around here we have many eyes for looking after this tract of land. The local farmers keep the tracks in good condition and allow the public to use these tracks for access to the area. I have for over 30 years taken friends and family to this area for recreational purposes and all that have been there express a desire to return.

Maintenance of this area

The upkeep and maintenance of this area is done at the lessees expense and I know that this is quite considerable at times after the area has suffered at the hands of nature. It is always good to be able to ring one of these persons to tell them of an impending visit and to find out if there are any dangers to watch out for. I usually give them a time for a return and ring them when I do get back - this in its own is a great safety factor. I have visited into other areas that are under Doc control and have been disappointed at the state and general condition of these areas. The West Coast is one of these areas that I feel needs to have greater input by Doc as the gorse and wilding tree control is sadly lacking. I have at times seen my digging out small pine wildings in the Ida Syndicate and wonder what controls would be enforced if Doc gets future control.

Home Staying and touring

Having an interest in gold, one of my uses for this area is to transport my Home stays up to the Burster diggings - to be able to show people from all parts of the world this old gold workings purported to be among one of the highest in the world. The sheer enormity of the workings and the ability of the old miners to have worked it, rank among one of the wonders of the gold mining greats.

To see the look on the visitors faces is indescribable as they walk amongst the old tailings. The enormity also of being able to stand and look over all of the surrounding mountains and to see in the distance Mount Cook.

The heritage of the area

The heritage that this tract of land has is nothing short of amazing and when one looks at the generations of families that have farmed this area for over a hundred years now - where else in this modern world of ours does commitment like this occur. I have been one of the fortunate able to take part in the 'muster' and this memory will stay with me till I die. To take this stewardship/heritage away from the families concerned would be nothing short of a disaster both for them and the land. I have seen a few droughts in this area and know from experience that for the farmers to be able to have this land for grazing is the ace in their farming year when the going gets tough.

I was always told by my father 'son if it aint broke - don't fix it' I guess what he was telling me was if something is running smoothly and economically - don't upset it. The export dollars this land generates does add to our countries wealth - meat and wool - take this land away and the farmers drop their stock holdings - who compensates them and where then do we generate the loss of overseas dollars from?.

The local Lions rely on this area for generating funds for local groups and to have gone on and help out on a few of these trips is really something to look forward to each year.

In these times where we have all been made aware - Pakeha and Maori - we all look to and at our heritage and few of us have any thing like this that these local farmers/stewards and their families of this land have.

The Whys?

I have to ask myself why is it so important to Doc to have control of this land when they already are hard pushed to keep proper control over some areas already under their web. It is only going to cost more to the tax payer in them trying to apply upkeep and being a high country run this will cost!. Have they got a cost sheet for the upkeep of this area?

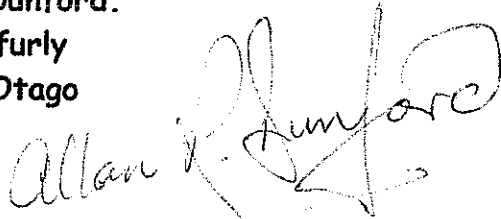
Is there something else that I am missing in their wanting this syndicate? Or have I had my head in the sand and am not seeing for looking?. I am wondering why the grass is greener on the Ida Syndicate for Doc to want it so badly and oust the present land users - I was always told by my father 'son if it aint broke - don't fix it' I guess what he was telling me was if something is running smoothly and economically for the country - don't upset it. This land does add to our countries wealth - meat and wool - take this land away and the farmers drop their stock holdings -

My thoughts

It saddens me and has me really quite bemused that Doc or the crown would want to step in and upset a heritage that has been running smoothly for 109 years now with little or no detriment to the local flora and fauna - if anything to its betterment - as - with the addition of the modern clean and well upkept unlocked shepherd huts - there for the use of those who have been caught out when a storm has dropped on them without warning. What will happen to these huts placed there by the present land stewards? - will these be maintained by Doc or will this prove to be too much of an expense for them to do so?.

I would appreciate a few answers at some stage but my strongest thoughts in this matter would be for the present stewardship to continue on for the next hundred years looking after and protecting an environment as they have done making it easy for all New Zealanders to enjoy and not be locked up so that the average visitor can not visit and enjoy a truly wonderful part of Our country.

Yours sincerely
Allan R Dunford.
2RD Ranfurly
Central Otago

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allan R. Dunford". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name. A horizontal line is drawn across the page below the signature.

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223 Kyeburn Station Road,
3 R D
RANFURLY

15 November 2006

Commissioner of Crown Lands
C/ The Manager
D T Z New Zealand Ltd
Box 27
ALEXANDRA

Dear Sir,

Submission on the Preliminary Proposal on Oo 090 Mt Ida Syndicate Pt Run 362B and 362C Mt Buster SD

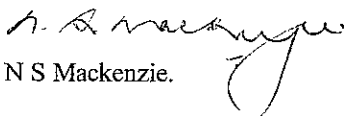
If the area is to return to full Crown ownership and control as proposed, recognition should be given to the licensees for the Firebreak/access track programme undertaken as part of an overall regional plan initiated by the Waitaki Catchment Commission.

1. Extending vehicular access from the Mount Buster gold workings to Guffies creek and via the Marginal strip to the Tailings hut (in association with the lessees of Po197)
2. Providing vehicular access over extremely difficult terrain to the Boundary creek branch of the Otematata river and the plateau beyond and the two legal roads on the northern boundary.

The Department of Conservation should be committed to preserving the original mustering huts and recording the history associated with these together with the restored swing bridge over the Boundary creek. Even the original fences are of historical significance as examples of the endeavours of the pioneering run holders.

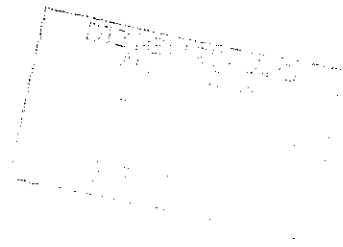
Yours faithfully

N S Mackenzie.



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The Mandeville Country Club Inc.
Flour Mill Road,
Mandeville,
RD 6,
Gore.



17th October 2006

Commissioner of Crown Lands,
C/- DTZ New Zealand Limited,
Land Resources Division,
P O Box 27,
Alexandra.

Dear Sir,

Re: Mt Ida Syndicate Review of Other Crown Land.

I am writing on behalf of the Mandeville Country Club Inc. regarding the preliminary proposal of the above review.

It is our belief that the land currently held under licence by the Mt Ida Syndicate as scheduled in the proposal, should continue to be held by them.

It is apparent that the objectives a, b & c are currently being met under the present system of management, with no cost to the general public or to the Crown. It is also apparent that removing this land from the present system of management would cause the lessees considerable difficulty with stock management during the summer months and also impose unnecessary financial restraints upon their total farm management systems.

It is therefore our view that the current management of the Mt Ida Syndicate should remain in the hands of the lessees and that the proposal for Crown management should be rejected.

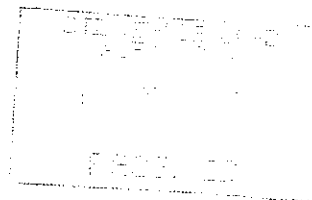
Yours Faithfully

Kathryn Perry
Secretary

CTAPIRI

R.D 2 WINTON

14.11.06



SIR/MADAM.

I AM WRITING IN OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE MT IDA SYNDICATE OCCUPATION LICENCE, PART RUN 362B AND RUN 362C. THE LICENSEE'S HAVE GRAZED THIS BLOCK OF LAND FOR OVER 100 YEARS AND AS STATED IN THIS PLAN THE VEGETATION TYPES HAVE SURVIVED THIS ROAD.

IT STATES THAT IF THE CROWN TAKE CONTROL AND ALL DISTURBANCES STOP THAT THE ECO-SYSTEMS WOULD BE SUSTAINED. WHAT HAS HAPPENED OVER THE LAST 100 YEARS THEY HAVE SURVIVED TO BE STILL HERE SO STOCK MUST BE ABLE TO LIVE WITHIN THESE SYSTEMS, WHY CHANGE A GOOD THING.

IT STATES THAT GRAZING MAY BE A MANAGEMENT TOOL IN THE FUTURE, WHY CAN'T IT BE A PERMANENT TOOL.

THE SECURING OF PUBLIC ACCESS TO THIS BLOCK WOULD CEASE TO EXIST IF DOC TOOK CONTROL. THE ACCESS ROAD HAS TO BE MAINTAINED ON A REGULAR BASIS. THE ROAD HAS LONG SIDECUTS WITH LONG WATERTABLES WHICH COLLECT A LOT OF WATER WHICH IF NOT MAINTAINED WOULD WASH THE ROAD OUT. DOC HAVE TROUBLE LOOKING AFTER WHAT LAND THEY CONTROL NOW SO I CAN'T SEE THEM DOING ANYTHING TO THIS ROAD.

MY PERSONAL VIEW IS THAT DOC DON'T WANT VEHICLES IN THE HIGH COUNTRY SO ONCE THE ROAD IS GONE THEY HAVE THEIR WAY. LIKE MYSELF THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ENJOY THESE PLACES IN MOTOR VEHICLES/BIKES BUT IF DOC HAVE THEIR WAY A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF KIWI'S WILL BE DENIED THIS EXPERIENCE.

IF DOC TAKE CONTROL THE FARMERS WILL HAVE TO REDUCE STOCK NUMBERS WHICH WILL REDUCE THEIR INCOMES WHICH REDUCES THEIR SPENDING, SO IN TURN THIS WILL EFFECT NOT ONLY THEM BUT THE WHOLE OF THE SURROUNDING DISTRICTS.

THIS COUNTRY HAS GOT TO WHERE IT IS TODAY WITH A LOT OF HARD WORK FROM GENERATIONS OF FARMING FAMILYS AND THEIR RESPECT FOR THE LAND THEY FARM.

SO WHY SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT BE ALLOWED TO DICTATE TO THEM WHERE THEY CAN NOT FARM, ON LAND THAT HAS BEEN FARMED AND LOOKED AFTER FOR GENERATIONS AND WOULD AND SHOULD BE FARMED FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

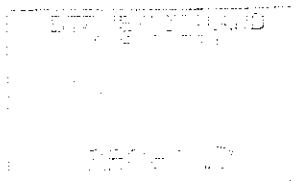
YOURS SINCERELY



MIKE BELL.

A GROUP OF US - 6 VEHICLES / FAMILIES TRAVELED THIS ROAD SEVERAL YEARS AGO. WE HAD NOTHING BUT HELP FROM THE FAMILIES WHO FARM THIS LAND. IT IS A GREAT TRIP AND WOULD BE REAL SHAME IF IT BECAME INACCESSIBLE.

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83 Highcliff Road,
Andersons Bay,
Dunedin.

15/11/06

To whom it may concern,

As a user of the Mt. Ida syndicate Mount Buster area for many years, for hunting, hiking and family trips to the huts. We have generally been granted access. At different times when permission has been refused it was the result of other parties being in there at the time requested, fire risk, snow or when mustering was taking place.

We have always had a good repore with the land owners and it is obvious to me the land has been properly managed over 4 generations of occupation. The vegetation is in a healthy state, the huts and tracks are well maintained.

D.O.C. has not got the same record as some of the run holders. Access has been restricted in some areas, Birchwood station has no 4 wheel drive access to top huts. Molesworth station has limited access. Other D.O.C. estates are growing many weeds. So I ask you, why don't they try and manage what they have before taking more land to be 'locked up' for no one to use?

Yours sincerely,

Sam Pickford.

83 Highcliff Road,
Andersons Bay,
Dunedin.

15/11/06

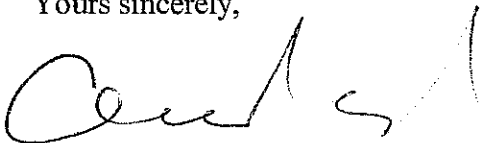
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Yours sincerely,



Leigh Pickford.

MT IDA SYNDICATE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL REVIEW SUBMISSION

~~NAME~~ Peter James Patterson Vice Chairman
South Island High Country Committee
ADDRESS Munro Lane Omarema

SUBMIT AN OBJECTION TO YOUR PROPOSAL FOR FULL CROWN OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF THIS LAND. IT SHOULD BE DISPOSED OF (PREFERABLY AS FEE SIMPLE) IN FAVOUR OF THE PRESENT HOLDERS TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE GRAZING CAN BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE AS BEFORE. FURTHERMORE THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE CONSIDERED:

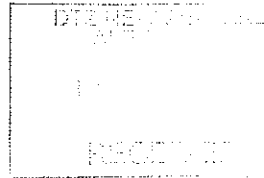
(Legal Description of land concerned: Part Run 362B and Run 362C Mount Buster Survey District comprising 8401.2739ha.

General description of proposal: 8401ha (approximately) to be designated as land to be retained as land in full Crown ownership and control as a conservation area pursuant to Section 86(5)(a)(i) Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998.)

MT Ida Syndicate needs crucial Summer
Grazing for 10,000 Sheep
If this land goes to DOC to manage
they have no management plans, a big
step backwards
Access is provided for including 4x4's or
will this become like Birchwood where
legal roads are blocked off

P.J. Patterson

174



83 Highcliff Road,
Andersons Bay,
Dunedin.

15/11/06

To whom it may concern,

As a user of the Mt. Ida syndicate Mount Buster area for many years, for hunting, hiking and family trips to the huts. We have generally been granted access. At different times when permission has been refused it was the result of other parties being in there at the time requested, fire risk, snow or when mustering was taking place.

We have always had a good repore with the land owners and it is obvious to me the land has been properly managed over 4 generations of occupation. The vegetation is in a healthy state, the huts and tracks are well maintained.

D.O.C. has not got the same record as some of the run holders. Access has been restricted in some areas, Birchwood station has no 4 wheel drive access to top huts. Molesworth station has limited access. Other D.O.C. estates are growing many weeds. So I ask you, why don't they try and manage what they have before taking more land to be 'locked up' for no one to use?

Yours sincerely,

Jamie Pickford.

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Kyeburn
RD3
Ranfurly
13.11.06

The Commissioner of Crown Lands
C/- of The Manager
DTZ New Zealand Limited
Land Resources Division
P O Box 27
Alexandra

Dear Sir,

We enclose a written submission to object to the Mt Ida Syndicate Block being taken over by DOC.

At present farmers graze sheep out there over the summer. They maintain tracks, huts, noxious weeds & plants.
Anyone who asks permission is allowed access to the area.

The land is in very good natural heart with the sheep maintaining a natural balance for over 100 years. This is due to the farmer's management, care & love for the area.....

**The land is what it is now because of the farmers.
WHY CHANGE IT?**


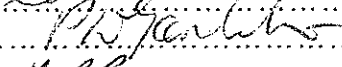
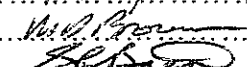
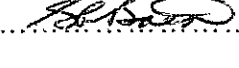
DOC will **not** maintain tracks, pests & noxious weeds.
DOC will take the present huts away.
Then DOC will say 4WD & horses will not be allowed access. This will effectively cut out 95% of the people who presently use it.

All of the above statements about DOC come from what they have done in the past.

What we will then have is an area which at present helps support 6 families, shows the high country in its natural beautiful state, can be enjoyed by all, turned into a overgrown area with poor access & an alarming increase of broom, gorse, rabbits etc where only the very fit can go if they can walk through the vegetation.

DOC's idea of a conservation park allowing more people to use this land is **WRONG!**

Yours faithfully

Alanna Browne.....		Kyeburn RD3 Ranfurly
Peter Ganderton.....		Kokonga, RD 3 Ranfurly
Martin Browne.....		Kyeburn RD3 Ranfurly
Stewart Bain.....		Ettrick RD2 Roxburgh

MT IDA SYNDICATE REVIEW

SUBMISSION ON PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL

The restoration to full Crown ownership and designation as a conservation area will not fulfil the objectives of the CPL act.

Object (a) - the land managed in a way that enables ecosystems to be maintained or enhanced.

The end of grazing will change the ecosystem. The spread of hieracium will increase and will decimate the tussock cover. Broom and wilding trees will spread without control and vigilance. Continued grazing will maintain the ecosystems.

Object (b) - protection of significant inherent values.

Significant inherent values are a matter of contention. Locking up the land and allowing the ecosystem to change is more of a risk to the SIV than the continued managed grazing. The grazing has retained these values for over 100 years.

Object (c) - securing of public access to and the enjoyment of the land.

It is stated in the Preliminary Proposal that securing of public access to and enjoyment of Crown land will be an outcome of Crown ownership. The land is already open to the public and their enjoyment is enhanced due to vehicle access. The isolation from any public road means that few people will get to enjoy the area if the tracks are not maintained or left open. This is the case with many conservation areas, where access road gates are locked many miles away from the scenic area.

If the land is in freehold ownership with public access easements along tracks and a grazing plan with monitoring of vegetation cover, the area will be given a far better chance to retain its values than by moving to the locked gate Conservation Park proposal.

The land will be subjected to uncontrolled grazing if the present management is prohibited from overseeing the run. Stock will wander onto this land from neighbouring runs especially the Soldiers Syndicate P.O.L.

The Department of Conservation report to the commissioner states that because of similarities between both P.O.L.s they should be dealt with in a complementary

manner. As no progress has been made to the tenure of the Soldiers Syndicate, no decision can be made on the Mt Ida Syndicate. Otherwise the management of one compromises the management of the other.

AScott
Alistair D. Scott
Kyebrun. B.R.D. Ranfurly.
Central Otago
03 4449287

AScott
Susan Scott
Kyebrun
B.R.D.
Ranfurly
03 4449287

SUBMISSION ON MT IDA SYNDICATE PROPOSALS

Submitter: Kathryn Thomas
Address: Enterprise Farm, Naseby, RD2 Ranfurly
Telephone: 03 444 9920
Email: kath.thomas@xtra.co.nz
Date: 11 November 2006

PREAMBLE:

The Maniototo district is heavily reliant on the fortunes of the farming operations in the area. The industry has been the mainstay of the district since the earliest times, notwithstanding the impact gold recovery had for some years. Because of the low rainfall in the area, and frequent dry spells over the years, the ability of farmer members of the Mt Ida Syndicate to manage their lower dryland properties has hinged on being able to pasture their stock on the Mt Ida pastoral licence area during the dry summer months. To remove this certainty will almost certainly mean downgrading of the economic return for many of the farms, and possible cessation of farming altogether. Again, the economic impact will have costs for the social wellbeing of the Maniototo community, which has already weathered one significant rural downturn.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF FARMING IN THE MANIOTOTO

The economic impact of farming in the Maniototo district is considerable. During the rural downturn of the eighties and early nineties, farming incomes fell considerably, and many farms only retained a degree of viability because of the certainty of their water supply. Farmers spending power was reduced and this had a severe economic impact on the local community. Farmers could no longer afford to employ farm labour. Businesses closed and rural services dwindled as people left the district. The economic return from the area dropped, which impacted nationally.

Much of the Maniototo relies on dry land farming techniques, because of a lack of reliable water sources and insufficient rainfall. One of the ways in which dryland farming has succeeded has been because many farms on the Eastern side of the Maniototo have had access to the area known as Mt Ida, for grazing during the dry summer months.

Historically, the farming families who currently utilise the licence have done so for more than 100 years. During that time they have utilised the resource conservatively and spent much time, effort and money on facilities to sustain them during the musters. Huts have been erected and tracks have been put in and maintained. Farmers have always been careful to preserve the landscape and its flora and fauna, and the results of this preservation have been recognised by the Crown, and also by the continuing ability of the farmers to utilise the area. Most native plants survive in the area because of the conservative nature of the grazing. If the land had been devastated, grazing would no longer be viable, and the farmers would have walked away.

During the time the licence has been held, the public at large have always had access to the area and have been able to utilise the facilities provided by the farmers at no cost, but not always with due regard for leaving things as they found them. Tracks have been carved up by 4WD vehicles and huts damaged by members of the public, who care only for their own enjoyment, with no regard for the country over which they have been able to travel. Farmers have had to repair the damage, often at considerable cost. Consider the implications of unsupervised DOC tenure.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

The Labour Government came to power pledging to provide a governance that all New Zealanders could be certain about, and that would be accountable to the people it represented. During the Government's tenure, there has been very little accountability to New Zealanders who live in rural areas. When situations such as the present Mt Ida one arise, rather than taking the time to really listen to the people most closely involved, and the suggestions and ideas they offer, Government Ministers appear to take into account only those reports and suggestions presented by the bureaucracy involved. The so called "expert" opinion is nearly always the preferred option, with little regard for the opinion of the people who make their living from a particular industry. There appears to be no recognition that the "expert" opinion is theoretical at best, with little understanding of the realities involved.

Government policy relating to the creation of large conservation parks throughout the country does not take into account the economic return lost from the areas they wish to preserve. The possibility of economic return from tourism in these parks will never exceed the returns from agriculture, no matter how many advertising campaigns stressing Clean, Green and Adventure are run. During the recent period of very good returns from agriculture, the Government has been quick to acknowledge its value as the engine room of the economy, however, various Government Departments seem only interested in slavishly following government policy regardless of other possible measures that could be taken to preserve the best of both worlds - maintaining economic returns to farmers and allowing people to utilise the country involved. With an ever expanding land area to control, the Department of Conservation will rapidly become a large hole into which successive governments will have to pour money to maintain even some degree of viability in their landholdings.

No matter what item is utilised by New Zealanders, somewhere within the cost of a laptop, a mobile phone, a computer, a vehicle, household whiteware and all the items considered necessary for a high standard of living, there is a monetary component generated by agriculture, which still provides more than 60% of New Zealand's income. It would seem that most New Zealanders are no longer aware that their standard of living is underpinned by what happens on the land, that the weekly or fortnightly salary or wage they look forward to have an agricultural component. If the ability of farmers to produce is compromised, then the country's income drops, and the ability of the ordinary New Zealander to maintain their living standard is also compromised.

In situations such as that facing the farmers who utilise the Mt Ida area, the relationship of Pakeha farmers with their land, often over many generations, appears to be not considered worthy of preservation. While Maori Land Tenure is considered important because of their long relationship with the land and the illegal confiscations that took place (witness the recent large settlements in lieu of land wrongly taken), scant regard seems to be given to Pakeha relationships with their land and the preservation of that land. Good husbandry of the land is paramount if farmers are to succeed in their endeavours. No matter in what industry, people leave a footprint that is not natural - would the Government have us remove our homes and businesses in urban areas because they have damaged that natural landscape?

SOCIAL IPMPACTS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS

Yet again, a rural area is having to face a reduction in it's income, and farming families are having to face the loss of income and possible loss of their farms. While the impact of these losses may seem small compared with factory closures, closure of related businesses when manufacturers close, and rundown urban areas with unemployment and all the problems this presents, the impact of farming breakdown on rural areas is just as significant. During the massive restructuring that took place in the nineteen eighties and nineties, headlines were made about the problems cities and towns faced, but for rural areas, the impact was just as severe. Many of the facilities that urban people still take for granted such as quick access to a doctor or hospital, a post office, a good selection of schools and government departments, all these vanished from rural areas.

The result of all these closures meant that the population moved away to look for employment in urban areas, and local shops and services also closed because of lack of trade. Many farmers lost their livelihood during this time and those who managed to hold onto their farms, struggled to stay afloat. Farmhands were dispensed with, and wives went to work in larger towns, if they lived near one, in order to maintain income. The breakdown of social cohesiveness was considerable. It has taken many years of struggle for rural communities to regain their feet, albeit they still do not have access to services they once had locally. To face again the possibility of disruption because of Government policy that does not consider the consequences of it's actions, is both unfair and does not provide the certainty that was promised by Government. While the numbers of people involved in the possibility of the loss of the Mt Ida grazing regime are small, nevertheless, for a rural area which does not have a large population, the impacts are huge. And the impact on the country's income because of ill considered policy is ever present.

MT IDA GRAZING REGIME

It is submitted that more consultation be undertaken with the current Licence holders. It should be possible to meet both the farmers' requirements for grazing, and a possible new conservation parks' requirements in a manner that is satisfactory to both parties. The many years of conservative grazing carried out has meant that the condition of the proposed park is in good heart, and this factor should be a prime consideration. The ongoing public access over many years also shows that farmers have always been willing to share their land with others, as is nearly always the case with pastoral leases and licence.

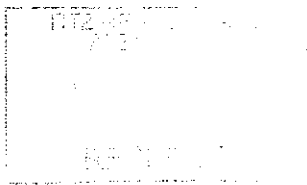
It is submitted that Government Departments concerned with agricultural have as a priority, implementation of a Government policy that considers the reality of the situation involved, as well as the theoretical possibilities presented by Departments, the priority being always to look at both economic and social well being of the affected rural New Zealanders.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this submission.

(178)

O'Neill Road
4 RD
Ranfurly

15 November 2006

Commissioner of Crown Lands
C/- DTZ New Zealand Ltd
PO Box 27
Alexandra

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to make the following submission on behalf of John and Gary Hore of Kyeburn relating to the Mt Ida Syndicate License of Crown Land Run 362B and part 362C.

One of the latest inspections carried out by Messrs Lysaht, Taylor and Wilkinson along with Syndicate members came only one week after the grazing stock were removed by annual muster and the condition of the land therefore gave an excellent picture of the effect of grazing. The impression gained by all was that summer grazing of this area did not have a detrimental effect on the ecological sustainability.

The only boundary fence is that next to Aviemore Station which was renewed reasonably recently and already now blends almost invisibly with the surrounding terrain. Unlike many boundary fences throughout New Zealand it is not possible to differentiate between properties with a marked stock grazing line. In fact both sides of the fence show no sign of stock grazing at all.

Public access presently is mainly by means of tracks only completed in 1969. The public have never been refused access by the Mt Ida Syndicate members who have welcomed any group wishing to view the area but requested that stock be respected at grazing time. The siting of these tracks and the structure of the soil means they require little maintenance and are not obvious on the landscape.

There are few SIV's identified on the block with the main one the landscape with its tussock cover and the lagoon which was inspected by the recent investigation party. This area could easily be retired by the erection of a perimeter fence but this was deemed unnecessary as stock damage was nil.

It is noted that in reaching a decision of the future of this area, the Commissioner of Crown Lands must adhere to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi as the original license was taken up in 1897 and our family still farms the same farm. We are droving stock onto the area with members of the sixth generation. Our family has traced ancestry back to early Ngai Tahu tribal days in the south and so those sixth generation people regard this as a customary right.

Under the present license system the members of the Mt Ida Syndicate believe that they have worked hard to preserve the present ecosystem which of course is in their interest. As custodians of the land they have always endeavoured to improve the area for following generations.

When the Department of Conservation was formed it was welcomed by licensees as a further means of helping to improve the ground cover and tussock species with scientific and technical advice from another direction. Department of Conservation input however has been little and any land evaluation work has been for an alternative use.

If there has been any change to the ecosystem in recent years that we are unaware of we would welcome an efficient and regularly documented monitoring system. This would we believe show the benefits or otherwise of grazing in summer of sheep. It may take a number of years to evaluate properly in which time we would request that the present system of license renewal should continue.

Mr Taylor in a recent report stated that he had been familiar with the Mt Ida Syndicate area for some 20 years and he believed that the ecosystem had responded to grazing by sheep because plants had become used to such treatment and responded accordingly with their growth.

This therefore should signify progress as without this form of summer relief it would appear that farms on the dry lowland would no longer be economic.

Yours faithfully

J D Hore

J D Hore