

Crown Pastoral Land Other Crown Land

Lease name: MT IDA

Lease number: 00 090

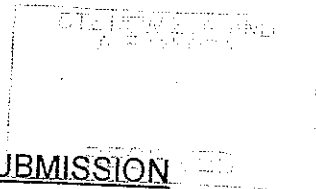
Public Submissions - Part 7

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

July

07

117



MT IDA SYNDICATE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL REVIEW SUBMISSION

I / WE..... David Scott

ADDRESS..... 4 Murray Place, Lake Tekapo scott.d.h.c@extra.co.nz

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.)

(Ida)

Mt Ida Syndicate

I fully support the Mt Ida Syndicate's desire to retain grazing of Runs 362B and 362C.

I do this after examining the area, reading the conservation report, being trained as an ecologist and a life-time of researching the agricultural options for the high country of the grazing/plant interactions.

I believe you have to consider that the conservation values of the area are *due to* grazing – not *in spite of* grazing.

All ecosystems develop a food web of producers (plants), herbivores, carnivores, and decomposers with the proportion of each being relatively constant and predictable. New Zealand is unlikely to have been the exception – other than being large birds and insects. There were the 6000-8000 moa skeletons at the mouth of the Waitaki, the moa remains at Waimate, Pyramid Valley, Cowans Hill (Lake Tekapo), wagon loads for crushing as lime in early Dunedin, crop stones throughout the high country, an weka populations (like rabbits) in early European times. The description of sheep grazing *Oerobolus* swamps on the Ida plateau read almost identical to that of *Notornis* in Fiordland apart from the change in names. I believe we completely underestimate the previous grazing of tussock grasslands and that the present change has been probably been in type of grazing rather than intensity of grazing.

The 108 years of present management and grazing is a very fair test of sustainability for multiple use!

The group acknowledges and cherish the conservation values. Yes, if needed, put in some management guidelines or restrictions related to conservation values, but realize that in so doing that the group have already taken personal responsibility for their management.

There is also the vexed question of infra-structure – tracks, roads, huts, fences etc. These were installed for one reason, but in being there are now available for other purposes. It is hard not to think of 'confiscation' or 'theft' if their original use would now be denied.

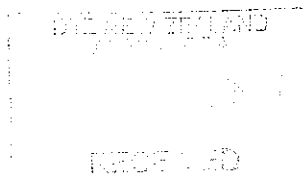
Dr David Scott
4 Murray Place
Lake Tekapo

David Scott 9/nw/06

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

118

35 School Road
Whatawhata
RD9
HAMILTON
Ph: 07 829 3144 Mob: 027 229 1627



13 November 2006

Commissioner of Crown Lands
C/- DTZ New Zealand Ltd
Land Resources Division
PO Box 27
ALEXANDRA

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission Against Proposal for Land Part Run 362B & Run 362C Mount Buster Survey District

This is a submission against the proposal for the land labelled Part Run 362B and Run 362C Mount Buster Survey District 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.

My association with the Mt Ida Syndicate block spans the last 30 years since my father took our family, including his parents, on a 4WD sightseeing trip out there in 1976. Since then I worked out there as a musterer for 3 or 4 years starting in 1989.

I have also been through the Syndicate block on 4WD sightseeing trips on 5 separate occasions. Two of these were organised by my father, one by the Syndicate runholders, and two by myself. These both involved people from Hamilton who had never experienced anything like it before, even though two of them had travelled all over the world. All of these North Islanders were totally blown away by the unique scenery. One of my grandmothers went on a trip out there several years ago when she was in her mid 80's.

I have also gone hunting on the Syndicate block on numerous occasions. For the last 15 years I have hunted out there on a regular basis. I now live in the Waikato region and have done so for the last 4 1/2 years, so my hunting trips out there are restricted to once a year. I look forward to this trip all year.

Through my association with the Mount Ida Syndicate over the last 30 years I have never been refused access. The only stipulation has been to report our safe exit from the area. I admire the management displayed by the runholders. The area has never been overgrazed, and I have always found the trucks and huts to be well maintained, and the area remains the same today as when I first saw it. We maintain a partnership which both parties benefit from. I get to tramp all over the mountains with several friends, enjoying the beautiful scenery and serenity, and with a bit of luck shooting the odd animal. The runholders get reliable reports on the condition of tracks and river crossings, the location of sheep, and their feral animals kept under control.

My brother and I have been fortunate over the last year to become fathers. We both hope to take our children for trips on to the Mount Ida Syndicate block in the hope that they will share the wonderful memories that we have.

The tradition of farmers on the Maniototo Plain pooling their resources to drive sheep into this

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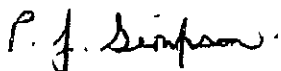
high country, and then three months later mustering them off again has continued for nearly 110 years. This is a tradition that I would hate to see end.

I would like to see the situation on Part Run 362B and Run 362C Mount Buster Survey District remain as it has for the last 110 years or so. To me it is a win win situation for everyone:

- The farmers pay a rental for the use of the land.
- The farmers maintain the tracks and huts.
- The public are allowed access to drive through, mountain bike, horse trek, tramp and hunt through the area.
- Feral animals are controlled by the runholders (through private hunters).
- The management of the land in it's present form is ecologically sustainable as evidenced by the fact that the tussock and shrub land ecosystems exist in their current state as outlined in the Report.

For all the reasons I have outlined above, myself and my family are against the proposal to change the access to this unique land that is enjoyed not only by us, but also by the average New Zealander. I would ask that this proposal does not proceed.

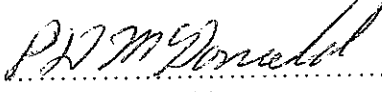
Yours faithfully




Paul Simpson

As Pauline and myself are land owners we believe the high country should be left to the licensees for grazing as it has been for the last four generations.

If this does not happen, the high country as we know it, will become overgrown and be a fire haszard. Fire will destroy the significant indigeneous vegetation that the crown is trying to protect.


.....
Peter McDonald


.....
Pauline Seaton

MT IDA SYNDICATE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL REVIEW SUBMISSIONI/WE RICHAON Ltd Lee's ValleyADDRESS Carleton Rd Oxford (9 miles)

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:

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- Reasons for supporting Mt Ida Syndicate
1. Mt Ida Syndicate has grazed for 109 years. Richan Ltd a POL in 1932 property bought in 1962 since changed in 1987 to grazing licence.
 2. The syndicate is unique not found elsewhere in New Zealand surely demands recognition on historic values alone buildings are preserved as part of history why not High Country Land A golden opportunity to be part of a Q.E.II. or similar organisation
 3. The fact that the tussock and shrub land eco systems exist in the current state after 109 years makes further botanical trial plots only helpful for similar high country needing a scale to work from.
 4. South Island high Country needs a platform now to work from let Mt Ida Syndicate be the first to drive the state in

MT IDA SYNDICATE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL REVIEW SUBMISSION

~~NAME~~ Dugald Rutherford.

ADDRESS Melrose, Hawarden.

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:

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I am a hill/high country farmer who has no personal knowledge of the area in question, but I strongly support this objection.

The policy of managing land exclusively for ^{either} conservation or for commercial use is at odds with the rest of the world. This area seems to me a grand opportunity to trial such a merger, the value of historical and cultural use added to the provision of access and weed control must outweigh any minor ecological damage done by grazing.

Mossdale

Otama 3RD Gore

The Manager

DTZ New Zealand Limited

ATT Commissioner of Crown Lands

Dear Sir,

It with great sadness that we read of the proposed termination of the MTIDA SYNDICATE pastoral occupation licence by our current government bodies

Having been born, and raised, and worked on the Maniototo plains for 38 years, I have been privileged to be associated with the families of the current leasees. I have mustered sheep / recreational 4WD / hunted / and assisted maintain the network of tracks on the syndicate on many occasions when I was employed by the Inder family.

For the past seventeen years I have farmed in Eastern Southland and have had the pleasure and knowledge on escorting several 4WD parties to explore this pristine part of Central Otago High Country. The current leasees have gone out of their way to welcome/accomodate us onto this land.

I believe that why change something that has been so successful since 1897 and put these landowners at financial risk (ruin) with their current farming practise with adverse climate conditions that they endure in this part of the country, and often subject to drought conditions, without this highcountry runoff for several months of the year, it is a MUST to keep them economically viable as a business, the backbone of

of our New Zealand economy, farming.

My concerns for the future under DOC control who will monitor and maintain the following?

- ① Recreational 4WD excursions (is it going to be open to every 4WD owner (down or otherwise).
- ② Who will maintain tracks + huts to the present standard.
- ③ Who will monitor the property for fire risk. (Which I believe to be extreme if seasonal grazing is not permitted.)
- ④ Responsibility for control of noxious weeds etc.
- ⑤ Who is going to give to go ahead to travel on these high country tracks, if at any time marginal, owing to weather conditions.

I believe the current leasee families who rely on this land for their current farming operations, should have their TENURE OF THIS LAND renewed, as they have an impeccable record as caretakers / caregivers for the past 100 plus years.

Yours faithfully
Robyn J Bead

(133)
RECEIVED

Joan Gallagher

From: R S Emmerson [rsemmerson@xtra.co.nz]
Sent: Monday, 13 November 2006 10:12 p.m.
To: Alexandra
Subject: Mt Ida Syndicate Preliminary Proposal Review Submission

R S & J Emmerson,
Forest Range Station,
Private Bag,
Tarras, Central Otago, NZ
Phone: 03 4452833
Fax 03 4452834
Email: rsemmerson@xtra.co.nz

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

Dear Sir

Re: Mt Ida Syndicate Preliminary Proposal Review Submission

In reference to the above we totally oppose your proposal for full Crown Ownership and control of this land. It should be disposed of by fee simple to the present holders to ensure that sustainable grazing is allowed to continue as before.

We recommend that a sustainable management covenant be drawn up to provide assurances that the current grazing regime (that has been in place for the past 109 years) continues to maintain the land in a healthy condition.

We recommend that public access be managed and provided for. In the past this has been satisfactorily managed by the holders and it is desirable that easements be established but the holders in the interests of public safety still manage access. Because of the nature of the country it is desirable that someone has the knowledge and is responsible for people who are in the area to ensure their safety.

Grazing is important to this country. It is ecologically sustainable as evidenced by the significant indigenous vegetation that is still present on the property after 109 years of pastoral farming. Weed management by grazing is crucial to prevent invasion by wilding trees, broom and gorse, hieracium and briar.

The summer grazing provided by this land is an essential financial contribution to the syndicate properties. Without the summer grazing these properties would become uneconomic. This would also have a significant effect on the Maniototo community.

The tenure review process is designed to protect and enhance ecological sustainability, the significant inherent values in the properties and provide for public access.

This is a unique property with a unique past and culture that is an integral part of the history of the Maniototo district and the entire nation. It is essential that this culture is preserved and that the land continues to be grazed and managed in the same way as in the past. Therefore it is essential that the property is freeholded.

Signed:

R S Emmerson for R S Emmerson Trust & Forest Range Ltd

This is a Submission for the Proposal of Mt Ida to become a designated Conservation Area.

We John & Martine Van Turnout have hunted the Mt Ida and surrounding areas for the past seventeen years. Our son Ryan who is twelve has also been with us for the last two years.

We have never been denied access to Mt Ida, or any of the surrounding lands and huts.

The farmers have managed this high country exceptionally well over the last 109 years.

The farmers no exactly who are in the Mountains, and where and when the parties are coming in and out, in case of a vehicle brake down or accident.

Making this high country experience a safe and rewarding one.

Maintenance to the tracks has not been an issue. The tracks to gain access to the Rivers and gullies and mountain passes have all been suitably maintained to get everywhere.

As farmers run this high country, it is all ways open to the public on request.

The grazing of stock in this backcountry shows no evidence of destroying the natural eco system.

Financially the grazing of sheep has to benefit the economy of New Zealand.

Many designated conservation blocks in the Otago area are becoming unwalkable – undriveable because DOC can not control the noxious plants – broom – wilding Pines - Gorse.

Many blocks are covered in gorse, some of our tussock tops are now all gorse - Native bush surrounded in gorse - Walking tracks – edges gorse. DOC is unable to maintain these conservation areas.

Can they maintain the vast mountain areas of the Buster Range and Mt Ida? We are losing our Native country to these nasty plants.

Trampers – only the extreme trampers may see a small percentage of this backcountry, because of the sheer vastness of the place. The only maintenance that DOC will do with this pristine backcountry is to maintain the locked gates to keep the public OUT.

This high country should be available to all NEW ZEALANDERS. Not just for the DOC staff with keys.

Ryan van Turnout is the third generation to enjoy this amazing place.

My Grandfather Albert Padget at the age of 18 in 1912 first walked up the Buster face over into the backcountry to hunt for meat for his family.

Are we to go back to 1912 and walk it all over again?

The farmers should be rewarded for taking exceptional care of our extraordinary high country.

NO PENALIZED

M. Van Turnhout
~~John~~
R Van Turnhout

12-11-06

M.I. + J.C. Van Turnhout
Finlayson Road
Lake Wāhōia
Otago

MT IDA SYNDICATE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL REVIEW SUBMISSION

NAME PETER + LEE DAVIS

ADDRESS SHIRLMAR STATION TARRAS

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This syndicate has a 109 year proven record of good farming practise and good land management, why change it.

It is important to retain this summer grazing to ensure the farms remain economically viable thus keeping families in the district.

Public access is available at the syndicate's expense and the land is well looked after why change and give it to DOC.

*Peter + Lee Davis
L. Davis*

126



7 November 2006

The Manager
DTZ (NZ) Ltd
Land Resources Division
PO Box 27
Alexandra

Dear Sir

RE: SUBMISSION MT IDA SYNDICATE OCCUPATION LICENCE REVIEW

This submission is lodged on behalf of Maniototo 4WD Safaris who wish to support the current tenure structure as it is at present.

We have been operating 4WD safaris for several years with our tours traversing the area beyond the Mt Buster Saddle and through the POL described above. Access through this syndicate has never been a problem and the current shareholders have been most supportive of my operation. I have also guided many groups through this country in conjunction with local clubs etc, some to raise funds for charity and others for recreational purposes. Once again I have found the shareholders most supportive as well as always having the tracks safe and well maintained.

Yours faithfully



John Mulholland
Maniototo 4WD Safaris

MT IDA SYNDICATE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL REVIEW SUBMISSIONI/WE K + I SCOTTADDRESS REES VALLEY STN, GLENORCHY.

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The Mt Ida syndicate (and the Soldiers Syndicate) represent living history, and a rare example of co-operation for community good.

There are many SIVs present which are co-existing with the grazing programme, if there are some particularly rare examples of native flora and fauna their survival could be addressed with a management agreement rather than full crown ownership.

Uncontrolled public recreation has many down sides, and the generous managerial role the syndicate has practised is another valuable contribution.

I would advocate secure tenure for another 100 years at least for the Syndicate. Compressing the extensive grazing systems will cause more problems than ~~it has~~ they have ever generated.

13.11.06

R. G. Hore.

41 John St.

Hampden

Submission Mt. Tara Syndicate, also

Solebit's Syndicate.

I am 85 years of age & having been associated with high country all of my life, my first involvement with that area by way of mustering, etc. dates for close on 70 years.

I always had a very high regard for the area, having mustered on most of the runs on the Tara range. The Mt Tara Syndicate block of land lay idle for 2 years following the 1895 snow storm after which it was acquired by the ancestors of the present day members in 1897.

The first major task for the earliest syndicate members was to tackle the rabbit problem. They did that by packing out barrels of phosphorised pollard. That hit the rabbits almost to extinction and they have never returned in

plague numbers during the

next 110 ^{years} ^{present} ^{visit} was 2004

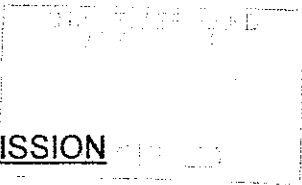
when I was very pleased with the unreflected by grazing of the cover, which no doubt was due to the alpine plants having seeded before stocking in mid January.

My knowledge of the Tara high country was extended by my 18 years as a member of the Tara Settlement Board, firstly Chairman of the Soil Conservation committee followed by 6 years as chairman of the board.

During those years I visited many runs in Tara, also some in the Waikato and my summation was that the Mt Tara Syndicate ranks

with any

I therefore submit that the status quo should continue. Any action otherwise would put those with young families in untenable pressure. R. G. Hore
Ron Hore



MT IDA SYNDICATE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL REVIEW SUBMISSION

I / WE Don & Vicki McRae

ADDRESS Box 73 Wanaka

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:

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We have enjoyed public access for horse trekking as I know have hundreds of lathers.

The fact that it has been grazed for 109 years sustainably is proof it can be grazed for the next 109 years

130

Joan Gallagher

From: Peter Faber [peterfaber@xtra.co.nz]
Sent: Monday, 13 November 2006 8:56 p.m.
To: Alexandra
Subject: Mt Ida Syndicate review

P G & R E Faber
123 Puriri Park Rd
Maunu
Whangarei

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

13 November 2006

Dear Sirs,

Re Part Run 362B and Run 362C, Mount Buster Survey District.

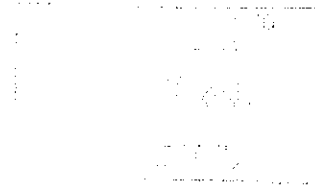
As persons who have had the privilege and good fortune to be taken on a tour of the High Country currently leased by the Mt Ida Syndicate, we wish to voice our objection to the prospect of this area being taken over by the Crown under the Crown Pastoral Act.

This property has been successfully managed and maintained by The Syndicate for over 100 years. They and their forebears have been permitted to use the high country for additional grazing when required, thus adding to their productivity with benefit to the community as a whole. The Syndicate has spent considerable effort and cost in providing access over the property and has thus given many people the opportunity of travelling over it as tourists. This is a valuable aspect of Syndicate stewardship.

In short, we cannot find any reason why this land should be controlled by any party other than the Syndicate who have a proven record over several generations as responsible runholders. We therefore object to the proposal most strongly.

P G & R E Faber

131



Mt Ida Syndicate Preliminary Proposal Review Submission

We, Hugh and Mandy Cameron on behalf of Aviemore Ltd and Otematata Station Ltd submit an objection to the proposal for full crown ownership and control of the land presently occupied by the Mt Ida Syndicate.

Background

Aviemore encompasses land adjacent to the Syndicates northern boundary. It has been farmed by the Cameron Family since 1892, a period which encompasses the entire period of the Syndicates occupancy.

Otematata occupies land adjacent to Aviemore on the eastern slopes of the Hawkdun Range. Both properties are Crown Pastoral Leases.

There has always been a strong and co - operative relationship between these properties and families and those of the Syndicate and its members.

Production/Conservation

We endorse the concept that production and conservation values are able to co - exist in an intergrated and sustainable manner. This has been shown to be the case on the Syndicate country and is recognized in the preliminary proposal.

'This area has been subject to a long history of grazing and the current vegetation types have been sustained within this grazing regime'

'There is no indication that continued grazing would be un -sustainable'

We consider that grazing enhances the bio-diversity present.

The two, greatest threats to the High Country are Heiracium and wilding pines. Hieracium is present on some parts of the Syndicate country and there is a huge conifer seed source near by- the Naseby forest.

It has been proven that grazing can significantly reduce the rate of invasion from these two threats. Any other management options would require considerable resourcing.

Grazing is recognized within the preliminary report as worthy of consideration as a management tool in the future, however we would contend that this would be far less likely in the absence of suitable tenure. Whether stock could be available in the numbers required and at times considered appropriate would be doubtful.

Boundary Management

We have considerable concern with regard to ongoing maintenance of our fenced boundary with the Syndicate if DOC become responsible for this land.

This boundary fence is 13kms in length and was reinstated to a high standard when a 21 year lease was granted to the Syndicate in 1978. Fences at this altitude and in these landscapes will always require a certain amount of annual maintenance due to snow damage etc and this one is no exception particularly at the western (Clearstream) end.

Our experience with DOC land adjacent to our property in the Hawkdun Range is one of a total lack of participation by DOC despite being approached and advised of the problem. With greater areas of land being managed by DOC it is hard to see this being addressed in a consistent manner.

Access

Since the introduction of vehicle tracks in 1970, access has been made available and has increased in recent times in conjunction with the greater mobility and the expectations of the general public. This may not be so under the vision expressed in the preliminary proposal.

Social and Economic

We believe there will be a considerably adverse social consequence as a result of the Syndicate reverting to crown ownership. A number of the syndicates home properties will become unviable without the availability of run off land to utilise, which allows these basically dryland properties to be spelled over the summer period.

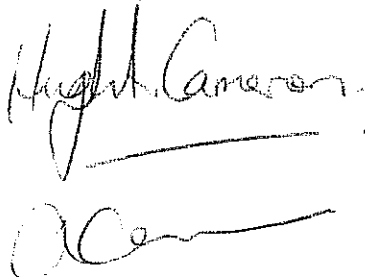
This becomes a lose-lose situation involving the local community, individual farmers and conservation interest. It is no reward for 109 years of positive land stewardship.

This land contributes rates to the Waitaki District Council and if it passes to crown ownership this will cease, putting more pressure on local ratepayers to fund local government from a diminished rating base and encumbering the national taxpayer with a Government Department (DOC) requiring increased resourcing, under present management there is a win-win scenario with conservation been enhanced and paid for by the production resulting from pastoral use.

Conclusion

We consider that this land be disposed of (Preferably Fee Simple) in favour of the present holders to ensure sustainable pastoral use may be allowed to continue as before.

Hugh Cameron
Mandy Cameron

The image shows two handwritten signatures. The top signature is in cursive and appears to read 'Hugh Cameron'. Below it is another signature, also in cursive, which appears to read 'Mandy Cameron'. Both signatures are written in black ink on a white background.

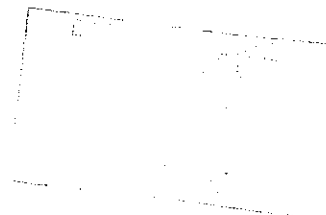
132

LAUNCESTON
R D 3
RANFURLY

12-11-2006

Mt Ida Syndicate Review of Other Crown Land

The Commissioner of Crown Lands



Dear Sir

I enclose a submission prepared for the members of the Mt Ida Syndicate by the late Rod Patterson which covers many of the pertinent points relating Runs 362 b and c .

I trust that it will be of use and assistance when considering the submissions as he has made a very comprehensive study of the history of the area involved .

Yours faithfully,

C L J Inder

Chairman of the Mt Ida Syndicate .

Informal Recreation

The holders are keen to see informal recreation continue as in the past, and for this to be secured in future by way of a public access easement.

In fact the above solution will maintain the status quo for 4WD access over the Mt Ida Syndicate, which judging by outcomes elsewhere when DoC have taken over the management, the track would be closed to 4WD access e.g. Birchwood. The 4WD access over the Mt Ida Syndicate provides an ideal recreational opportunity for those whose physical fitness would severely limit their opportunities to visit and enjoy this relatively remote part of the high country. The number of groups taking part in this 4WD experience has a very positive flow on effect to the local community, as most groups spend at least one night coming or going in the local accommodation industry.

Sustainable Management

On the question of sustainability, I attach a copy of a report recently prepared for the High Country Accord.

The executive summary of the report states – *“With appropriate management, it is probable diversified pastoral systems can constitute an ecologically sustainable future land-use”*.

High Country Landscape Values

On the question of high country landscape values, I attach a copy of a report recently prepared for the High Country Accord - TENURE REVIEW – IDENTIFYING AND PROTECTING SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE VALUES IN THE HIGH COUNTRY. prepared for the High Country Accord by: A Rackham, April 2004

“The South Island High Country is an extensive, highly distinctive landscape region synonymous with tussock grasslands, matagouri, glaciation and scree, braided riverbeds and Merinos. The region supports a diverse and complex range of natural landscape values related primarily to its natural elements – landforms, water bodies, vegetation and wildlife. The high country contains many of our icon landscapes and landscape features – Aoraki, the Lindis Pass and Mackenzie Basin, the southern lakes, the inland braided rivers. It is a hugely valuable resource for recreation and tourism, and for multi-media arts, marketing, and film making. The stunning settings in the Lord of the Rings such as the Rangitata valley and the tor-studded ranges of Otago contributed much to its success.”¹

The above quote is from, Steven, A: “Decisions at Top Level, Landscape New Zealand March/April 2004”. It nicely and appropriately acknowledges the importance and role of the merino in high country landscapes.

I have also attached a copy of a legal opinion from Kit Mouat entitled “landscape - a significant inherent value under the crown pastoral land act 1998?”

1. “The short answer is that it maybe, but it is limited and is not a given. The Act defines “Inherent value” as **values arising from certain**

¹ Steven, A: Decisions at Top Level, Landscape New Zealand March/April 2004

attributes or characteristics of a "Natural resource" which is defined to include a "Landscape and landform." To lift the landscape to the special level of "Significant inherent value" (SIV) it must be "of such importance, nature, quality, or rarity that the land deserves the protection of management under the Reserves Act 1977 or the Conservation Act 1987."

Complementary Objectives for the South Island high country

Of the four new complementary objectives for the South Island high country released by the Government in August 2003, one is particularly relevant to this review:

"Foster sustainability of communities, infrastructure and economic growth and the contribution of the high country to the economy of New Zealand".

The Holders in their individual submissions to LINZ in December 2002 and currently, have pointed out the importance of and effects that the loss of summer grazing from the Mt Ida Syndicate will have. Both on the sustainability and economic viability of their farming operations, as well as the effects on the local communities. It is unlikely that the losses to the local community from the cessation of the traditional multiple use of the Mt Ida Syndicate, will be made up from increases in tourism activity and increases in local DoC staffing levels, due to a transfer to DoC control.

The cessation of grazing on the Mount Ida Syndicate, will have impact on the economic and sustainable farming operations of at least 6 farming families. It will in addition mean less casual work within the area for shearer's, shedhands, musterer's and others, which will have both direct and indirect flow on effects within the local community.

The Fate of other Pastoral Occupation Licences in Otago

My analysis of the pastoral occupation licences issued under the Land Act 1948 is attached. My research so far has located 71 of the 101 licences issued. The 71 licences relate to 41 different parcels of land. Only 4 POL's remain in Otago. Mt Ida Syndicate and Soldiers Syndicate are both long-term POL's, both having had 4 titles issued plus renewals. The other two POL's Lone Hill (Domett Downs) and Awakino were issued over small proportions of land held under Renewable Lease, that was considered inappropriate to have freehold title issued at the time. It is clear that 37 of the identified titles held under POL have been dealt with by freeholding (7) or the issue of pastoral lease title (25) and 9 fate unknown. Most of the new POL's issued after POL number 50, were for phase out grazing on pastoral lease areas under Run Plans to be retired from grazing and then surrendered.

Conclusion

I submit that the above more than adequately addresses Bob Lysaght's concerns, expressed at the meeting held in Alexandra on the 19th of March, recorded on page 1 of the minutes – "The main SIV's on Mt Ida Syndicate are landscape and vegetation and informal recreation".

It is now time for the Crown to deal with the Mt Ida Syndicate POL and the farming families involved in a positive way that secures their long-term attachment to and stewardship of the land, through the issue of freehold title with a Sustainable

management covenant and a Public access easement. This will fulfil the Crown's objectives for the high country under the CPLA 1998 and provide certainty to the Holders, their families and the local community.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod G Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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10/12/02

Ken Taylor
DTZ New Zealand
PO Box 27
Alexandra

Dear Ken

I refer to your letter dated 23/10/02 to the Mt Ida Syndicate, inviting them to provide their views on the designation of the land held under POL in accordance with the CPLA 1998.

The members of the Mt Ida Syndicate wish to continue grazing the entire area of the Pastoral Land, as they have in the past, but with a secure tenure, which they deserve as long term occupiers of the area.

In the first instance, the Licence to occupy Crown Lands for Pastoral Purposes over an area of 12,816.3943 (OT 337/106) hectares, Run 362 B and C which expired on 01.07.1955 should be retrospectively made into Pastoral Lease to be fair and equitable. Three other grazing Syndicates held under multiple ownership at this time in nearby Central Otago, were all transferred into Pastoral Lease at about this time. Namely Patearoa Syndicate now Po142, Waipiata Syndicate now Po212 and Beeches II now Po214. Also two Otematata Station licences (now Po304 and 305) were transferred from non-renewable Oamaru Harbour Board Licences to Pastoral Lease tenure in about 1964. **This Pastoral Lease for a term of 33 years from the 1st of July 2004, should be in favour of the current shareholders in the same proportions as they hold the current POL.**

Failing the Crown being prepared to offer the above option, and in order for the Crown to achieve its ownership aspirations of the area, the members envisage a total property purchase, as if the current POL were a Pastoral Lease under tenure review. The number of stock units displaced is 9,000 ewes for 3 months, which equates to 2250 stock units per annum.

The Primary Production Committee in its report on the Crown Pastoral Land Bill made an important statement as to the review of a POL and its effect on the whole farm when it said:

“Conservation and recreation groups want POLs omitted from the definition of “reviewable instrument” and for POLs to be reviewed under existing procedures rather than the tenure review process. We proposed in our issues paper to redefine “reviewable instruments by omitting POLs. Farming groups stated there should be

provision to renew POLs where appropriate, that lessees should be able to trigger a review at any time, and the effect on the whole farm, rather than just POLs, should be considered. We agree and have reinstated POLs in the definition of "reviewable instruments".

Thus members see the balance offered by the use of the Mt Ida being a factor of two, so effectively they are giving up the equivalent of 4,500 stock units. Which at \$300 per stock unit equates to a settlement figure of \$1,350,000, payable to the members (this equates to \$136 per hectare for 9896.2698 hectares). Plus a short term grazing licence for 3 years at a rental of \$1080 per annum, as phase out grazing similar to that practiced under Run Plans and some Pastoral Lease tenure reviews.

This would allow the members to restructure their farming operations and make them robust, sustainable and viable again. This is essential so that they can survive the loss of critical grazing from their farming operations.

The Syndicate members would be grateful if you would contact us as to whether or not you will accept our views, before a decision is made about the Public Advertising of our POL. The reason for this request is that if past experience is anything to go on, then the matter may drift endlessly for years.

I attach a copy of our submission to support the above conclusions.

Thanks.

Yours faithfully

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10/12/02

Mt Ida Submission

Where I have quoted appendices used in the Soldiers Syndicate submission they have an S prefix, whilst the appendices used in this submission only, have an I prefix. It is unfortunate that I have learned a lot about each Syndicate by studying the files of the other one. I have endeavoured at all times to research and to write this submission assuming that the reader has not read the submission put in by the Soldiers Syndicate. So that the reader can become aware of the underlying Crown policies and cross boundary similarities and contrasts at all times.

Background.

The Mt Ida Syndicate arose out of, and has stood the test of time due to a unique set of circumstances. It is ironic that the present day owners now have to defend the right to continue an occupation which was encouraged and supported by Government agencies since it was conceived in 1897 (Pinney, 1981). The recent divergence of objectives between Government agencies, being led by various Quangos over the last 15-20 years, has resulted in conflicts of interests in areas for which the Commissioner of Crown Lands (CCL) (through various Land Acts and Boards) has been accountable for so long. It is an unwelcome position, but the present owners stand by the results of their custodianship and management over the years and urge the CCL to fully consider these results and confirm them by a thorough on ground inspection.

When the Pastoral Runs of Otago were first taken up by settlers, the present Mt Ida Syndicate was part of "Eweburn" first taken up in 1858 which stretched from the Waitaki river in the north to the Tairei river in the south. Kyeburn station was split off the original "Eweburn" in 1866. For the History of Eweburn, Kyeburn Station, Hawkdun, Mt Ida Syndicate and the Soldiers Syndicate recorded in "Early Northern Otago Runs", by R Pinney in 1981, see Appendix S170. In 1875 and again in 1920 Kyeburn Station was subdivided as part of a Government of the day policies to provide for much closer settlement. The backcountry of the former Kyeburn Station was used to provide summer grazing for the settlers of the lower Kyeburn sections.

I have not been able to obtain a readable copy of the original Sale Plan for Kyeburn from LINZ, Hocken Library or Archives. However I have located Sale Plan 619 dated 24/05/1920 for the "small grazing runs" on the southern side of the Hawkduns, for discharged soldiers. Interestingly today three of the four are under freehold tenure (two in their entirety - Glenshee and Idavale) and the fourth is Pastoral Lease (Eweburn).

Glenshee, 7004 ha. Run 576 (see appendix S172).
Tenure: Fee Simple issued 11 June 1992. Deferred Payment Licence issued 12 June 1979. Prior to that the tenure was "Lease of Small Grazing Run" dated 27/05/1920.

See the search of all prior titles in Appendix 172. This property goes right over the top into North Otago.

Idavale, 2258 ha. Run 591.

Tenure: Fee Simple issued 24 June 1992. Deferred Payment Licence issued 15 July 1976. Prior to that the tenure was "Lease of Small Grazing Run" dated 27/05/1920. See the search of all prior titles in Appendix 162.

Allan Peaks before the Gazette Notice 818743 declaring the within land to be held for Conservation purposes – 24/11/1992 (see appendix S157) was a POL No 99 for a term of 5 years (rent \$400). Before that, O.74 dated 03/05/1974, for 10 years from 01/07/1973 (rent \$200), No O.44 dated 15/06/1965 10 years from 01/07/1963 (rent \$40) area 1414 ha. Prior to that it was Run 575, a "lease of Small Grazing Run". 21 years from 01/03/1942 (rent \$95), containing 2135 ha (5276 acres). In a memorial on this title – "286714 Within land now known as Runs 738 and 739 areas 3,493 and 1807 (total 5300 acres) acres respectively – 08/06/1965.

Po308 – Eweburn, 2643 ha. Part Run 2190 (see appendix 161).

Tenure: Pastoral Lease from 01/07/1954. Prior to that the tenure was "Lease of Small Grazing Run" dated 01/03/1943.

It is a geographical and climatic fact that there is plenty of land on the Naseby side of the Mt Ida range that is good wintering country but experiences long dry summers. Whilst the land on the Waitaki side is much higher in altitude and is much more suited to running sheep during the summer months only. This fact was clearly recognised by the Crown in a letter dated 16/01/1923 – "*...consists of summer country, and it is used by a number of soldier settlers who have small blocks of winter country during the summer months*" (see appendix S3). From appendix S43, - "*This area provides essential summer grazing for three Maniototo properties. The Crown established the licence originally in recognition of this need. To withdraw the area from grazing would have severe viability implications for the properties.*"

This was also recognised by the land administrators of the day to achieve balance between winter and summer grazing, when in 1920 the Soldiers Syndicate (Run No 573) ballot was held to settle 6 Soldiers under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act 1915 and the Land Act 1908.

The position for the Mt Ida syndicate members was the same in principle for the Soldiers Syndicate (Appendix S56) as stated in a letter dated 21/03/1923, from the CCL to the Under Secretary For Lands, it is stated that – "*...this run is used by a number of Soldier Settlers who have small blocks of winter country on the Kyeburn Run at a lower elevation...it was a back block of the Kyeburn Run for which there was no front country to make it into a self contained Run and was let to the Soldier Settlers to give their low places a spell in the summer*".

The Crowns land settlement policy, on the one hand and periodic changes since then, and the apparent inability to make decisions from 1958 onwards.

For a comprehensive review of the "Importance of Syndicate Grazing to Maniototo Farms", undertaken by "Meat and Wool Economic Service of New Zealand", see appendix S29.

Performance of Mt Ida Syndicate

In a letter to the Director-General dated 30/08/1957 (see appendix S10), the Department summarised a discussion with members of the Kyeburn Syndicate and the Pastoral Lands Officer. It had four main points, two of which are quoted. "*The Kyeburn Syndicate (Mt Ida) has been a very successful one – the Run has at all times been judiciously grazed and today is in excellent order*". "*Due to isolation and large expanses of country, the members consider the department fortunate to have a syndicate of runholders occupying the area. If leased to a single licensee as against the six licensees at present, it is very doubtful if sufficient musterers could be found three times annually to do the work required*". Although a 21 year licence was recommended, only a 7 year licence was granted.

Wool Production

In a report dated sometime in 1963 or 4 (see appendix I31), it is stated that the wool production is 10 lbs. per head, and death rate 6%!

Cover

The first letter on file in regard to the condition of the cover on pastoral runs is a general one and dated 15/10/1956 (see appendix S8).

In a letter dated 27/01/1957 (see appendix I1) it is stated that –

“CONDITION OF COUNTRY:

Please refer to my report concerning Soldiers' Syndicate 022 20/1/64. The above country is in precisely the same condition and is influenced by the same problems as that included in the Soldiers' Syndicate.

Mustering of the property was in operation during inspection and a surprising feature was the good condition of stock which had come through the severe winter remarkably well.

A problem more pertinent to this area than to the Soldiers' Syndicate is the amount of shady back lying country which has a rank cover of tall snowgrass. This country holds snow until late in the season when the date for expiry of burning permits is passed. It must be conceded that if these areas are to carry stock then they must be periodically burnt. The alternative is that stock graze only the sunny country with the result that high concentrations will deplete the better areas.

Providing lessees are prepared to take the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of late fires, then support should be given to extension of burning permits even as late as mid-November”.

In a letter dated 31/05/1967 (see appendix I2) from the CCL to P.L.O. it is stated that – "*From your report I take it that there is no marked deterioration of the cover and rather, if anything the position is slightly better than it was in 1963 ...*".

In a letter circulated to all lessees/Licensees undated but probably in 1957 (see appendix S62)

"Stock Limitations on South Island Pastoral Runs"

Pastoral leases have been issued over a wide range and types of country and it is possible that there may be cause where it would be justifiable for a lessee to carry additional stock for a limited period during the summer ...

A Pastoral Lease gives the runholder security of tenure, with a reasonable rental and favourable terms. The Lands department has done its utmost to assist runholders and their co-operation is essential if the happy relationship between landlord and tenant, which has been established in recent years, is to be permanent.

(a) Erosion:

You will not be unmindful of the attention that is being focused on erosion of high country land consequent on the depletion of the natural cover. Following is an extract from the last Forestry reports to Parliament: -

"The recent floods (in Canterbury) have brought home a threat to not only the rich lowland farms but to Christchurch City itself. And although public attention has thus been centered on the general problem of flood control and erosion, the connection between these and the vegetative health of the upper catchments is by no means universally recognised, if at all. Less still is there any unanimity among various interests on the adverse effect of animals – wild and domestic – on the health of the high country – and the prime cause of flooding – the eroded state of the high country – and the prime cause of that erosion – the burning and overgrazing – that I bring before you.

" public interest merits the consideration of taking out of pastoral production at least all land over 3,000 feet as only then will the natural grasslands and the protection forests below them regenerate"

There is a Pastoral Lands officer for your district and he will welcome the opportunity of discussing with you any problem relating to your run. Do not hesitate to solicit his help".

This letter is a direct reflection of the philosophy and politics of that time and whilst well intentioned, the understanding of the dynamic natural processes, which have shaped the New Zealand landscape for millions of years has moved on. It is now widely accepted that the braided rivers of the Canterbury plains slowly but surely build up and then break out of their recent riverbeds in a cyclical natural process. The erosion counterbalances the mountain building effects of the tectonic plates along the alpine fault. This ongoing process has directly lead to the progressive development of the Canterbury plains.

In a letter dated 16/03/1965 (see appendix S82) the following is stated –

"Line Transects"

...it is understood that the latter body has no one qualified to do this work.

... provided there is no great technical or specialised knowledge required Otago Catchment Board officers would be prepared to instruct the Pastoral Land Officers in the installation of this type of recording apparatus”.

In a letter dated 18/03/1965 (see appendix I11) to the WCC from CCL Dunedin, the following is stated – “The PLO are at present endeavouring to gauge the progress or otherwise of the cover on the areas but are finding it difficult to accurately assess the situation without line transects. Would you please advise whether it would be possible for your Commission to install...”.

In a letter dated 31/03/1965 (see appendix S83) it is stated that –

Line Transects are put in to record the amount and variety of vegetation on any given line over a period of time. Individual plants are counted, identified and recorded. To be of any value records must be accurately kept over a long period. Any of the Pastoral Lands Officers can do the job but it is a matter of time. The work is very time consuming in its detail.

Catchment Boards are using the line transect method of recording the amount of bare ground and the improvement or deterioration of cover. It is part of their job; I cannot spare the man-hours, which will be necessary to follow it through.

I think the matter would be better dropped”.

In a letter dated 14/04/1965 (see appendix S84) it is stated that –

“Soldiers Syndicate and Mt Ida Syndicate

The Commission will be glad to assist with the installation of the proposed line transects on the above leases. Tentative arrangements have been made for the work to be done by a member of the staff of the Department of Agriculture, and we will advise you when these have been confirmed”

In a letter dated 6/12/1965 (see appendix S85) it is stated that –

“Soldiers Syndicate and Mt Ida Syndicate

The transects were established by Mr A. G. Gillingham....

It is considered that construction of this track could, apart from its obvious fire control value, have a markedly favourable effect on the system of management employed on the runs, and you will appreciate that in the interests of soil conservation it is important that the track be constructed as soon as possible.

Due to some uncertainty on the part of the tenants, regarding their tenure, there is a small but understandable reluctance to contribute the sum of money required as their share. Some consideration by the Land Settlement Board, regarding recompense in the event of the termination of the lease, would appear desirable”.

In a letter dated 12/01/1966 (see appendix S87) it is stated that –

Regarding the line transects I understand from the Secretary of the Waitaki Catchment Commission that arrangements have been made for the work to be done by a member of the staff of the Department of Agriculture ...”.

In a letter dated 19/01/1966 (see appendix S88) it is stated that –

“Soldiers Syndicate

...both Mt Ida and Soldiers...

Mr Robinson indicated to me following his inspection, that there was no obvious improvement or deterioration in the condition of cover since his inspection with me in January 1964.

I suggest that if the Chief Pastoral Lands Officer concurs, the inspection of the Syndicate country be cancelled for this year. I have a considerable amount of work on hand which I rate more urgent than this inspection and in the month remaining before my transfer ...”.

Tenure

In a report dated 13/02/1957 (see appendix S58) it is stated that – **“LAND SETTLEMENT BOARD. DELEGATION TO LAND SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE (CENTRAL) TRANSFER.**

COMMENT AND TRANSACTION: ... Field Officer Hinchey considers on renewal that a long term Pastoral Occupation Licence be issued, as members of Syndicate, Run is only a sideline. Each member has a good home farm property capable of further development. Field Officer states experience with Syndicate Runs in Central Otago has not been happy and from a long-term view an individual lessee would be far more satisfactory although there is no cause for complaint about run at present time. Field Officer considers if individual lessee was holding run with only a small area of low country he would recommend a Pastoral Lease rather than a Pastoral Occupation Licence. Field Officer Hinchey recommends renewal as a Pastoral Occupation licence for 21 years at a rental of \$160 based on 2,000 E.E.”.

In a letter dated 07/06/1957 (see appendix S59) it is stated that *“The renewals of the above runs were reported on some time ago for renewal as Pastoral Leases by FO Hinchey and yourself have unfortunately been held up.*

PR 2007: The recommendation in this case is for a Pastoral Occupation Licence for a term of 5 years from 1.7.55... 7 years....”

In a letter dated 26/07/1957 (see appendix S135) it is stated that – **“EVALUATION AND RENTAL ASSESSMENT** *Experience has shown that Syndicate control is not in best interests of pastoral country. An individual lessee would be far more satisfactory.*

With these aspects in view it is best considered that renewal as a Pastoral Occupation Licence is best but if in the future suitable opportunity offers to have Run worked by a sole lessee holding down country land then a Pastoral Lease could be considered”.

File note "Should be 7 years. Possibility of letting area as separate Pastoral Lease then to investigate"

In a letter dated 16/09/1957 (see appendix S11) it is stated that – *"The Soldiers Syndicate is uneconomic and there is no other country in the vicinity to which it could be attached to make it economic. It is likely that even in the advancements in farming methods, the Soldiers Syndicate property would ever be economic on its own and a suitable property over which to issue a pastoral lease? This is not the case with the Kyeburn Syndicate Run where the eventual amalgamation with an area of Spec Gully is envisaged. This amalgamation it is thought, would result in an economic unit under a pastoral lease tenure"*.

In a letter dated 29/09/1957 (see appendix I29) to the CCL, by PLO Ford, it is stated that – *"The Kyeburn Syndicate is not a good one and likely to break up in the near future."* It is clear from this and other comments that PLO Ford, was reporting his own views and that he was on another agenda. Rather than reporting the reality of the situation, in an unbiased and objective manner, as he ought to have been as an employee of the Crown. This was to the detriment of the long-term interests of the Syndicate and probably prevented the issue of a Pastoral Lease over the Syndicates area!

In a letter dated 21/11/1957 (see appendix S61) it is stated that – *"The Land Settlement Board has now considered the above case and has approved the recommendations made except that in the cases of Kyeburn and Soldier Syndicate it has approved of 5 years terms for the Pastoral occupation Licences..."*

In a letter dated 23/06/1958 (see appendix S16) it is stated that – *"There is, however, a difference in that while the Kyeburn Syndicate gave the impression that it was not particularly concerned whether it continued to hold the area or not, the Soldiers Syndicate has made it fairly plain that it is very much interested in retaining the area and really requires it. ... It seems from the report that the soldier syndicate area could possibly be disposed of separately or by attaching it to another lease"*.

"We think that it would be advisable at this stage to consider permanent disposal rather than leave this matter over until the expiry of the POL."

In a letter dated 07/07/1958 (see appendix S64)

"Mr Hinchey was quite satisfied with the management of this Syndicate, when reporting for renewal purposes in January, 1955, whereas he was not entirely happy regarding the Kyeburn Syndicate.

I feel the Department must accept some responsibility for the delay in submitting a decision to the Syndicate.

I would recommend that the Soldier Syndicate be given the same consideration as Kyeburn Syndicate, but that on expiry serious consideration be given to-
(a) Offering the two Syndicate runs and Spec Gully as one Pastoral lease, or
(b) If considered sufficiently strong each Syndicate be allotted half of Spec Gully and offered as two separate Pastoral leases".

File comment "C.P.L.O. has not suggested that we endeavour to dispose of area now so consider that we refer to head Office on same basis as Mt Ida Syndicate (Kyeburn)".

In a letter dated 13/08/1958 (see appendix S60) it is stated that – "The Land Settlement Board has now agreed that the increased rent of \$140 per annum should commence from 1st January, 1958. The matter will be adjusted by giving the Syndicate a temporary tenancy for the period 1.3.56 to 31.12.57 at the old rental of \$100 and granting a Pastoral Occupation Licence for 5 ½ years from 1.1.58 at the new rent of \$140 per annum. This will give a total of 7 years, plus a broken period, which was originally offered.

The Syndicate's attitude in this matter is very disappointing. It should be pointed out that if the rent had been reduced on expiry instead of increased, the Department would have granted the reduction retrospective to 1st March 1956, and no doubt the Syndicate would have been most happy to accept it. In the circumstances, it is felt that the Syndicate should have been prepared to accept any increase in rent in the same manner they would undoubtedly have accepted a reduction".

The above is reaffirmed in a terse letter dated 16/07/1958 (see appendix S65), "It is apparent that they have heard of the Board's decision on the case of the Kyeburn Syndicate in which the circumstances were similar. While we deplore this attitude we feel that both Syndicates will have to be treated in the same way. As there is no possibility at the present time of disposing of this area other than to the Syndicate we recommend that the old rent of \$100 continue until 31.12.57. The matter can be adjusted in the same manner as was suggested in the Kyeburn case".

In a letter dated 17/02/1959 (see appendix S66) it is stated that – "this area has always been worked with the adjoining POL and will be included in their licence".

Due to the inability of the Department Lands & Survey to make timely and decisive decisions it was making elsewhere in similar circumstances Mt Ida Syndicate went from a Licence to Occupy Crown Land for Pastoral Purposes, to a Pastoral Occupation Licence "subject to finding a way to attach it to other land" in 1958. A change in Field Officer and his attitude to burning and the size of land holdings meant that the question of transferring the POL to a PL was put on hold for some years.

In a letter dated 12/11/1959 (see appendix S72) from the CCL to the Soldiers Syndicate, it is stated that – "... and on renewal it was decided to exclude 5750 acres of the Run for inclusion in the adjoining Kyeburn Syndicate. This was done because the area could be better managed by the Kyeburn Syndicate... They agreed to accept the new Licence on these conditions over the balance area of 14570 acres and it was registered in the Lands and Deeds in February this year".

In a letter dated 14/12/1960 (see appendix I25) to the CCL from PLO Ford, it is stated that – "Your instruction dated 21.1.60 I advise having inspected this property in considerable detail in company with two Waitaki Soil Conservation representatives, a geologist, and a botanist for the

Agriculture department, Christchurch. The Waitaki Soil Conservation representatives were undertaking a survey for the purpose of considering future burning policy on the Otematata Catchment generally, while the Agriculture Department were carrying out a land classification survey.

My opinion of this country, (and one which was shared by the other members of the Party) was that it is on the decline. This applies in particular to the many steep and deep gullies which are feature of the property. The native tussock on these extensive steep faces, which are obviously the areas where the majority of the stock must concentrate most of the year, appear to have been subjected to burning-off operations as well as excessive stocking. As a result, there has been a moderate to severe soil loss over the majority of the country and associated with this loss has been a serious decline in the vegetative cover – in some instance up to an estimated 75 percent. In the headwaters of Boundary Creek the cover would be even less than 25 percent, and like the steep faces lower down, should not be subjected to any further grazing.

Judging from the feeble effort of the licensees to carry out any improvement work, I could not in any case envisage any worthwhile subdivisional fencing scheme, if such a scheme were practicable.

It appears that at least some of the present licensees are descendants of the original settlers, and his being so, after 60 years of occupation there is not one hut with a bed in it. In all there are 4 huts of substantial construction (built 1946) but there are no floors or beds.

The licensees have emphasised in the past the difficulties of obtaining packers, musterers, etc., to do routine work twice yearly – in all about 6 days on the run itself. It is quite understandable why outside labour is not available, or difficult to get, ...

As yet I have not interviewed the settlers in a body, but have had discussions with Mr Hore (A.D.C.). He told me (prior to inspection) that the syndicate was not particularly concerned whether they obtained a renewal or not, that it was only a hobby with them, there being little if any worthwhile financial reward from their grazing operations on this run. In addition, he advised that all members had economic holdings of their own without the syndicate run.

In all it will be seen that there could be possibilities here of evolving a set-up similar to that of Molesworth of Eyre Creek. In addition, it is also possible that considerable areas of the higher mountain slopes of the Kyeburn runs adjoining the two syndicates and Kyeburn Station will be recommended for retirement from grazing when the joint report by Catchment Board and this Department is submitted early in the New Year. If this does occur, the area of vacant Crown land could reach to around 100,000 acres”.

In a letter dated 15/12/1960 (see appendix S67) it is stated that – “The area is (as is the case with 0 21) grazed as one big block. I do not condemn the syndicate entirely for having no subdivisional fencing because of the steepness and deepness of the numerous gullies. It would be difficult to erect fences which could keep stock off the choicer sunnier faces.

As in the case with the adjoining syndicate, the members have substantial holdings and would be unlikely to be detrimentally affected economically if this licence was cancelled”.

In a letter dated 23/01/1961 (see appendix S68) it is stated that – *“KYEBURN AND SOLDIER SYNDICATES ... and I am convinced that the lease of the two syndicate runs should not be renewed on the expiry of their present temporary tenures.*

There is apparently a considerable area of critical country adjoining these two runs. On the north side of the range Kyeburn station, on the south commencing at Idaburn Hills (Run 227D), practically every run, seven in all, contain country that would be better retired. If not permanently for an unspecified period.

d. The department study methods whereby the country which it is proposed to be retired may be improved. Such as fencing, oversowing, carrying a limited number of cattle”.

The point about transferring the land from a POL to PL, is reiterated in a letter dated 21/12/1961 (see appendix S18) it is stated that - *“You will recollect that the object of giving the syndicate a seven year licence of the above runs was to enable the Department to investigate the possibility of amalgamating these runs with other land... no definite proposals covering the future utilisation of these runs have been formulated. In the circumstances you will appreciate that Syndicate members are becoming restive and uncertain over the long delay in reaching a decision on the future of the runs let to them.”*

In a letter dated 12/01/1962 (see appendix S69) it is stated that – *“It is most desirable that the future of both Syndicates be settled as soon as possible. The matter has already stretched on for a very considerable time now... ”.*

In a letter dated 06/08/1962 (see appendix S70) from the CCL to the Director-General it is stated that – *“If all the surplus stock from termination of the Soldiers' Syndicate and the Kyeburn Syndicate and other tenancies in the Kyeburn area was unloaded on the market in the one season then the result could well be a substantial drop in the sale price of stock. Mr Strode wished to know whether there would be any other Crown land, which could be made available to Syndicate members as a summer runoff. I told him that if there were any such country available – I did not know of any at the present time – there would be many others in addition to members of the Soldiers' Syndicate interested in obtaining grazing and that no undertaking could be given by the Department to make an alternative area available to Syndicate Members. I undertook to obtain from you a definite decision at the earliest possible date in regard to the termination of the Syndicate Licence as at 30 June 1963. This information is required by members of the Syndicate with a minimum delay if next season's operations are to be planned in an orderly fashion”.*

In a letter dated 14/09/1962 (see appendix I26) to the CCL from PLO Aitken, it is stated that – *“Both secretaries stated that the members of each Syndicate would prefer a renewal if possible”.*

In a letter-dated 22/10/1962 headed up – **GENERAL DISCUSSION FOLLOWING INTERVIEWS WITH MT IDA AND SOLDIERS SYNDICATE MEMBERS** (see appendix S19). It is stated that – “A grave injustice would be done if Lands and Survey took these runs away from the present tenants when the lessees are prepared to reduce stocking to a figure which is acceptable to the Crown and are only too willing to assist in the recovery of the country...and it is extremely doubtful that another syndicate of this calibre could be found to accept the responsibility and maintain the interest shown by present tenants in safeguarding and improving an area of high altitude country such as this”.

“Mr Carson felt that from the information submitted to the Minister and head Office Lands Department considered that the Crown should resume and that the country should be closed. This meant that the Lands and Survey Department's reports are incomplete and do not show the total picture in that occupier's story had not been presented, particularly when the present occupiers had handled the country for a considerable period. Occupiers such as Strode and Inder who had been associated with the area for 30 years plus were sure the country was not deteriorating, but if in the sight of Lands and Survey officers deterioration was occurring this should have been adjusted by restricting grazing rather than termination of the leases. Lands Department has therefore failed in that they were guided by Catchment members and not by the condition of the country, and this has resulted in the tenants approaching the Minister.

The Fields Director's re-action was that lessees approach the Department as partners rather than tenants and that, after an aerial inspection of the country when it was considered with adjoining areas, the lessees had a reasonable case. It is essential that we work with the runholders unless the runholder is not playing the game. In conclusion it is over to the P.L.O. to restrict limitation in collaboration with the runholder and to ensure the limitation in the actual carrying capacity of the country. A general discussion then followed from which the following recommendation is submitted:

That an extension be given for 5 years to both Syndicates and that lessees conform to stock limitations and endeavour to assist and safeguard and if possible improve the native cover of these areas.

The above is a reasonably accurate record of the trend of the discussion and is submitted for your consideration”.

In a letter dated 22/11/1962 (see appendix S73) from PLO Aitken to the CCL, it is stated that – “Both Syndicates in their discussions had mentioned the fact that the Waitaki Catchment Commission members who inspected their country in March of this year had stated that they were impressed with the general condition of the country which is not borne out by the reports submitted to the Department.

Mr Crutchley once again stated that the Syndicate members would be very happy to co-operate with the Department's officers in any way in an attempt to assist recovery and to ensure permanent tenure of the area”.

In a letter dated 19/03/1963 (see appendix S74) from PLO Aitken to the CCL, it is stated that – “Mr CRAN said he had been connected with the case very fully; the property was in no worse state than a great deal of Otago country. He was satisfied