

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: Raglan Run

Lease number: Pm 019

Fish & Game report

As part of the process of tenure review Fish & Game councils may provide advice on significant inherent values within the pastoral lease, and the information may be incorporated in the conservation resources report. The advice is part of the information gathered and assessed for the development of a preliminary consultation document.

The report attached is released under the Official Information Act 1982.

Copied September 2003



RECEIVED
05 JUN 1997

Wednesday, 4 June 1997

Simon Bamford
Knight Frank
PO Box 794
BLLENHEIM

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Dear Simon

TENURE REVIEWS OF BLAIRICH AND RAGLAN PASTORAL LEASES

Please find enclosed copies of my draft reports to the Council on the field inspections of the above two properties. Please note they have not yet been put before my Council yet, although I have touched on all the matters in verbal reports to the Council and received some feedback. I would prefer these were not widely circulated yet, until they have been viewed and supported by the Fish and Game Council.

These reports are not as comprehensive as full reports on Fish and Game values would normally be. In view of our late involvement as part of the Crown process, there is insufficient time to produce a full report.

I believe the Fish and Game issues are minimal for Raglan, although we are still working out with staff and councillors the most suitable approach to propose to Hugh Cooper on the upland game hunting issue for Blairich. I will be meeting with staff and some councillors on this and other matters tonight and will get some feedback from them. I enclose a copy of the proposed Fish and Game hunting and gamebird covenant for your information.

I will probably not have time to meet this afternoon unless you get back to me directly. I am also sending copies of this to Martin Heine for his information.

Yours sincerely

Neil Deans
Manager

cc Martin Heine
Department of Conservation
Private Bag 5
NELSON

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

Nelson/Marlborough Region

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PASTORAL LEASE INSPECTIONS

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05 JUN 1997

RAGLAN PROPERTY

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Inspected on 15 May 1997

by

Neil Deans

Simon Bamford

Martin Heine

Bill & Robyn Lacey

Fish and Game

Knight Frank (representing the Commissioner of
Crown Land)

Department of Conservation

Pastoral Lessees

The Raglan property is located on the true right of the Wairau River, upstream of the Wash Bridge and lies between the Wairau River and the top of the Raglan range. At the upper end there is a small piece of freehold land known as the Bull Paddock adjacent to Conservation area, however the rest of the property is entirely pastoral lease as far as the Wash Bridge.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO FISH AND GAME

The primary area of interest to Fish and Game is the adjacent Wairau River both for trout and salmon angling and as habitat for these species. This should be provided for on freeholding of pastoral lease by laying off of marginal strips adjacent to the Wairau. Most access, however, is from the other side of the river.

The primary objective of the site inspection was to establish whether there were any significant gamebird values. Of particular interest is what use of the property is made by Canada geese, especially given the proximity of the Rainbow Station on the other side of the river which is known to have significant goose populations at times. The inspection also sought to establish whether the wetland which had been identified on the property had gamebird habitat value. The other reason for the inspection was to establish whether any of the lower reaches of the streams were of potential value for trout or salmon spawning.

After some discussion with the pastoral lessees Bill and Robin Lacey over the Department of Conservation proposals as expressed in their report, we were driven by the Lacey's over the property. Most of the day was spent on the property with a further discussion at the end of the period.

During the morning a half hour inspection was undertaken of the wetland in the central part of the lease below a terrace, this is possibly of some significance botanically. It is a raupo swamp to which cattle have had limited access around the margins. It lacks open water and has limited wildlife value, possibly for fernbird, and negligible gamebird habitat value.

There is some quail habitat potential but this is limited by the relatively high rainfall on the property. It is unlikely to ever be suitable for quail hunting purposes.

There are very limited spawning opportunities for trout or salmon. At the time of the inspection the tributary streams had mostly been dry for an extended period, although there had been an extended period of little rainfall. The inspection was immediately prior to the normal spawning season, but most of the lower reaches of the side streams were dry and even those which were not did not have suitable size substrate for spawning purposes. There was a small stream running through an area of the central flats adjacent to the main river which could have limited value as nursery stream. This stream has poor access to the Wairau, however, and is very unlikely to be suitable for spawning by comparison with the Six Mile Stream on the other side of the river.

Very limited numbers of Paradise Shelduck were observed on the property. Some small other areas of wetland were noted by the lessees as occasionally being inhabited by Canada geese. The only recent evidence of Canada geese was in the Bull Paddock at the southern end of the property, where geese droppings were noted. It would appear that geese are using the Bull Paddock for overnight roosting while feeding on the Rainbow property across the Wairau River. There is very limited food available on Raglan for geese or any other game bird species and little evidence of pasture damage or grazing by birds, especially by comparison with good pasture on Rainbow station.

SUMMARY

In summary Fish and Game have very little particular interest in the Raglan property. If the property were freeholded marginal strips would provide access to the Wairau river on the Raglan range side of the river. This would be beneficial although would probably be seldom used by comparison with better access from the State Highway on the other side of the river. There is little gamebird habitat or use by gamebirds of the Raglan property.

Few hunting opportunities exist although it would be desirable to retain access to assist with Canada goose control by hunting at the same time as on Rainbow station. The lower reaches of the tributary streams are almost certainly not been used for spawning or nursery habitat for young fish. Therefore it is my view that the Raglan does not have any particular interest for Fish and Game in respect of the pastoral lease tenure review process.



Neil Deans
Manager
4/06/97

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