

## **Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review**

**Lease name: REDCLIFFE**

**Lease number: PC 141**

### **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.

**June**

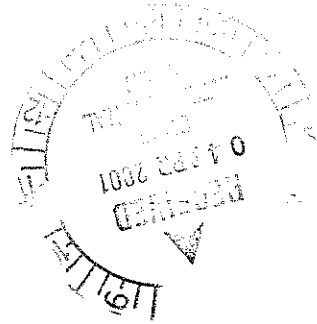
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4<sup>TH</sup> April 2001

P.O. Box 1482  
CHRISTCHURCH

Attn: Dennis Ferguson



Dear Mr Ferguson

Redcliffe Tenure Review Report

I am writing on behalf of the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council in regard to the status of a report drafted under the previous legislation (Lands Act - 1948) for the Redcliffe pastoral lease. I wish to clarify the status of this report with you at this time.

The Council considers that the 1998 report covers the present concerns of Fish and Game. Further, the Council would like to see the recommendations of this report incorporated into the Crown's proposal.

Yours faithfully

  
WAYNE McCALLUM  
Contract Environment Officer.

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

**North Canterbury Region**

## Fish & game resources of Redcliffe Pastoral Lease, Canterbury.

*Prepared by the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council, Pastoral Lease tenure review report to Knight Frank Limited.*

January 1998.

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### Part 1 - Introduction.

#### 1.1 Redcliffe.

Redcliffe is a medium sized run and lies on the front range of the Hutt, and forms an integral part of the landscape of the upper Rakaia valley system. A small portion of the property (that facing the Rakaia gorge) is of direct concern to the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council (NCFGC), as it lies within its regional boundaries. However the majority of the fish and game interests occur within the Central South Island region.

#### 1.2 Physical Description.

##### 1.2.1 Location & Access.

The Redcliffe Station homestead is located 110 kilometres west of Christchurch in the Rakaia Gorge region. The property traverses two catchment districts - 55% lies in the headwaters of the North Ashburton River and 45% along the South Bank of the Rakaia River.

The property is bounded by the Rakaia River in the north, Glenrock and Winterslow runs in the west, Mt Alford Station in the south and Cleardale and Mt Hutt Station to the east.

A four wheel drive access track extends down the Swift River. A track established in the early 1980's provides good access to other parts of the property.

##### 1.2.2 Geology.

The geological formation is similar throughout the property, consisting of undifferentiated greywacke. A loess covering is present on the easy and moderately steep slopes with the thickness depending on elevation and exposure. Alluvial gravels are present along the Rakaia River with fans rising into the valleys.

##### 1.2.3 Climate.

The average annual rain fall at the homestead is 750 mm. Rains from the southerly quarter are better distributed than those from the north-west. Snowfalls are frequent from May to August. On the higher mountain slopes and basins snow lies for about four months. On the flats and low hills, heavy snowfalls may lie for some weeks, but generally snow melts on sunny aspects within a few days.

West to north-west winds prevail. These funnel down the Rakaia Valley, particularly in the spring and autumn.

#### 1.2.4 Topography.

The property is predominately steep, mountainous and hill land with easier slopes and fans at the foot of the main range. Altitude ranges from 350 metres above sea level (a.s.l.) adjacent to the Rakaia River to the highest point 2188 metres a.s.l. - Mt Hutt. From the Swift River the land rises moderately steeply to traverse the Mt Hutt Range before descending sharply through the Rakaia faces to the river.

#### 1.2.5 Vegetation & Soils.

The front faces consist of hard tussock associations, with scrub species on the more recent fans and old erosion scars. Improved pasture has been established around the lower flats and hill blocks.

The lower flats are characterised by Tasman soils which are mostly light and stony. The soil has developed from greywacke alluvium under fescue tussock grassland with matagouri scrub. These soils are subject to stream bank erosion and deposits of coarse detritus in places.

Tasman soils predominate in the areas of interest to the NCFGC.

### Part 2 - Fish and game values on Redcliffe Pastoral Lease - North Canterbury fish and game region.

#### 2.1 Context.

Redcliffe is located in the upper Rakaia Valley, along the south bank of the river. The upper Rakaia is well-known amongst anglers (particularly salmon) as a dramatic and readily accessible landscape. The river itself was part of an extensive national conservation order process which saw an order placed on the river in 1988.

Other reports, such as the Canterbury Regional Landscape study by Boffa Miskel and Lucas Associates (1983) recognised the Rakaia riverbed as an area of natural value and an outstanding natural feature.

#### 2.2 Sports fisheries habitat & recreational values.

The streams which flow down from the Mt Hutt range and through the lease and onto the Rakaia River, are Redcliffe Stream (which itself is fed by Jack Stream) and a stream flowing from Terrible Gully. The steep nature and shallow channel of these streams means they are unlikely to support sports fish to any great extent, if at all.

These streams also contribute little towards the total flow of the Rakaia, so it is unlikely that land use activities in the catchment of these streams would result in any deleterious effects on the Rakaia

### 2.3 Game bird habitat & recreational values.

Information on game bird values on the lease are limited. It is likely that Canada geese will be present on the property with the wetland area in the vicinity of the Redcliffe Saddle being the most likely habitat area, although only a small portion of this is actually on the Redcliffe lease (the greater portion being on Glenrock).

Nevertheless there is potential for activities on the Redcliffe lease to cause adverse effects on the wetlands values (eg. forestry development).

## Part 3 Recommendations.

### 3.2 Game birds.

Game bird interests on Redcliffe are restricted to the Redcliffe Saddle wetland area. This lies on Glenrock Station. However it is possible that land use activities on Redcliffe Station could adversely affect this wetland. The Council also has an interest at possible concentrations of game birds on the lower river flats. Access to these areas for both recreational and management purposes is sought by the Council.

Sufficient buffer strips should be maintained between wetland areas (map 1) and other land use activities, so that existing values of this area are maintained.

The South Island Canada Goose Management Plan, a joint management plan between South Island fish and game councils and Federated Farmers, requires the Council to hold Canada goose numbers down to target levels specified in the plan. Target levels have been set for the Rakaia catchment and to reach these the Council may, from time to time, require access to Redcliffe to control geese.

When possible it is desirable for this to be done by recreational game hunters, the alternative is the use of helicopters and fixed wing aircraft in cull operations. The securing of the right to use these methods is sought by the Council as an outcome of the Redcliffe tenure review process. Access for these purposes is therefore sought.

In summary the Council recommends:

1. The protection of the wetland margins identified on the appended map from the effects of develop that may have an adverse effect on its existing environmental values. This would include such activities as those which encourage the runoff of sediment into the wetland area (eg burning or track development) or the reduction of its water levels by rainfall inception (ie. forestry).
2. Access to all areas of the lease for the management control of problem populations of Canada geese, where and when such populations emerge.

**WAYNE McCALLUM.**  
**RESOURCE OFFICER.**