

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name : SHINGLEY CREEK

Lease number : PO 034

**Addendum to
Conservation Resources Report**

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May

06

OUR REF: PAL 14-04-34

18/05/06

The Manager
Opus International Consultants Ltd
Private Bag 1913
Dunedin

Attention: Simon de Lautour

Shingley Creek – Confirmation of Values

Dear Simon,

An inspection on 12 May 2006 of Shingley Creek was carried out in order to confirm the values outlined in the Conservation Resources Report provided in 2003. Whilst this brief inspection was not intended to provide a comprehensive re-evaluation of the values, we did look at a number of key values associated with this relatively small property.

Fog prevented an overview of the top block. It is however clear that the area is still predominantly tall tussock with no gross changes evident since the CRR inspection.

The lower gullies and shrublands were looked at. The threatened species noted in the CRR have changed as more knowledge has become available about their distribution and rarity. The plants *Clematis marata*, *Olearia bullata* and *Hebe buechananii* are no longer considered threatened. *O. bullata* however plays an important role in vegetating riparian margins.

An additional threatened plant, *Coprosma intertexta* (threat status “sparse”) was noted in lower Pigroot Creek, where it is a significant component of riparian “grey” shrublands.

The shrublands along Pigroot Creek in particular contain SIVs that warrant protection. These will only improve in time in the absence of burning and cattle grazing. They are also considered important for protecting the habitat of the threatened *Galaxias depressiceps* found in Pigroot Creek.

The Gecko named *Hoplodactylus sp.* ‘Otago’ is now known as *Hoplodactylus sp.* ‘Otago/Southland large’. It still has the threat classification of “Gradual decline”.

It was noted that Siberia Creek had a marginal strip where it ran through the adjoining property. An inspection revealed that Siberia Creek within the PL should also attract a marginal strip on completion of the review. The upstream limit of the creek averaging 3m or more was not assessed. This strip may help to protect riparian shrublands and could be utilized in future by the public as an access route.

Public access was considered during the inspection. Clearly there is existing demand for access to Mt Obi. The current route traverses the southern ridge of the property on an existing track, but this appears off line from the legal roadline. On survey however these may converge.

The other route previously considered is via a centre ridge within the property. This would be of lesser value due to its lack of formation and possibly steeper gradient. It may also limit access to walking only, while the other formed route could provide for mountain bikes and horses.

Access from the road is a key issue as there is adjoining freehold land of different ownership between the road and the PL. Two marginal strips through this freehold would provide practical access, although better access would be via a formed vehicle track if it could be negotiated independently. Provision in the review should be made for the possible use of the vehicle track and the Siberia Creek marginal strip. This strip was walked within the freehold and found to be interesting although in need of some minor formation.

This report is intended as an addendum to the CRR of Shingley Creek.

Yours faithfully

Tim Whittaker
Conservation Officer – High Country Tenure Review