

Crown Pastoral Land Other Crown Land

Lease name: MT IDA

Lease number: 00 090

Public Submissions - Part 12

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

July

07

196

249 Malvern St,
Dunedin,
16. 11. 06.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands,
P.O. Box 27,
Alexandra,
Dear Sir,

I am very concerned about the proposal that the 8,400 ha Mt. Ida block of land be returned to Crown ownership and be managed by Doc.

I am in full support of the Mt. Ida farming syndicate for the following reasons:-

- 1/ The farmers have looked after the land carefully and well up to the present moment.
2. The farmers need the land for their survival.
3. The farmers have freely given access to recreational users over the years.

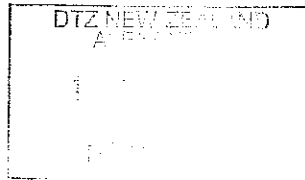
Will Doc manage the land as well as the farmers who have done it for generations?

I am full of admiration for the many good things Doc does, but it would be better to leave this management in the hands of those who are already doing a good job. Why change it?

Yours sincerely,
Ruth Morgan.

311 East Road
RD 2
PUKEKOHE

13 November 06



Commissioner of Crown Lands
C/- DTZ NZ Ltd
ALEXANDRA

**SUBMISSION RE PART RUN 362B AND RUN 362C MOUNT BUSTER
SURVEY DISTRICT COMPRISING 8401.2739 HECTARES**

I make a plea that the existing lease as held by the Mt Ida Syndicate be continued.

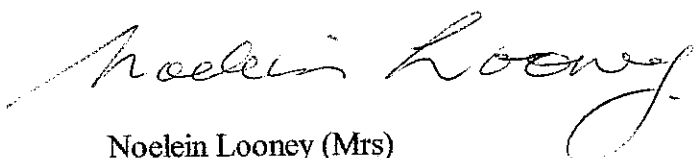
To see land in this high country block presented in such fine condition proves that the guardianship since 1897 by the same families has been a positive approach for its health and welfare.

If sheep are taken away the Sweet Briar and other undesirable weeds would flourish, and infestations of rabbits would be devastating to grass covering. I understand Molesworth have had to keep cattle commercially to help reduce the Broom problem.

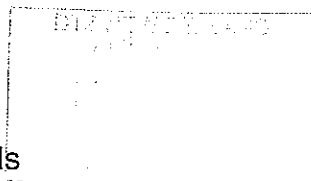
Access is not withheld and is available for all New Zealanders to enjoy. I had the opportunity to stay on the Mt Ida Range three years ago, sleep in the musterers huts and take part in the autumn muster. What an unique opportunity to savour the outstanding countryside, magnificent views and see the splendid management of good farming practices.

After meeting the various members of the Syndicate it was obvious the high interest in the care of the land was their paramount concern. Without this area as a run-off for stock grazing, their farms could well not be run economically.

Having been proven caretakers for approximately 110 years so successfully, should they be denied the right to continue? Surely not!


Noelein Looney (Mrs)

16 November 2006



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

Attention: David Payton

Dear Sir

**MT IDA SYNDICATE OCCUPATIONAL LICENCE
TENURE REVIEW SUBMISSION BY CROWN MINERALS**

The Commissioner of Crown Lands has invited public submissions on the Preliminary Proposal for the review of the Mt Ida Syndicate Occupation Licence (an area of other Crown land) which occupies an area of some 8,401 hectares in Otago.

Please find enclosed a written submission on this tenure review proposal.

Yours sincerely



Barry Winfield
Senior Advisor, Petroleum and Minerals Policy

**Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998
Review of Other Crown Land
Preliminary Proposal**

Licence name: MT IDA SYNDICATE

Licence number: Oo 090

**Submission by Crown Minerals
Ministry of Economic Development**

November 2006

MT IDA SYNDICATE OCCUPATION LICENCE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW OF OTHER CROWN LAND

SUBMISSION BY CROWN MINERALS TO COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS

BACKGROUND

1. The Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998 provides a framework for the review of high country land in the South Island. Under the Act holders of an occupation licence may request that their licence area be considered for review.
2. An invitation to undertake review has been accepted for the Mt Ida Syndicate Occupation Licence ("Mt Ida") and has reached the stage where the Commissioner of Crown Lands has put a preliminary proposal for review of other Crown land to Charles Lawrence John Inder (1/3 share), William Murray Scott (1/3 share), and others, as licensees of Mt Ida. The Commissioner of Crown Lands has invited public submissions on this preliminary proposal for review of other Crown land.
3. Mt Ida comprises some 8,401 hectares of land on the northern side of the Ida Range with access via the Mount Buster Road from nearby Naseby and St Bathans.
4. It is proposed that all of the land comprising the licence, some 8,401 hectares, be retained in full Crown ownership and control as Conservation Area pursuant to section 86(5)(a)(i) of the Act. Consequently, no land is to be freeholded.

CROWN MINERALS

5. Crown Minerals, a group within the Ministry of Economic Development, is the government agency that manages New Zealand's state owned oil, gas, mineral and coal resources known as the Crown mineral estate. Crown Minerals is responsible for the efficient allocation of prospecting, exploration and mining rights, the promotion of the mineral estate to investors, and ensuring that the Crown receives a fair financial return for the use of its mineral estate.
6. The Crown (on behalf of all New Zealanders) owns all in-ground petroleum, gold and silver and approximately half of the in-ground coal, non-metallic and other metallic minerals including industrial rocks and building stones.

LAND TENURE REVIEW

7. The Associate Minister of Energy and Crown Minerals have previously registered their concern to both the Minister for Land Information and LINZ officials that the land tenure review process gives little consideration to the land's mineral value and potential for mineral development and that it does not recognise that existing mineral permit and licence holders have an interest in the land. As a consequence of the ongoing review of pastoral leases, some land that is highly prospective for mineral development is

passing into the Conservation estate, or into private ownership, where it may become more difficult, if not impossible in some cases, for individuals and companies to gain access to this land for the purpose of exploration and mining. This represents a significant loss of economic development opportunity.

8. The objectives of tenure review are set out in section 24 of the Crown Pastoral Land Act and include "enabling reviewable land capable of economic use to be freed from the management constraints (direct and indirect) resulting from its tenure under reviewable instrument".
9. The economic benefits from mineral development can be substantial and should not be overlooked. If the land has high mineral potential and/or significant mineral content, then consideration should be given to the mineral value when determining future ownership and use of such land.
10. The purpose of this submission is to bring to your attention the known and potential mineral wealth of the land subject to the Mt Ida Syndicate review and to request that this be taken into consideration when making a final decision on the review.

REGIONAL GEOLOGY

11. The area comprises schist of the Haast Schist group, which formed during the juxtaposition of Rakaia and Caples terrane rocks along a complex fault zone during the Jurassic to Cretaceous. The schistose parts of the Caples and Rakaia terranes are known collectively as the Haast Schist, and are divided into Otago, Alpine, Haast and Marlborough schists on the basis of geography.
12. The schist basement is overlain by tertiary marine and terrestrial transgressive-regressive sedimentary sequence, consisting of a lower and upper unit of quartz gravel, clay and lignite. These sediments are unconformably overlain by the Pliocene-early Pleistocene conglomerates, which in turn are overlain by Late Quaternary gravels.

LOCAL GEOLOGY

13. The area is underlain by textural subzone IIB schist (foliated phyllite and semischist) of the Otago Schist. Terrestrial conglomerates and breccia of Kyeburn Formation unconformably overlie the Rakaia terrane schist in the area. This formation covers over 80km² and was deposited during the Cretaceous on a surface of low relief as talus, alluvial fans and lake deposits. Localised sequences of Hogburn Formation conglomerate gravels and sandstones also occur in the area. This formation was formed by tectonic uplift during the Eocene and is derived from the older schist material.

KNOWN MINERALISATION

14. Alluvial gold in Cretaceous-Cenozoic rocks and in Quaternary sediments is ultimately derived from lodes in the Otago Schist. The Kyeburn area has been the centre of much historic mining activity, including sluicing and dredging. Alluvial gold has been mined from the terrace gravels of the main Kye Burn Valley, Little Kye Burn and their tributaries around the eastern and northern edges of the Maniototo Basin. Additional mining was carried out in the stream bed gravels of both the Kye Burn and the Little

Kye Burn. The area was always known as a "poor man's" field. Extensive sluicing has been undertaken along the higher level terrace faces flanking Nobbles Stream and the Kyeburn. Historical information points to the Kyeburn field as producing poor returns.

15. The Hogburn Formation is an inland sedimentary sequence and has been the focus of historical alluvial gold workings dating back to 1863. In 1896 the Mt Buster Mining Company Ltd was registered and produced 2,263 ounces of gold between 1901 and 1904. The latest exploration of the area was completed by BHP Ltd in 1988-1989. BHP estimated a resource potential of approximately 2 million m³ at grades between 200-300 mg/m³. This is an inferred resource estimate.

CURRENT PERMITS AND MINERAL INTEREST IN THE LAND

16. At the present time, a granted prospecting permit held by Australasia Gold Limited ("Australasia Gold") is located over Boundary Creek in the southeastern portion of the Mt Ida licence area. In addition, the entire licence area is covered by a large Otago-wide prospecting permit application lodged by Glass Earth (New Zealand) Limited ("Glass Earth").
17. The attached map shows the relationship between Mt Ida and prospecting permit 39 266 and prospecting permit application 39 322. A copy of PP 39 266 is also appended.
18. Prospecting permit 39 266 was granted on 1 June 2004 to Australasia Gold to prospect for gold and silver over an area of 459 km² for an initial term of two years. An extension of duration of one year was granted on 11 September 2006. Australasia Gold is an Australian registered gold exploration and mining company that is actively working on both sides of the Tasman. The company listed on the Australian Stock Exchange on 18 January 2006 and has a portfolio of New Zealand prospects, totalling 820 km², centred on the Otago region. Australasia Gold is undertaking the following work over the permit area in accordance with the permit's work programme:
 - detailed geological mapping;
 - detailed geochemical sampling;
 - compilation all relevant geotechnical data into geological database.
19. Glass Earth's prospecting permit application 39 322, covers an area of 19,420 km², and is targeting a wide range of metallic and non metallic minerals. This application is currently undergoing technical assessment by Crown Minerals. Glass Earth proposes to carry out the following activities under the permit:
 - fly ultra-detailed magnetics, radiometrics, resistivity, altimetry, hi-map geoscan geophysics. The majority of the region will be flown at a scale suitable to delineate significant mineralogical systems. There will be approximately 25,000 line kilometres of flying; and
 - data retrieval, levelling, gridding, modelling and interpretation; followed by geological and mineralogical interpretation for use as a base for anomaly identification.
20. The work proposed by Glass Earth involves a radically different approach to exploration in this region that has the potential to target specific gold permissive areas via a set of tools unreliant on geochemistry. The interpretation of these data sets should add substantially to:
 - the geological knowledge of the area;
 - the mineral potential of the area;
 - the structural understanding of the area;

- the agricultural/forestry and horticultural knowledge of the area via specific landform delineations; and
- the shallow aquifer/water resource potential of the area (specifically affecting the dairying and crop growing potential of the area).

COMMENT

21. Prospecting is a relatively high risk business and the very nature of mineral prospecting and exploration means that a company starts with a large area of land and with time it reduces the area after eliminating areas of no interest. Where early reconnaissance work under a prospecting permit justifies further exploration expenditure, a company will apply for an exploration permit. Progressively the size of the area will be reduced to only a fraction of the original area and more often than not, a company will fail to identify economic mineralisation and the ground will be surrendered or the permit will be allowed to expire. Modern day prospecting and exploration techniques present little threat to the environment and yet the ultimate outcome of exploration can be the development of a mine with numerous economic spin-offs for the local economy.
22. Crown Minerals acknowledges that the transfer of Mt Ida to the Department of Conservation ("DOC") does not preclude access to the land for the purpose of prospecting, exploration and mining. Permit holders can apply to DOC for an access arrangement under section 61 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991. However, because the Minister of Conservation's consideration of an application for access largely relates to conservation objectives, it is fair to say that it becomes more difficult for an exploration or mining company to secure a workable access agreement on conservation land.

CONCLUSION

23. The current and proposed prospecting activity by Australasia Gold and Glass Earth, highlights the new interest being shown to assess the mineral potential of Mt Ida and the surrounding area, and testifies to the economic mineral potential of the area.
24. The Mt Ida Syndicate Occupation Licence area should be recognised as being prospective for minerals. To further assess the mineral potential of the area it is critical that exploration and mining companies get ongoing access to this land. Whatever the outcome of this review, Crown Minerals would want to see provision made to allow for mineral prospecting activities to continue to be undertaken.
25. Crown Minerals requests that the Commissioner of Crown Lands takes notice of the mineral potential of the Mt Ida Syndicate Occupation Licence. Consideration should be given to some form of transitional provisions to ensure that future explorers and developers have a right to access to Crown and freehold land on reasonable terms for the purpose of carrying out exploration and mining activities and also any exploration or mining permit activities under subsequent permits granted in accordance with section 32 of the Crown Minerals Act.

**PROSPECTING PERMIT 39 266
CROWN MINERALS ACT 1991**

PERMIT HOLDER: Australasia Gold Limited
13 Woodland Close
Aldgate
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5154


NOW THEREFORE: I, ROBERT SMILLIE, Manager, Exploration and Mining
Services Unit acting under delegated authorities of 2 February
2004, do

HEREBY GRANT to the Permit Holder a prospecting permit for the duration of 2 years
commencing on the date hereof

WHICH HEREBY gives the exclusive rights to prospect for gold and silver as defined in the
Minerals Programme 1996, in the land described in the First Schedule and delineated on the
plan attached hereto

UPON THE CONDITIONS specified in the Second Schedule hereto and subject to the
Crown Minerals Act 1991 and any regulations made thereunder.

DATED AT Wellington this 1st day of June 2004


.....
Manager, Exploration and Mining Services Unit

CERTIFICATE OF EXTENSION OF DURATION

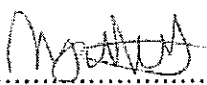
IN THE MATTER of the Crown Minerals
Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of prospecting permit
39 266 dated 1 June 2004 in the name of
Australasia Gold Limited

PURSUANT TO sections 36 and 38 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991, an extension of
duration is hereby granted for a term of 1 year from 1 June 2006.

DATED AT Wellington this 11th day of September 2006


.....
SIGNED BY Michael West
Acting Group Manager, Crown Minerals

CERTIFICATE OF CHANGE OF CONDITIONS

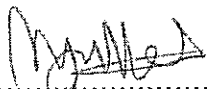
IN THE MATTER of the Crown Minerals
Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of prospecting permit
39 266 dated 1 June 2004 in the name of
Australasia Gold Limited

PURSUANT TO section 36(1) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991, the conditions specified in the Second Schedule to the above mentioned permit are hereby replaced by those attached to this Certificate.

DATED AT Wellington this 11th day of September 2006



.....
SIGNED BY Michael West
Acting Group Manager, Crown Minerals

SECOND SCHEDULE CONDITIONS OF PROSPECTING PERMIT 39 266

Work Programme

1. The permit holder shall to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Economic Development (the Chief Executive), prospect the permit area in accordance with good industry practice, so as to clearly define the potential of the mineral resources to which this permit applies.
2. The permit holder shall complete the following minimum work programme.
 - (a) Within 12 months of the Extension of Duration of the permit:
 - i . expand programme of detailed geological mapping;
 - ii expand programme of detailed geochemical sampling;
 - iii Compile all relevant geotechnical data into digital database;
 - iv Provide the Chief Executive with a report detailing the work completed including submission of digital data.
3. In accordance with Section 38 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991, conditions 2(a) i, ii, iii & iv must be completed to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive to have achieved substantial compliance with the work programme.

Reports

4. The permit holder shall report in accordance with the prescribed regulations.

Fees

5. The permit holder shall pay any prescribed fees that apply to this permit.

SCHEDULE 1

Prospecting Permit Application 39 266

Land District: Otago Region

Local Authority: Central Otago District

Area: 459.19 Square Kilometres

All that area of land containing 459.19 square kilometres, shown as 'A' on the attached map.



Graham Cullen
Crown Accredited Supplier
Lifestyle Research Limited
7^o 10^o 2004



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E 2303262.51
N 5598748.19

5
E 2303265.89
N 5577223.29

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E 2303498.55
N 5577019.16

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E 2306973.64
N 5576958.22

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E 2306973.64
N 5568761.78

9
E 2282661.47
N 5590877.24

10
E 2282622.03
N 5565548.00

3
E 2284544.00
N 5598743.00

2
E 2284300.78
N 5596655.00

1
E 2280828.00
N 5590070.00

11
E 2280778.00
N 5595548.00

PP 39 266
Buster-Naseby
Approx Area: 459.19
Land District: Otago Region
Local Authority: Central Otago District

MP 41 886 excluded

A

Naseby



by Nelson's Research Ltd

0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000

SECOND SCHEDULE CONDITIONS OF PROSPECTING PERMIT 39 266

Work Programme

1. The permit holder shall make all reasonable efforts, to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Economic Development (the Chief Executive), to prospect the permit area in accordance with good industry practice, so as to clearly define the potential of the mineral resource to which this permit applies.
2. The permit holder make all reasonable efforts, to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, to complete the following minimum work programme;
 - (a) Within 24 months of the commencement date of the permit:
 - i Compile all existing and suitable geo-technical data held or acquired by the company into a digital database;
 - ii Complete the proposed geochemical sampling;
 - iii Conduct regional scale mapping;
 - iv Interpret geology and produce prospect-scale geological map or maps of prospects identified and selected for further exploration; and
 - v Input new geo-technical data into the GIS database.
3. In accordance with Section 38 of the Crown Minerals Act conditions 2(a) i, ii, iii, iv & v must be completed to have achieved substantial compliance with the work programme.

Reports

4. The permit holder shall report in accordance with prescribed regulations.

Fees

5. The permit holder shall pay any prescribed fees that apply to this permit.

199

Ken Taylor

From: info@dtz.com
Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2006 11:27 p.m.
To: Ken Taylor
Subject: Website Contact: Employee Contact

User: Peter Espie

info@highlandpeaks.com

Site: New Zealand

333 Chain Hills Road ,

RD 1 Dunedin.

16th November 2006

Ken Taylor
Manager,
DTZ New Zealand Limited,
Land resources Division,
PO Box 27,
Alexandra.

Dear Ken,

Preliminary Proposal Mt Ida Syndicate, Review of Crown Land

In consideration of DTZ's preliminary proposal regarding the Mt Ida Syndicate pastoral occupation license, the Objects of Part 3 of the Crown Pastoral Land Act are to:

- a) Promote the management of the Crown land in a way that it is ecologically sustainable, and...
 - b) to enable the protection of significant inherent values of Crown land; and
 - c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b), to make easier
- i) the securing of public access to and enjoyment of Crown land, and
 - ii) the freehold disposal of Crown land capable of economic use.

Ecological research suggests that strategic grazing may be the only currently feasible management option to achieve objectives a and b.

A recent study on the Old Man Range, is in tall tussock grassland similar to that occurring in the Mt Ida pastoral occupation license area, is highly pertinent. This showed that the cover of the invasive tall-growing Hieracium species *H. lepidulum* was significantly greater in ungrazed tussock grassland. In the three enclosure plots, ungrazed for over 40 years, cover of *H. lepidulum* was 4 to 33 times higher than in adjacent grazed grassland. These results are consistent with those from other enclosure studies in South Island tussock grasslands.

A presentation at the recent Otago Regional Council forum on High Country Landscape Management showed significant *H. lepidulum* expansion is occurring in both the ungrazed wetter Otago run country and in parts of Mt Aspring National Park that have never been pastorally grazed.

The Old Man Range study shows that *H. lepidulum* can successfully grow even in dense tall tussock grassland. It is well established that Hieracium species can invade tussock grasslands from seed. As *H. lepidulum* only reproduces by seed and its flowers are highly palatable, grazing is a possible method to limit its spread. Light grazing reduced *H. lepidulum* flowering by 40 times and plant density by 4 times in a Canterbury enclosure study. While heavy grazing can produce negative effects, the

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

areas of pastorally grazed tussock grasslands surveyed with high significant inherent botanical values suggest this has not occurred in these areas of the Mt Ida pastoral occupation licence.

In the absence of grazing it is highly probable *H. lepidulum* expansion will negatively impact the significant inherent values of Crown land.

The possible impact of *H. lepidulum* at high cover levels may be similar to those of the mat-forming *Hieracium pilosella*. *H. pilosella* is now a dominant component of the flora in extensive areas of the high country. It has been shown to competitively displace native short tussocks and seriously reduce indigenous biodiversity. For instance, at a Molesworth Station research site between 1969 and 2001 the total number of plant species declined from 23 to 5, blue and fescue tussock declined from 25% to 4% cover, while *H. pilosella* cover increased from 0 to 83%. *Hieracium* expansion also affected shrubs: there was a fourfold decline in the density of sweet briar.

It is a serious concern if *H. lepidulum* invasion results in similar long-term effects in the area of the Mt Ida pastoral occupation licence.

H. lepidulum is at an early stage of invasion, and this is the most effective time for implementing control. Grazing is the only low-cost, immediately implementable, widespread technique currently available for slowing the rate of invasion.

I request that the proposed future management be taken into consideration when regarding the future of Mt Ida pastoral occupation licence land.

Kind regards,

Dr Peter Espie

References

- Espie, P.R. (1992). The influence of ground cover on hawkweed establishment in fescue tussock grassland. In Hunter, G.G., Mason, C.R., Robertson, D. (eds). Vegetation change in tussock grasslands with emphasis on hawkweeds. New Zealand Ecological Society Occasional Publication Number 2.
- Espie, P.R. (1994). Integrated pastoral management strategies for *Hieracium* control. Proceedings of the New Zealand Grassland Association 56:243-247.
- Espie, P.R., (2001) *Hieracium* in New Zealand: Ecology and Management. AgResearch.
- Espie, P.R., (2005) Landscapes in Transition. Proceedings, High Country Landscape Management Forum, September 2005, p 55-59. Otago Regional Council.
- Mead, G., (2005) Farming in the wetter country. Proceedings, High Country Landscape Management Forum, September 2005, p 73-75. Otago Regional Council.
- Mead, N. & Elstob, B., (2005) Managing Obelisk, a semi arid high country run. Proceedings, High Country Landscape Management Forum, September 2005, p 78-79. Otago Regional Council.
- Rose, A.B., Frampton, C.M. (1999). Effects of microsite characteristics on *Hieracium* seedling establishment on short and tall tussock grasslands, Marlborough, New Zealand. New Zealand Journal of Botany 37: 107-118.



333 Chain Hills Road ,
RD 1 Dunedin.
16th November 2006

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DTZ New Zealand Limited,
Land resources Division,
PO Box 27,
Alexandra.

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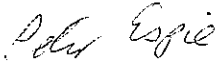
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Yours faithfully,



Dr Peter Espie

References

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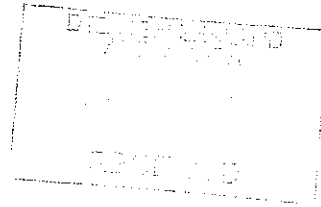
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Mount Ida Syndicate Preliminary Proposal review Submission

From:
Struan and Lynn Minty
Beaumont Station
RD 1 Otautau, SOUTHLAND

Struan and Lynn Minty 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:

The report indicates that the land being disposed of by special lease or fee simple "could potentially meet the requirements of Object (a)" ie to promote management of the land in a way that is ecologically sustainable.

It also indicates that protection of SIV's (Object b) could also be afforded in conjunction with a continuance of grazing.

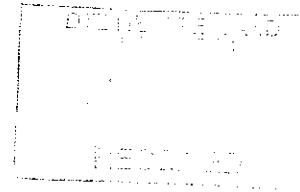
In regard to Object (c) the report states that "The current vehicle access enjoyed by the public has been an outcome of maintenance of the track infrastructure by the licensees."

The report also states "The area has a long history of grazing and observations over a period of 20 years indicate to me that grazing has contributed in a manner which is more or less ecologically sustainable, as evidenced by the fact that the tussock and shrub-land eco-systems exist in their current state."

Taking all this information into consideration one wonders what the benefits of crown ownership will be. The land is and has been under good stewardship for many years, shown by the fact that it has been farmed in this ecologically sustainable manner for 109 years. Also, it provides important summer grazing 10,000 ewes for 3 crucial months of the year. It would appear senseless to transfer the title of this land, which is providing an income in an ecologically sustainable manner and gives good public access, to Department of Conservation title which will then financially burden the taxpayer into perpetuity.

Doctors Point Ltd

N.M. Sanders
Airport Road
No 1 R. D.
Alexandra



15-11-2006

Mt Ida Syndicate Review

My name is Neil Sanders and this is a submission on the Preliminary Proposal for Mt Ida Syndicate Review.

I am OPPOSED to the Mt Ida Syndicate (Part Run 362B and Run 362C Mount Buster Survey District comprising 8401.2739 ha) being incorporated into the Conservation Estate.

The present Tenure of a Pastoral Occupation Licence (POL) needs to continue as it has for the last 109 yrs or made a stronger tenure so that the present licence holders are able to make more prudent protective land investments that would enhance longer term ecosystem protection.

It must be noted that the management to date (109 yrs) has given very sound environment and species ,(vegetation and invertebrate etc) protection to this ecosystem.

There is also the huge historical significance with this licence

Section 83 , Objects of Part 3 (a) of the CPL Act has, and is still, an ongoing achievement , and so has met the criteria of the Act.

The present catch phrase by Conservationists is “ protect inherent values “ in the high country. Pastoralists are a very important aspect of these values. The overall goal cannot be achieved with-out a combination of all ingredients in the mix.

Objects Part 3(b) of the Act has also been met. This is acknowledged by the Crowns Agent , DTZ , that continuance of grazing is a sound option and perhaps a better alternative.

109 yrs of grazing management has provided a unique diversity to this ecosystem and should it be taken away, may create an ecological disaster.

If it ain't broken , don't mess with it, but allow lee-way for finer tuning.

Part 3 (c) (i) . The Crown definitely does-not need ownership to land for public recreation . Members of the public already have very good access to High Country land , except Conservation Administered land.

Land in the Conservation Estate does not give the Public the right to automatic access. Most adventures into the High Country are now by four wheel drives, motor-bikes, horses and mountain bikes. This has all been made easier by roading infrastructure by leasee`s to there administered lands.

Large areas of land through tenure review have gone to the Conservation estate. There have been numerous newspaper articles involving the Department of Conservation (DoC) and recreationalists about denied access to the now "Public land". This is a huge concern where by DoC coerce land access from leasee`s but then do not allow the public the right to roam on there land.

Gates are locked and signs erected denying entry.

There is evidence from past submissions to the Crown (and visual observations) that show significant land change for the worse after DoC become administrators of land. All land must be managed. Locking land up is detrimental to it`s ecosystem survival.

Pastoralists are more than generous in there allowances to the Public for recreation.

Part 3 (c) (ii) provides the Crown a wonderful opportunity to freehold the entire licence of 8401.2739 ha`s. This land is an integral part of lower altitude farm management and is the balance to long term economic survival .

In conclusion, I support the Mt Ida Syndicate Land (8401.2739 ha) remaining in the control of the present licence holders.

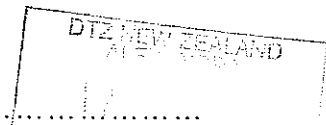
Yours faithfully



Neil M Sanders

202

MT IDA SYNDICATE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL REVIEW SUBMISSION



I/WE S. D. Francis

ADDRESS 788 Back Road, Naseby, R.D.2 Ranfurly

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:

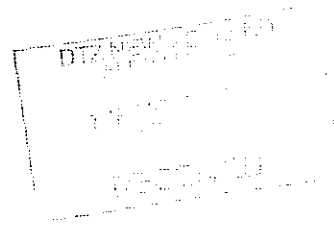
(Legal Description of land concerned: Part Run 362B and Run 362C Mount Buster Survey District comprising 8401.2739ha.

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.)

The "environmental" issues have been taken as the only factors in this. ~~issue~~
It is unbalanced and a full assessment of the wider social and economic implications, ~~needs~~ of the Maniototo Community needs to be taken into account.

S.D. Francis
15/11/2006

203



Kyeburn Downs
Kyeburn
Rd 3
Ranfurly

16th November 2006

DTZ New Zealand Limited
Land Resources Division
PO Box 27
Alexandra

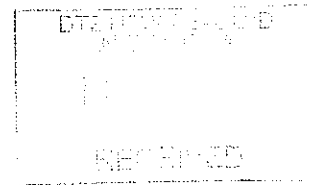
To the Manager.

With regards to the proposed National Park on the Hawkdun Range, more specifically the Mt Ida Syndicate. I am currently a shepherd employed by the Scott's a substantial licence holder in the syndicate. Over the past five years I have spent a lot of time in the high country mustering and have seen regularly grazed lease hold tussock country and also country now retired to DOC the difference is obvious. Granted DOC do their part but I still strongly appose the proposal because:

- I don't believe DOC can look after the land that is already in its care.
- At present regular grazing is keeping the country open and allowing new controlled growth.
- If DOC takes over, the current ecosystem will change.
- At present the public are not denied access unless safety is a factor, if DOC takes over eventually the tracks will deteriorate and vehicle access will be denied.
- Some of the farms involved in the syndicate will loose their balance and would no longer be viable to run.
- Unlike other high country reviews there is no land being free holded for the farmer, just a straight loss of summer grazing country.
- Putting sheep out on the syndicate over the summer is not only tradition but essential for the farms to survive.

Regards

David Whyte



Mount Ida Syndicate Preliminary Proposal review Submission

From:
Glen Minty
Beaumont Station
RD 1 Otautau, SOUTHLAND

Glen Minty submits 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:

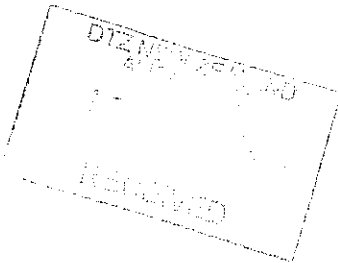
My view is that ecological sustainability has been proven over the past 109 years of grazing management and has not altered the significant inherent values of the landscape.

The syndicate has shown proven sustainable management and can continue it into the future. Yet the crown shows no evidence of a management plan to make this area economically and environmentally sustainable and the area will just become a further burden on the taxpayer.

The public appears to have enjoyed reasonable access to the area via the tracks provided and maintained by the syndicate. Crown ownership would mean reduced funds and will probably lead to depletion of the track infrastructure which will in turn reduce public access.

Also crown ownership will jeopardize the economic sustainability of the lower freehold properties of the syndicate and I will not support any movement by the crown which would be detrimental to both the farmers affected and the surrounding community (through economic spin-off and reduced public access).

205



Chatto Creek
R.D. 3
ALEXANDRA

16 November, 2006

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

Dear Sir

I wish to make a submission in favour of the Mount Ida Syndicate.

Approximately 30 years ago I first visited the Mount Buster area as a recreational hunter and for the past 2 years have stayed in the Syndicate Hut over Labour Weekend. To me, very little has changed over this time, regarding vegetation cover, etc. This is sustainable grazing, as they've grazed it for the last 109 years.

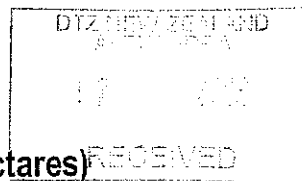
The Mount Ida Syndicate has done a great job managing this high country grazing block and the fact that the vegetation remains in good condition must indicate that the people who have had access to this area for whatever activity have treated it with respect and this would be unlikely to change in the future. I found the tracks and the hut to be in good order and obviously well maintained. Access, through Laurie Inder was easily obtained and I found him very helpful.

This is a great area to visit and a place I would definitely take my sons in the future. I would hate to see it revert to a conservation wilderness, as I have seen happen in other places, ie, tracks in disrepair, gates locked and vegetation a fire risk in the Summer.

Yours faithfully


M.J. Duncan

206

**SUBMISSION:****Part Run 362B and Run 362C (8401.2739 hectares)
MT IDA SYNDICATE****INTRODUCTION**

I have personally been over this property and can accept that there are indeed some significant inherent values related to landscape and tall tussock grasslands (*Chionochloa macra*).

The key questions for the Crown going forward are:

1. How to protect these significant inherent values
2. How to secure public access and enjoyment of this land

BACKGROUND

The Mt Ida Syndicate has been faithfully farmed since 1897 by the previous descendants of the current licensees of Inder, Scott, Hore and Geddes.

The preliminary proposal clearly indicates the tremendous stewardship which the current licensees and previous licensees have shown to this land. One of the most compelling reasons for this is that they have a huge vested interest in retaining the integrity of this ecological system.

BALANCE & ECONOMIC VIABILITY

These farmers are highly dependent on this area for their summer grazing from February through to mid April each year. The valley floor of the Maniototo on which they farm is typically summer dry, and this run country provides the essential balance to that farming system. It is clear that without "this balance" in their farming systems these properties would become unviable and would have to be sold which would be an unbelievable outcome if the recommendation from this proposal was to proceed. These families' farming livelihoods, careers and farming businesses depend on this summer grazing being allowed to continue.

STOCKING RATE

The 9,000 ewes that are grazed on the 8,401 hectares for 2½ months represent 1875 stock units, or 0.22 of a stock unit/hectare/year. On many pastoral leases that have native high country areas within New Zealand many of these areas are sustaining stocking rates of 0.4/ha/year. What this is essentially saying is that the stocking rate on this area is approximately half that of many other areas of native land that are presently being grazed in the high country.

CONTINUANCE OF GRAZING ESSENTIAL

In order to protect the landscape, and to ensure that tall tussock grasslands remain it is essential that some form of grazing be allowed to continue. Grazing is a natural process within this type of ecological system and allows for the ability of regeneration. Without grazing there would be excessive dead material, which has the effect of choking new plant life. Additionally in the event of a fire the presence of a lower amount of dead material through some form of grazing will be of enormous benefit.

NO PROOF OF NEGATIVE GRAZING IMPACT TO SIGNIFICANT INHERENT VALUES

It is interesting to note in the preliminary proposal that there is no proof that grazing is having any negative impact on this landscape. To prevent grazing in the future is simply taking a precautionary approach without understanding what the implications of reduced grazing would be.

PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH DOES NOT APPLY TO CROWN PASTORAL LAND ACT

Unlike the Resource Management Act (RMA), the Crown's Pastoral Land Act does not require the precautionary principle to be applied. The precautionary principle is a way of handling uncertainty. It states at its simplest that if there is uncertainty, then err on the side of caution. Preventing the continuance of the existing grazing regimes is a precautionary approach.

SUSTAINING EXISTING LAND USE

It is generally agreed that ecological sustainability means sustaining the life supporting capacity and productivity of the land. It is clearly evidenced by visiting the Mt Ida Syndicate that there has been a very strong custodian approach to this land since the late 1800's and that it is clearly supporting the life capacity and productivity of the land under its current management system.

SUMMER GRAZING – A SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

The report on the Mt Ida Syndicate dated July 2006 indicates that there may be the ability to consider the continuation of grazing. This would not have been suggested within this report had it not been clearly obvious that grazing has been a sustainable approach to managing this land area in the past. It also goes on to say in this report that the area has been subject to a long history of grazing and the current vegetation types have been "**sustained**" within this grazing regime and that grazing may be considered as a management tool in the future and that there is no indication that continued grazing would be unsustainable. I support these facts.

ACCESS AND AMENITIES

Mt Ida Syndicate have invested significant time, money, and resources into developing a network of over 40km of tracks, and I understand four huts. Access has been generously provided onto the Mt Ida Syndicate, and also the use of the huts within this syndicate. This has been of enormous benefit to the public who wish to go into these areas. Access is not refused.

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ACCESS

The continued grazing of this area will provide an ongoing incentive for the licensees involved to continue to maintain vehicle access to the Mt Ida Syndicate. Should their grazing ability be discontinued, then I suspect we will see a significant deterioration in the four wheel drive tracks and this will come at a very considerable cost to the Crown. Given the distances to this area then it becomes desirable that four wheel drive access is available to get to this area.

With the previous uncertainty into the Mt Ida Syndicate, this has meant that the licenses have had little incentive to maintain the track over recent years, which has led to an ongoing deterioration of the access to this area.

HERITAGE VALUES

One of the significant inherent values which I feel has not been mentioned and is indeed a significant inherent value is that of the history which relates to grazing this area. Since the late 1800's pastoral grazing has been a

very large part of the history and heritage of this landscape. Men, dogs, horses, sheep are all part of the significant heritage of this landscape and is a significant inherent value which is being overlooked.

SUMMARY

The existing licensees have invested heavily in both huts and tracking over a long period of time to make this Mt Ida Syndicate much more accessible, not only for management purposes, but to the general public at large. The Syndicate is very generous with respect to access opportunities for the public, and in fact has enquiries from all over New Zealand. In many respects Laurie Inder in particular acts as an unpaid Department of Conservation (DOC) management person in the sense that he helps many people out of difficult situations, and they continue to maintain access to this area.

I believe that there is a good opportunity to enable conservation and sustainable grazing management to work together to achieve a common outcome with respect to the environment and landscape.

I would submit that Part run 362B and Run 362C being 8401.2739 hectares are presently being managed in a sustainable manner with respect to the significant inherent values. As a result of this sustainable management I would submit that the present licensees and their successors be either granted a long term special grazing licence to continue to graze this land over the January and April period or that this land is freeholded to the licensee with specific management limitations such as numbers of sheep grazed, timings etc so as to ensure the ongoing protection of the existing inherent values.

OTHER

I would also submit that the Crown and the existing licensees work together to develop a recreation plan for this area that meets both the Crown's expectations and is practical to administer from a licensees perspective.

George Collier
Registered Farm Management Consultant
Chartered Accountant

P O Box 267
Alexandra
E-mail: agfirst@ibbotsoncooney.co.nz

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

19/11/2006 23:19

From: Io. Pat Perkins

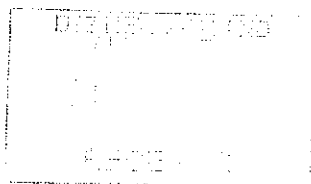
Date: 19/11/2006 Time: 10:50:22 p.m.

PAGE 93

Page 1 of 1

207

19.11.2006



10 Bishop Verdon Court
Mosgiel
OTAGO.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Having been associated with the high country in a variety of ways, since the early 1940's I am satisfied after a number of visits to many high country stations that any tussock country that I have visited is in better heart now than it was previously. In my view this is due to the successful and extensive rabbit eradication programme and the more sensible tussock burning policy, coupled with a competent policy of animal husbandry.

High country lessees to my knowledge have always allowed access to their properties to sensible people. In general terms the high country has been very ably grazed and looked after by the tenants. The public of New Zealand should be very grateful to the high country people, who have had to survive good times and bad; and sometimes endure heavy stock losses due to the inclement weather.

To remove the rights of these high country families is tantamount to exerting totalitarian control, and against the ethos of every fair minded New Zealand citizen.

G.F.T. (Joe) MORRIS

208

19th November 2006.



169 Easthar Crescent
 Kew
DUNEDIN.

Anyone who has had any knowledge or involvement with the Mount Ida Syndicate could not help but be aware of the Land and Animal oversight that has taken place over a period of in excess of 100 years. The names of the farming families associated with the Mount Ida Syndicate are well known and highly respected by all who know or have known them. I write this unsolicited submission in support of their ability to be the architects in charge of their own property. As a young person growing up in this area, and being au fait with high country run holdings, particularly in that area, I am saddened that such worry that will effect the viability of their farming operations, (still the NO 1 overseas earner) should impinge on their day to day operations and their forward planning.

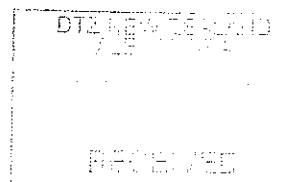
It would be encouraging to think that we could congratulate these run-holders and thank them for the care that they have taken of this spectacular and irreplaceable high country.

PATRICIA PERKINS.

455 7484



SOUTH ISLAND HIGH COUNTRY COMMITTEE



16 November 2006

Commissioner of Crown Lands
C/- DTZ New Zealand Ltd.
P O Box 27
ALEXANDRA

Dear Sir,

Preliminary Proposal: Mt Ida Syndicate

South Island High Country, Federated Farmers (SIHC), objects strongly to the proposal to retain Run 362B and Run 362C Mount Buster Survey District (currently under lease to the Mount Ida Syndicate) to full Crown ownership and control as a conservation area.

We accept that legislation supports the proposal but unreservedly assert that in this instance such action is unwarranted. In fact we contend that there is no moral justification for such a proposal given the conclusive evidence available.

Any motivation for the proposition appears to be based solely on ideology, in that it eliminates an acknowledged ecologically sustainable grazing use and in so doing severely jeopardises the economic sustainability of a number of primary production businesses in the local community. We also doubt that the proposal will enhance public access within the land under review.

Statements from neutral and conservation organisations, as well as those in the productive sector support our claim that the present seasonal grazing regime is ecologically sustainable.

DTZ, in its report for the review, observes that the area has a long history of grazing and that its ecological sustainability is evidenced by the extent to which the tussock and shrubland eco-systems currently exist. The report also, repeatedly, observes that the protection of significant or conservation values would be achieved equally well by either full Crown ownership or continued grazing. Neither was said to have an advantage over the other.

This opinion is frequently borne out in the Conservation Resources report which comments on the quality and vigour of extensive tussock areas and other vegetation. For example:

"The entire area is an excellent example of a peneplain remnant representative of the Hawkdun Ecological District"

"The extent and relative intactness of the *Chionochloa macra* dominated communities and high species diversity of the bog communities combine to produce an area of outstanding natural value"

"The impact of grazing overall has been low"

In a media statement released today (16/11/06) the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society described the area as "the most extensive, relatively intact grassland at this elevation (1300 -1575 metres above sea level) left in Otago and probably in New Zealand. It is home to a range of endemic invertebrates, and boasts one of the largest remaining areas of the slim snow tussock, *Chionochloa macra*, which is now rare in New Zealand.

We submit that if the land can be described by LINZ agents, DoC or Environmental NGO's as "an excellent example", "an area of outstanding natural value" or "the most extensive intact grassland left in Otago and probably in New Zealand" under its existing regime (and one that has been practised for 100+ years), then to change that regime would be foolhardy, at best.

Failure by you as Commissioner to agree to retain a summer-grazing management regime of this quality would alter the future outlook for all tussock grassland management. The evidence of 110 years of management in this case is staring you in the face. The presence of significant inherent values on Mount Ida is not just luck. It is by design.

Your support for this proposal would signal an end to summer grazing in the high country. We are advised by Cabinet that it is NOT in the business of removing sustainable grazing. Given the likelihood that adjoining land is to be destocked by DoC you are put in a unique situation. By retaining grazing you will all quickly see the ramifications and wisdom of your decision. We believe that such close proximity of a similar ecosystem may be a factor as to why DoC is opposed to the continuation of a proven sustainable grazing system in this case.

We also have doubts as to potential access enhancement under the proposal.

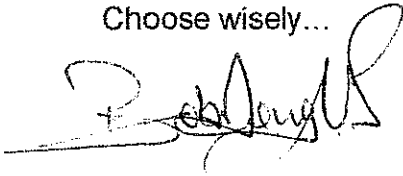
The current lessees willingly provide access to many individuals and interest groups for a variety of recreational and educational purposes. Their performance here is widely appreciated and many would be disappointed if the assistance and facilities currently provided were, in any way, eroded. Access to the higher peaks in the area is available through tracks constructed by the lessees. Access is currently afforded to equestrians, walkers, cyclists and 4WD enthusiasts. In fact the lessees' record in allowing access to this area, and even in directly providing assistance when needed is very good.

By contrast accessibility to this area under DoC control will be more restrictive. 4WD access is proposed to be halted and there remain questions as to what charge rates DoC intends to apply to some activities. Past performances by the Department of Conservation in allowing access for a number of activities, combined with its poor investment record in pest control and other on-site facilities, give us great concern as to the long-term viability of the proposal.

There is an oft repeated saying, Commissioner: "If it works don't fix it". The current regime on Mt Ida is working, as attested to by your own advisers, DoC and many other groups. We believe any attempt to "fix it" will be to the detriment of the land in question. For the sake of this land we urge you NOT to proceed with this proposal, but to continue with the grazing lease to the Mt Ida Syndicate.

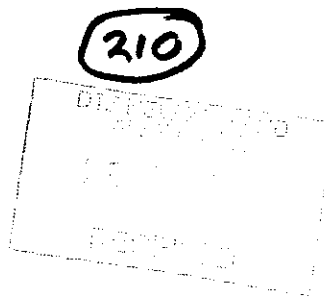
Freehold title incorporating a restrictive 'grazing only' covenant would provide the Crown with the best solution. No taxpayer cost that incorporates a strong incentive for the successful continuation of an ecologically sustainable management heritage.

Choose wisely...

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Douglas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Bob Douglas
(Industry Manger, on behalf of)
Donald Aubrey
(Chairman, SIHC)

PS: Described in 1143 by St. Ailred of Rievaulx Abbey as " a marvellous freedom from the tumult of the world" we suggest you may like to consider 800 years of grazing management in the North Yorkshire Moors (located in North East England) as a useful comparison of retaining both economic use and biodiversity under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act.



Joan Gallagher

From: Geordie Hill [xtr141486@xtra.co.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2006 2:03 p.m.
To: Alexandra
Subject: Mt Ida Syndicate Preliminary Proposal Review Submission

To: The Manager,
DTZ New Zealand Ltd,
Land Resources Division
Alexandra.

MATT and JO MCCAUGHAN, of Geordie Hill Station, Tarras

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:

1. The syndicate is a unique partnership not found elsewhere in New Zealand. The current licence is still held in conjunction with the original properties.
2. Public access is available with hundreds of people having enjoyed the area by utilizing tracks that the property owners maintain and provide.
3. The land provides summer grazing for 10,000 ewes for 3 crucial months, (2,500 stock units per annum).
4. The area has been grazed for 109 years in a manner that has retained significant indigenous vegetation and is proven to be ecologically sustainable.
5. Without this important summer grazing the accompanying low land properties of the syndicate members are not economically sustainable.
6. It will have a significant effect on the Maniototo community both culturally and economically if access to this grazing heritage is lost.

Signed,

Matt and Jo McCaughan
16.11.06

211



Mt Ida Syndicate Preliminary Proposal Review Submission

We David and Judy Andrew
Hyde RD3 Ranfurly

**Submit an objection to your proposal for full crown ownership and control of this land. (Part Run 362B and Run 362C Mount Buster Survey District comprising 8401.2739 ha.)
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.**

The main points to our objection are

1. The syndicate has grazed this area for 109 years in a manner that has retained significant vegetation and is proven to be ecologically sustainable.
2. Because of the multiple ownership of the POL the syndicate members were denied the opportunity to become a Pastoral lease under the 1948 Land Act. This multiple ownership should no longer be an issue in a change of tenure and it should have been addressed years ago.
- 3.a The syndicate is unique in New Zealand and the return to Crown Ownership will have a significant adverse effect on the Maniototo and wider community.
b. Without the important summer grazing of the downland properties of the syndicate members will not be economically sustainable.
c. The review has come at a time when there is significant debate on concerns over intensification of the downlands and also water shortages into the future.
4. Public access (Objects Part 3 CPLA 1998, C.(i))This has been freely given with permission. The syndicate members have over the years provided rescue and breakdown services at their own expense and time.

In reading the preliminary proposal we see no valid reason in vesting this land in the Crown and giving it to DOC.

The word eviction comes to mind and while some would consider it emotive it is entirely appropriate after 109 years of sustainable stewardship.

**Submission: Mt Ida Syndicate Review of Other Crown Land
Notice of Preliminary Proposal**

Submitter: Maniototo Community Board (elected representatives from the Maniototo ward who act as an advocate for the interests of the community within the Central Otago District)

Legal Description of land concerned:

Part Run 362B and Run 362C Mount Buster Survey District comprising 8401.2739ha.

The Maniototo Community Board (the Board) object to the proposal that:

“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.”

Key objections to the proposal:

- **Historical Use**

Eight farming families comprise the Mt Ida Syndicate (MIS) who have had a Pastoral Occupation Licence (POL) to graze the land for the last 110 years. This syndicate is both unique and unprecedented, the POL is still held in conjunction with the original properties and cannot be found in any other part of New Zealand – this historic link needs to be retained. It is historical links such as this that are highly valued within the Maniototo and contribute to the community's strong sense of identity.

- **Economic Impact**

Should the POL be revoked this would have a severe financial impact on the MIS member's sustainability of their farming business. The flow on effect to business within Maniototo will have detrimental consequences to the community as a whole – this is an unacceptable and unwarranted cost to the community.

- **Ecologically Sustainable Management**

The POL allows the MIS to graze the land for three months of the year – it is this sustainable management by the MIS that has allowed significant indigenous vegetation to be retained and not become over run with weeds such as Hieracium (H praealtum and H lepidulum) and wilding pines.

The High Country Landscape and Management Forum held in 2005 clearly shows the increase of weed growth, after grazing has ceased, has a devastating impact on the landscape – the very thing this proposal is trying to protect.

There are alternative mechanisms available at present that can be used to protect identified significant values. QE2 land covenants could be placed over any identified

values within a given area and not grazed if grazing were to be detrimental to the identified values.

If the land was not grazed, excessive vegetation growth during spring dries out over the summer period thus creating an extreme fire risk. Should a fire start from natural occurrences such as lightning strikes, given correct conditions the township of Naseby and surrounding forestry plantations would be at risk. The significant level of risk to human life and property along with the cost of fire fighting needs to be considered. If a fire were to occur, all that this proposal is attempting to protect would be lost.

Should the ecologically sustainable management of the land become the responsibility of Department of Conservation (DOC) the Board strongly disputes that DOC can manage the area as efficiently and successfully as the MIS historically has done to ensure that weed growth is suppressed and the iconic landscape of the area is preserved and retained for future generations.

- **Public Access and Safety**

Public access to the area has never been denied by the MIS; rather it has been enhanced as the MIS have maintained the track infrastructure so the area is accessible to recreational vehicles and not just horses, mountain bikes or those on foot.

The public have been encouraged to ask permission before entering the area not as a courtesy but a safety measure.

Access to the area during extreme fire danger is discouraged by the MIS for the safety of the public and to minimise the fire risk.

The high altitude of the land means that the area is subject to extreme weather condition changes within very short time periods during all twelve months of the year. Should members of the public get caught out either by a breakdown or adverse weather conditions the MIS knows who is out on the mountain and could instigate a search and rescue operation if necessary.

There are mustering huts available for shelter and while they are not four star accommodation, the huts are adequate to ensure survival. These huts are maintained by the MIS and if the POL was withdrawn it is suspected that the huts would be either locked or removed - as has happened in other parts of the country as the huts were deemed to be unfit under OSH standards. This is political correctness gone mad.

The proposed management by the Crown would be more restrictive to members of the public who would like to enjoy this area rich in fauna and history, and who would like an experience in the high country. This is unquestionably the right of all responsible New Zealanders to enjoy, not just those fit enough to walk or cycle in the area.

- **Policy**

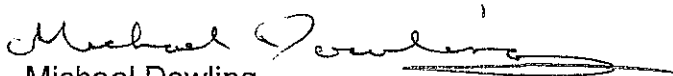
Of real concern to the Board is the lack of a clear Conservation Policy for plateau tussock grasslands. In the absence of a policy that has proven management success methods, surely it would be inadvisable to revoke the POL from a group such as the MIS who has historically proven good stewardship of the land due to their passion for the land, knowledge of the area and best high country farming practices to ensure sustainability.

Summary

The Maniototo Community Board objects to the proposal and supports the status quo being a continuation of the Pasture Occupation License by the Mt Ida Syndicate.

- The Board strongly believes that the historical precedent that the MIS sets is a foundation stone of the community which has to be continued in its present state
- It is vital that this area continues to produce an economic return which is essential to the farming families involved in the MIS and ultimately contributes to the cultural and financial well being of the Maniototo community
- The Board wishes to ensure the area can be continued to be enjoyed by all New Zealanders in its current pristine condition due to the ecologically sustainable management under MIS

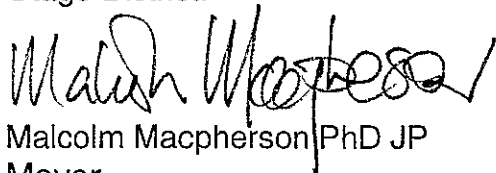
To contemplate any other option than the status quo would be detrimental to the landscape, the Maniototo community and ultimately all New Zealand people.



Michael Dowling
Chairperson
Maniototo Community Board

C/- Ranfurly Service Centre
15 Pery St
Ranfurly

This submission has been endorsed by Malcolm Macpherson, Mayor of Central Otago District.



Malcolm Macpherson PhD JP
Mayor
Central Otago District

MT IDA SYNDICATE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL REVIEW SUBMISSION

I / WE *Don & Sally Mackay*
ADDRESS *142 Faulks Road 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:

(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 would like to see the lease stay with the syndicate that has always run the property and not to be govern by D.O.C.

*D.B. Mackay
S.E. Mackay*