

Crown Pastoral Land Other Crown Land

Lease name: MT IDA

Lease number: 00 090

Public Submissions - Part 4

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

July

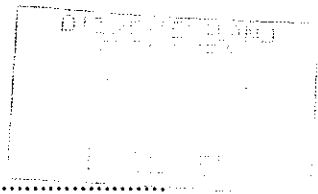
07

(65)

Name Margaret Sutherland

Address 3 Essex Street, Waimaru

Date 6/11/06



The Commissioner of Crown Lands
 c/o DTZ NZ Ltd
 Land Resource Division
 PO Box 27 Alexander
 Ph 03 448 6935

Re - The Mt. Ida Syndicate review of leased Crown Land.

I strongly support the continued lease arrangement of part Run 362B and Run 362C Mt. Buster to the Mt. Ida Syndicate and believe that under the Leasehold Agreement management by the Mt. Ida Syndicate we as New Zealand Citizens continue to inherit the following advantages.

Plants Vegetation growing in this area has cohabited along side the managed sheep grazing programme for one hundred and ten years and created a balanced habitat for this to continue.

Recreational Public Access Managed access is available to responsible persons by the Syndicate Chairperson. Advice on safety issues, climatic conditions, track and hut locations are given freely based on first hand knowledge of this area.

Huts Four huts are located in this area, they are used for accommodation and kept to a basic standard by the Syndicate. Huts in this type of country can mean the difference between survival and death.

Tracks The Mt. Ida Syndicate have formed and maintained a significant amount of access tracks to ensure their grazing plan is well managed.

These tracks also make access available for the following recreation activities - fishing, hunting, tramping, 4 wheel driving, horse riding, mountain biking. These tracks also provide emergency access for fire fighting, search and rescue.

Unique Historical Farming Practice For one hundred and ten years the same five farming families have been involved in the summer grazing of this high country land. Since 1897 the muster of five thousand ewes by eleven musters in late April has become a local tradition and a social occasion held in high regard within the local community

Local Economic Values The availability of this Leasehold Crown land strongly supports the farming operations in this area. Three of the five farming properties are reliant on this summer grazing to remain economical farming identities.

Local Council Rates Under the Leasehold agreement rates are met by the Mt. Ida Syndicate which financially supports all persons residing in the Waitaki District.

I strongly support the continued lease arrangement of part Run 362B and Run 362C Mt. Buster to the Mt. Ida Syndicate and hope the Commissioner will support this community orientated view.

Signed *Margaret Sutherland*

(66)

Name PETER SUTHERLAND
 Address 3 ESSEX ST, WESTON, OAMARU
 Date 6-11-06

The Commissioner of Crown Lands
 c/o DTZ NZ Ltd
 Land Resource Division
 PO Box 27 Alexander
 Ph 03 448 6935

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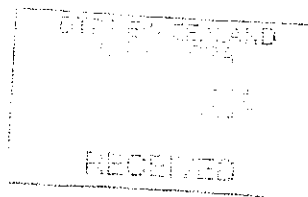
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Signed *P. Sutherland*

(67)

Name NEIL THORPEAddress DANSEYS RASS HOLIDAY PARK - 12. CRD. OAMARUDate 5/11/06

The Commissioner of Crown Lands
 c/o DTZ NZ Ltd
 Land Resource Division
 PO Box 27 Alexander
 Ph 03 448 6935

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Signed 

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SOUTHERN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
TE WHARE WANANGA O MURIHIKU

Matthew Clark

Chris Chadee

NOV



Submission to: LINZ
From: Elizabeth Cruickshank
Manager Educational Tourism
Southern Institute of Technology

Re: Mt Ida Syndicate – Proposed transfer of Occupation Licence Land

I am writing on behalf of all our Educational Tourism clients whom we have sent on 5 day study programmes hosted by the Mt Ida Syndicate as well as those who want to register but have not been able to yet. Southern Institute of Technology has been sending groups of retired people there since 2002 and the feedback has been outstanding. Several have even repeated the programme and I have had many appreciative letters from our highly savvy and conservation-minded customers who have witnessed at first hand, the sensitive way this property has been managed over 100 years by the Syndicate.

The experience of being hosted by the farmers themselves, hearing the history first hand, and participating in musters as well as sleeping in the musterers huts which the Inders and their partners have provided, dining on local tucker cooked over the coal range and gaining access to the high country on the roads they have built, is a unique experience. Why change an arrangement that has stood the passage of time so successfully? It would not be the same sending study programmes to this area without the farmers recounting their experiences and knowledge, as well as folk lore handed down over the century.

Please do not proceed with this proposal to cancel the Mt Ida Syndicate Occupational Licence. It would be a breach of faith and a very unwise move. Scrub weeds could invade the property as has happened on so many other properties which have gone back to the Crown, and without careful grazing, fires could gain hold and wipe out much of the indigenous flora.

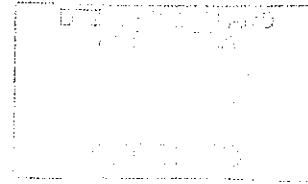
Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Cruickshank
Manager Educational Tourism

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1st November 2006

Keith Ward
17 Arthur Street
OAMARU



D.T.Z. NZ Limited
43 Tarbert Street
ALEXANDRA

Attention: Mr Ken Taylor,

Subject: **Submission on the future of Mt Ida Syndicate and Kyeburn Station Pastoral Lease Number Po 197**

The purpose of this submission is to advise the Commissioner of Lands, Department of Conservation and any other Government or private body who is part of the pastoral lease, my personal view as a New Zealand born citizen on pastoral leases being considered for land tenure review and disposal under the provisions of the Crown Pastoral Act 1998.

Information for this submission has been from the L.I.N.Z report on lease Po 197 Kyeburn Station dated October 2003, and just as importantly my own personal experiences while visiting this area over the past 15 years or so, namely Mt Ida Syndicate and Kyeburn Station occupational lease hold areas.

A book "Beyond the Buster - Mt Ida Syndicate 1897 - 1997, Beth Bain.

The sections of the report that concern and interest me as a recreational person are:

Section 2.7	Public Recreation	2.7
	Physical Characteristics	2.7.1
	Legal Access	2.7.2
	Activities	2.7.3
	Historic	2.6)
	Tradition)
	Landscape	2.1
	Climate	2.3
	Vegetation and Fauna	2.4 and 2.5
	Aquatic Fauna	2.5.4
	Avifauna	2.5.3

Animals - Wild

Access Road and tracks
Consent for access

Questions: Concern over what LINZ are doing and why
Concern over DOC management
Concern over DOC policies on access
Why Labour Government promises have not appeared to be implemented.
Why put our fine wool industry under pressure.

General: Access to Kyeburn Station and Mt Ida syndicate

My reason for writing again to Parliament
(previous letters – 12/8/04 – LINZ
6/12/04 – Prime Minister
31/1/05 – Minister of Conservation
19/5/05 – Rt Hon Winston Peters
c.c. Conservation Spokesperson)

has been the news release in the Otago Daily Times newspaper of recent times which I have enclosed for your information and interest is because recreational opportunities to fishing rivers within the North Otago and Central Otago region have changed a great deal over the past few years.

These changes include the influx of the dairy industry to the region, tenure reviews, foreign ownership, pollution of small rivers by dairy run off, low river flows from irrigation takes and now the arrival of didymo throughout the region.

These issues have made access to the few clean high country rivers left in our area, extremely important to preserve and among these are the river systems available by access through the Mt Ida syndicate, Kyeburn and to some degree Otematata Stations. Namely the Otematata Boundary Creek and Clear Stream rivers.

It should be noted that these rivers are of paramount importance to stock Lake Aviemore.

At this point I would like to remind the Ministers of the Labour Government, of election promises listed in its manifesto:

Quote from information from Fish and Game Council 21/11/04 :

“Develop a public access strategy, including extension of Queens Chain and provision of rural urban walkways to ensure New Zealanders have ready and free access to our waterways, coastline and natural areas.

Ensure that New Zealand’s natural recreational resources are not captured for exclusive commercial use but remain freely available for reasonable public enjoyment.

Protect public fishing and game bird hunting and if necessary amend the provisions of the conservation and wildlife acts relating to the sale of fishing and hunting rights to close any loophole that permits the sale of access rights for these activities.

Please note – the Land Access Reference Group comprehensively show that public access to the outdoors has so deteriorated it needs to be restored and improved.”

The statement quoted from Land Access groups have “NO NEED FOR IMPLEMENTATION” in any form in regard to access into the Mt Ida, Kyeburn Station or Soldiers Syndicate.

During my many years of visiting this remote area the syndicate has been very generous with it’s use of all of it’s facilities to enable people to enjoy the natural splendour of this lease hold area and partake in whatever recreational event they wish to pursue.

Access is a privilege and consent is freely given and highly respected among all recreational users. It is my very considered view that such access would remain the syndicates policy for as long as they are the leaseholders.

Access to the syndicate is by way of a public road or legal road over Mt Buster and ends at Guffies Creek, the track then follows marginal strip and leasehold land to the area we need to access for fishing, hunting, tramping etc. The distance involved from entering the syndicate at the lead into the Mt Buster road until the track reaches the Otematata and Boundary Creek is considerable and takes around 2 – 2 ½ hours to negotiate in a modern 4WD vehicle, provided the weather is reasonable at the time.

In a previous letter from Chris Carter, Minister of Conservation dated 31/1/05 he states "It is likely that this route would continue to provide strategic access to the adjoining back country. Such usage would have to be managed to avoid damage to fragile natural and historic features."

However, the big difference and cause for concern to myself and other recreation users is if DOC was ever to become managers of the area by means of tenure review, then would it allow continued 4WD access along the formed tracks that exist within the area as the syndicate does now.

It goes without saying that consent for access would be part of any access if DOC were managers of the area. To date the question of 4WD access has been avoided by all Ministers and DOC staff who have been contacted on the subject. Deciding the four wheel drive question and with fairness and personal safety taken into the equation, unless the people involved with that decision have personally experienced how quickly the climate (ground and overhead) conditions can change into a winter wonderland even in early to mid summer, that that person or persons may not have a good understanding as to why a vehicle is so very important. In fact a vehicle could be your life line as are the existing huts.

Please note: Communications by cell phone are extremely poor only working in a very few places on the track.

Recreation: – Mt Ida syndicate, Kyeburn Station

The activities listed in LINZ Report on Kyeburn Station, fall short on describing all the activities that recreational people require access for. I admit that the river systems may be on the fringe of the syndicate lands but to fish these rivers one must first cross the Kyeburn and syndicate lands. The rivers are some of the very best in this country providing both magnificent sport amidst the scenic beauty of the tussock plateau, St Mary and Hawden ranges. The rivers are the main spawning streams for Lake Aviemore so the practice of catch and release is the accepted practice as has always been the case. The clear flowing, boulder stream rivers are abundant with aquatic Invertebrate Fauna plus overhead insect life. This fishing area is world class and it is extremely important to all people that it should remain accessible and not become a river for rich Kiwis or tourists as others have.

The report does list 4WD enthusiasts, there are many clubs that I have seen pass through and some of the organised events are used to raise funds for community projects e.g. North Otago Search and Rescue. All other listed activities would be well supported by the interested people attached to the different events.

Wild Pigs and Deer:

One would have to be concerned on the population of wild pigs if access was restricted and of course, you can not carry out any trophy pigs or deer taken during a hunt again making the vehicle a very necessary part of any organised hunting trip. I have seen damage wild pigs can do within this whole area and it can be considerable. Recreational hunters surely would help with control of this problem.

Landscape: Mt Ida Syndicate Kyeburn and Beyond

I fish in these high country rivers and streams but to be in such a landscape where the sheer beauty of it can and does make you STOP! And take in the total scenic splendour within an environment of the natural weather beaten landscape with its outcrops of rock bluffs, shingle and rock slides, gently undulating ridge crests, wet areas and the many clear flowing rocky streams.

The sheer scale of openness and expansiveness of this landscape is breathtaking all dominated by the unifying tussock cover. Further on from the Syndicate reveals the view of Mt Cook and Southern Alps and in the foreground the head waters of Lake Benmore. On the Buster plateau enroute to the fishing rivers and streams you can see the quartz gravel workings of bygone gold mining days. There is an information plaque erected by Kyeburn Station giving information regarding the mining period. There still exists enough evidence from the 1850-60 period to visualize the hardship these miners had to cope with.

Significance of Historic Mine – the high altitude sites are nationally significant among the highest large scale alluvial mining sites in the country. The tertiary quartz gravel deposits are also an interesting geological feature. The hydraulic sluicing of these gravels has produced a cultural landscape without parallel anywhere else in New Zealand.

To make such an area open to the public is a credit to Kyeburn management and this alone makes it necessary for vehicle access to continue up the legal public road.

Geographically the area is also distinctive being on the border of the schist of Otago and the greywacke of the Canterbury area. For this reason we see a diverse range of vegetation and insects which are a mix of species of those normally found in both Otago and Canterbury. The landscape is a very important part of why we visit this remote and incredible place and I am very grateful to the Mt Ida Syndicate and Kyeburn Station people to have had the privilege to do so.

Invertebrate Fauna:

I see that the Kyeburn report lists a species of beetle collected was the flightless chafer beetle and it appears quite rare.

I say well done to Kyeburn Stations management of the grazing lease that such rarities are to be found.

The number of grasshopper, moths, cicada beetles etc is amazing. During all my years of transversing this area I have never seen the tussock lands burnt off for agriculture benefit or eaten out like other areas on the Waitaki side.

Burning:

The book "Beyond the Buster" Mt Ida Syndicate 1897-1997 compiled by Beth Bain gives a very descriptive history of burn off and fires that have occurred within the syndicate. There was a fire caused by lightening in 1974 reported between Aviemore and the Syndicate.

Fire breaks and access tracks were established along with the Waitaki Catchment Commission in 1968-69 period. There was a need for fire breaks and access for fire control. The Syndicate had contractors cut roads through the run and to the three huts. The Syndicate and Kyeburn Station appear to have paid for this work. I believe there is sufficient reason to maintain vehicle access for the reason of fire if nothing else.

Avifauna:

Travelling through this area you see a number of bird species and most noticeable are pipit, grey warbler, paradise shelduck and harrier hawk to name some. The area is home to some NZ falcon and they are there to see each year I visit the Guffies Creek boundary and Hut creek area. These birds are an endemic threatened species but they appear as if to welcome us each year.

Herpetofauna:

Skinks are very common and can be seen throughout the whole area.

Boundary Creek, Guffies Creek, Hut Creek, Clear Stream and the Otematata systems appear to have an abundance of aquatic insect life and the fisher shows the benefit of it by having good numbers of both rainbow and brown trout present.

Conclusions:

Reports in the Otago Daily Times 13/10/06 "J Connell as saying about the Syndicate lands "The area is in a highly natural state" and for the report on Kyeburn Station to state that no reason why whole block should not go to DOC – LINZ Report. "

These comments must be gut wrenching for both the Mt Ida Syndicate and Kyeburn Station owners because its an admission to me that they have managed their grazing leases very well and protected the environment while doing it.

It is also a reference good enough for the Syndicate and Kyeburn Station to have pastoral leases or licenses renewed to continue pastoral grazing for the short period each year they require it. It would surely be just rewards for the 100 years of hard slog they already have put in.

You must of course remember why they do it and there are no doubt many reasons, but most importantly it is for the fine wool grown for NZ export. Without all sections of our agriculture industry this country could be a sorry place.

I have said in my lead up that I know that the Syndicate and Kyeburn Station will continue to allow access to tracks and facilities if their leases were renewed but have doubts about the DOC policies. In the 3rd Section Kyeburn Report they recommend the legal road remains open and indicate the need for through access to Waitaki down the Otematata river (practical vehicle access down Guffies Creek).

I object most strongly to what the Labour Government, LINZ minister, D Parker and DOC, C Carter and his representatives are doing to run holders whether they hold occupation licences or pastoral leases and request they develop sensible commonsense strategy to keep run holders on the land doing what I believe is best for everyone including the conservation of this whole area.

There is now compelling information available from long term observation in the high country that shutting it up and doing nothing will result in significant deterioration. DOC will not manage these lands to the degree these special caretakers have done

over the past 100 years and if allowed will continue to do so. These farming families have a love of this land and to remove them by unaffordable pastoral leases, then for Government to say its unavoidable is totally unacceptable. Quote Otago Daily Times 30/10/06 article by Neal Wallace headed "High Court opinion might be sought."

The Government should be helping grow their industry not degrading it, even Fish and Game Otago has called for a moratorium on tenure review saying the process is flawed and full of anomalies.

Surely leases can be renewed, rentals agreed to if both parties especially LINZ and DOC apply fairness and commonsense. The area could be made a park and have pastoral grazing during certain periods with conditions suiting all parties involved, Government, farmers, recreation, conservation.

I have endeavoured to express my views on the following within this submission:

- (1) Point out the Labour promises regarding land access and review. The findings of the land access reference group.
- (2) Make the Government Ministers aware of what an ordinary Kiwi appreciates about our high country landscape, fauna and rivers.
- (3) Point out why I believe the run holders should remain in control of pastoral leases.
- (4) Appeal to you, our representatives if DOC should be in control of these lands then have fair and reasonable access for all NZ people and not apply the discriminatory policy that exists as present.

Notes:

I had spoken to the Minister of LINZ when he was the MP for Otago and hope he can still recall my views regarding this whole area.

Also I request this submission be added to the Kyeburn Station tenure review file as my letter dated 29/11/04 to the Minister of Conservation, Hon Chris Carter was to be past via OPUS and become a submission. The owner of Kyeburn Station advises that my letter 29/11/04 regarding access and landcare on Kyeburn Station had not turned up.

A copy of the Minister's letter is attached.

I thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns regarding the Mt Ida and Kyeburn situations.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Ward

Phone: 03-4345471 after hours

cc - Minister of LINZ - D Parker
 " of Conservation - C Carter
 J Dean MP for Otago.



Office of Hon John Tamihere
Minister of Youth Affairs
Minister of Statistics
Minister for Land Information
Minister for Small Business
Associate Minister of Māori Affairs
Associate Minister of Commerce

12 AUG 2004

Keith Ward
17 Arthur Street
Oamaru

Tena koe Keith

I refer to your letter dated 19 July 2004 in which you discuss vehicle access to land controlled by the Department of Conservation (DOC) following the tenure review of Kyeburn Station. I note that you have also written to DOC regarding the wider issue of vehicle access to public conservation land.

The preliminary tenure review proposal for Kyeburn Station has not yet been advertised. When it is, I suggest that you submit your views as part of the public submission process as it is at this stage that your views are most likely to influence the outcome.

The Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998 requires each preliminary proposal for tenure review to be advertised in a newspaper circulating in the area where the land is situated as well as a daily newspaper published in Christchurch and Dunedin. If you have access to the internet you will also find the proposal on the LINZ website at www.linz.govt.nz. Anyone may make a submission.

Thank you for letting me know your concerns.

Heoi ano

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Tamihere', written over a circular stamp or mark.

Hon John Tamihere
Minister for Land Information



Office of Hon Chris Carter
MP for Te Atatu
Minister of Conservation
Minister of Local Government
Minister for Ethnic Affairs

31 JAN 2005

Mr Keith Ward
17 Arthur Street
OAMARU

Dear Mr Ward

Thank you for your letter of 29 November 2004 regarding access through Kyeburn Station.

Kyeburn Station is pastoral leasehold land, and so the permission of the lessee is required to access tracks across it. Nevertheless, most of the vehicle track extending from the Mt Buster diggings down to Guffies Creek follows the legal road known as Mt Buster Road. This legal road ends at Guffies Creek, and the track then follows marginal strip and leasehold land.

While I am not prepared to forecast the outcome of any tenure review, it is likely that this route would continue to provide strategic access into the adjoining back country. Such usage would have to be managed, to avoid damage to fragile natural and historic features. I am advised, for example, that there is already a problem at the Mt Buster diggings, where motorbikes have been ridden over the features.

I understand that you have also written on the matter to the Department of Conservation, and my department will be forwarding your correspondence to Opus, the contractor for the Commissioner of Crown Lands in this case. As part of the normal course of events, the Kyeburn tenure review proposals will, in due course, be advertised for public submission. When this occurs you may wish to make a further submission. Otherwise, your letter will be treated as a submission at the appropriate time.

Thank you for writing to let me know your views on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Hon Chris Carter MP
Minister of Conservation

Review could hand grazing land to Doc

■ Farmers fear loss of access

By Neal Wallace

The way eight Maniototo farms are managed will be dramatically changed if two century-old pastoral occupation licences are added to the conservation estate.

Summer grazing of the Mt Ida and Soldier syndicates in the Ida Range north of Naseby has for the past 100 years been linked to managing dryland Maniototo farms. But that could be all about to change if a Land Information New Zealand review favours handing the land to the Department of Conservation (Doc).

One of the lessees, Laurie Inder, of Ranfurly, said for each of the past 110 years, the same five families had sent 2000 ewes to graze the 8400ha Mt Ida syndicate block for three months over summer. "It's an integral part of our farm," he said.

The beauty of it is when we get dry periods, as we do in the Maniototo, we have got places to send our stock."

Doc has recommended the land be designated a conservation area, which would pre-

clude continued grazing, even though a report by property managers DIZ New Zealand for LINZ said present grazing management was sustainable. A review of the Soldiers

Mt Ida syndicate at Boundary Creek, was also in progress, but was not as advanced.

Mr Inder said the syndicates were established to provide a balance for grazing and management and to assist with the viability of dryland farms in the basins.

The block rises from 780m above sea level to 1575m.

The Mt Ida syndicate had operated for the past 110 years, and after World War I, Mr Inder's great-grandfather, Charlie Inder, was instrumental in establishing the Soldiers syndicate for returned servicemen settling in the basin.

Pastoral occupation licences were no longer common, and it was a credit to the families that these had operated for as long as they had.

Naseby farmer Phil Smith, one of the three lessees of the Soldiers syndicate, said while discussions were not as advanced as those concerning the Mt Ida syndicate, he feared they could lose access to the 4400ha of tussock grassland.

The repercussions were serious for him.

"I don't now what we would do. It would probably not make us viable," he said.

Mr Smith said he was annoyed at being put under pressure to relinquish the lease, given the

land and the investment lessees had made in tracks and a new hut, which was open to everyone.

"We have a great rapport with the public. All we want to do is run a few sheep."

His connection with the land was more than just practical — the lease was history and the annual autumn muster a piece of nostalgia, a chance for farmers and dogs to head into the back country.

The lessees sent 6500 ewes to graze the block for up to 14 weeks each summer, and, out of respect for the old soldiers, ensured all were back home by Anzac Day.

"It is huge history and huge traditions."

His was the third generation to have the lease, with the land ranging in altitude from 750m above sea level to 1350m.

Both blocks had river boundaries.

Several neighbouring properties to the syndicates were undergoing tenure review, Mr Smith said, and it was obvious the land was wanted for a proposed high-country park.

The Government has stated it wants to create an unknown number of high-country parks, to which tenure review



PHOTO: AIMEE WILSON

grass is greener... Mt Ida Syndicate member Laurie Inder ponders the future of his summer grazing from his Maniototo farm.

Grazing tradition may end

By Neal Wallace

century-old tradition of Maniototo farmers grazing stock to the Mt Ida ranges for summer grazing may be about to end with the land targeted for conservation.

New Zealand Information New Zealand is considering the future of the 8400ha Mt Ida National Park.

Department of Conservation (Doc) says should be returned to Crown ownership and become part of a new Otiake Conservation area.

that happens, it will bring a 110-year tradition of Maniototo families grazing ewes from their dryland farms to the Mt Ida each year. Laurie Inder said losing the grazing would make his farm a ghost farm. Laurie Inder has got to pull the things out of the stage where things are pretty unreasonable. Inder said three grand-

sons and three great-grandsons of the original licensees were still involved in the Mt Ida syndicate.

Service men returning after World War I who settled on farms in the Maniototo were also provided with summer grazing on what is known as the Soldiers syndicate, a 4400ha area beside the Mt Ida syndicate, which is also subject to a Linz review.

One of those farmers, Phil Smith, of Naseby, said the review was at an early stage but if grazing ended, it would affect more than just the farmers.

"It is huge history and huge traditions," he said.

"It is not just a case of having a ruin, it means a lot more to us. They are killing more than just us by taking away the Soldiers syndicate. It is a living tribute and monument to the old soldiers." "It is still working as it was in 1920, serving the dryland farms of the Maniototo."

Mr Inder said the Mt Ida licensees paid \$2500 in Waikato District Council rates and rent to Linz, which Doc, as a

government department, would not pay.

The licensees allowed access and use of tracks they maintained and a hut to anyone who asked and service groups used tours to raise funds for the local community.

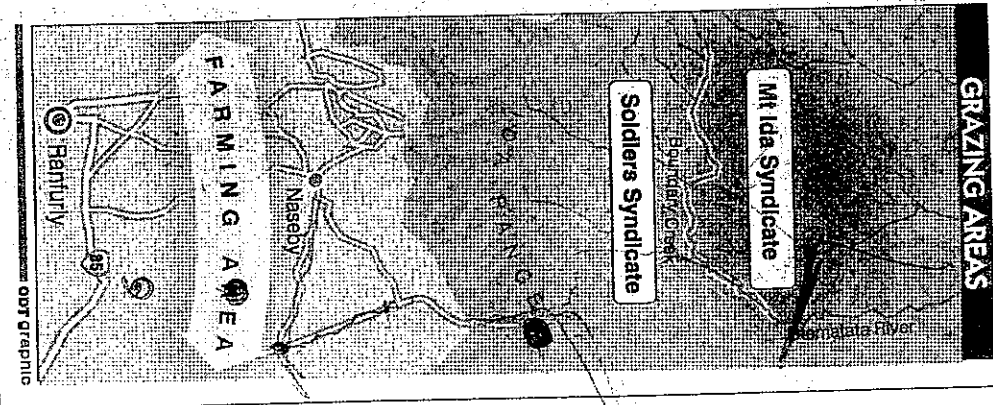
Doc regional conservator Jeff Connell said it was no secret Doc was trying to create a conservation park in the area, and through tenure review had acquired parcels of land.

"Loosely we are looking at the area from Dansey Pass through to Lindis Pass, an area where the Otago schist country butts up against Canterbury greywacke."

If the land became part of the conservation estate, Mr Connell said he would consider imposing a "sunset clause" on grazing.

He said the area was in a "highly natural condition" but there was some localised impact from stock grazing. Mr Connell said the grazing history would be considered alongside the area's ecology.

Grazing management option p14



Otago prepares for Waikato intensity

arming

Deer farm at Balfour

Staff Reporter

Three years after announcing plans to open a research farm in Southland, Deer Improvement will open the doors on its Balfour farm later this month.

Deer Improvement, part of Livestock Improvement which drives genetic gain in the dairy industry, has bought a 400ha farm at Balfour, from which it will try to replicate its dairy efforts in deer.

Director Peter Gatley said Deer Improvement already owned 10 of the 20 top-ranked venison stags in the industry, and had a simple value proposition: breed the best and make them available to all using artificial insemination (AI).

Mr Gatley said Deer Improvement used leading-edge technology such as embryo transfer, and he said its value to the deer industry was that it increased selection intensity, a key driver of genetic gain.

MOISTURE WELCOME, BUT NOT THE COLD



PHOTO: CRAIG EXETER

A cold way to get moisture . . . Ewes and lambs brave the snow earlier this week at Lee Stream. Southern farmers did not want the cold and snow that hit the region but welcomed the rain that accompanied it. Parts of Central Otago and South Otago received up to 25mm of rain but East and North Otago largely missed out. However, even those areas that got rain dried out quickly, partly because of strong, dry west and northwest winds which followed.

Mt Ida grazing 'management option'

By Neal Wallace

Grazing of the Mt Ida syndicate is sustainable and may have to be considered as a management option in the future, according to a DTZ New Zealand report.

The report recommends the 8400ha area of tussock grassland remains in full Crown ownership and that it becomes a conservation area to protect its significant inherent values.

If it became a conservation area, the report said, grazing, burning and oversowing would decline. But grazing could be considered "as a management option".

A Land Information New Zealand spokesman said the review of the Mt Ida and Soldiers syndicate pastoral occupation licences was required as part of the Crown Pastoral Lands Act.

He would not comment on specific cases but said the 1998 Act

stipulated a review of all pastoral occupation licences, specified the mechanism to be used and stated fixed outcomes.

Those outcomes include retaining the land under full Crown ownership as a conservation area or reserve, or for some other Crown purpose, or disposal as a special lease or fee simple.

The spokesman said the goal was to promote land management that was ecologically sustainable, protect significant inherent values, secure public access to Crown land and the freehold disposal of land capable of economic use.

The DTZ report acknowledged the land's economic use and economic contribution to downland farms, but said the nature of the significant inherent values took precedence and freehold disposal was not appropriate.

It also said there were significant inherent and landscape values and the area was highly

valued for recreational uses.

There were several references to grazing in the report.

"The area has also been subject to a long history of grazing and the current vegetation types have been sustained within this grazing regime.

"The significance of the inherent values has, however, led to the designation recommended in this report [it becomes a conservation area].

"Grazing may need to be considered as a management option in the future."

The report said grazing "has continued in a manner which is more or less ecologically sustainable, as evidenced by the fact that the tussock and shrubland ecosystems exist in their current state".

It added that the ecosystems would have changed over the period of grazing and adapted to grazing pressure.

If the land was designated a conservation area or disposed of

as a special lease, the report said the legislative requirement would have been met of promoting management of the land in an ecologically sustainable way.

The report held out some hope for the farmers by saying that a level of protection for significant inherent values could be afforded in conjunction with continued grazing.

But then it appeared to shut the door.

"As noted in the opening paragraph, the underlying presumption is that the land is in full Crown ownership and control, and that retention of land in Crown ownership as conservation area or reserve will best protect significant inherent values because it will enable them to be managed under the Conservation Act and the Reserves Act."

Public submissions were invited on the future of the Mt Ida syndicate by November 17.

The Regions

Moratorium called for

Claim tenure review flawed

By Steve Hepburn

Fish and Game Otago has called for a moratorium on tenure review, saying the process is flawed and full of anomalies.

At a council meeting in Dunedin last week, Fish and Game Otago manager Niall Watson suggested a moratorium on the tenure review process until Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment Dr Morgan Williams completed a report into tenure review.

Mr Watson said tenure review had serious drawbacks. "It creates reserves but without providing any access to reserves or providing access which is over cliffs," Mr Watson said.

Access was not ranked highly in the values when tenure review was being negotiated. "Pastoral lessees pay pepper-corn rentals on pastoral leases for relatively restricted use of the land for grazing and occupancy but the value of leases on the open market reflects a much wider range of attributes of the land concerned."

The report by Dr Williams is expected to be finished in about six months.

Fish and Game Otago is also seeking information relating to tenure reviews on the Ben Nevis and Craigroy stations, in Central Otago.

Both stations are owned by Pioneer Generation, which has plans to build a power scheme on the Nevis River, which runs near both properties. Land from the stations could be used for water storage.

Mr Watson said Official Information Act requests had been made to both the Department of Conservation and Land Information New Zealand.

Fish and Game wanted to know what was the nature of



Niall Watson Fish and Game was seeking a water conservation order on the Nevis River to stop the damming of the waterway. Doc has said it would not support the conservation order.

• The council is looking to remove Canada geese as a game bird, saying the cost of goose management is out of all proportion to the benefits to hunters.

In a submission to Doc's wildlife protection review, Canada geese were described as the most challenging game species and hunting opportunities would continue even if geese were re-classified as wildlife, not protected.

Removal of geese from the schedule would save Fish and Game \$115,000 a year in the South Island alone.

Mr Watson said there was a misplaced view among some sections of the farming community that Fish and Game must respond to goose problems on demand without consideration of cost.

There are 72 geese hunters registered in Otago, just 2.3% of all licensed hunters.

The council also recommended grey teal had potential as a game bird and its status

WORKING THEIR WAY UP TO JAMBOREE



PHOTO: GLENN CORWAY

Members of the Balclutha Scouts clean a car on Saturday morning during their bid to raise funds to enable them to attend a jamboree in Christchurch in early 2008. Held in conjunction with the car-wash were a sausage sizzle and a garage sale at the scout hall. The group hopes to raise about \$20,000.

Didymo complicates power scheme studies

By David Bruce

Waitaki and Atmospheric Research has studied the effect of taking up to 260 cumecs from the river between the Waitaki Dam and Stone Wall.

Meridian proposes leaving between 110 and 150 cumecs in the river, depending on the time of year.

release four flushing flows of 450 cumecs for 24 hours, three in summer after January, and the fourth in July-August.

Niwa found the impact on salmon and trout and their food supplies to be "neutral or favourable". There were potential adverse effects, particularly associated with spring flushing flows and floods, but these were likely to be minor when compared to the impact of the river scheme.

Niwa proposes starting monitoring programmes as soon as practicable because of the uncertain impact of didymo, which has spread from Kuroto the river mouth this year.

Niwa felt there was a better chance of combating didymo under the flows that would result from the hydro scheme.

WEATHER WATCH	
QUEENSTOWN	Yesterday in Otago Overcast, light breeze. 12degC at 3.15pm.
WAIKATO	Overcast, calm. 14degC at 4pm.
CROMWELL	Rain, calm. 12degC at 1pm.
ALEXANDRIA	Rain, light breeze. 13degC at 1pm.
MANFURI	Heavy rain, calm. 13degC at 1pm.
TWIZEL	Overcast, calm. 18degC at 2.20pm.
OTEMATA	Overcast, calm. 18degC at 2.25pm.
DAMARU	Overcast, SE wind. 15degC at 2.20pm.
PALMERSTON	Sunny, partly cloudy. 16degC at 1pm.
MIDDLEMARCH	Sunny, light SE breeze. 17 degC at midday.
DUNEDIN	Overcast, light breeze. 11degC at 4pm.
HOSIERS	Overcast, windy.
BALCLUTHA	12degC at 4pm.
TAPANUI	Partly cloudy, calm. 13degC at 6pm.
EDMUN	Partly cloudy, calm. 14.5degC at 3pm.

Increase in high country rents not affordable

By Neal Wallace

Pastoral lessees cannot afford existing rents, let alone increases being considered by the Government, an independent report warns.

The Government-commissioned panel of three valuers reviewing pastoral leases warns that the increases as part of the 11-year review, exceed fair market rent for land exclusive of improvements (LEI), despite premises proposed to take account of amenities.

The panel said in its interim report several years of low wool prices and rising costs meant lessees could not afford proposed rent review increases, let alone higher rents to account for amenity values.

Despite that warning, the Government has said some pastoral lessees could face "substantial" increases in rents to pay for landscape and views, a move contrary to the independent panel's recommendations.

"Our investigations indicate that rents currently being proposed for most properties are, on average, well in excess of what may be considered fair market rents just for the LEI package," the valuers said in their recently released report.

They said the Government "inherently" lost its rights to potential premium land values when it granted pastoral lessees perpetual rights of renewal with 33-year leases in 1948.

Legislation does not require further payment for those rights, but the Government says Crown Law Office opinion says rent should include those values.

"By implication, the rental value LEI cannot include any non-pastoral value associated with the iconic or

significant inherent values. Had that been anticipated then the Land Act of the Crown Pastoral Lands Act should have made specific provision for it."

Lessees pay 2.25% of the value of land exclusive of improvements, figure criticised as "peppercorn" by some environmental groups, but described by the review panel as inconsistent and well above market rents.

An analysis of rents shows lessees pay an average of \$10.42 a stock unit compared to rents for privately-owned pastoral land of \$15-\$20 a stock unit.

• There is no basis for, or validity in, applying those market rental rates to pastoral leases •

But rent for privately-owned land for shorter periods, the right of renewal was at the lessor's option and they did not have the same restrictions as pastoral leases.

"There is no basis for, or validity in, applying those market rental rates to pastoral leases."

The process of setting rents did not comply with existing legislation, the panel said, did not fairly reflect the market for pastoral leases and LEI was not appropriate today as there was no basis for establishing value. Instead the panel recommends basing rent on a per stock unit basis.

The panel dismissed criticism by conservation groups and Fulbright Scholar Ann Brower that pastoral lessees were making millions of dollars from equalisation payments fol-

High Court opinion might be sought

By Neal Wallace

The High Court could be asked to determine how Crown pastoral lease rents should be applied.

Minister of Lands David Parker said in a Cabinet paper responding to the high country pastoral leases review, that lessees were likely to seek legal advice on the Government's reaction to the valuation methodology, but it might by cheaper and quicker to seek a High Court determination.

Mr Parker also warned some pastoral lessees would find new higher rents unaffordable. While this was not the Government's intention, it "may be an unavoidable outcome for those farmers whose income is generated from pastoral use alone."

Mr Parker said the Land Act required amenity values be included in rental valuation calculations, an

opinion disputed by the panel and farmers.

Lessees' exclusive occupation rights prevented others from accessing amenity values without approval, and it was that exclusive access right that was increasingly prized, he said.

"Thus, ensuring amenity values are included in valuations when setting rents will result in proper values being reached in the tenure review process."

"Failure to use this approach will result in the Crown's interest in pastoral land being undervalued and the lessees' interest in pastoral land being overvalued during the tenure review process."

Mr Parker conceded that a typical high-country property would struggle to pay the average rent from 2002 to 2006 of \$10.42 a stock unit. He said the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

lowering tenure review. Critics have used published figures on payments between the Government and lessees to conclude that farmers were fleecing the Government. The Crown has been allocated 492,131ha and paid \$11.7 million (\$238 a ha) and leaseholders received 667,400ha and paid \$5.2 million (\$55 a ha).

The panel said that was a simplistic conclusion which assumed all land was of equal monetary value, it ignored the fact lessees lost access to land improvements they had paid for, and the Government's half contribution towards fencing was added to the payment to the lessee.

"The equalisation payment is merely a differential from which no valid conclusion on equity or fairness can be drawn. Every case is quite different. We conclude that the lack of transactional transparency, coupled with a lack of understanding of valuation methodology and process by some members of the public, has exacerbated this problem, leading to criticism of the equity of the tenure review process."

While there is little difference in ownership between freehold and pastoral lease, the report said motivation for tenure review was driven by lessees wanting access to land which had better use than pastoral farming. A fear rent increases would make their business uneconomic, a lack of confidence in the pastoral lease process and a wish to resolve uncertainties through freehold title. As at October 31, 2005, 25 proposals have been accepted by lessees with 51% going to the Crown and 49% freehold.

• *Murrahurum, sublight*

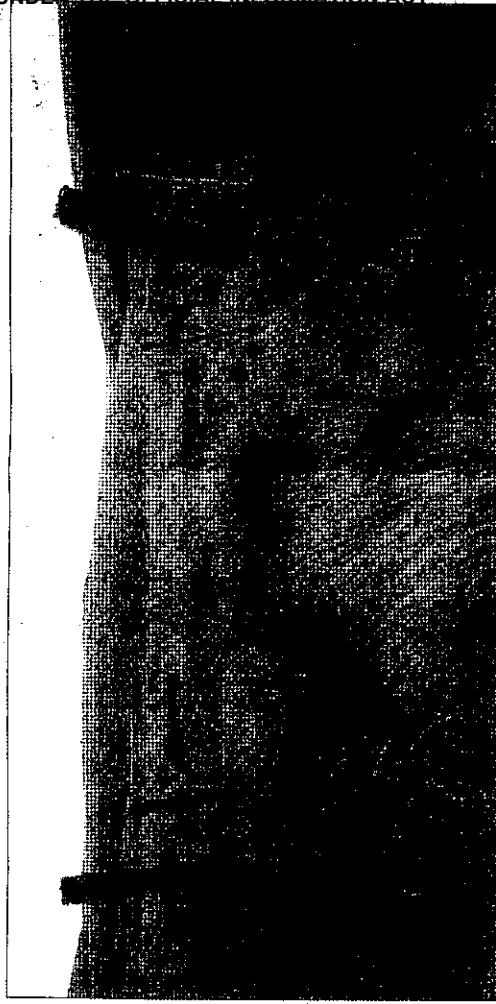


PHOTO: NEAL WALLACE

Battleground... Tussock grassland used for high country grazing.

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DTZ NZ HQ
Alexandra

28th Oct 2006
H.O. R. D
Canonn

ATT Mr Ken Taylor

I am writing this submission in favour of Mr Nick McKenzie of Ryburn Station about the grant of lease of the Soldiers Syndicate

Mr McKenzie has given his permission for me to have access to the Soldiers Syndicate for recreational hunting and fishing. He has allowed use of the Syndicate hut. The miners are in good condition with good numbers of fish in good condition. The hunting is good, as is the scenery, and the peace & quiet, it is a magical place.

The pasture, huts, land, rivers, and tracks are all in good heart which means Mr McKenzie has looked after and cared for the property.

I, and other hunters, fishermen and all recreational users would like continued vehicle access to this historical and interesting place as Mr McKenzie has done so in the past.

My father was a master on the property working for Mr McKenzie's father, therefore dad went overseas for active service in the army.

Please leave Mr McKenzie and the other members in charge of this interesting and magical place so that future generations of New Zealanders can enjoy it.

Thanking You
Robert Sutton.



MT IDA SYNDICATE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL REVIEW SUBMISSION

I/WE TIMARU WOOL DUMPERS LTD

ADDRESS PO BOX 29, TIMARU

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 EXPRESS OUR CONCERN AT CONTINUING DECREASE IN AVAILABLE GRAZING AREA AVAILABLE FOR WOOL PRODUCTION.
WHILE WE ACCEPT THAT SOME AREAS ARE DESERVING OF FULL PROTECTION FOR CONSERVATION OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT NO USEFUL PURPOSE CAN BE ACHIEVED BY CLOSING OFF THIS AREA FROM AN ECOLOGICAL OR RECREATION POINT OF VIEW.

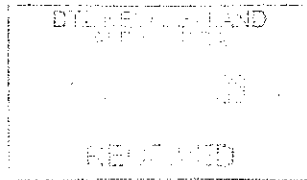
THE DOWN-STREAM ECONOMIC VALUE OF THESE PROPERTIES SEEMS TO BE OVERLOOKED IN THESE STUDIES. THE DECLINING SHEEP NUMBERS AFFECTS SHEARERS, TRANSPORT OPERATORS, WOOL HANDLING, STORAGE, DUMPING AND SCOURING. THE MULTIPLICATION FACTOR IS CONSIDERABLY GREATER THAN THE SIMPLE VALUE OF THE WOOL ITSELF.

WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE TOTAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COSTS ARE FULLY CONSIDERED IN THE MAKING OF THIS DECISION.

ANDREW TURNBULL
DIRECTOR
TIMARU WOOL DUMPERS LTD

03 684 5184

57 Grafton Road
Roseneath
WELLINGTON



6/11/06

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

Submission on Mt Ida Syndicate Review

This submission follows the format of the Part 3 Mt Ida Syndicate Review report prepared by Land Information New Zealand

Object (a) Ecologically sustainable management.

Management history

This land has been subject to grazing by a designated maximum number of sheep for a specified period in the late summer and autumn for over a hundred years. Stocking rates are low — a maximum of less than one sheep per hectare. The stocking period is short and occurs after the spring growth has matured ensuring that young tussock has a chance to establish.

Sustainable management

The report acknowledges the sustainable management of the block by grazing. There is no evidence of burning off or of over sowing and I understand these practices have never been carried out probably because the low stock numbers and the short grazing period made them unnecessary even when these practices were used in grazing management on other Otago tussock grasslands.

The present licensees have managed their grazing Runs sustainably for more than a century when sustainability has not always been a high priority for many farmers. It is acknowledged on page 5 of the report that continued grazing “---may need to be considered as a management option in the future.” It is assumed that stocking would need to be for a limited period of a few weeks as at present. This also assumes that there would be sheep available in the area at the time and in the numbers needed. Where would stock come from if not from the lowland farms of the present licensee holders? Present stocking rates on these farms would need to be maintained on a permanent basis to provide sheep for grazing on Crown land for a short period in summer. Maintaining stocking rates on the lowland farms demands the certainty of summer grazing on the Syndicate Runs, namely a secure license to occupy and graze as at present.

Co operation in management

The fact that several families have co operated in jointly managing the Mt Ida Runs through several generations spanning more than 100 years is evidence not only of their skills in farming in an ecologically sustainable manner but also of their inter personal skills. These skills should be employed in jointly managing the Runs in co-operation with the Crown.

I submit that sustainable management of the Runs by the Crown should include summer\autumn grazing of specified numbers of sheep for a limited period as at present and that this should remain in the hands of those with a proven record — the present licensees.

Object (b) Protection of significant inherent values

History of protection

The landscape values of this high country tussock land have been preserved over time by the present Syndicate and other grazing license holders on the Hawkdun Range. The area remains a magnificent high country tussock landscape without evidence of degradation by grazing.

Threat to significant inherent values

While it is acknowledged in the report that grazing has had few if any disadvantages, the advantages of having licensees overseeing and managing the Runs, particularly to control noxious plants, has not been noted.

Wilding pines are an increasing threat to many eco-systems including these open tussock grasslands. The impact of wind blown seed is only now becoming obvious as the numbers of mature seed sources increase. The effect of wilding pines on landscape values is very apparent in the Queenstown region and along the Naseby to Palmerston road. There are mature *Pinus radiata* plantations round Naseby and a number of younger plantations in the area. It seems only a matter of time, unless constant vigilance is maintained, until wildings become a threat to the tussock grasslands of the Hawdun plateau.

I have observed the present licensees stop to remove small pine seedlings and go some distance to check and remove broom seedlings. During musters the whole licensed area is covered, not just the land visible from the tracks. Such regular and dedicated oversight of the Runs must have contributed to maintaining the tussock in its present pristine treeless state.

Special habitats

Habitat for rare species and unique eco-systems have also been preserved. The low level of stocking for a short period each year does not appear to have had any effect on alpine cushion and fellfield plants or on the montane shrublands as sheep feed and find shelter in the tussock. The scree slope habitat of the scree skink and that of the native falcon are unaffected by present grazing as sheep do not graze scree or rock outcrops.

The present licensees and their neighbours have protected the inherent intrinsic values of the Runs throughout a century of careful management. There seems little justification for changing their husbandry.

I submit that oversight by the Syndicate in the course of regularly stocking the Runs has been beneficial in protecting their inherent values and should not be changed.

Object (c) (i)---Securing of public access to and enjoyment of the land.

Recreational use

The report states that recreational use will continue to expand, acknowledging that recreational use already exists. It was as a recreational user that I became aware of the Runs and the history of their use by the Mt Ida Syndicate. The Syndicate, to date, have advised and assisted members of the public by giving free access to the Runs along the tracks formed and maintained by them.

Limitations of recreational use

The recreational use of the Block is limited by its high altitude and by the absence of any bush cover for shelter. The general flatness of the Mt Ida peneplain is a danger for inexperienced recreational users. During one of my visits in March there was a change from bright sunshine to white out conditions within a ten minute period. The resulting 2 inch fall of snow made driving hazardous and in places impossible. A musterers' hut was used for overnight shelter and communication between vehicles and their Naseby base was by radio. Many recreational users would not have either the equipment or the local knowledge to ensure their safety in such conditions.

The report acknowledges that access by motor vehicle and horse may need to be restricted presumably for safety reasons. The recreational use possible is limited by the altitude, remoteness, the exposed terrain and the weather patterns experienced in the area. It is likely that for most of the year recreational use would be confined to the lower and more accessible slopes of the south-east side of the Hawdun Range.

Change in designation of Crown Land

If the designation changed to a Conservation Park recreational users would become the responsibility of DoC, as would track maintenance, signposting, the provision of safety shelters, and an ability to close off the area in hazardous conditions. These costs and responsibilities would increase with expanded recreational use but could be off set to some extent by issuing concessions to provide Crown income and improve public safety. Concessions for recreational activities on Conservation land are common and should be compatible with grazing. A concession or license for limited grazing rights should be a management tool used by the Crown which is also the authority granting recreational concessions.

I submit that expanded recreational use is compatible with continued grazing, and that full Crown ownership and control be amended to full Crown ownership with control and management shared in co-operation with the existing Syndicate holders of the license to graze.

Wider economic effects

Cessation of summer grazing would make some low land farms in the area uneconomic especially in light of expected long term weather patterns. The resulting amalgamation of holdings and fewer overall stock numbers would have an economic effect on local communities. The reality of this needs to be balanced against the possible harmful but unlikely effects on small remote eco-systems of a continuation of the present century old grazing practices.

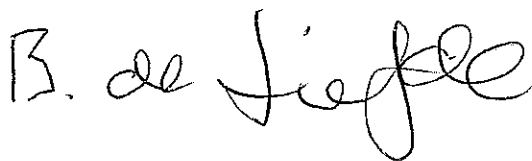
At the same time increased recreational activity in the area would strengthen the economic base of the local communities. Use of the upland tussock landscape for recreation depends on the area being managed sustainably with limited grazing as at present as part of the management regime. The present grazing license is compatible with increased recreational use of the Runs by private users or concession holders, especially for organised mountain biking and horse riding.

Comment on the report

The report does not establish a case for extinguishing the Syndicate's license to graze. Management has been sustainable and there has been no identified adverse effect on significant inherent values. The report identifies the outcome of the Syndicate grazing programme over more than a century as totally favourable yet illogically concludes that their license should not be renewed.

I submit that the advice from the Department of Conservation is in error in recommending full Crown ownership and control and the cessation of the present license to graze.

I submit that Runs 362 B and C remain in Crown ownership but that control by the Crown be in co-operation with the Syndicate and include a long term license to graze as at present and that other concessions be granted to recreational users on condition that they co operate with the present holders of the license to graze and that they maintain the same high standards of ecologically sustainable management and protection of significant inherent values as has the Syndicate over many decades.



B de Liefde BSc BDS DDPH

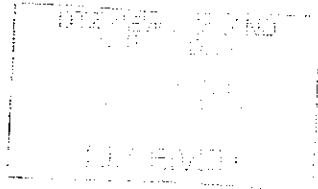
Please acknowledge receipt of this submission

B. de Ligele

(13)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

The Commissioner of Crown Lands
c/o DTZ NZ Ltd
Land Resource Division
PO Box 27
Alexander



Re – The Mount Ida Syndicate review of leased Crown Land.

We the under signed, strongly support the continued lease arrangement of part run 362b and run 362c Mt Buster to the Mt Ida syndicate and believe that under the leasehold agreement managed by the Mt Ida syndicate we as New Zealand citizens should continue to inherit the following advantages.

Recreational Public Access.

At present, managed access is available to responsible persons by the syndicate chairperson. Advice on safety issues, track and hut locations and climatic conditions are available from the chairperson based on first hand knowledge of the area.

Tracks.

The syndicate has formed and maintained access tracks into the area to ensure that the grazing plan is well managed without endangering the flora and fauna in this unique part of New Zealand. These tracks also make access available for the following recreational activities – hunting, tramping, fishing, horse riding, mountain bike riding, and four wheel driving. These tracks also provide emergency access for fire fighting, and search and rescue.

Unique Historical Farming Practice.

Since 1897 the muster of five thousand ewes in April of each year has become a local tradition and a social occasion held in high regard with the local community, and is a well known event throughout the country.

We strongly support the continued lease arrangement to the Mt Ida Syndicate and trust that the Commissioner will support our views and renew the lease arrangement with little or no charge.

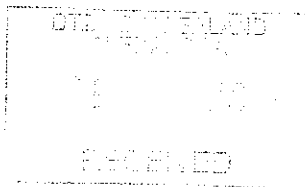
If public access is denied to those other than walking into this area, we as Senior Citizens and persons unable to go tramping in the hills and mountains of our loved country will be denied.

Signed .. Lorraine Gregory.....
Fergus Gregory..... 7/11/06
3 George Street.
Geraldine 7930.

11/7/2006

(74)

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



SUBMISSION RE MT IDA SYNDICATE OCCUPATION LICENCE REVIEW

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

As 4WD safaris have become a major annual fund raising project for our club we have enjoyed many successful trips over the Mt Ida Syndicate country with the full support of the members of the syndicate.

As these day trips have always been extremely popular attracting up to 70 vehicles per trip we have been able as a club to raise significant funds which the club then donate to the various health services of the district.

To date we have guided approximately 350 vehicles through this country and introduced something like 1050 people to this unique area without incident and always with the utmost respect for the environment and tracks which we have always found safe and well maintained at the shareholders expense.

To help promote awareness of the ecosystems which have obviously been well managed over many years we provide a full commentary which is given by a syndicate member, usually Laurie Inder, explaining the grazing management and history of the area. We have never been denied access for these trips and we have always had the full support and encouragement of the shareholders.

As we run our trips under strict guidelines and full supervision we are concerned that under a changed stewardship structure this country could become inundated by 4WD vehicles and trail bikes whose owners will show little respect for the environment and could lead to damage to some of the areas (especially the alpine bogs) as has happened in other areas such as the Serpentine.

We envisage that if this land becomes a conservation area the country will be closed to groups like ours as the tracks will not be maintained and many people will be denied access to this country as with their age and physical restraints they are only able to access this country by traveling in a 4WD vehicle.

Signed: J J Mulholland (Convenor).

J W Levido (Convenor).

MT IDA SYNDICATE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL REVIEW SUBMISSION

I/WE I. H. ANDERSON

ADDRESS 19 CARD OAMARA

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 HISTORICAL & CULTURAL ASSOCIATION WITH THIS LAND HAS BEEN IN PLACE FOR OVER 100 YRS. THE FACT THAT IT IS SUCH A UNIQUE CASE IS CAUSE TO PROTECT & NURTURE THIS MAGNIFICENT FARMING TRADITION. THE PUBLIC GET ACCESS AND ARE ABLE TO USE THE TRACKS TO ENSURE THAT NOT JUST THE YOUNG OR VERY FIT ARE ABLE TO ENJOY THIS BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY. GRAZING HAS PROVEN TO BE ECONOMICALLY & ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE AND IN FACT THE COUNTRY THAT IS GRAZED IS IN FAR BETTER HEALTH THAN THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY THAT IS NOT GRAZED. THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR INFLECTING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP ON THE FARMING FAMILIES CONCERNED.

MT IDA SYNDICATE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL REVIEW SUBMISSION

I/WE John Lee, Little Bo Keep Sheep company

ADDRESS Waioarau Snow Farm, RDL Cardrona, 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.

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There has been 109 years of proven management of this land by the Mt Ida Syndicate. The land is in good condition indicating ecological sustainability, has offered great access to the public and has provided economic benefit to the area.

To put this land into full Crown ownership and be turned into conservation area seems unfortunate when the 'Status quo' land management seems beneficial to the land.

I have particular concerns regards noxious weeds. Although no conclusive studies have been done, through experience it can be noted the benefit light grazing can have for noxious weed management. Our own Waioarau block has a block of 60ha below the Meg River which was retired to ~~timberland~~ during Tenure Review, this block has been overtaken by hieraciums, eliminating snow tussocks in the area. Areas where light grazing is still undertaken have not suffered this. We have also found broom at 1600m and it seeding at 1400m.

Noxious weeds are a great issue to our land and the ongoing management is important. With 109 years history of care for the land there seems no need to add this area to growing conservation land whose management and care is not proven.

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MT IDA SYNDICATE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL REVIEW SUBMISSION

I / WE Will + Emily Murray

ADDRESS Glenmore Str PO Box 97 Lake Tekop

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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Emily Murray

MT IDA SYNDICATE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL REVIEW SUBMISSIONI / WE Greene & Alastair McKnightADDRESS BRAESIDE RD1 OTUREHUA

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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- ①. Grazing has been proven to be ecologically sustainable under the current structure. There is no need to retire this land.
- ②. Public access will be more restricted than ever. D.O.C will not maintain the tracks for vehicle use.
- ③. The tracks and the land itself can not sustain large numbers of humans and or vehicles. With the increase in fuel loading people will inevitably start a fire. Such a fire will rage from the North Otago Hampden area right through to Omarama. Tracks will quickly become unusable with unsolicited access at all times of the year. DOCs only answer to this will be to restrict public access so the public will be no better than before and will most likely be worse off.
- ④. We do not think that ~~the~~ Tenure Review should result in farms and businesses becoming non viable. This is going to happen under this proposal. These farms and businesses supply rates and tax money for the good of all New Zealanders. D.O.C do not.

In closing, we strongly object to this proposal. This is an unnecessary taking of land by DOC for no good purpose at all.