

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: RICHMOND

Lease number: PT 087

Fish & Game Report

As part of the process of Tenure Review Fish & Game councils may provide advice on significant inherent values within the pastoral lease, and the information may be incorporated in the Conservation Resources Report. The advice is part of the information gathered and assessed for the development of a preliminary consultation document.

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

August 05



12 September 2001

QV Valuations
PO Box 13 443
CHRISTCHURCH

Attention: Barry Dench

Dear Barry,

TENURE REVIEW – RICHMOND

The following provides an assessment of Fish and Games interest in relation to the Richmond property.

1. Lake Tekapo provides a self sustaining sports fishery of both brown and rainbow trout. The 1994-96 National Angling Survey estimated that in excess of 3000 angler days are spent fishing Lake Tekapo each season.
2. Coal Creek is a tributary of Lake Tekapo which provides trout spawning and juvenile rearing habitat, along with a limited angling value.
3. The strip of land between Lake Tekapo and Lilybank Road in the Northwest corner of the property provides Canada geese habitat and hunting opportunity.
4. Fish and Game is interested in access for upland gamebird hunting on Richmond. Chukor and Californian Quail are present on this property. Chukor has the more notable presence being there in greater numbers.
5. Chukor were first introduced to New Zealand in the mid 1920's. They were released from Marlborough to Central Otago. In the Central South Island chukor flourished from the 1940's through to the early 1960's with numerous birds present on most high country stations.
6. From the 1960's onwards chukor numbers decreased considerably. This decline has been attributed to being a non-target kill species of rabbit poisoning operations. Today in the Central South Island there is a limited distribution of chukor.

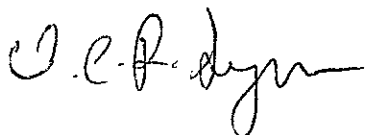
Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

Central South Island Region

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7. In the 1940's to 1960's with high numbers of birds available and access to the favoured habitat readily available chukor hunting was popular. With chukor now less numerous and access harder to attain (not necessarily the case on this property) hunter interest has fallen. However, there are individuals and groups of hunters who hunt chukor and quail extensively and often exclusively. This hunting is largely confined to the high country of the Omarama and McKenzie areas.
8. The favoured habitat of chukor is high up on the dry, sunny faces amongst rocky outcrops. The birds are highly mobile and numbers have begun to again increase as the rabbit poisoning operations have reduced since the release of the rabbit RCD virus.
9. With numbers of chukor again increasing the future is looking promising for this highly valued upland gamebird. Hunter interest has already begun to increase and access to traditional hunting areas is very important.
10. Fish and Game requests that the following be negotiated and included in the tenure review:
 - a) Marginal strips along the Tekapo Lake front and Coal Stream where they bound the property.
 - b) Access to the Canada geese hunting area (see attached map) for hunters during the gamebird season.
 - c) Access to the Chukor and Quail hunting areas (see attached map) for hunters during the gamebird season.
 - d) Retention of all legal roads to facilitate access to the gamebird and sportsfish resources.

Yours faithfully



Vaughan Lynn
Fish and Game Officer