

Our Ref DOIA 24-319

15 July 2024

By email: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

**Response to your official information request**

Thank you for your official information request received on 27 May 2024 for information on compliance actions relating to breaches on pastoral leases, where a compliance action was taken after 1 January 2018 by Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) under delegation of the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

We have taken a broad definition of 'compliance actions' to include where we have sent lessees a reminder of lease obligations or asked for the activity to be considered through a consent application. This reflects our general approach to compliance – to first provide information about lessee responsibilities and to support lessees through the consent process and legislation changes where this has been appropriate.

Please find enclosed the information you requested<sup>1</sup>. The information released shows 41 compliance actions over 34 leases. These have been organised alphabetically in the attached table. The compliance actions listed include minor matters or requests from lessees to have consents processed, through to more serious matters that required greater consideration.

To provide some additional context, the period for your request covers the most significant changes to the administration of pastoral leases in over 25 years, including:

- In 2019, LINZ increased its land management capability and capacity to undertake site visits of pastoral leases more regularly and build better relationships with lessees. Previously inspections were undertaken by external service providers.
- The Crown Pastoral Land Reform Act 2022 introduced changes to consenting processes and decision-making criteria.

<sup>1</sup> You also requested information relating to infringement notices. Infringement notices were made available by the Crown Pastoral Land Regulations 2023 which came into effect 21 August 2023. To date no infringement notices have been issued.

- [New regulations](#) and the [Commissioner of Crown Lands' Standard](#) relating to pastoral land were introduced in 2023.

The approach to compliance depends on the circumstances of each situation. We have used site visits to support lessees through legislative and regulatory changes and to provide guidance on their obligations and new consenting requirements. We encourage lessees to approach us in the first instance if they have any questions about compliance and what activities require consent. The increased presence on pastoral leases by LINZ has resulted in greater awareness and reporting of unconsented activities.

In some cases, actions relate to former lessees who are no longer involved with the lease. Some of the compliance actions also are the result of confusion about what activities require consent. Where consents have been applied for and granted following an investigation, it should be noted these do not apply retrospectively.

Some of the compliance actions relate to activities that were discretionary prior to legislative amendments made by the Crown Pastoral Land Reform Act 2022. This included control of woody weeds, which is now a permitted activity not requiring consent under certain thresholds.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact James Holborow [JHolborow@linz.govt.nz](mailto:JHolborow@linz.govt.nz).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note, this response letter outlining our decision on your request, **with your personal details withheld**, and any attached documentation will be published on the Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand website. This is likely to be published by 31 August 2024

Nāku noa, nā



Sonya Wikitera  
Head of Crown Property.