

Submission

Enduring stewardship of Crown Pastoral land

PREPARED BY: Ashburton District Council
PO Box 94
ASHBURTON 7774

SUBMITTED TO: Land Information New Zealand
PO Box 5501
WELLINGTON 6145

Toni Durham; Strategy and Policy Manager
Toni.durham@adc.govt.nz

Introduction

1. Ashburton District Council ("Council") welcomes the opportunity to submit on the LINZ *Enduring stewardship of Crown pastoral land – Discussion Document*. This submission is being made on behalf of the Council.
2. Located between Selwyn and Timaru Districts respectively, more than 34,100¹ residents live in the District, with the main town of Ashburton accounting for 19,280 or 56% of residents. The rest of the residents live rurally or in smaller towns or villages.
3. Ashburton District is one of New Zealand's fastest-growing districts in New Zealand following the 2013 Census². Since 1996 the district has grown by 23% and this period of rapid but consistent growth follows an earlier period of little to moderate growth.
4. Ashburton District has 22% of land under DOC control within its boundaries.

General Comments

5. Ashburton District Council supports the proposal to end the tenure review to increase the Crown's ability to protect the natural and cultural values of the land by retaining Crown pastoral land in Crown ownership while providing for pastoral and appropriate non-pastoral activities that maintain and enhance the natural capital in Crown pastoral land.
6. Council believes this proposal does send a clear message that the Crown is committed to the ongoing ownership and enduring stewardship of Crown pastoral land.
7. Council supports the Summary of Themes that has been collated from the stakeholder meetings and recorded by LINZ staff. We believe this represents well the cross-section of views on the proposal.

¹ Source: Statistics New Zealand Population Estimates 30 June 2017

² Source: Statistics New Zealand 2013 Census

8. Council supports the establishment of the High Country Advisory Group to provide advice and insights to the Commissioner and LINZ. As a local authority, we believe that it is important to follow the principles of being transparent with our communities of interest and communicating with them clearly and well. It is these principles that we believe should underpin the work between the High Country Advisory Group, LINZ and the Commissioner.
9. Council is pleased to see reference has been made to the importance of collaboration among government agencies, and between agencies and leaseholders.
10. Council staff have had involvement in working with DOC, LINZ and ECan. We look forward to continuing discussions to improve processes and enhance working relationships and coordination with these parties, particularly with regard to regulatory functions.
11. Council supports the intent of the proposed outcomes as written in the discussion document. Council is interested in the detail of how the Crown will give effect to these outcomes, and looks forward to these being communicated to us in the future.

The Crown will ensure that the natural landscapes, indigenous biodiversity and cultural and heritage values of this land are secured and safeguarded for present and future generations.

To achieve this, Crown pastoral land will be managed to maintain and enhance natural capital, and cultural and heritage values; and subject to this:

- *provide for pastoral and appropriate non-pastoral activities that support economic resilience and foster the sustainability of communities*
- *enable the Crown to obtain a fair financial return.*

The Crown's management of this land will take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

ADC thanks LINZ for the opportunity to submit on the *Enduring stewardship of Crown pastoral land – Discussion Document*



HAMISH RIACH
Chief Executive



DONNA FAVEL
Mayor