

10 April 2019

Crown Pastoral Land Consultation
Land Information New Zealand
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By email: cplc@linz.govt.nz

Submission on the Management of Crown Pastoral Land

Introduction

1. The New Zealand Walking Access Commission Ara Hīkoi Aotearoa is the crown agent tasked with providing leadership on outdoor access issues. We administer a national strategy on outdoor access, including tracks and trails. We map outdoor access, provide information to the public, oversee a code of responsible conduct in the outdoors, help to resolve access disputes and negotiate new access.
2. The Commission has an office in Wellington and a network of regional field advisors. An independent board governs our work. Our governing piece of legislation is the *Walking Access Act 2008*.
3. The Commission does a significant amount of work relating to public access on Crown pastoral lease properties.

Access for Outdoor Recreation

4. The Commission submits that improving public access for recreation on Crown pastoral lease land should be an important outcome of the review.
5. The Commission submits there is a close link between public access to outdoor recreation opportunities and awareness of the New Zealand's environmental and biodiversity needs.
6. An effective way to achieve enhanced public access and the associated social and economic benefits is to articulate clearly that public outdoor recreation (both free and commercial) is a goal and outcome for Crown pastoral land.

7. Conservation Resource Reports (prepared for Land Tenure Review) are a basis for understanding desired access over Crown pastoral lease land.
8. Outdoor recreation can include commercial operations as a way of diversifying recreation opportunities and developing regional economies. But free, practical, public access is a crucial component of outdoor recreation opportunities, and also contributes to regional economies, community and social wellbeing, and understanding of conservation and biodiversity outcomes.
9. To mitigate adverse impacts on land use and the environment, public access may be managed to regulate types of activities, the time of year that people can access land, when they can access the land and the number of people who can access the land.

Environmental Farm Plans

10. The Commission submits that Farm Plans for Crown pastoral leases should be a 'one stop shop' for all regulatory bodies (Regional Councils, LINZ, DOC) and should include a section addressing outdoor recreation and access (alongside farm management and environmental management). The Commission would support LINZ with advice on incorporating public access and outdoor recreation requirements into Farm Plans.

Incentives to encourage public access

11. The Commission submits that LINZ investigate providing incentives to pastoral lease holders to encourage them to provide public access. This could be through mechanisms such as rent relief or agreement for commercial access. The Commission and LINZ could use such incentives when lessees seek consents for other land uses. Incentives could be financial and may include other measures, such as opportunities to develop outdoor recreation businesses that support public access.

Requirement to seek expert advice and to consult

12. The Commission submits that the Commissioner of Crown Lands is required to obtain expert advice and to consult on discretionary consent decisions. The Commissioner would consult with the Walking Access Commission on issues of public access.
13. The Commission submits that the Commissioner of Crown Lands is required to report regularly against a monitoring framework that includes availability and practicality of public access.

Secure existing public access

14. The Commission submits that the Commissioner of Crown Lands and LINZ work with Territorial Local Authorities to rationalise public access associated with unformed legal roads. The existence of unformed legal roads is a clear intent to provide access. Many Crown pastoral leases contain Unformed Legal Roads that do not provide practical or sensible public access

Easements

15. S60 Land Act 1948 provides the ability for the Commissioner of Crown Lands to create easements for recreational access to public lands.

Natural capital and social capital

16. LINZ's consultation document on Management of Crown Pastoral Leases refers to 'Natural Capital' in line with Treasury's adoption of the Four Capitals approach.

17. The Commission submits that 'Natural Capital' is too broad in this context, and that identifying the unique contribution public recreational access makes to enhancing 'Natural Capital' is important.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ric Cullinane', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ric Cullinane
Chief Executive