



16 June 2021

Catherine Ivey
Glentanner Station

By email: catherine@glentanner.co.nz
george@glentanner.co.nz

Dear Catherine

**Your application for reconsideration of the fencing conditions in
grazing licence – Ref No 63919-GRA**

Thank you for the time you gave me on 23 April at Glentanner Station to discuss your grazing licence in the Upper Haast Valley. I subsequently visited the licence area on 25 April with Rachel Norton, our Ranger from Haast.

Application

1. Under s17ZJ(b) of the Conservation Act 1987 you have sought reconsideration of the fencing conditions imposed on the grazing licence No 63919-GRA.

Grant of No 63919-GRA

2. You were granted concession No 63919-GRA for a 3 year term subject to the following special conditions and those listed in Schedule 3 of the licence document:
- (a) The Concessionaire must at its cost ensure that stock is adequately contained within the land.
 - (b) For clarity, this shall include the construction of a fence along the true left boundary of the land to ensure that stock is not able to enter the adjoining National Park and appropriate fencing on the true right of the river
 - (c) The initial location and works to establish these fences shall not occur until the design, location and methodology of fencing has been agreed with the Operations Manager, South Westland. This will involve a site visit.
 - (d) Any further approvals required for works undertaken outside of the land shall be obtained prior to this work commencing.
 - (e) The Concessionaire must at its cost maintain all fences, gates, stiles, bridges, culverts and drains in good condition. The Concessionaire shall report on the condition of any fences to the Haast District Office within five working days following any large rain event within the Haast Valley.
 - (f) The Concessionaire must place on a prominent position on any electric fence placed on the Land a warning sign advising that the fence is electric.

- (g) The Concessionaire must fence existing stands of ribbonwood and coprosma wallii located upon the grazing flats. The fencing shall be undertaken in a manner that prevents stock being able to graze the vegetation and allows regeneration. Locations of required fencing and fencing shall be to the satisfaction of the Grantor and subject to a site visit prior to construction.
3. You have asked that I reconsider the conditions (a) and (b) above, as they applied to the true right of the Haast River.

Process

4. In accepting your application and in response to your concerns about the fencing requirement, DOC commissioned an expert report to provide advice to me of potential options and methodologies for containing the stock within the licence area; informed by observations and on-site discussions with the concessionaire and DOC representatives. The focus was on containment options for the true right of the Haast River. I have attached a copy of the report by Wayne Allan of Allan Agricultural Consulting Ltd.
5. I have considered that report, your application and the information filed in support of it. I have also considered information provided to me by the Department including a memo with several appendices which included Mr Allan's report (attached). In addition, I visited Catherine and George Ivey and had a long conversation with them which covered the background and current situation. It also included wider concerns about the Haast community and the future of farming in the Haast River valley. I also undertook a site visit and walked over some of the licence area.
6. The purpose of these meetings, conversations and visits was to help inform my understanding of your reconsideration application.

Decision

7. After careful consideration of our conversations, all the documents provided to me including the fencing report, acting under delegation of the Minister of Conservation, I have decided to decline your application.
8. In making my decision I took relevant matters into account and excluded those that were irrelevant in the context of s17ZJ(b) of the Conservation Act 1987.

Issues

9. The primary issue for me in considering your application to reconsider the fencing conditions relating to the true right of the Haast River on the grant of your licence was whether stock could be contained within the licence area.

My views

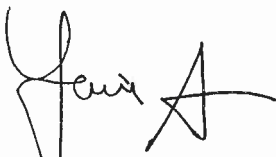
10. A key finding of the Allan report was that fencing the true north boundary is impractical.
11. In summary Mr Allan advised that there are only a limited number of ways of containing stock. In respect of the true right he considered it impractical to fence the entire boundary and that partial fencing would be ineffective.
12. I understand there are also some difficulties in fencing the true left which is the boundary with the national park and the road. Mr Allan noted that you had agreed to fence the true left though this could be challenging in places.
13. Given this advice I understand that containing stock within the licence area would be difficult and probably impossible.

14. As with any grazing licence on public conservation land, the stock needs to be kept within the licence area. It is an offence under the Conservation and National Parks Acts for stock to enter a conservation area or to trespass on a national park. As there are no means in your case to contain stock within the licence area, the licence which was granted on the basis that such containment was possible, is of no effect.
15. Without a licence it is no longer possible for you to continue to graze cattle in the former licence area and you will need to remove them. I will be asking the local office to liaise with you about the timing of removal soon after calving has been completed.
16. I note that, legally, I am only able to consider those matters which are relevant to the condition you sought to be reconsidered.

Other grazing concessions in the Haast

17. I am aware that you hold other grazing licences in the Haast Valley that are farmed along with land you own and that a decision on one of them is pending. I am confident that each application will be assessed in accordance with the information you provide in support of the application together with the legislation and relevant planning instruments and reports and my decision in no way sets a precedent for other South Westland grazing licences.

Nāku noa, nā



Lou Sanson

Director-General of Conservation

