

# Pūponga Farm Park Lease/Licence opportunity

## Express your interest in this exciting concession opportunity

The opportunity to graze part of the Farm Park under a concession arrangement (lease/licence) is available from January 2025.

DOC is also interested in other arrangements which may not include grazing.

Pūponga Farm Park is a recreation reserve administered by the Department of Conservation and held under the Reserves Act 1977.

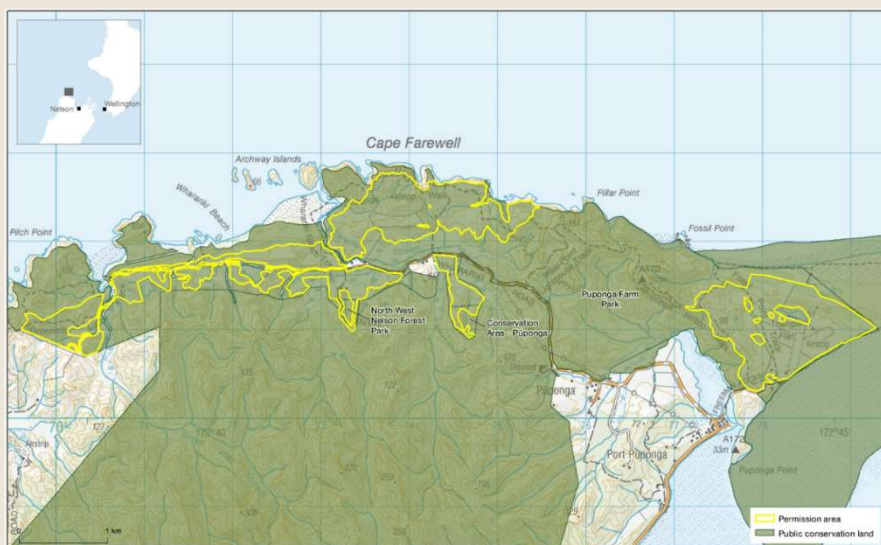
The reserve is 1011.6 hectares and situated at the north-western end of Golden Bay (Map 1). The grazing opportunity is for sheep only on approximately 389 hectares of the reserve. The area available for grazing includes part of North-West Nelson Forest Park and Conservation Area - Pūponga.

## Expressions of Interest Process (EOI)

In order to manage this allocation process, the Minister has implemented Section 17ZG(2)(a) of the Conservation Act 1987, effective until 31 December 2024.

The EOI enables the Minister to invite applications and/or encourage specific applications.

The department will not process any applications for Pūponga Farm Park outside of this EOI.



Map 1 – Current grazed area at Pūponga Farm Park



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

DOC wants to assess the following:

- interest in the opportunity for a lease/licence to graze a third of the reserve; and
- how a potential lease/licence holder could contribute to managing conservation values in the reserve, including recreational values.

Explain how your proposal will:

- meet conservation objectives for recreation, biodiversity, culture and heritage;
- control grass and weeds in the reserve;
- contribute to maintaining existing farming assets on the reserve;
- contribute to visitor management.

## Pūponga Farm Park

Pūponga Farm Park has high cultural value to Ngāti Tama, Te Ātiawa and Ngāti Rārua.



*Cape Farewell coastline*

The reserve has stunning coastal landscapes, cliffs and beaches and forms a buffer for Farewell Spit which can be seen from high points in the reserve. The reserve has high biodiversity values, including freshwater lakes and wetlands.

The reserve is popular with day visitors - over 100,000 people visit annually, and the reserve is open throughout the year. The track to Wharariki Beach is

particularly popular. While tracks and stiles are provided across farmed areas, visitors can 'wander at will' which is part of its attraction. Biking is allowed on some tracks.

Access to Farewell Spit Nature Reserve is through Pūponga Farm Park and there is a concessionaire that operates eco-tours through Pūponga Farm Park.

## Grazing in Pūponga Farm Park

There is a farm manager's house at Triangle Flat. There are other farming assets on the reserve, including woolsheds, implement sheds and cattle yards, which are owned by DOC. Access is via gravel road from Pūponga. Vehicle travel time from Takaka to the reserve is approximately 45 minutes.

The grazed area is in three parts: Triangle Flat, Cape Farewell and Wharariki. Farm tracks provide access to the various blocks on the reserve and are also used for recreational access. A public road connects all three blocks. Current stocking rates are around 3200 stock units.

Grazing contributes to achieving conservation objectives through managing weeds and fire risk.



*Triangle Flat, with Farewell Spit in the distance*



Farming related assets on the reserve need to be maintained and the lease/licence rental fee is set to reflect this.

Managing visitors is one of the challenges to farming in the reserve and would need to be addressed as part of the expression of interest.

### Summary of Key Planning Considerations

This opportunity is available within the context of the planning requirements of the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy 1996 and Conservation General Policy May 2005. The Farewell Spit Nature Reserve and Pūponga Farm Park Management Plan 1990 also applies.

The Minister's obligations under section 4 of the Conservation Act to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi must be actively considered, including consultation with relevant Iwi, before any new lease/licence is granted.

### Balancing Farming and Conservation

Farm management requirements will be taken into account in achieving conservation objectives. However, the reserve must be primarily managed to:

- a) protect and enhance public enjoyment and access;
- b) protect natural values; and
- c) protect cultural and historic values.

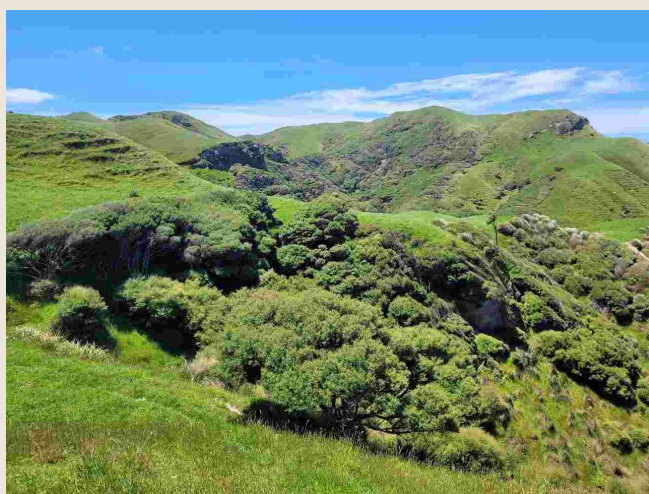
Grazing will be limited to sheep and restricted areas for cattle grazing to reduce impacts on conservation values.

Wetlands in the reserve are being restored to their natural functioning.

With all DOC concessions, including grazing, monitoring ensures conditions are met and natural, cultural, historic and recreational values are protected. Any Lease /Licences will contain provisions to manage these values.

### Natural and Historic Values

The reserve has sites of high natural and historic value, including a large number of archaeological sites, which are maintained and enhanced.



*Historic Reserve is vested in iwi.*

The potential for restoration and maintenance of the natural and historic values will take precedence over other matters when considering a new lease /licence opportunity.

### Relationships

DOC is working with Treaty Partners (Ngāti Tama, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Rārua and Manawhenua ki Mohua) on a longer-term strategic vision for the reserve. Two pieces of land within the reserve are vested in iwi as fee simple: the house at Cape Farewell and a small area at Triangle Flat.

Two other groups are actively contributing to biodiversity restoration in the reserve.

The grazing lessee will work with DOC, Treaty Partners and other groups and concessionaires to meet conservation objectives for the reserve.

## Timeline

Expressions of interest must be submitted by 13 September 2024, 5 pm.

## Express your interest

If you are interested in this opportunity, email [sbutland@doc.govt.nz](mailto:sbutland@doc.govt.nz) or mail or deliver to:

Shane Butland  
Department of Conservation, Takaka Office  
62 Commercial Street  
Takaka 7110

The subject of your email/letter should be 'Pūponga Farm Park – Expression of Interest'.

You should include your name and contact details (email and phone) and we will keep you informed throughout the process.

Any inquiries can be directed to: Shane Butland, Senior Ranger, Takaka, 027 2523434 or email [sbutland@doc.govt.nz](mailto:sbutland@doc.govt.nz)

## Legal information

### Official Information Act

The interested party acknowledges and accepts that the Minister and the Department may be required to release information submitted through the EOI process in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982.

### No contract

This EOI and any submissions made do not constitute a contract with the Minister and does not give any rights or cause of action against the Minister.

## No obligation

The Minister has no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any respondent for any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their EOI. There is no guarantee that the EOI will result in any subsequent process run, and/or any concession granted.

The Minister is not bound to complete the EOI.

## Conservation Act 1987

Pursuant to s17R(2)(a) no new applications will be accepted for this activity while the s17ZG(2)(a) process that applies to this activity and process is in place.

