

PUBLIC LANDS COALITION

Federated Mountain Clubs

N Z Acclimatisation Societies

Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society

8.3.90

Rt Hon. Geoffrey Palmer
Prime Minister
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Mr Palmer

The Public Lands Coalition wrote to you on January 18th 1990 on important matters relating to the Queens Chain. Some time has now elapsed and we have not received a reply from you. We remain seriously concerned about the proposals in the amended version of the Conservation Law Reform Bill as reported back by the Select Committee, and believe that the Bill requires further amendments if it is to achieve your publicly reported intention of strengthening the protection of the Queens Chain.

We understand that there is to be a Supplementary Order prepared concerning the Queens Chain, and we wish to reiterate the Coalition's main concerns and respectfully request that they will be rectified in any forthcoming amendments to the Bill

1. The Bill proposes that private managers can request the Minister to close strips to public access to protect assets. The Coalition believes there must be no ability in the Conservation Act to close access to the Queens Chain. There has been no historical necessity to close these lands to public access and we do not believe there is any need to provide for closure now.

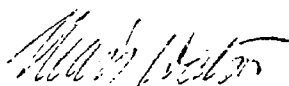
2. We believe that marginal strips must be laid off on all Crown Lands that are to be disposed of. In our view it is always necessary for strips to be laid off adjacent to water bodies and the coast for conservation purposes, and in the majority of cases, for recreation purposes as well. Consequently there is no need to have any waivering provisions. Provision for strips greater than twenty metres are required in situations where where access is blocked by bluffs etc. within the twenty metres

3. There should be no ability to improve or develop marginal strips as this will always degrade the conservation and recreation purposes of the strips. We are not opposed to a medium term provision to allow Forest Corp to harvest any existing tree crops, but we do not believe they should be allowed to re-establish any tree crops on strips. For conservation purposes they should be required to replant riparian areas with suitable species to ensure bank protection, or dune stabilisation. We do not agree with the proposal to create private managers over marginal strips and believe that the Department of Conservation is the only appropriate legal manager.

4. In addition we see no justification for reducing the width of marginal strips to facilitate the removal of existing trees.

We trust these matters will be adequately addressed in the supplementary order paper.

Yours faithfully



Niall. Watson
For the Public Lands Coalition

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Dunedin