

PUBLIC LANDS COALITION

Federated Mountain Clubs
P.O.Box 1604
Wellington

N Z Fish & Game Council
P.O.Box 22 021
Wellington

Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society
P.O.Box 631
Wellington

19 July 1989.

Hon. Philip Woollaston,
Minister of Conservation.

Dear Minister,

Conservation Reform Bill — Riparian Strips

I understand that legislation is in preparation which includes reform of riparian strip provisions of the Conservation and Land Acts.

The Public Lands Coalition recently instructed me to undertake a pilot investigation of rural riparian access within the Taieri catchment of Otago. This is to assess the adequacy of public access to and along waterways. This study is only partly completed however a wider range of Crown land descriptions are apparent. These are additional to Section 58 strips under the Land Act or 'marginal strips' under the Conservation Act. These include appellations of 'Crown Land', 'Crown land reserve', 'Railway Reserve', 'Esplanade Reserve', and legal but unformed roads (a very extensive use). No doubt other categories of Crown land will appear as this study progresses. Approximately half the study area so far assessed would fall into the above descriptions. From my general knowledge of land tenure, the Taieri is probably indicative of the national situation.

It is highly desirable that any reform legislation incorporates all riparian strips being lands of the Crown, so as to remove present uncertainties as to their availability for public access and use, or any suggestion of impermanence.

I am sure that Chief Surveyors within the Department of Survey and Land Information could readily schedule all categories of Crown land strips in riparian situations for inclusion within the ambit of the Bill, so as to make its reform intent complete. I hope these comments are helpful to your legislative activities.

Yours faithfully,

Bruce Mason,
PLC Researcher.