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SLUG AUTHOR TIME MOD AUD DUR CUME B/TIME
PL queens chain /jackman /Mar 9 09:43/10:33/ : / 0:56/ /

newswire

SUB:eldred

NEWS

Plans for Queen's Chains of a minimum 3 metres on lakesides and sea-shores aren't a reduction of the public's rights, according to a spokesman for Conservation Minister Phillip Woolaston.

Queen's Chains are strips of land alongside waterways and the sea to ensure public access to the water, and traditionally they are 20 metres wide.

The Minister's spokesman says all existing Queen's Chains remain as they are, but the 3-metre minimum applies to new Chains involved in the selling of cutting rights to State forests.

The spokesman says the public's access-rights, where forestry cutting-rights have been sold, is in doubt, so to make sure people can still use adjacent water, the marginal strips are being written into the legislation.

The spokesman says that up till now, when Crown land was sold or public access denied, the Government had no obligation to create marginal strips at all.

rubbish - mandatory under S58 Local Act.

He says the creation of marginal strips alongside rivers and streams won't be mandatory because, in some cases, access to the water is impossible.

(Contradicts 2nd last para on next page.)

SLUG AUTHOR TIME MOD AUD DUR CUME B/TIME

PL WOOL WRITTEN /jackman /Mar 8 21:10/10:02/ 0:00/ 0:44/ /

newswire

SUB:eldred

NEWS

17 metres will vanish, but Conservation Minister Phillip Woolaston is adamant that changes to conservation law reforms mean that the Queen's Chain is secure.

The Queen's Chain is a 20 metre strip of public land next to waterways. Outdoor recreation groups are worried that the law changes put it at risk, and bar the public access to the coastline, rivers, and lakes.

But Mr Woolaston says at least 3 metres of Crown land will be retained - and there will be new rules on when the public can be excluded.

- They are no rules for exclusion under Land Act.

He says, from now on, marginal strips of land next to waterways will always be created when Crown Land is sold.

Mr Woolaston believes the changes he is proposing mean that even the most hardened cynic must now accept that the Queen's Chain is secure.