

24 November 2020

**Crown Pastoral Land Consultation
NZ Game Animal Council –**

**Submission on Dunstan Downs
Property numbers: Po019**



1.0 About the Game Animal Council

The Game Animal Council (GAC), established under the Game Animal Council Act 2013, is a statutory agency with responsibilities for, inter alia, representing game animal hunters, and advising on and managing aspects of game animal hunting. Game animals are feral pigs, chamois, tahr, and all species of deer.

2.0 Management of Game Animals on Crown Pastoral Land (CPL)

The Game Animal Council has no direct mandate over private land, however:

(1) The Council has the following functions in relation to game animals that can apply to Crown Pastoral Land (CPL):

- (a) to advise and make recommendations to the Minister:
- (b) to provide information and education to the hunting sector:
- (c) to promote safety initiatives for the hunting sector, including firearms safety:
- (d) to advise private landowners on hunting:
- (e) to develop, on its own initiative or at the direction of the Minister, voluntary codes of practice for hunting:
- (f) to raise awareness of the views of the hunting sector:
- (g) to liaise with hunters, hunting organisations, representatives of tangata whenua, local authorities, landowners, the New Zealand Conservation Authority, conservation boards, and the Department of Conservation to improve hunting opportunities:
- (j) to operate voluntary certification schemes for professional hunting guides and game estates:

(k) to promote minimum standards and codes of conduct for certified hunting guides and game estates:

(l) to investigate complaints and take disciplinary action in relation to certified hunting guides and game estates:

The Game Animal Council acknowledges that lessees of Crown pastoral land have exclusive possession of the land within their lease and they may choose to have game animals or not. The GAC does have an advisory role if requested and also wants to work with lessees to improve hunting opportunities where possible.

3.0 Dunstan Downs Hunting Opportunities

This area is recognised for a number of values, with hunting being one such significant and important recreational activity in this area. The current open permit hunting areas which sit to the east and west of CC2, CA2 and CA3 provide limited access (walking), however, hunters are drawn from across New Zealand for the open tussock country experience. Having Dunstan Creek (CA2 and CA3, and eventually GC2) restored to Crown control will provide increased public conservation land for people to recreate and hunt on, and will provide an important link from the west (Lindis Pass side) to the east on the St Bathans Range.

The Game Animal Council wishes to see the following key principles recognised and provided for in the Dunstan Downs plan:

- a. Hunting access ways to public conservation land should be established, maintained or enhanced, and they need to be in a form suitable for hunters carrying firearms and accompanied by dogs (where dogs are permitted on the land the access is provided for).**
- b. Access provisions for vehicles to public conservation land are made certain and enduring; and that these vehicle access ways are maintained or enhanced.**
- c. Access provisions should be made certain and enduring through the use of legal instruments such as easements.**
- d. Where access is provided it should be the crown's responsibility to manage any negative effects that the access has on farming operations on that land. The cost of creating and maintaining access should be borne by the crown.**

4.0 Role of the Game Animal Council Post Tenure Review

The Game Animal Council has considerable expertise on game animal management and hunting both amongst Council members and within the wider hunting sector. The GAC offers its expertise and advice to the Commissioner on any aspects of access across CPL, policy formulation, consents for managing game animals or other hunting related matters.

The GAC is available to discuss or clarify any aspects of this submission.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the Game Animal Council.

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<https://nzgameanimalcouncil.org.nz/>
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The NZ Game Animal Council is a statutory organisation responsible for the sustainable management of game animals and hunting for recreation, commerce and conservation.

