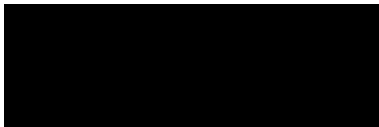


06 November 2024



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 8 October 2024, in which you asked for:

1. *Copies of all Lower Selwyn huts licences/leases the Department holds (whether under the Land Act, the Conservation Act or any other legislation)*
2. *A full copy of the First determination report for the concession you applied for in 2004*
3. *The relevant Lands and Survey file*
4. *All relevant Departmental Reports, Memoranda and e-mails that accompanied the 1996 Amendment Bill (that introduced Part 3B of the Conservation Act) and in particular the transitional provisions of the Amendment Act, what are now sections 7 and 48*
5. *All relevant Departmental Reports, Memoranda, Guidance and e-mails that interpret and or relate to s7(2) of the 1996 Amendment Act in the context of the Lower Selwyn Huts (and any other huts in similar situations).*
6. *Advice on where the Stewardship Land review is at in relation to the area where the Selwyn Huts are located - what is the process from here and the timeline.*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982.

On 17 October 2024 you clarified your request with regard to point 2:

A full copy of the First determination report for the concessions (lower Selwyn huts) in 2004

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *Copies of all Lower Selwyn huts licences/leases the Department holds (whether under the Land Act, the Conservation Act or any other legislation).*

All Lower Selwyn Huts are on the same terms and conditions in their concession documents except for where the concession reflects the individual circumstance e.g. lease area.

A copy of the concession document was previously released on 26 February 2024 under OIAD-3688 and is publicly available at: [Official Information Act responses 2024 \(doc.govt.nz\)](#)

Please note that this is a copy of the active concession in place and is not representative of the outcome of any concession application.

Some information in this publicly available document remains withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. In making this decision, I have considered section 9(1) of the Official Information Act and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

2. A full copy of the First determination report for the concession you applied for in 2004

We interpret this to mean the first determination report that was written by Department staff in response to your application for the ongoing occupation of the land by your hut at Lower Selwyn Huts. I refer you to your previous OIA request (OIAD-3988) sent to you on 31 May 2024.

3. The relevant Lands and Survey file.

The relevant Lands and Survey file is not held by the Department. You may find information you are seeking in the Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga Archives New Zealand collection. An example of the information held can be found at the following link: [Search results - Collections search \(archives.govt.nz\)](#)

4. All relevant Departmental Reports, Memoranda and e-mails that accompanied the 1996 Amendment Bill (that introduced Part 3B of the Conservation Act) and in particular the transitional provisions of the Amendment Act, what are now sections 7 and 48

We have undertaken a thorough search of our records and have not found any information. You may find relevant information in the Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga Archives New Zealand collection or Hansard.

5. All relevant Departmental Reports, Memoranda, Guidance and e-mails that interpret and or relate to s7(2) of the 1996 Amendment Act in the context of the Lower Selwyn Huts (and any other huts in similar situations).

We have undertaken a thorough search of our records and have not found any information. You may find relevant information in the Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga Archives New Zealand collection or Hansard.

6. Advice on where the Stewardship Land review is at in relation to the area where the Selwyn Huts are located - what is the process from here and the timeline.

The stewardship land reclassification process is currently underway on the Western South Island and the Minister intends to make final decisions on land classifications for these pieces of land within the next six months. At this stage, we have been directed to focus only on completing the reclassification of this region and we are not progressing work in any other regions. Following decisions being made on the West Coast, we will pause and review the

process to date and seek the direction of the Minister as to the future of the work programme. As such, we are not able to provide any guidance on the process or timeline for the area where the Selwyn Huts are located with regard to the reclassification of stewardship land.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phillippa Fox', written in a cursive style.

Phillippa Fox
Director Regulatory Authorisations
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai