

10 November 2025

Ref: OIAD-5756

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 16 October 2025, in which you asked for:

“..a copy of the latest Molesworth Grazing Licence. “

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

Before proceeding to the Department's response, we have provided some contextual information relevant to your request.

Rangitahi | Molesworth Recreation Reserve

Rangitahi | Molesworth Recreation Reserve (Molesworth) runs from the Awatere Valley in Marlborough to the Hurunui District in North Canterbury and is 180,787 hectares.

Molesworth contains special and diverse biodiversity, including endangered plants. Almost half of the over sixty endemic plant species found in South Marlborough grow on Molesworth.

The road through Molesworth was, for a time, the main route from Marlborough and Nelson into Canterbury.

Role of the Department of Conservation

In 2005, Molesworth was transferred to the Department to manage as a recreation reserve; prior to this it had been managed as Crown pastoral land.

Pāmu Farms of New Zealand (Pāmu Farms (trading name for Landcorp Farming Limited)) currently operates Molesworth Station under a lease, along with a grazing licence. The farming operation is subject to a range of legislation, policies, strategies, and plans – including the Molesworth Conservation Management Plan 2013 (Molesworth CMP), Molesworth Recreation Reserve Bylaws 2017, Reserves Act 1977 and Conservation Act 1987 (Conservation Act).

To support management of Molesworth, the Minister of Conservation appointed the Molesworth Steering Committee. This group includes representatives from Pāmu Farms, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board and farming and recreation/conservation interests. It has an independent chair.

Concessions

The current lease with Pāmu Farms is under the Land Act 1948 and was in place before Molesworth became a recreation reserve and the Department took over management of Molesworth, including Molesworth Station.



The latest grazing licence is a form of concession granted under the Conservation Act.

Any new commercial arrangements on Molesworth will be as part of a concession (likely to be a lease/licence) under the Conservation Act. Any concession granted will better recognise Molesworth's ecological, recreation and heritage values. Applications will be assessed and decisions made in accordance with the statutory tests set out in Part 3B (sections 17Z – 17ZJ) of the Conservation Act.

Department's response

A copy of the current grazing licence connected to the operation of Molesworth Station has been located and is described in the table below.

| Item | Date | Document description | Decision |
|-------------|--------------|--|------------------|
| 01 | 21 June 2023 | Concession Document (Grazing Licence) [Concession Number: 107429-GRA] | Released in part |

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the document listed in the table above, subject to information being withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, being personal information to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

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 OIA.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Philippa Fox
Director, Regulatory Authorisations
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*