

Rainbow Road Meeting – File Note

Date: 23/3/2021

Time: 11:30am to 12:30pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Jerome Sheppard

Minutes: Karyn Lee

Attendees:

Land Information New Zealand (LINZ): Jerome Sheppard (Deputy Chief Executive Crown Property), April Hussey (Manager Land and Property), Karyn Lee (Portfolio Manager for the Rainbow pastoral lease),

Lessee: [s 9(2)(a)] (Lessee of the Rainbow pastoral lease), [s 9(2)(a)] (Farm Consultant for Rainbow),

New Zealand Defence Force: [s 9(2)(a)]

[s 9(2)(a)]

Department of Conservation: John Wotherspoon (Operations Manager - Nelson Lakes District),

Marlborough District Council: [s 9(2)(a)]

Hurunui District Council: [s 9(2)(a)]

Transpower: [s 9(2)(a)] (Service Delivery Manager), [s 9(2)(a)] (Environmental Advisor), [s 9(2)(a)]

[s 9(2)(a)] (Landowner Relations), [s 9(2)(a)] (Broadspectrum), [s 9(2)(a)] (Broadspectrum).

Meeting Purpose: The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the lessee of Rainbow pastoral lease to share experiences and views regarding the Rainbow Road. Parties with an interest in Rainbow Road were invited to discuss whether a commitment to an annual works programme or budget was possible.

Matters Discussed: The meeting commenced with introductions from all of the parties present and a brief summary of how each party was involved in the Rainbow Road.

LINZ outlined the purpose of the meeting as above with a focus on developing a co-ordinated approach between the parties with an interest in the road. Each party was then provided with the opportunity to share their involvement with the road and their views. These are outlined below:

Lessee:

- [s 9(2)(a)] provided background regarding his experiences with Rainbow Road. The Rainbow pastoral lease was purchased five years ago. An unwritten system of looking after repairs associated with the road and dealing with health and safety issues relating to use of the road has been inherited. The costs of looking after the road are too big for the farm.

- The road is open to the public from the 26th of December to Easter. The money gained through the current toll system helps with security and breakdowns. A total of 1,355 vehicles passed along the road last season, 781 motorbikes and 21 pushbikes [s 9(2)(b)(ii)] spent on the road repairs including potholes, and [s 9(2)(b)(ii)] using a bulldozer.

- An engineer's report indicates it will cost [s 9(2)(b)(ii)] alter Connors Bluff and [s 9(2)(b)(ii)] upgrade Connors Road along with [s 9(2)(b)(ii)] gravel the road.

- There is no clear line where health and safety for the road stops. The gate across the road is locked for the winter as it can be dangerous.

- A number of players use the road including the farm, DOC, Transpower and the public.

- Ten keys are provided to players who use the road regularly. Not much revenue is collected for this.

- The road is used by hunters, trampers, fishermen and soldiers [s 9(2)(a)] highlighted that his goal is to see if some of the other interested parties would be prepared to help with the costs associated with maintaining Rainbow Road and dealing with emergencies.

- A major emergency occurred on the road with three kilometres of road disappearing. 100ml of rain was received in 30 minutes. A car was missing for a day. There is a distance of 90km between the farmhouse and Hanmer.

LINZ:

- LINZ explained the location of the Rainbow Road (refer to attached map). Rainbow Road extends from SH63 at the northern end of sheet 1 to sheet 4 where only a small section of the legal road is present. Sheet 2 shows legal road parcels along the Wairau River. Sheet 3 shows unjoined legal road parcels along the Wairau River.
- LINZ agreed to produce an updated map which shows the full length of the legal road and the boundaries of the councils involved.

Marlborough District Council:

- The first 16km of the road is sealed to the Rainbow Ski Field.
- The road was funded by the NZTA but was handed back to the council to maintain. The road is not subsidised.
- The road beyond the 16km length was thought to be a Transpower Road.

Hurunui District Council:

- Rainbow Road is not on the list of roads administered by the council.
- Repairs take place to the north of Tenyson, the boundary between the Marlborough District Council and Hurunui District Council. DOC may also do the Molesworth side of the road.
- The council only works on the south side of the Rainbow pastoral lease. The council and DOC are likely to share the cost for grading up to the gate through Molesworth.

Transpower:

- Transpower look after the transmission line that runs through the Rainbow pastoral lease. The road is used to maintain the transmission lines. They look after parts of the access road to get to the towers.

s 9(2)(h)

s 9(2)(g)(i)

NZDF:

- The NZDF Occupy Dip Flat and manage paper roads leading off Dip Flat. They are not mandated to manage roads. Two operations with troops are run in this area using uni-mogs. The troops head into the bush. Wear and tear on the Rainbow Road was considered to be minimal. The police use Dip Flat on occasion for search and rescue and as accommodation for the police.

DOC:

- The Rainbow Road passes through a good amount of conservation land and colleagues also use it to access conservation land to the south. The access is for management purposes.
- Contracts are held for regional weed and pest work. The southern Marlborough office uses Rainbow Road to get to Marlborough and to undertake work on huts. They use the road 12 to 15 times per year.
- DOC undertakes control works from the top of Awatere Road to the southern boundary at Molesworth.
- DOC advocate for public access including tramping access either side of the road or to drive along the road through to Hanmer. Weed staff may deal with some weeds if seen while passing along the road providing they have the right tools with them.
- DOC staff using the road require 4WD competency. Any health and safety relating to the DOC staff is DOC's responsibility. DOC noted that if members of the public are hunting on DOC land, s 9(2)(a) holds no liability for this. Hunting rules apply to conservation land.

Summary:

- The use and management of the Rainbow Road is complex. As an outcome of this meeting LINZ would like to facilitate a management plan from SH63 to the boundary of the Rainbow pastoral lease. This would involve developing a terms of reference document for the whole road. This could include funding options but also advice on how to co-ordinate responses to matters, and a long term maintenance plan. Cost estimates could be included in the document too. Transpower noted that they may have expertise available to help draft the terms of reference document.

[s 9(2)(a)] has a local engineer with local knowledge who may be able to assist.

[s 9(2)(g)(i)]

- In parallel to the above project, there could also be a health and safety stream of work. LINZ will make contact with the police to ascertain their interest in this work.

[s 9(2)(a)] thanked the participants for their goodwill. The meeting has been a good starting point. Ideally [s 9(2)(a)] would like things sorted before winter.

Action Points:

- 1) LINZ to prepare an updated map for Rainbow Road showing its location, the council boundaries, and the different parts of the road the various parties are involved with – **by end of April 2021**.
- 2) LINZ to work with Transpower expertise to draft a terms of reference document for Rainbow Road that supports a five year plan – **by end of May 2021**. Document to include:
 - Long term maintenance
 - Cost estimates
 - Funding contributions
 - Communication between the interested parties.
- 3) Transpower to clarify the requirements of their easement to LINZ – **by mid May 2021**.
- 4) DOC to clarify their involvement at the southern end of Rainbow Road to LINZ – **by end of April 2021**.
- 5) LINZ to confirm if the NZTA and the police have an interest in the road and wish to be involved in the above proposed work – **by end of April 2021**.
- 6) All participants to confirm to LINZ their continued interest in being involved and the preferred point of contact for their organisation. Also, whether they are happy for their contact details to be shared if required for work relevant to this project – **by end of April 2021**.
- 7) Transpower and lessee to start co-ordinating any activities requiring progression over the **next 2 to 3 months**.

Attachment 1 – Map of Rainbow Road shared at meeting.