

Applicant Information Form 1a Notified or Non-notified Process



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

New Zealand Government

Is this the right application form for me?

This **Applicant Information Form 1a – Notified or Non-notified Process** must be completed for **the following longer term applications** (i.e. not one-off applications):

- Grazing
- Land use: Tenanted and/or using existing DOC facility/structure
- Land use: Use of public conservation land for private commercial facility/structure
- Guiding/Tourism/Recreation: Watercraft activities
- Filming
- Sports events
- Marine reserves application form 11a: Structure in a marine reserve

For other activities use the specific activity application forms that combine applicant and activity information or book a pre-application meeting.

How do I complete this applicant information form?

- Complete all sections of this **applicant information form**.
- In addition, you must complete the **activity application form/s** that you wish to undertake.
- DOC encourages electronic applications (e.g. typed Word document), rather than handwritten applications. Electronic applications are easier to read and less likely to be returned to you for clarification.
- If you need extra space, attach or include extra documents and label them according to the relevant section. Record all attachments in the table at the back of the application information form section **F Attachments**.

How do I submit my application?

Email the following to permissions@doc.govt.nz:

- **Completed applicant information form 1a**
- **Completed activity application form**
- Any other relevant attachments.

If I need help, where do I get more information?

- Check the [DOC webpage for the activity you are applying](https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/apply-for-a-permit/)¹ for.

¹ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/apply-for-a-permit/>

- Arrange a pre-application meeting (either face to face or over the phone) by contacting the [Department of Conservation Office](#)² closest to where the activity is proposed. You can use [DOC maps](#)³ to identify which District Office you should contact. Or arrange a meeting with any of our [four offices that process concessions](#)⁴ – choose the one closest to where the activity is proposed.
- If your application covers multiple districts, contact the office nearest most of the locations you are applying for, or nearest to locations you have a specific question about.

What happens next?

Once your application forms are received, your application will be assessed by DOC. If your application is complete, DOC will begin processing.

If your application is incomplete it will be returned to you for more information.

Why does DOC ask for this information?

The questions in this application information form and the activity application form/s are designed to cover the requirements set out in conservation legislation. Your answers allow us to assess:

- Your most up-to-date details so that DOC can contact you about your application.
- Your qualifications, resources, skills and experience to adequately conduct the activity on public conservation land.
- Your creditworthiness will help determine whether DOC should extend credit to you and set up a DOC customer accounts receivable credit account for cost recovery. To make this assessment DOC will supply your information to a credit checking agency.

Note:

- Personal information will be managed by DOC confidentially. For further information check [DOC's privacy and security statements](#)⁵.
- Information collected by DOC will be supplied to a debt collection agency in the event of non-payment of payable fees.

What fees will I pay?

You may be required to pay a **processing fee** for this application regardless of whether your application is granted or not. You may request an estimate of the processing fees for your application. If you request an estimate, DOC may require you to pay the reasonable costs of the estimate prior to it being prepared. DOC will not process your application until the estimate has been provided to you. In addition, if you are granted a guiding concession on public conservation land you may be required to pay annual **activity and management fees**. These fees are listed on the [DOC webpage for the activity you are applying](#)⁶ for.

DOC will invoice your processing fees after your application has been considered. If your application is large or complex, DOC may undertake billing at intervals periodically during processing until a decision is made. If you withdraw your application DOC will invoice you for the costs incurred up to the point of your withdrawal.

² www.doc.govt.nz/footer-links/contact-us/office-by-name/

³ <http://maps.doc.govt.nz/mapviewer/index.html?viewer=docmaps>

⁴ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/contacts>

⁵ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/footer-links/privacy-and-security/>

⁶ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/apply-for-a-permit/>

Your application will set up a credit account with DOC. See the checklist at the end of the form for the terms and conditions you need to accept for a DOC credit account.

Will my application be publicly notified?

Your application will be publicly notified if:

- It is a license with a term of more than 10 years.
- It is a lease.
- After having regard to the effects of the activity, DOC considers it appropriate to do so.

Public notification will increase the time and cost of processing of your application.

What does DOC require if my application is approved?

If your application is approved DOC requires:

- **Insurance** to indemnify the Minister of Conservation against any claims or liabilities arising from your actions. The level of insurance cover will depend on the activity.
- A copy of your **safety plan** audited by an external expert (e.g. Health and Safety in Employment (Adventure Activity) Regulations 2011 audit or a DOC listed organisation). See the [Safety Plan](#)⁷ information on the DOC website for further information.

Note: DOC/Minister can vary the concession if the information on which the concession was granted contained material inaccuracies. DOC may also recover any costs incurred.

⁷ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/managing-your-concession/safety-plans/>

A. Applicant details

Legal status of applicant (tick)	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Go to ①)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Registered company (Go to ②)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust (Go to ②)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated society (Go to ②)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other e.g. Educational institutes (Go to ②)

①	Applicant name (individual)			
	Phone		Mobile phone	
	Email			
	Physical address		Postcode	
	Postal address (if different from above)		Postcode	

②	Applicant name (full name of registered company, trust, incorporated society or other)	Mt Robert Foundation		
	Trading name (if different from applicant name)			
	NZBN if applicable (to apply go to: https://www.nzbn.govt.nz)		Company, trust or incorporated society registration number	
	Registered office of company or incorporated society (if applicable)			
	Company phone		Company website	
	Contact person and role	Ian Goldschmidt, Chair		
	Phone		Mobile phone	
	Email			
	Postal address		Postcode	
	Street address (if different from postal address)		Postcode	

B. Pre-application meeting

Have you had a pre-application meeting or spoken to someone in DOC?

No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>

- If yes record the:

Date of DOC pre-application meeting	
Name of DOC staff member	
Name of person who had the pre-application meeting with DOC	

C. Activity applied for

Tick the **activity application form** applicable to the activity you wish to undertake on public conservation land. Complete the applicant information form and the activity application form and email them with any attachments to permissions@doc.govt.nz

ACTIVITY APPLICATION FORM*	FORM NO.	TICK
Grazing	2a	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land use: Tenanted and/or using existing DOC facility/structure	3a	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land use: Use of public conservation land for private/commercial facility/structure	3b	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guiding/Tourism/Recreation: Watercraft activities	4b	<input type="checkbox"/>
Filming	5a	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sporting Events	6a	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marine reserves application form: Structure in a marine reserve	11a	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other activities (not covered in the above forms or in the new activity application forms that combine applicant and activity information)	7a	<input type="checkbox"/>

Note: If the activity is not in this list check the activity on the DOC website to find the correct application form or book a pre-application meeting. Application forms that combine applicant and activity information on the DOC website include:

- [Aircraft activities](https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/business-or-activity/aircraft-activities/)⁸
- [Easements](https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/business-or-activity/access-easements/)⁹
- [Land based guiding](https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/business-or-activity/land-based-guided-activities/)¹⁰

⁸ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/business-or-activity/aircraft-activities/>

⁹ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/business-or-activity/access-easements/>

¹⁰ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/business-or-activity/land-based-guided-activities/>

D. Are you applying for anything else?

Are you submitting any other application forms in relation to this application?

No

☐

Yes

☐

- If yes, state which application forms:

E. Background experience of applicant

Provide relevant information relating to your ability to carry out the proposed activity (e.g. details of previous concessions, membership of professional organisations, and relevant qualifications).

F. Attachments

Attachments should *only* be used if there is:

- Not enough space on the form to finish your answer
- You have additional information that supports your answer
- You wish to make an additional request of DOC regarding the application.

Label each document clearly and complete the table below.

Section of the application form the attachment relates to	Document title	Document format (e.g. Word, PDF, Excel, jpg etc.)	Description of attachment
<u>Correct example ✓</u> D	Locations	PDF	Trust Deed.
<u>Incorrect example ✗</u> Table	Doc1	Word	Table

G. Checklist

Application checklist	Tick
I have completed all sections of this applicant information form relevant to my application and understand that the form will be returned to me if it is incomplete.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I certify that the information provided in this applicant information form, and any attached additional forms is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have completed the activity application form .	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have appropriately labelled all attachments and completed section F Attachments .	<input type="checkbox"/>
I will email permissions@doc.govt.nz my: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed applicant information form• Completed activity application form/s• Any other attachments.	<input type="checkbox"/>

H. Terms and conditions for a credit account with the Department of Conservation

Have you held an account with the Department of Conservation before?	Tick
No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 'yes' under what name	

In ticking this checklist and placing your name below you are acknowledging that you have read and agreed to the terms and conditions for an account with the Department of Conservation

Terms and conditions	Tick
I/We agree that the Department of Conservation can provide my/our details to the Department's Credit Checking Agency to enable it to conduct a full credit check.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I/We agree that any change which affects the trading address, legal entity, structure of management or control of the applicant's company (as detailed in this application) will be notified in writing to the Department of Conservation within 7 days of that change becoming effective.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I/We agree to notify the Department of Conservation of any disputed charges within 14 days of the date of the invoice.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I/We agree to fully pay the Department of Conservation for any invoice received on or before the due date.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I/We agree to pay all costs incurred (including interest, legal costs and debt recovery fees) to recover any money owing on this account.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I/We agree that the credit account provided by the Department of Conservation may be withdrawn by the Department of Conservation, if any terms and conditions (as above) of the credit account are not met.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I/We agree that the Department of Conservation can provide my details to the Department's Debt Collection Agency in the event of non-payment of payable fees.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Typed applicant name/s		Date	
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For Departmental use			
Credit check completed			
Comments:			
Signed		Name	
Approved (Tier 4 manager or above)		Name	



The Department recommends that you contact the Department of Conservation Office closest to where the activity is proposed to discuss the application prior to completing the application forms. Please provide all information requested in as much detail as possible. Applicants will be advised if further information is required before this application can be processed by the Department.

This form is to be used when the proposed activity is the building or use of any private or commercial facility or structure on public conservation land managed by the Department of Conservation. Examples may include lease of land to erect an information centre; authorisation to erect a weather station; or construct or lease a private/commercial campground or lodge. This form is to be completed in conjunction with either Applicant Information Form 1a (longer term concession) or Applicant Information Form 1b (one-off concession) as appropriate.

Please complete this application form, attach Form 1a or Form 1b, and any other applicable forms and information and send to permissions@doc.govt.nz. The Department will process the application and issue a concession if it is satisfied that the application meets all the requirements for granting a concession under the Conservation Act 1987.

If you require extra space for answering please attach and label according to the relevant section.

A. Description of Activity

Please describe the proposed activity in detail – where the site is located, please use NZTM GPS coordinates where possible, what you intend to use the building for, whether you intend to make any changes to the infrastructure.

Please include the name and status of the public conservation land, the size of the area for which you are applying and why this area has been chosen.

If necessary, attach further information including a map, a detailed site plan and drawings of proposal and label Attachment 3b:A.

B. Alternative sites considered

If your application is to **build, extend or add** to any permanent or temporary structures or facilities on public conservation land, please provide the following details:

- Could this structure or facility be reasonably located outside public conservation land? Provide details of other sites/areas considered.
- Could any potential adverse effects be significantly less (and/or different) in another conservation area or another part of the conservation area to which the application relates? Give details/reasons

C. Larger area

Is the size of the area you are applying for **larger** than the structure/facility **YES / NO**

If **yes**, please detail the size difference in the box below, and answer the following 3 questions, if **no** please go on to the next section:

Is this necessary for safety or security purposes? **YES / NO**

Is this necessary as an integral part of the activity? **YES / NO**

Is this essential to carrying on the activity? **YES / NO**

If the answer to any of the above is yes, please provide details and attach supporting evidence if necessary and label Attachment 3b:C.

D. Exclusive possession

Do you believe you need **exclusive possession** of the public conservation land on which your structure/building is located, ie no one else can use the land during your use of it? **YES / NO**
(Exclusive occupation requires a lease which requires public notification of the application)

If **yes**, please answer the following 3 questions, if no please go to the next section:

Is exclusive possession necessary to protect public safety? **YES / NO**

Is exclusive possession necessary to protect physical security of the activity? **YES / NO**

Is exclusive possession necessary for the competent operation of the activity? **YES / NO**

If the answer to any of the above is yes, please provide details and attach supporting evidence if necessary and label Attachment 3b:D.

E. Technical Specifications (for telecommunications sites only)

Frequencies on which the equipment is to operate

Power to be used (transmitter output)

Polarisation of the signal

Type of antennae

The likely portion of a 24 hour period that transmitting will occur

Heaviest period of use

F. Term

Please detail the length of the term sought (i.e. number of years or months) and why.

Note: An application for a concession for a period over 10 years must be publicly notified, an application for a concession up to 10 years will not be publicly notified unless the adverse effects of the activity are such that it is required, or if an exclusive interest in the land is required.

G. Bulk fuel storage

Under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO Act) 'Bulk fuel storage' is considered to be any single container, stationary or mobile, used or unused, that has a capacity in excess of 250 litres of Class 3 fuel types. This includes petrol, diesel, aviation gasoline, kerosene and Jet A1. For more information on Hazardous Substances, go to:

<http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/information-guidance/legal-framework/hsno-act-1996>

Do you intend to store fuel in bulk on the land as part of the activity?

YES / NO

If you have answered yes, then please provide full details of how and where you intend to store the fuel, and label any attachments including plans, maps and/or photographs as Attachment 3b:G. If your concession application is approved you will be required to provide a copy of your HSNO compliance certification to the Department before you begin the activity.

H. Environmental Impact Assessment

This section is one of the most important factors that will determine the Department's decision on the application. Please answer in detail.

In column 1 please list all the locations of your proposal, please use NZTM GPS coordinates where possible. In column 2 list any special features of the environment or the recreation values of that area. Then in column 3 list any effects (positive or adverse) that your activity may have on the values or features in column 2. In column 4 list the ways you intend to mitigate, remedy or avoid any adverse effects noted in column 3. Please add extra information or supporting evidence as necessary and label Attachment 3b:H.

Refer to Steps 1 and 2 in your Guide to Environmental Impact Assessment to help you fill in this section.

Location on public conservation land	Special feature or value	Potential effects of your activity on the feature or value (positive or adverse)	Methods to remedy, mitigate or avoid any adverse effects identified
<i>EG: Tararua Forest Park</i>	<i>Northern rata - threatened species</i>	<i>Damage to the plants by construction</i>	<i>Brief construction and maintenance staff of the location and importance of the species; clearly tape off areas with the species to avoid damage</i>
Nelson Lakes National Park	beach mistleoe (Pittisporum Patulim)	No potential effect	No impact on these species as huts are in the alpine area not forest
	Kea	Impacted by lead in roofing products	All lead has been removed from the huts in 2023
	Other bio diversity	No impact	Huts have existed for a long time. The potential removal of
			Christie hut will have to be managed to ensure no trace is left.

I. Other

Is there any further information you wish to supply in support of your application? Please attach if necessary and label Attachment 3a:I.

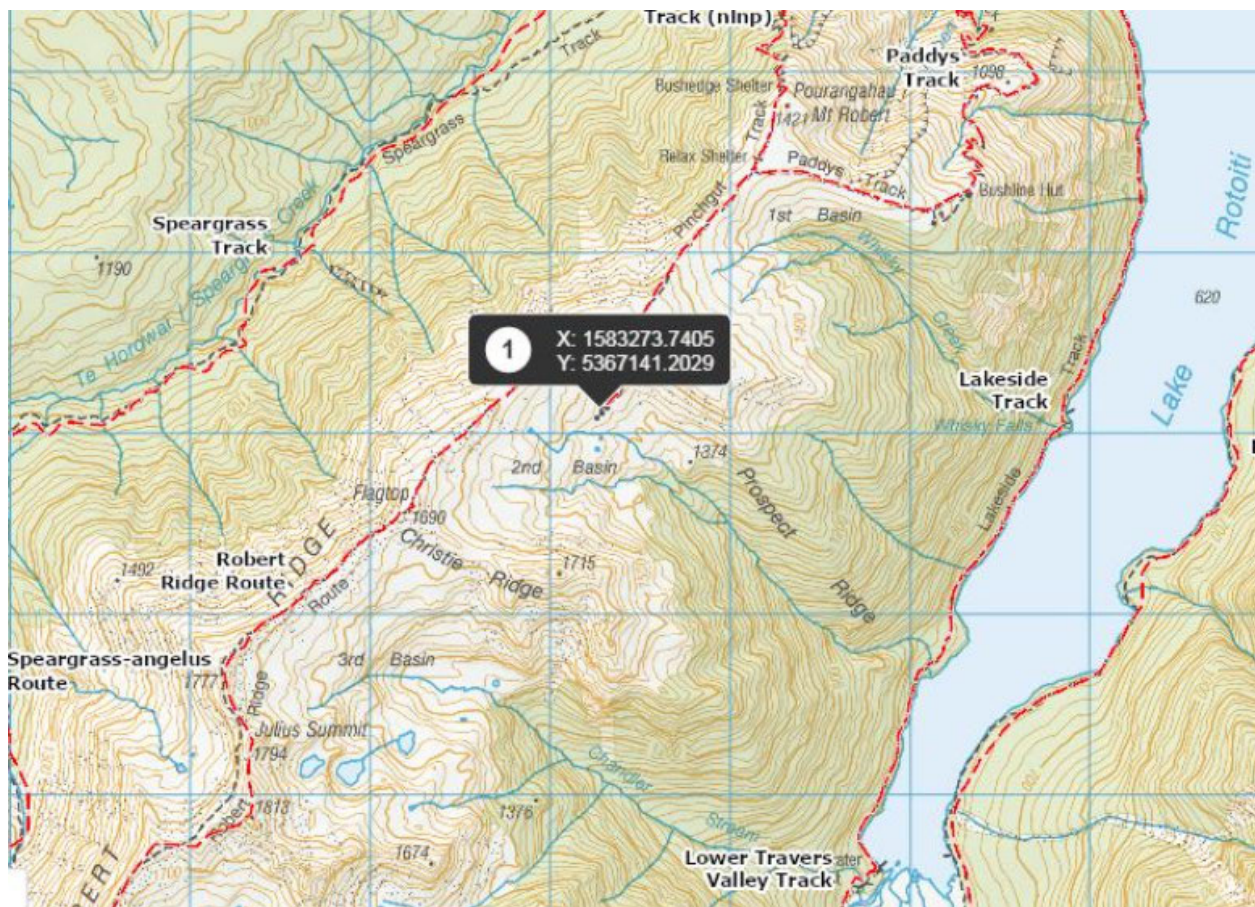
Mt Robert Foundation - Concession Application

December 2023

This document is an addenda to the Form 3b - Concession application for private / commercial facility / structures. The sections noted below are intended to be read as an addendum to Form 3b.

Description of Activity

The Mt Robert Foundation is the Trust that manages the historic Nelson Ski Club assets in 2nd Basin, below the Mt Robert ridge within the Nelson Lakes National Park.



Ski field history

The Nelson Ski Club was formed in 1944 with a founding membership of 75 people. At its peak, in 1977, there were 700 members enjoying great skiing serviced by 5 rope tows. The lodges are an 1 1/2 hour walk from the Mt Robert car park, St Arnaud which is about 1 1/4 hours drive from Nelson.

The last time the ski area was fully operational was the winter of 2003. Since then the ski tows have been removed (by DoC and NZDF personnel) and the ski club has relocated to Rainbow ski area. At the time the Mt Robert Foundation took over the assets in 2009, the remaining facilities were two alpine lodges, Robert and Christie Lodges, a large workshop and a fuel storage shed; these have all been purchased and subsequently managed by the Mt Robert Foundation and its members.

The Foundation negotiated a 15 year lease with DoC, beginning in 2009. This lease allows the installation of a portable ski-tow to serve a beginners slope, should members choose to do this in the future. The lodges are an important historical asset in the Nelson Lake National Park. Robert Lodge has been preserved to appear similar to the last day the skiers skied there in 2003.

The previous concession allowed for a outdoor telescope to be permanently installed, however was not installed and is not requested as part of the new concession.

Our organisations purpose

The Mt Robert Foundation is a registered Charitable Trust and was formed for the purpose of acquiring the Mt Robert Lodges from the Mount Robert Snow Sports Club.

Our Mission is to preserve and protect the buildings while providing a venue for encouraging family and educational use and appreciation of the alpine environment.

The lodges are now used by members to enjoy the alpine environment and by a number of school groups to provide a base to educate adults and children on the mountain environment and associated skills.

The Foundation has sought to increase its membership base in recent years. It has a healthy and active membership of approximately 100 families that regularly utilise the Mt Robert facilities in all seasons. The membership is predominantly from the local Nelson / Marlborough region but does have some members from further afield. For the maintenance and upkeep of the facilities the Trust organises regular working bees, which are well attended by the membership.

During the period of the last concession, the area has seen significant use by community and school groups, which demonstrates the high value this asset has to the community. We have approximately 100 family memberships and the lodges are used by schools from Nelson and Marlborough for outdoor and alpine education purposes. As demonstrated by the table below, we have between 250 and 300 bednights per year, and a significant proportion of these are for educational use.

	Total bed nights	Education	% use for education	
22/23	264	94	36%	
21/22	222	10	5%	
20/21	259	66	25%	
19/20	310	156	50%	
18/19	253	132	52%	
17/18	257	198	77%	
	1565	656	42%	

The figures shown in FY 21 / 22 are understandably impacted by Covid.

A number of letters of support for this concession application from associated educational groups are included in **Appendix A**.

Improvements since 2009

The Mt Robert Foundation was granted a concession to operate these lodges in September 2009. Since the Foundation has been operating these lodges, there has been a significant amount of work undertaken to ensure the lodges are well maintained and compliant with the relevant building requirements. The following improvements have been made to the structures and surrounding areas:

1. Installation of new wastewater system for Robert Lodge.
2. Removal of 40m2 tow shed / dangerous goods store.
3. Removal of kerosene fire, replace with new wood stove.
4. Re-roof and insulate bunk room.
5. Removal of all old fuel tanks, drums and paint.
6. Installation of new compliant gas storage cages.
7. Re-plumb all gas systems in Robert Lodge.
8. Removal of general infrastructure / refuse from bottom tow.
9. New blinds and curtains.

-
10. Solar system installed - removed any reliance on diesel generator for electrical power supply.
 11. Rebuild of plumbing systems in Robert Lodge, install solenoid to enable management with solar power.
 12. Work with Kea Conservation Trust to remove and replace the last of lead flashings on Robert Lodge.
 13. Review of compliance and installation of smoke and fire detectors to meet fire regulations.
 14. Clear all rubbish out of Christie Lodge, and repair any weathertightness issues.

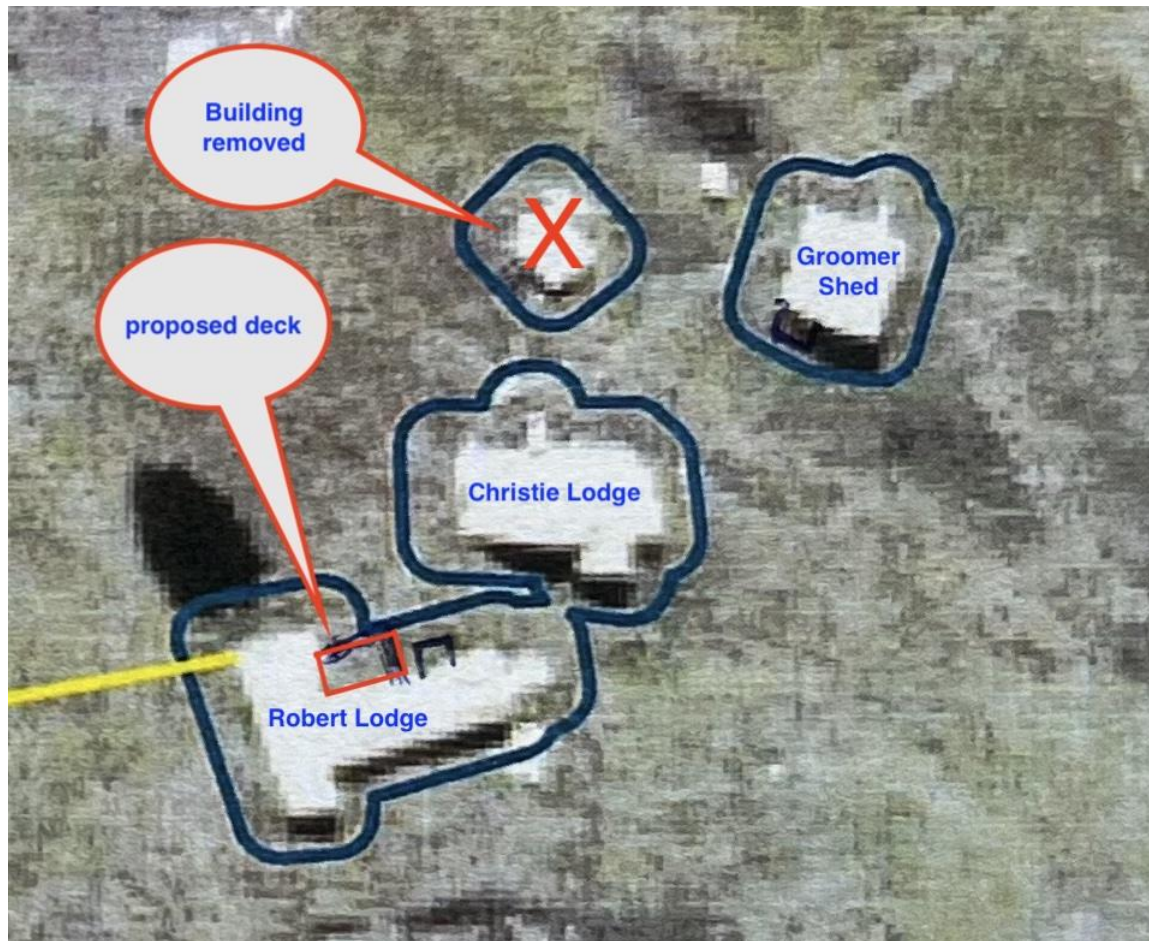
Our plans moving forward will focus on the continued maintenance and improvement of Mt Robert Lodge and the workshop building. We do wish our concession to cover the rebuild of a historic deck on the front of Mt Robert lodge which is within our current lease area. Some decisions have been made about the future of Christie lodge which is documented below.

New Concession provisions

The new concession should cover a similar area as the existing concession except for the removal of the old fuel shed (now deconstructed and removed from site) and provide for the removal of the Christie lodge from our concession (see section below on Christie lodge) within a specified timeframe. The same water supply will be used as currently which is from a stream to the west of the Mt Robert lodge. The taking of water is a permitted activity in the Tasman District Council Regional plan as it is in the Buller catchment and the take is well below the threshold for permitted activity status.

A copy of the previous licensed area is included in **Appendix B**.

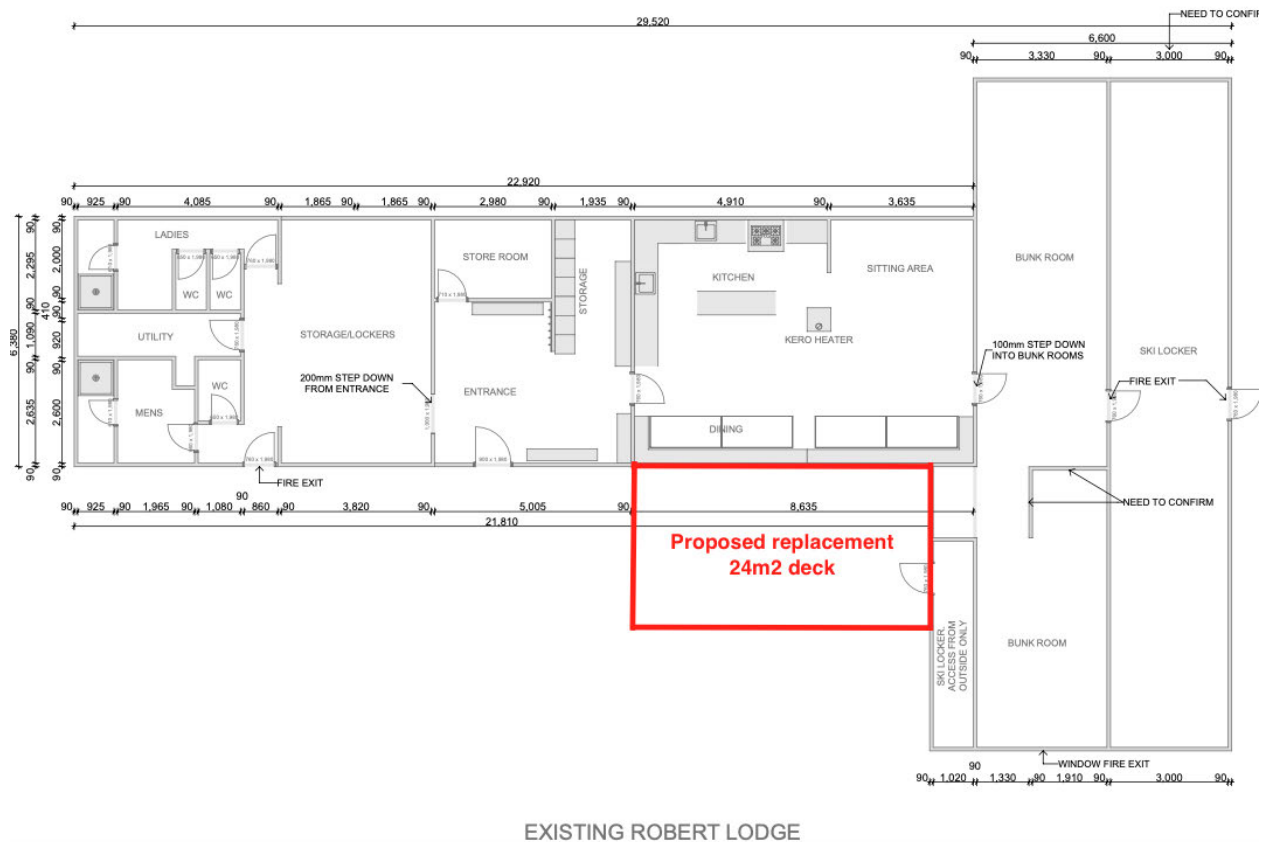
The areas to be removed from our new concession are identified on the map below.



A more satellite image is shown below also.



As noted above, we request the ability to re-establish the deck outside Robert Lodge. This deck would be 6m x 4m = 24m², and would not extend beyond the curtilage area shown above. The deck would be a simple structure, not more than 500mm off the ground and hence would not require a building consent. The proposed deck is shown at scale on the below plan.



We also note that due to the removal of the 40m² tow / fuel shed in 2021, there is a net reduction in area used for structures by the Foundation.

Exclusive Possession

In the previous concession, there was a provision that the facilities operated by the Mt Robert Foundation were to be available for public use; this is intended to be maintained in the new concession. It is important to note that the Foundation requires exclusive possession to enable their facilities to be managed carefully to protect physical security of the assets, and to ensure competent operation. There are various specific operational requirements that need to be clearly understood by any users, for example use of the water, gas and solar power systems. The Trustees are also mindful of their obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 and the safety of members and lodge users generally. In order to meet those obligations, the

Foundation's policy is that only parties with an inducted member can use the lodges, to ensure the facilities are safely operated. Any member of the public is welcome to join the foundation and to use the lodges however they would need to be appropriately inducted or visit with an inducted member.

Bulk Fuel Storage

Compliant fuel storage for bulk gas supplies was installed in 2022 (as per documentation previously provided to DoC). This involves a bulk store for up to 8x 45kg gas bottles adjacent to the groomer shed, and a second store for 4x in-use 45kg gas bottles outside the Robert Lodge, which feed the gas stove for cooking, and the califont for water heating. These storage cages were prefabricated by approved suppliers to the standard of the relevant regulations, flown into 2nd basin and installed on small concrete pads. Signage has been installed and the installation has been inspected and certified by an authorised person. The cages are locked at all times.

There are no other dangerous goods on the mountain. With us moving to solar power and away from diesel generators we have no requirement for other fuels on the mountain. Several thousands of liters of diesel and kerosene were flown off the mountain in 2022 along with other paints and general waste.

Heating

As part of our drive to become less reliant on fossil fuels we have removed the old kerosene heating system and replaced it with a wood stove that can be used for heating and cooking. Plantation firewood is used and flown by helicopter to the lodge.

Helicopter access

The current concession provides for 2 helicopter fly days per year for servicing the lodges. In the last 4-5 years we have used both days with the main purpose to remove historic fuel stores, paint, waste metal etc. On the back flight we restock the lodge with firewood. We also work with the local Department of Conservation office to minimise ferry flights to the park where possible. Moving forward we will need to maintain the same 2 flight days per annum window with a special allowance for additional flights depending on the future of Christie lodge. If the lodge needs to be removed we expect there will be a short period of increased helicopter flights to remove some of the building materials.

Christie Lodge

A key consideration of the concession review is the future of Christie Lodge. The lodge has been maintained in a watertight condition and removed of all rubbish, but can not currently be used for accommodation. This is because the lodge has no dedicated wastewater system or compliant fuel supply. Its main upstairs sleeping area does not meet current fire protection regulations.

At the Mt Robert Foundation AGM in February 2023, interested parties from the membership were tasked to form a working group to look at options and priorities relating to the ongoing operational use, maintenance, investment and management of Christie lodge, with a view to informing the future use and/or removal of this asset. At the end of this process, the Mt Robert Foundation has agreed that the Christie lodge is no longer needed for the purpose of its membership.

As the lodge could be a potential resource for other organisations - a working group identified the most viable opportunity was with the Kea Conservation Trust (KCT) who have expressed interest in establishing a unique high alpine research base to support their conservation efforts. To this end the foundation has been working with the KCT to define their proposed operational approach, and inform how a transfer of responsibilities could be undertaken.

A letter from the KCT formally expressing their interest in the use of Christie lodge has now been received, and is appended to this report as **Appendix C**. The Foundation has outlined this opportunity (in principle only) to the DoC management at St Arnaud, and provided an introduction for the KCT to look at the specifics of a possible future concession for the Christie lodge directly with DoC. It is understood that there is a significant AGM / Kea summit planned for St Arnaud in June 2024 whereby there will be a unique opportunity to investigate this opportunity with a wide range of stakeholders, including conservation groups and potential project funders.

From a concession structure perspective, the Foundation proposes that a milestone of 2 years from the issue of a new concession is included. The purpose of this milestone is to establish if the KCT has been able to secure funding and a concession to maintain the Christie lodge and if so the operation of Christie Lodge would be assigned to the KCT. If this cannot be achieved, then the Foundation commits to working with DoC on a plan to remove Christie Lodge from 2nd basin.

We look forward to discussing the specifics of this approach with DoC as part of this concession process.



GARIN COLLEGE

Principal: John Maguire MEdEL, DipTech, NZ Nat Dip Specialist Subjects
35 Champion Road, Richmond, Nelson 7020 New Zealand

Email: achieve@garincollege.ac.nz

Website: www.garincollege.ac.nz

Phone: 64 3 543 9488



20 November 2023

Ko Tainui te waka
Ko Maungatapu te maunga
Ko Maitahi te awa
Ko Aorere te moana
Ko Ngāti Koata te iwi
Ko Whakatū te Marae
Ko [REDACTED] te ingoa
He kaiako akoranga tū-a-nuku ahau i te kura o Garin

E ngā rangatira ō Te Papa Atawhai / Department of Conservation, tēnā koutou,

I am writing in **support** of the Mt Robert Foundation application for their licence-to-occupy in Second Basin Pourangahua / Mt Robert.

I have been Teacher in Charge of Outdoor Education at Garin College for the last 10 years. One of the highlights of this role is leading students into the rich range of local environments that we can access. Across the school year we utilise the Abel Tasman, Kahurangi, and Nelson Lakes National Parks. These trips are often formative for our students, many of whom have never accessed these areas.

As a part of our NCEA assessments we are required to "Analyse the application of risk management strategies to a challenging outdoor activity" (AS 91332). Over the previous decade we have used the Mt Robert Lodge as our base of operation for our Year 12 programme during the winter period. This allows us to support the kaupapa / ethos of the programme. Having the Lodge as a resource enhances the quality of the experience, through (relative) ease of access, as well as maintaining student safety. Sleeping on the mountain is a highlight many have never experienced. Having a safe structure to retreat to in bad weather provides an extra level of security when undertaking this trip. The Foundation has always openly provided support to Garin.

Without the support from the Mt Robert Foundation (access to the Lodge) we would not be able to provide this experience (or assessment) in this format. Pourangahua / Mt Robert provides the best venue locally to meet the safety standards and our needs. With Bushline hut (14 bunks) being too small for our needs, and Angelus being inaccessible for our students at this time of year, the Mt Robert Foundation fulfils an essential service for us during the winter months.

Hei [REDACTED] nā mai me ngā mihi, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Teacher in Charge Outdoor Education
Garin College



Nelson Tramping Club

% Wises Picture Framing, 78 Buxton Square, Nelson 7010

www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz

13 December 2023

Euan McIntosh (Secretary)
Mt. Robert Foundation

Re: Support for Robert Hut concession renewal

Thank you for inviting the Nelson Tramping club (NTC) to support Mt. Robert Foundation for their upcoming Department of Conservation (DoC) concession renewal. At our recent Committee meeting this matter was discussed and given unanimous support.

NTC have held successful annual Snow skills training weekends at the Robert Hut since 2019. The safe hut environment has allowed a succession of guests and members from the Top of the South tramping clubs to gain valuable practical training in moving safely in snow and ice conditions.

The basin surrounding the hut is an exceptional location to hold these training events. Robert Ridge provides shelter from the prevailing wind while providing an ideal location for a build-up of snow in the lee of the ridge, on which participants can practice their newly acquired skills.

The hut also provides a comfortable teaching space to reinforce the theoretical aspects of tramping safely in snow and icy conditions. The ability to offer a weekend training event provides time for participants to consolidate their skills over the two days, is invaluable.

The historic value of the Robert Hut is evident and was appreciated by all participants (old and young) at the past snow skills training events. We are grateful for the Mt. Robert Foundation for allowing us to use their venue for our annual snow skills training and hope to be able to continue our relationship going forward.

NTC wholeheartedly supports the Mt. Robert Foundation in their renewal of their DoC concession.

Yours faithfully,

(Chair)

Mt Robert license and lease area

Handwritten signatures and initials



Christie Hut, Mt Robert, Nelson Lakes National Park - A Case for Preservation

To the trustees of The Mt Robert Foundation



Backcountry huts are a valuable resource which enable all New Zealanders to be able to access and stay in our beautiful wilderness areas. Preserving them for future generations is our collective responsibility as once lost, it is unlikely they will ever be able to be rebuilt. To lose these assets is to lose a piece of our history and a connection to our special alpine places.

The Kea Conservation Trust (KCT) has been made aware of an opportunity to work with the Mt Robert Foundation, to explore ways which Christie Hut may be retained. We see preservation of this hut, as a unique and exciting opportunity to support the long term conservation and education efforts already taking place in Nelson Lakes National Park.

The KCT has been active in the Rotoiti area of the Nelson Lakes National Park since 2009, working with Department of Conservation and the local community to protect and minimise threats to a dwindling kea population. Our aim is for a thriving population of kea to return to Nelson Lakes, and for both locals and visitors to have the opportunity to get involved in conservation initiatives and to learn about kea in their natural habitat.

The KCT supports efforts by the Mt Robert Foundation and its membership, to preserve these alpine huts. We see clear synergies between the two organisations and opportunities for collaboration and enhancement of the Foundations assets.

We envisage Christie Hut could be developed as a base for the following activities:

- Development of an alpine long term research site for KCT/kea stakeholders and others (universities, other species programmes etc) - ongoing surveys/monitoring, targeted pest control methods, impact on kea nesting success, trialling of tracking devices and remote survey methods etc.
- Providing an education base to learn about conservation, kea and the development of skills required for being in the alpine areas of New Zealand.
- Establishing a physical base to service newly created traplines and conservation efforts in the area (initial concept plans attached, as developed in collaboration with DoC) to support historic kea nests on the Mt Robert Range.
- Providing a location to develop a unique experience for conservation interest groups, providing walk and talks about conservation from guest speakers, and perhaps hosting things like mountain film festivals.
- In collaboration with the accommodation from Robert Hut it could be used to host groups for conservation-based retreats.

- Staging a volunteer hut warden who wants to educate people and tourists about the area and conservation.
- A potential soft release trial site for captive breed kea to be released in the wild should this ever be considered/approved. Christie Hut would provide a good base for support and supplementary feeding.

In addition to this, the KCT is holding their 4th Kea Summit/Hui in June 2024 and propose a field trip for delegates to visit the Mt Robert Foundation huts to showcase the conservation and education potential of the sites.

We are aware of the concession process the Foundation is currently negotiating, and this letter is intended to formally lodge our interest in working with the Foundation (and other key stakeholders) to further define a practical method of transitioning Christie Hut into a base for community conservation and education purposes.

The KCT have strong relationships with DoC and local iwi groups and are confident that with a clear vision and practical approach, a relevant and productive future for Christie Hut can be secured.

We have appended several letters of support to this letter, for your reference.

We look forward to your response and would welcome the chance to discuss the opportunity with the Foundation in further detail.

Kind regards



Chair, Kea Conservation Trust

Ph. 

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