



# Changes to Booking Molesworth Recreation Reserve Restricted Hunting Blocks

Soon, you'll be able to book Molesworth's restricted hunting blocks completely online. We're also introducing a few other changes to make sure opportunities to hunt are shared equally.

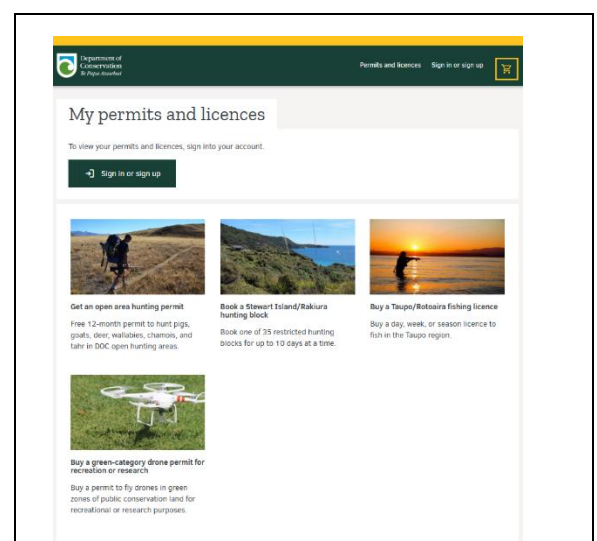
These changes will be introduced in early November 2025. Here's a quick summary of the changes you'll see.

## 1 Bookings for Molesworth's restricted hunting blocks will be done through DOC's Hunting Permit System.

DOC's hunting permit system is already used to book restricted hunting blocks on Stewart Island / Rakiura.

The same system is used by hunters to get open hunting area permits, and you can even get a Lake Taupō or Lake Rotoaira fishing licence, and a permit to fly a drone on Public Conservation Land.

In the first week of November, the Molesworth Recreational Reserve restricted blocks will be added to the system. Any bookings made prior will still stand and be migrated into the new system (although you will still have to contact DOC if you want to make changes).

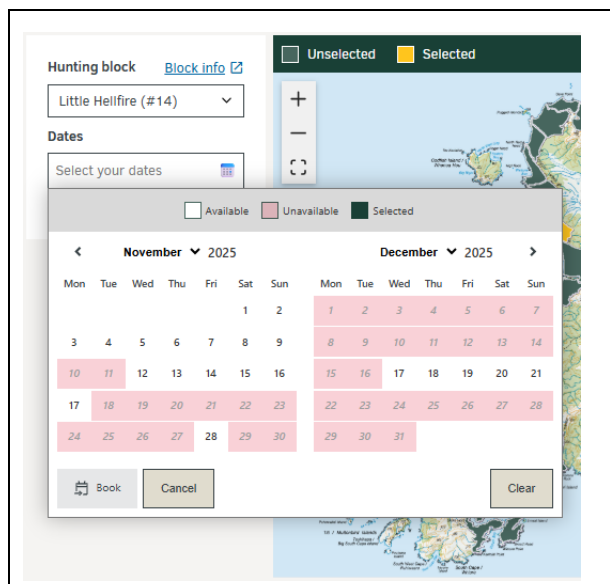


## ② You'll need to set up an account in the system.

To book a Molesworth block through the system, you'll need to set up an account. This is a straight forward process that only takes a few minutes. You'll need to have an e-mail address that is unique to you (i.e. nobody else can use the same e-mail address to set up their account) and as part of the set-up process, you'll need to verify your e-mail.

**Have you already set up an account to book a block on Rakiura / Stewart Island or get an open hunting permit?** If so, you can use that same account to book a Molesworth restricted hunting block. You don't have to set up another account.

## ③ You'll be able to see what blocks are available in real time.



The screenshot shows a web interface for booking hunting blocks. At the top, there's a 'Hunting block' dropdown menu with 'Little Hellfire (#14)' selected. Below it is a 'Dates' section with a 'Select your dates' input. To the right is a map of the region. A legend indicates 'Unselected' (grey) and 'Selected' (yellow). A calendar for November and December 2025 is displayed, with dates from 1 to 31. A legend for the calendar shows 'Available' (white), 'Unavailable' (pink), and 'Selected' (green). Buttons for 'Book', 'Cancel', and 'Clear' are visible at the bottom of the calendar.

The hunting permits system allows you to see block availability in real time.

You'll be able to select a block and see what dates are free, or you can enter the dates you want to go hunting and see what blocks are available during that time.

## ④ You will be able to book a block completely online.

It's easy to book a block online through the hunting permits system. Simply log into your account, find a block and available dates that you want to book, add any hunting party members to your booking, read through and accept the permit conditions and your booking will be confirmed right away. You'll be automatically sent your permit to your e-mail address.

Every hunting party member will be sent an invitation to be part of your hunting party, and they will need to either accept or decline the invitation. If they accept the invitation, they will also need to have an account set up in the system so they can read and accept the permit conditions. Their permits will be sent to them once they have done that.

## ⑤ Booking durations and start dates will be a lot more flexible but many of the current rules still apply.

Currently, blocks are booked for seven days starting on a Wednesday and ending on a Tuesday. You are not obliged to hunt over the whole seven and you can choose to hunt only a portion of this period.

Under the new system, your booking can start on any day of the week and can be for any duration between one and seven days. Rather than opening bookings for six months in advance on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, you'll be able to book

six months in advance from any date. The only restriction is that your start date must be within the six-months of the date you make the booking. Your end date can go beyond that.

There will still be limits on the number of hunters that you can include in your hunting party and there is still a limit of one booking per month and no more than three bookings in each half year.

## 6 Everyone in your hunting party will need a permit

Everyone in the hunting party – including those who aren't going to hunt - must have an individual permit issued before the start of the block booking. Permits will be issued to hunting party leaders once the booking is confirmed, and to the other hunting party members once they have accepted the invitation and the permit conditions.

This change doesn't apply if you have made (or make a booking before the hunting permits system goes live) for late 2025 or 2026. Only bookings created in the new system will have this rule applied to them.

## 7 You will be able to manage your bookings online

Want to add another person to your hunting party? Lost the original e-mail with your permit and want to get it resent? Need to change the e-mail address for one of your hunting party members? You'll be able to do all these things completely online, when you are logged into your account.

The hunting permit system will show all the bookings and permits that you hold and allow you to make changes to your bookings.

The screenshot shows a web interface for 'Permits and licences' with a 'Hunting booking: Rakiura' page. The page is divided into several sections: 'Hunting block' (Cavalier (#17)), 'Booking dates' (Mon 28 June 2025 - Fri 2 July 2025), 'Booked' (Mon 26 May 2025 10:23 am), and 'Booking reference' (BK2504002033). A 'Cancel booking' button is visible. Below this is the 'Hunting party' section, which lists members: Pip Fox (Leader), Hamish Morrison, Tana MacCrimis, Anzha Ngata, and Doris Whitaker. Each member has a status (e.g., 'Accepted', 'Invited') and buttons for 'Resend invite' and 'Remove'. A 'Details' section at the bottom shows 'Special conditions for this block' and 'Standard conditions and notes'. Three callout boxes provide additional information: 'You can cancel the booking at the press of a button.' (pointing to the 'Cancel booking' button), 'You can see the status of all your hunting party members.' (pointing to the member list), and 'You can change the contact details for any of your hunting party, re-send an invitation to hunt, or remove them from the booking.' (pointing to the 'Resend invite' and 'Remove' buttons).

## 8 Anyone with an existing booking will still have that booking BUT will need to contact DOC if they want to make changes

All existing bookings for late 2025 and 2026 will be recorded in the hunting permits system. This means that your booking is safe – nobody can book over the top of you. However, the details of your booking such as your hunting party members, etc will not be migrated to the new system. You won't be able to make changes to your booking through the new system and instead will have to contact DOC to make these changes.

## 9 We are changing the designation of some blocks to make them open hunting areas

The Bullen, Clarence Faces, Tweed, Elliott and Lizard blocks will be redesignated as an open hunting area. Any existing bookings for these blocks, or any made before the Molesworth blocks are transitioned to the hunting permits system, are still valid. Despite the change in designation, the closure periods for the Bullen and Elliott blocks each year will continue and there will continue to be no authorisation to hunt this area during the roar period.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why are we moving the Molesworth Recreation Reserve restricted blocks onto the hunting permits system?**

This is all part of DOC's push to have a more nationally consistent approach to issuing hunting permits. Hunters have also asked for a greater ability to do things online. The hunting permits system was initially rolled out for the Stewart Island / Rakiura restricted blocks, and earlier this year the system was extended to cover permits for open hunting areas.

Incorporating the Molesworth Recreation Reserve restricted blocks – along with those from Queenstown - into the system is the next step in the evolution of the hunting permits system. Following on from this, the system will be expanded to cater for hunting ballots, starting with the Blue Mountains hunting area.

### **When are these changes going to be introduced?**

From early November 2025 you'll be able to book a Molesworth restricted block through the DOC hunting permits system.

### **What do I have to do to set up an account in the system?**

Setting up an account is easy. It only takes a few minutes and doesn't cost you anything. You just need to go into the hunting permits system and opt to sign up for a new account. You'll need a unique e-mail address (i.e. one that is just used by you) and you'll be asked to verify that e-mail. Once you have done that, it's just a case of setting your password, and entering your address and date of birth.

If you forget your password, you can use the 'Forgot your password?' function to reset it.

### **I've already set up an account in the system to get an open hunting permit or book a block on Stewart Island / Rakiura. Can I use that account to book a Molesworth block?**

Yes. You will be able to use the same account to book restricted blocks in Queenstown, Stewart Island / Rakiura and in the Molesworth Recreation Reserve. You can also use it to get an open hunting permit.

### **What happens if I don't have an e-mail address or don't want to set up an account?**

You can still book a Molesworth restricted block, but you will need to do this by contacting DOC. However, you can still go into the system – without logging into an account – to see what blocks are available for any given period.

If you are invited to be part of a hunting party, you will need to set up an account and accept the invitation and permit conditions for that block. Again, if you don't want to set up an account or don't have an e-mail address then you will need to contact DOC and they can accept or decline the invitation on your behalf.

### **Why does everyone in a hunting party need a permit?**

This reflects a legislative requirement that everyone who hunts on Public Conservation Land must have the appropriate permit. The permit specifies the conditions that hunters must abide by when hunting on these blocks so having an individual permit makes everyone aware of their responsibilities.

## **I've already booked a block for later in the year or in 2026. What happens to these bookings?**

These bookings will remain valid, and the booked period will be migrated to the new system. This means that nobody will be able to book over your booking. However, if you need to make a change to your booking you will still need to contact DOC to make the change on your behalf. You won't be able to make changes through the new system.

## **What about applications for the 2026 roar? Will these be done through the new hunting permits system as well?**

No. The applications for the 2026 roar will be processed by DOC's Renwick office as per previous years.

## **Need further help?**

Call DOC on 0800 275 362 or e-mail [renwick@doc.govt.nz](mailto:renwick@doc.govt.nz).

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