

22 February 2021

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Parliament Buildings  
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To whom it may concern

### **Submission on the Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill**

The Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury) thanks the Environment Committee for the opportunity to submit on the Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill. We support the Bill as drafted, and the Government's desire to deliver improved Crown pastoral land outcomes.

We acknowledge the crucial stewardship role held by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) and the Commissioner of Crown Lands, with responsibility for Crown pastoral land, and the critical impact that the management of the high country has on the whole range of values ki uta ki tai.

Much of New Zealand's Crown pastoral land is within the Canterbury region and Environment Canterbury is committed to improving environmental outcomes in the high country. This includes working alongside LINZ and other partners through the Mackenzie Basin Agency Alignment Programme to align the activities of central and local government agencies to deliver more effective, joined-up, land management in the Mackenzie Basin. We also partner with LINZ and others to deliver improved braided river outcomes through the Braided Rivers Action Group. Significant Crown land holdings adjoin Canterbury's unique braided rivers, and this group is taking a partnership approach to the management of public land in braided river environments.

With reference to the proposed amendments in the Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill, we make the following supportive comments:

- We broadly support the three outcomes identified in Clause 8 of the Bill, and the intent to maintain or enhance the inherent values that arise from an ecological, landscape, cultural, heritage or scientific characteristic of the land or environment. This broadly aligns with Environment Canterbury's strategic priorities in indigenous biodiversity and freshwater management.
- We are supportive of the Bill's clauses which require the Crown to recognise and provide for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, mahinga kai, wāhi tapu, and other taonga in relation to considering discretionary consents and any protection mechanisms for Crown pastoral land, and to consult iwi in relevant matters. Ngāi Tahu, as mana whenua in Canterbury, are integral to delivering

positive outcomes from the environment and to the partnership arrangements noted above.

- Given the diversity of values held by stakeholders and community, it is important that there is clarity about what the regulatory system should deliver, and that an appropriate mix of land uses is supported, and we support the introduction of a regulatory system that articulates the activities that are permitted, discretionary, or prohibited.
- We are pleased to see provision in sub-part 3 of the Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill for more effective monitoring and enforcement to help ensure that the regulatory system is delivering on the outcomes of the Bill. A consistent and aligned data set will be imperative for this.
- The achievement of the outcomes proposed in the Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill will depend on having a joined-up approach to implementation. Collaboration and information sharing are critical to understanding different values, different types of land use and management issues, and the options to achieve outcomes. With this in mind, we would welcome the opportunity to work with LINZ and our iwi partners to further define what is meant by inherent values in the context of the Canterbury high country.
- We would also support the development of guidelines for officials and leaseholders to help support decision making and compliance with the new regulations. Any guidance should complement agency alignment already in place, such as decisions about consents and land use in the Mackenzie Basin.

We look forward to seeing this Bill progress through the House and will continue to partner with LINZ to protect values and achieve outcomes in the high country. Environment Canterbury does wish to be heard and is prepared to present to the Committee via Zoom.

Yours sincerely



**Jenny Hughey**

Chair, Environment Canterbury