



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

15-E-70

20 April 2015

Tara Forde

Dear Tara

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your official information request dated 06.03.15 9 (sent by email).

You requested to see and review the report referring to two concessions related to the proposed Te Kuhu mine near Westport.

Attached please find the Permissions Report, 15 July 2014 for your information.

I trust that this information is helpful and satisfies the request made in your email.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' and 'R' followed by a long horizontal line.

Dene Robinson  
Director Administration

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**Meeting Paper For  
West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board**

**TITLE OF PAPER:** PERMISSIONS/SLM REPORTING

**AUTHOR:** Judi Brennan

**SUBJECT:** MINING, CONCESSION AND SLM MATTERS FOR PERIOD  
ENDING 11 JULY 2014

**DATE:** 15 July 2014

**MINING PERMISSIONS SUMMARY:**

Under section 61 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 the Minister of Conservation is able to grant access arrangements for prospecting, exploration, and mining operations, to applicants who hold a minerals permit under section 25 of the Act.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2013, several changes to the Crown Minerals Act 1991 that affect applications for access arrangements on land managed by the Department came into effect. The Department has also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment in order to implement the changes.

Over the recent period the mining permissions team have processed the applications noted on the attached list. The applications include Variations, Access Arrangements and Authorities to Enter and Operate covering operations in the West Coast District.

The Hokitika Shared Service team also continues to process a number of access arrangement applications and variations to current access arrangements for sites on public conservation land over both the North and South Island. Those sites for the West Coast of interest to the Board, currently being processed or under action, are:

1. **Buller Coal Ltd - Escarpment Mine Project Denniston**  
An Authority to Enter and operate has now been issued to allow reduced mining operations to commence for the next six month period.
  
2. **New Creek Mining Ltd**  
New Creek submitted an AA Application in August 2012 for its New Creek Mine proposal along the New Creek-Denniston Rd near the Iron Bridge/Buller Gorge. Processing began when the associated Concession Application was submitted in October 2012. The Access Arrangement has been granted and New Creek Mining are currently preparing an Annual Work Programme for approval of operations to commence.

**3. Oceana Gold – Reefton Globe Operation**

The Department has received an application to vary the Access Arrangement, raising Fossickers Tailings Storage Facility at the Globe Mine, from 520 mRL to 526 mRL. A report is currently being finalised and will be forwarded to the Board for comment.

**4. Rangitira Developments Limited (Te Kuha)**

Rangitira Developments Ltd have submitted two applications in relation to a proposed open cast coal mine on a ridge above Te Kuha, approximately 12km south east of Westport. The two applications include an Access Arrangement under the Crown Minerals Act for approximately 14 hectares of public conservation land within Mt Rochfort Stewardship area and a Concession under the Conservation Act for a 1.59km section of the proposed access/haul road within Ballarat Stewardship area. Both applications are in the preliminary assessment phase.

**5. Mosman – petroleum exploration**

An Access Arrangement for a single exploration well has been granted in the Kotuku area. The approved site occupies the same area recently disturbed by a gold mining operation and used previously as a heli logging staging area. This site is part of a wider 4-hole drill programme on private and Landcorp land. The exploration well will take approximately 3 months to reach a depth of 350m, including set up and rehabilitation and removal of equipment. The Board provided comments on the application. This application was the first petroleum exploration AA processed under the new legislation requiring joint decision making with Minister of Business, Innovation and Employment.

## **CONCESSIONS PERMISSIONS SUMMARY:**

### **New Concession Applications/Trends**

The Department received 34 new concession applications that included West Coast sites for the period covering 9 April 2014 – 11 July 2014 including:

#### **Types of applications:**

Types of applications received include 23 reissues for easements, rafting, grazing, gravel extraction, telecommunications and one bach. New applications have been received for rafting, guiding and filming activities and some easements. One application was rejected.

#### **Concessions Declined/Withdrawn/Surrendered**

No concessions have been declined, withdrawn or surrendered.

#### **Applications Meeting Board Triggers:**

##### **1 Buller Coal Limited Easement**

Buller Coal Ltd submitted an application to use the Whareatea Road for a coal haul road for the proposed Buller Coal Ltd Escarpment Mine on the Denniston Plateau on 11 September, 2012.

The intention to grant this easement was notified on the 19 June and submissions closed on the 16 August 2013. In total 246 submissions were received; 11 were heard at a public hearing that was held in Westport on 24-26 September 2013. The applicant comments on the draft report and concession have been received and included in the report ready for a decision, a decision is pending.

## **2 New Creek Mining Ltd**

New Creek Mining Ltd submitted a Concession Application in October 2012 for infrastructure associated with its New Creek Mine proposal. New Creek has applied for a licence for a coal processing/stockpiling site and a water treatment system to treat mine water, in addition to an easement along Forestry Road for general access and the trucking of coal. The Board provided comments on the draft report. A Concession has now been granted.

## **3 Franz Josef Glacier Guides**

An application has been received from Franz Josef Glacier Guides to renew their concession for Aircraft landings in Westland National Park. The report is currently in the final stages with their existing concession rolling on under 17ZAA until a decision is made. The applicant comments on the draft report and concession have been received and included in the report ready for a decision, a decision is pending.

## **4 Nolan-Smith Family Trust Bach**

Bach application for the re-issue of the Nolan-Smith Family Trust on the Southern bank of the Poerua River. A re-issue Concession has been granted.

## **5 Rangatira Developments Limited**

An application has been received from Rangatira Developments Limited for an easement to construct and operate a mine haul road for access to the proposed Te Kuha mine. The application forms part of a larger mining proposal that has been received under the Crown Minerals Act.

## **6 Alpine Guides Fox Glacier**

An application has been received for the use of a raft crossing and an all terrain passenger vehicle (as might be required from time to time) to provide for safe passenger crossings across the Fox River to access the Fox Glacier.

## **STATUTORY LAND MANAGEMENT:**

The Department continues to manage a large number of SLM disposals, exchange and acquisition tasks covering the North & Western South Island Region. Many of these cases have been underway for a considerable amount of time. There are signs that such cases will continue to come up from time to time.

Treaty Settlement disclosure work has dropped right of now and we are waiting the final settlements to be completed.

The two Nature Heritage Fund applications reported on last month are still being considered by the Fund. The Fund has sought additional information.

There is one outstanding request for comment from the Board in respect of the application referred to in the schedule below.

**Disposals sent to Board for comment 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014 – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

Location	File Reference	Area
Nil		

**Exchanges sent to Board for comment 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014 – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

Location	File Reference	Area
Punakaiki	PAL 06-11-65	4.2 (res) 35.2 (F'hold)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That you note the contents of this paper.

**APPROVED:**

Judi Brennan

Permissions/SLM Manager

