



## Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ

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21/10/2015

Director-General  
Department of Conservation  
PO Box 5244  
Dunedin 9058  
Attention: Sofia Reid

Dear Ms Reid

### **Intention to grant concession to New Zealand Deerstalkers Association 39385-ACC.**

I write on behalf of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc. (FMC) which represents some 20,000 members of tramping, mountaineering, climbing and other outdoor recreation clubs throughout NZ, and indirectly represents the interests and concerns of many thousands of private individuals who also enjoy recreation in the back country. FMC is a partner with NZDA in the Outdoor Recreation Fund, which distributes funds from the Department's Community Conservation Partnership Fund for maintenance of huts and tracks on public conservation land.

We recognise that NZDA has been a responsible steward during the period since it took over management of Mid Greenstone Hut and that without them these huts would possibly have been removed. We are not opposed to the granting of this concession, but believe that some modifications to the terms would mean that it would better serve the public interest and meet the requirements of the Otago CMS.

The term is proposed to be 30 years. There has been an increasing trend towards longer concession terms, and these are usually justified as necessary to provide security of tenure when significant capital expenditure is proposed. In this case, there is no capital cost to the concessionaire. A term of 10 years, which is the period a CMS is intended to be valid for, would be appropriate. This would give the Department the ability to reconsider the concession in light of any changes to the management prescription for the valleys.

The current CMS allows "limited exclusive occupation" of buildings" where the facility is available for public use and enjoyment." We believe that the availability to the public could be enhanced making the locks operable by PIN rather than key. This would give more flexibility for users who may not travel or return via Queenstown, or who pass through Queenstown at an anti-social hour. (We note that the PIN system works successfully for the NZ Alpine Club's Cascade Hut in the Matukituki valley). We also think that information about the huts and their availability should be on the Department's website and publications about the area.

We have a strong preference for open access to facilities, and note that both our own constituent clubs and NZDA have long histories of providing huts with no limitations on public use. We would be very concerned if there was a trend towards locked huts in other than rare situations.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robin McNeill', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robin McNeill  
President