



# Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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## **FMC Member News Special Edition** **Mining our place: The Schedule 4 Discussion Document**

On 22 March 2010, the Government released its discussion paper *“Maximising our Mineral Potential: Stocktake of Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act and beyond”* for public feedback. The paper primarily reviews the areas currently prohibited from mining by inclusion in Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act. It also proposes a prospecting survey of a vast area with the view to potential mining in the future – including Schedule 4 areas – and a number of other changes to facilitate more mining on public conservation land.

### **Schedule 4 removals and additions**

The paper goes through all main Schedule 4 areas and rules out any change in mining prohibition on most National Parks. This indicates that public pressure to date has curbed the Government’s original enthusiasm for removing mining protection from vast areas.

However, three high-value conservations areas have been identified for removal from Schedule 4. They are:

- the Inangahua Sector of Paparoa National Park;
- the Te Ahumata Plateau of Great Barrier Island; and
- 3,038 hectares of conservation estate, in 7 locations, on the Coromandel Peninsula.

The paper also proposes the addition of 12,000 hectares that has become elevated to high-value status more recently, such as additions to national park and new marine reserves.

*FMC is relieved at the reduced scale of the proposed removes, but remains steadfastly opposed to the removal of the Schedule 4 protection as proposed, particularly in Paparoa National Park where a precedent would be set for future mining in National Parks. FMC supports the additions.*

### **Prospecting survey of a wider area**

In addition, the discussion paper also outlines the scope for other areas to be surveyed with a view to reviewing their status at some point in the future. These areas are:

- The Northland Region;
- additional land in the Coromandel;
- parts of the Central North Island;
- Dun Mountain east of Nelson;
- the Lyell, Rotoroa and Riwaka ‘complexes’ in the Nelson/Murchison area;
- additional portions of Paparoa National Park;
- the Tapuae-O-uenuku Complex near Kaikoura;

- areas in Central Otago and Westland;
- the Longwood complex in Southland; and
- Rakiura National Park and other parts of Stewart Island.

*FMC is concerned that the survey includes Schedule 4 areas like Rakiura National Park, and the intention of this survey is to eventually remove mining protection in these places. FMC opposes the survey on these grounds.*

### **Other proposals to facilitate mining on public conservation land**

The most significant additional proposal of the discussion paper is to allow joint ministerial approval for mining access to conservation land. Currently, it is the Minister of Conservation - as representative land-owner on our behalf - that gives final approval. As landowner the Minister has a 'veto' in the same way you do over mining on your land. The proposal is that, this approval be jointly made by the Minister of Conservation and the Minister of Energy and Resources.

*The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment has voiced concern that this proposes runs counter to the land-owner prerogative. FMC agrees and believes this could result in a dilution of conservation values in the decision making process. The status quo should remain.*

### **Have your say!**

We cannot and will not stand idly by, and we need your help to send the government the strongest possible message!

To protect our precious public conservation lands for future generations of trampers and climbers we need you to have your say on the discussion document.

***The deadline for submissions is 5pm on Tuesday, 4 May 2010. Make your voice count.***

### **What can our tramping club do?**

1. At your next club meeting get someone (e.g. the President or club night organiser) to promote FMC's submission guide (provided here and also [on the FMC website](#)) and encourage members to submit.
2. Direct club members to the [www.2precious2mine.org.nz](http://www.2precious2mine.org.nz) website, which contains links to the Government's proposals, background information, an events calendar, and guides for action.
3. Discuss the discussion document at your next committee meeting and put in a club submission.
4. Continue to write letters and send photo-postcards showing your support for our public conservation lands to Ministers.

For more assistance from FMC feel free to contact Richard Davies ([richard.daviesnz@gmail.com](mailto:richard.daviesnz@gmail.com)) or Quentin Duthie ([quentin.duthie@gmail.com](mailto:quentin.duthie@gmail.com))

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