

31 March 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 8 March 2021 in which you asked for:

Please can you provide me with the lease agreement details for Coronet Peak, The Remarkables and Treble Cone (I understand Cardrona is on privately-owned land)?

I would like to know:

- The length of the leases and terms of renewal*
- When the Department began leasing the land to each of the ski fields*
- How much each of the ski fields pay to DOC to lease the land annually*
- What reduction in lease fees the ski fields have received from DOC due to COVID*
- What conservation work each ski field is required to undertake as part of the lease agreement*

If this information is available on the DOC website, please direct me to the right links.

On 16 March 2021, in a phone conversation with Kelvin Brown, Permissions Advisor, Dunedin Service Centre you clarified and refined your request to the following:

- I would like a copy of the head lease agreements for Coronet Peak, The Remarkables and Treble Cone ski fields.*
- I no longer require details of when the Department began leasing the land to each of the ski fields.*
- In addition to how much each of the ski fields pay to DOC to lease the land annually, can I also have a copy of financial accounts for the year ended 2019 for each ski field.*
- Did each of the ski fields receive a proportion of the \$25 million allocated by the Minister of Conservation for COVID-19 relief.*

In an email dated 16 March 2021 Kelvin Brown, Permissions Advisor provided a link to legislation and documentation such as the Conservation Act 1987, Permits, Private or commercial structures, Ongoing Concession Fees and standard concession contracts.

The documents listed in the table below fall within the scope of your request:

- I would like a copy of the head lease agreements for Coronet Peak, The Remarkables and Treble Cone ski fields.*

Table 1 – List of attachments

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	11 October 2006	Coronet Peak Ski Area Head Lease	Released in part – sections withheld pursuant to sections 9(2)(b)(ii) and 9(2)(j).
2	30 August 1993	Remarkables Ski Area Head Lease	Released in part – sections withheld pursuant to sections 9(2)(b)(ii) and 9(2)(j).
3	5 May 1980	Treble Cone Ski Area Head Lease Registered Lease embodied in Record of Title OT8C/243 (Instrument 533945)	Public record. Released in full
4	20 November 2006	Treble Cone Ski Area Head Lease Renewal Registered Renewal of Lease embodied in Record of Title OT8C/243 (Instrument VL 7132869.1)	Public record. Released in full.

- *The length of the leases and terms of renewal.*

Response: Refer to released documents in table above:

- Coronet Peak ski field tenure is continuing until such time as the Part 3B Concession under the Conservation Act 1987 is decided upon.
- Remarkables ski field Head Lease has a current term of 33 years from 1 March 1989.
- Treble Cone ski field Head Lease was renewed for a term of 30 years to 30 June 2036.

- *How much each of the ski fields pay to DOC to lease the land annually.*

Response: The annual fee to lease the land is withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(j).

- *Can I also have a copy of financial accounts for the year ended 2019 for each ski field.*

Response: Financial accounts for the year ended 2019 held by the department are withheld pursuant to 9(2)(b)(ii).

- *What reduction in lease fees the ski fields have received from DOC due to COVID.*

Response: The reduction in lease fees due to COVID-19 is withheld pursuant to sections 9(2)(b)(ii) and 9(2)(j).

- *Did each of the ski fields receive a proportion of the \$25 million allocated by the Minister of Conservation for COVID-19 relief.*

Response: Yes. Each of the ski fields was eligible to receive a proportion of the \$25m allocated by the Minister, for the waiver of Concession Fees (with the exclusion of community service charges), for the period 1 March 2020 to 30 June 2021.

We adopted a nationally consistent all of government approach to supporting businesses as provided for by the various government assistance schemes, wage subsidy etc.

The Government subsequently announced on Friday 26 June 2020 a \$25m concession fee assistance package.

You can find the official press release from the Minister of Conservation on our website.
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2020-media-releases/tourism-operators-provided-extra-relief/>

- *What conservation work each ski field is required to undertake as part of the lease agreement*

Response: There is no requirement to undertake conservation work as part of the lease agreements.

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed in the table above and in responses to your questions, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- commercially sensitive information, under section 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information, and
- confidential information, under section 9(2)(j) – to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Nāku noa, nā



Deidre Ewart
Director Planning, Permissions & Land
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai