



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

RVC-07-01

10/10/2006

Bruce Mason
Matakanui
Omakau 9376
Central Otago

Dear Mr Mason

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your request made under the Official Information Act 1982, dated 25 September 2006 and your e-mail clarification of 1 November 2006.

You have asked for legal and official advice regarding the use of motor vehicles, including 4WD, on formed tracks within conservation areas and reserves, and concerning the meaning of "formed"

"Formed" has been used by DOC for many years. Any national parks by-laws use this term in relation to the definition of road. I would also draw your attention to the glossary definition of 'road' in the Conservation General Policy. As I understand it, it means built or made.

I have enclosed a copy of a letter and accompanying e-mail to Andy Cockcroft, who was then National President of the New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association, which summarises information on the issue of vehicles.

Note that at present, unless there are specific bylaws or other restrictions in place, vehicles are not restricted in their use of conservation areas. Department staff, however, encourage users to keep to formed vehicle tracks to control the potential harmful effects of off-road vehicle use.

You may be aware the Department proposes to limit the use of motorised vehicles on conservation areas and some types of reserves to roads, and to allow it elsewhere on a case-by-case basis as the circumstances allow. Drafting of proposed legislation which would include this, has not yet been completed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doris Johnston'.

Doris Johnston
Acting General Manager Strategy and Policy
for Director-General

Head Office

P.O. Box 10-420, DX SP 20518, 59 Boulcott Street, Wellington, New Zealand
Telephone 04-471 0726, Fax 04-471 1082



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

RVC-07-01

10/10/2006

Bruce Mason
Matakanui
Omakau 9376
Central Otago

Dear Mr Mason

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your request made under the Official Information Act 1982, dated 25 September 2006.

You have asked for

1. Current DOC policies for the management of 4WD motor vehicle use within conservation areas and reserves.
2. All legal and other advice, and discussion papers, that gave rise to current 4WD policy or rejection of alternative policies.

The current DOC policy on 4WD vehicles is covered in the published 2005 Conservation General Policy (policy 9.5: The use of vehicles and other forms of transport) and the 2005 National Parks General Policy (policy 8.6 Vehicles and other forms of transport). These can be found on the DOC website www.doc.govt.nz.

Information on "all legal and other advice and discussion papers" is not to be found in self-contained documents but is interspersed through many documents such as emails and memos. Generally any discussion on 4WD policy is subsumed in policy on vehicles. Consequently, answering your request in the manner you propose would involve substantial collation and a lot of staff effort. There are at least 6 files, and other unknown files, containing a variety of documents and e-mail traffic. The e-mail traffic is varied, with some relating to process, others to availability of staff. Some of the material relates to 4WD vehicles, other more generally to vehicles. There is some advice and some conjecture. It would assist us to find the appropriate documentation if you could let us know what you are looking for, to enable a more focussed search of the papers.

Head Office

P.O. Box 10-420, DX SP 20518, 59 Boulcott Street, Wellington, New Zealand
Telephone 04-471 0726, Fax 04-471 1082

In terms of the legislation, requests for information need to specify the official information that is sought with due particularity (section 12(2) Official Information Act refers). Accordingly, the second part of your request is likely to be declined under section 18(f) Official Information Act unless you can be more specific. If you can, please let me know and that part of the request can be considered further.

I can be reached on phone number (04) 741 0726 or by email djohnston@doc.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doris Johnston', written in a cursive style.

Doris Johnston
Acting General Manager Strategy and Policy
for Director-General