

30 April 2010

Secretary  
NZ Branch  
AusIMM  
P.O.Box 409  
Blenheim

Commissioner of Crown Lands  
C/- DTZ  
PO Box 27  
Alexandra

### **Submission on Lauder Station tenure review under the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998**

The AusIMM is a professional society of mainly geologists and engineers involved in the mineral exploration and mining industry, minerals research and minerals regulation. We consider that the mining of minerals in New Zealand is an essential activity to sustain our modern standard of living and provide materials essential in everyday life. At the same time, we fully support the concept of mineral development in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable manner. New Zealand is well endowed with minerals, but they must be accessed and identified in order for exploration and development to proceed. We are therefore concerned to ensure that any proposal involving the changing of land status does not result in the prevention of access to the land for mineral exploration and mining.

The Lauder Station area is prospective for, and has been mined in the past for coal (Lauder opencast mine, 1904-1924<sup>1</sup>), lignite and peat resources. The area also has alluvial gold potential, and historic alluvial mine workings are present immediately north of the Station at the Cambrians diggings.

The Station is also prospective for schist-hosted hard rock gold resources, and has been investigated intermittently since the 1980's. Part of the area is currently under Prospecting Permit, and is part of a larger investigation into potential Bendigo-type lode gold mineralisation.

Our submission is that with the proposed change of status of Lauder Station to private land and land administered by the Department of Conservation, there should be no limitation to accessing the land for mineral exploration and mining under provisions in the Resource Management Act and Crown Minerals Act.

Yours sincerely



Cam Wylie  
Chairman New Zealand Branch  
Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy

<sup>1</sup> Geological Resource Map Database G41/e43, GNS Science, Lower Hutt, New Zealand