

## Potential Closure of the Portland Lane, Apsley

Newlands South Land Trust wishes to purchase 9.333 hectares of the northern section of the Portland Lane in the Parish of Boikerbert, Apsley.

Newlands South owns the adjacent land on both sides of the Portland Lane in its entirety from north to south. Shutting this lane will NOT restrict public access to any nearby property/crown land. There are NO other landholders that have any adjoining land to the Portland Lane so there would be no interest to keep it open.

Reasons for the need to change the Portland Lane from a used Government Road to a private road:

### **1. Public Liability**

- a. There is a risk gates will be left open in the lane potentially causing livestock to escape on to the highway where an accident/fatality could occur. Gates being left open by the public has previously been an issue.
- b. With livestock often left in sections of the laneway during shearing and other times of high stock movement, there is a risk public vehicles could have a collision and cause damage to vehicles, occupants of vehicles and/or livestock.

### **2. Biosecurity**

- a. Currently with public access down the lane there is a significant risk of vehicles contaminated with footrot bacteria bringing it into the laneway. Our sheep are then at risk of becoming infected when they are walked up and down the lane during general management. Such an event would be catastrophic for the business.
- b. To be able to shut the northern end of the lane from the highway would reduce the risk of stray sheep entering the property and potentially infecting our sheep with footrot, lice or Ovine Johnes Disease.

### **3. Security**

- a. A new woolshed is currently being built 2.8km south of the highway along the Portland Lane. Once this is completed there will be sheep handling machinery and shearing equipment stored there as well as a large quantity of animal health chemicals and products stored onsite. With public access down the lane, it would be vulnerable to theft.
- b. There will often be sheep in yards over night, with public access down the lane it would be very easy for sheep to be loaded onto a truck/trailer. There are also sheep in every paddock along the lane that are also vulnerable to theft if the lane remains accessible to the public. Newlands has had several incidents of stock theft to date.

### **4. Environmental**

- a. Newlands actively engages in tree regeneration in its laneways and around its creeks and swamps. Purchasing the Portland Lane would provide the business with additional land to be allocated to tree regeneration.

The purchase of the northern section of the Portland Lane has been discussed at length with Danielle Fowler from the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning and she has provided a clear indication of support for this to take place.