

Foreign ownership means less public access for Kiwis

Prime Minister John Key is reportedly "happy" with the proposed transfer of Lochinver Station into offshore company hands (Aug 5) and dismisses concerns and opposition because the amount of land being sold to foreigners is "very, very small". If Key thinks 14,000 hectares (35,000 acres) is minuscule then he may be more than a little out of touch with the rest of us.

Lochinver, like many other large tracts of land, has high trout fishing, hunting and outdoor recreation values, public access to which can become unavailable once transferred to offshore owners.

The PM cites Poronui Station in the headwaters of the Mohaka River and inferred there was no fuss about Westervelt Sporting Lodges (USA) buying it in 2007. Well it was already in foreign ownership then to the Blake family of the USA and before that to UK and American owners stretching back to about 1970.

Further confirmation of a lack of knowledge of the extent of overseas ownership perhaps?

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"Press"
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