

Cattle damage roads in the Lower Valley of the Hutt
Archives NZ Reference IA (Colonial Secretary) Series 1 1847/949

Entry from inwards correspondence register

1847/949 May 04 Complaining of damage done by stray cattle on roads that are being made (Superintendent Southern Division & T. H. FitzGerald, Wellington)

Letter 1847/949 Survey Office, Wellington 4 May 1847 to the Superintendent Wellington.

Sir, I have the honor to request that you will be pleased to bring under the notice of His Excellency the Governor the very serious damage caused to the roads in progress of construction owing to the imperfect state of the present 'Cattle Trespass Ordinance' especially to that passing through the Lower Valley of the Hutt where the damage done may ... be such as cannot well be estimated – from the fact of large droves of cattle being allowed to wander at large over it and trample down the slopes before they have consolidated and which there is now no means of preventing – but as your Honor is well aware of the Great injury the road is sustaining from this cause I trust, that ere long some alteration in the ordinance may be made which will put it in the power of the Resident Magistrate to remedy the evil complained of.

M. Richmond 6 May 1847 There are still complaints about the working of the 'Cattle Trespass Ordinance' from the Hutt – I have issued the enclosed notice to prevent the damage to the Roads complained of by the Road parties.

Notice: Complaints having been made, the Cattle and Pigs are suffered to stray on the Roads now forming in this district, causing great damage to the sides and slopes thereof. Notice is Hereby Given, that instructions have been issued to the Police and others to seize any Cattle or Pigs found straying on the Roads, and that legal proceedings will be adopted against the owners of such Cattle or Pigs for recovering the amount of the damage caused thereby. By order of His Honor the Superintendent, S. E. Grimstone, Acting Secretary. Wellington, May 5, 1847. Printed at the 'Spectator' office.