APPENDIX K: LIZARD HABITAT ASSESSMENT

Christine McClure
199 Hackthorne Road,
Cashmere,
Christchurch 8022.
s 9(2)(a)
Ph: s 9(2)(a)

15th May 2026

Aquatic Ecology Ltd,
Christchurch.
s 9(2)(a)

RE: 300-376 Springs Road, Halswell, Christchurch.

Delivered via email

Dear Mark,

LIZARD DESKTOP HABITAT ASSESSMENT– 300-376 Springs Road, Halswell, Christchurch.

Aquatic Ecology Limited requested a lizard desk top assessment of the following properties 300 – 376 Springs Road, Halswell as part of an ecological assessment report.

This letter summarises the results of the habitat assessment, and it concludes that there are areas of potential lizard habitat present within approx. 21 ha project area that will require further herpetological investigation.

Desktop habitat assessment

On the 13th of May 2026, Ecologist/Herpetologist Christine McClure undertook a desktop survey of habitat within the project area located at300-376 Springs Road, Halswell (Figure 1).



Figure 1. *Map identifying the project site which incorporates 300-376 Springs Road, Halswell, where a lizard assessment has taken place.*

This assessment was conducted using high resolution aerial imagery to determine the quality of habitat within the proposed project footprint. Results of this review identified that the vegetation present consists of native and exotic plant and lawn species located within Texture Plants nursery at 376 & 374 Springs Road; and a range of maintained and unmaintained vegetation including rank grass, weed species such as gorse (*Ulex*), broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), and shelterbelt vegetation - poplar (*Poplar sp*.), pine (*Pinus sp.*), and other exotic tree species.

New Zealand's indigenous lizard species often occupy habitats of otherwise low ecological value (i.e., weedy vegetation, vegetation margins) and can be easily overlooked. Given the types of vegetation identified during this desktop assessment, it was determined that further investigations of the site would be require. Rank grass and other various weedy species coupled with dense shelterbelts and scattered refugia as have been identified within the proposed project area are known to provide suitable habitat for at least two species of locally occurring skink (Southern grass skink; *Oligosoma chionochloescens* and McCann's skink; *Oligosoma maccanni*).

A review of the Department of Conservations herpetofauna database was also undertaken. Data available showed that two species of indigenous lizard (Table 1) have been recorded as present within a 5-km radius of the project area. The database did not have any records of lizards being present within the project footprint.

Table 1. Indigenous lizard species recorded in the DOC Herpetofauna database within a 5km radius of 300-376 Springs Road, Halswell. Threat classification rankings from Lettink *et al.* 2025[1].

Species	Common Name	Threat Classification Status
Oligosoma chionochloescens	Southern grass skink	At Risk – Declining
Oligosoma maccanni	McCann's skink	Not Threatened

Due to the time of year; lizard capture, handling and relocation must be undertaken between the 1st of October and 30th of April when lizards are most active and during weather conditions suitable for lizard salvage. For the avoidance of doubt, that is calm, dry, warm days with temperatures above 15 degrees Celsius. These conditions must be forecast for a period of time long enough to allow for the survey/salvage and post release settling in period of lizards.

Summary and Recommendations

Potential lizard habitat has been identified within the proposed project area at 300-376 Springs Road, Halswell as shown in Figure 2. These area of identified potential habitat will require further investigation to determine the presence of indigenous lizard species.

Further investigations will require the use of traps and monitoring equipment (passive and/or active) to be installed throughout areas of identified suitable habitat. Passive monitoring equipment will remain on site for a minimum 3-4 days; however, if active trapping is required this will be undertaken over 5-7 days with each trap deployed being checked every 24hrs (following best practice outline by Department of Conservation guidelines). Advice regarding the most appropriate survey regime must

[1]Lettink, M, Jack, J, Burford, M, McClure, C, Hitchmough, R & Adams, L. 2026 Conservation status of reptile species in the Canterbury region. Environment Canterbury Science Summary Report No. R26/20

be guided by a suitably and DOC approved herpetologist. If no lizards are detected during this time, there will be no need for any further herpetological work at this site.



Figure 2. Map identifying an area (yellow polygon) which will require further investigatory works.

In the event that the survey positively identifies the presence of an indigenous lizard species, this will trigger requirements outline in the Wildlife Act. All New Zealand's native lizards are 'absolutely protected' under the Wildlife Act 1953, section 63 (1) (c), and lizard habitats are protected by the Resource Management Act (1991).

Yours sincerely

Christine McClure

Christine McClure
Ecologist/Herpetologist