



memorandum

TO	Bruce Van Duyn	FROM	Lachie Davidge & Jarred Arthur
	Carter Group Limited	DATE	10 April 2025
RE	104 Ryans Road Development Project – Memorandum of Baseline Lizard Survey Results		

1.0 Introduction

Carter Group Limited (CGL) approached Pattle Delamore Partners (PDP) to undertake a baseline lizard survey to support their Fast-track application for a proposed 55.5 ha industrial development at 104 Ryans Road, Yaldhurst. PDP herpetologists conducted the baseline lizard surveys between the 31st of March to the 3rd of April 2025. This memorandum has been prepared to fulfil Fast-track application requirements for additional information relating to native lizards as per the Wildlife Act (1953).

2.0 Results

2.1 Baseline Lizard Surveys

Traps were installed five weeks before the baseline survey to allow lizards to become acclimated before the commencement of surveys. In total, 37 traps were installed across the site, including 30 pitfall traps, 2 Gee's minnow traps and 5 Artificial Cover Objects (ACOs)(Figure 1). Two staff members checked and baited the traps daily to ensure any captured lizards were safely released. Data was recorded on species, sex, snout to vent length (SVL), vent to tail length (VTL), and trap number and type. Additional details for the baseline lizard survey method used during this work are provided in the project's Lizard Management Plan (LMP) (Davidge & Arthur, 2025).

Overall, three southern grass skinks (*Oligosoma* aff. *polychroma* Clade 5) were captured over the four days of trapping (Table 1). Southern grass skinks have a conservation status of “At Risk – Declining” (Hitchmough et al., 2021) and are fully protected under the Wildlife Act (1953).

Table 1: Herpetofauna captured during the baseline lizard survey

2.2 Nocturnal Spotlighting

Two nights of nocturnal spotlighting were conducted at 104 Ryans Road, beginning approximately 30 minutes after dark. The areas surrounding the old farm buildings were spotlighted extensively by two PDP herpetologists using head and hand torches. Vegetation including trees, shrubs and understory plants were searched for jewelled geckos (*Naultinus gemmeus*) and Waitaha geckos (*Woodworthia brunnea*). These were identified as having potential habitat present onsite during the desktop assessment (Davidge & Arthur, 2025). No lizards were observed during nocturnal spotlighting.

3.0 Recommendations and Conclusions

We recommend that lizard salvage and relocation be conducted at 104 Ryans Road. A similar trapping scheme should be followed as shown in Figure 1, with trapping effort and destructive vegetation searches targeting areas of habitat around the old farm buildings. Additional details relating to lizard salvage and relocation have been provided in the project LMP (Davidge & Arthur, 2025). Lizard salvage and relocation work can only occur between October to April (inclusive) and should be done under adequate weather conditions (low wind, sunny and warm). This is to minimise the risk of injury and/or mortality to native lizards and increases catch likelihood due to higher activity levels during summer (i.e., lizards are ectothermic and require external sources of heat to function).

Additionally, we recommend that PDP herpetologists are present during pre-construction vegetation removal to ensure that any lizards potentially found during the process are safely captured and translocated to a pre-approved relocation site. All vegetation removed during these works should be taken off-site for disposal, or after vegetation has been searched for lizards, a wood-chipper can be used to shred woody debris. This is recommended as piling woody vegetation onsite will provide a habitat for native lizards.

4.0 References

- Davidge, L., & Arthur, J. (2025). *104 Ryans Road Development Project—Memorandum of Lizard Habitat Assessment Results* (Memorandum C052850002M002; pp. 1–40). Pattle Delamore Partners.
- Hitchmough, R., Barr, B., Knox, C., Lettink, M., Monks, J., Patterson, G. B., Reardon, J. T., van Winkel, D., Rolfe, J., & Michel, P. (2021). *Conservation status of New Zealand reptiles, 2021* (New Zealand Threat Classification Series 35). Department of Conservation.

5.0 Limitations

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Photograph 1: Southern grass skink (*Oligosoma* aff. *polychroma* Clade 5) captured in a pitfall trap (trap number 27P).



Photograph 2: Southern grass skink captured on the second day of surveying within trap number 16P.



Appendix A: Photograph log