

A scenic landscape photograph showing a large blue lake in the middle ground, surrounded by green hills and dense vegetation. In the background, there are large, rugged mountains with significant snow cover under a clear blue sky. The foreground consists of a grassy field with some trees and shrubs.

# Hurunui District

## Landscape Study

LANDSCAPE ADVICE FOR DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW

FINAL REPORT FOLLOWING CONSULTATION | APRIL 2015

REVIEWED FINAL

# Review of Outstanding Natural Landscapes

to inform the Hurunui District Plan Review

Prepared for Hurunui District Council

7 April 2015

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## 1.0 Introduction and Study Brief

Hurunui District Council (HDC) is undertaking a review of the operative District Plan. As part of this review HDC has engaged landowners in consultation about the identification of Outstanding Natural Landscapes (ONLs), which form part of the operative Plan. BML has been commissioned by HDC in January 2014 to assist them with the process of reviewing the existing ONLs and confirming their boundary outlines.

The findings in the study “Landscapes of the Hurunui District” prepared by Lucas Associates (1995) formed the basis for ONL identification in the current Hurunui District Plan. Most areas identified in the study were carried over into formal recognition through the plan. The Conway Flats are the only notable omission. However, boundary adjustments were undertaken for some of the other areas as part of landowner negotiations and submission/appeal processes.

It is acknowledged that the currently identified Outstanding Natural Landscapes vary in land cover and landscape quality. A goal of this assessment was to ensure that the ONLs proposed as part of the current Plan review are consistent in terms of their value and that recent landscape change is reflected in the boundary outlines. Following landowners’ requests for site visits BML has been engaged to carry out these on-site assessments to confirm correct locations for the boundaries in the field, where possible. A fact sheet has been prepared for each of the 6 District ONLs, describing their values and highlighting any changes to the boundaries following the site assessments. The brief did not seek a more comprehensive review of the whole District to identify (or not) any additional Outstanding Natural Features or Landscapes (ONFLs).

A peer review of this study was undertaken by Graham Densem Landscape Architect in September 2014 and most recommendations from the review were subsequently adopted in the report. The peer reviewer has not been party to the site investigations with land owners, but subsequent amendments to ONL areas were minimal.

In addition to this report the council has engaged Boffa Miskell Ltd (BML) in response to the release of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS 2010) to assess the natural character values of the Coastal Environment. This natural character study was released for public consultation in 2013 prior to notification of the proposed plan. As part of the landowner consultation a number of site visits have been carried out by BML, accompanied by HDC staff to ensure that outlines of the Coastal Environment and Outstanding Natural Character areas are correct.



## 2.0 Background

As part of the review of the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (CRPS) in 2010 Environment Canterbury (ECAN) has undertaken a statutory review of the management of its landscapes and natural features in accordance with the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). Boffa Miskell Limited (BML) was engaged by ECAN to undertake a review of the Canterbury Regional Landscape Study (BML and Lucas Ass., 1993). The study was required to consider the 'key landscape values' (identified in the 1993 Canterbury Regional Landscape Study) by undertaking a landscape characterisation and evaluation review. This regional review has been used as one of the sources to inform this current Hurunui District assessment.

The Regional ONLs identified within the Canterbury Regional Landscape Study Review (BML, 2010) are generally similar to those in the Hurunui District Plan. It is to be expected that ONLs between the Region and District are not identical, as they were undertaken at different scales and within a different context. There is a complex relationship between the status "outstanding" and the scale at which an evaluation is made. District landscape studies are undertaken within the district context and are refined in accordance with the statutory processes for District Plan preparation. The main focus of this current report is to review the existing ONL outlines in the district plan, which were based on the study "Landscapes of the Hurunui District" prepared by Lucas Associates (1995). It is acknowledged that the extent of the current District ONLs was initially determined by the technical assessment, but which were then considered and tested through the statutory processes set in place by the Resource Management Act.

While it is not considered necessary to have identical outlines for ONFLs in the region (RPS) and districts (District Plans), it is noted that the current HDC ONLs are largely aligned to the ones included in the operative RPS. The majority of areas identified as ONLs in the landscape study prepared in 1995 by Lucas Associates have been adopted into the operative plan with some changes as an outcome from previous landowner consultation and Environment Court decisions.

An initial desktop review of the ONLs currently identified in the Hurunui District Plan has been undertaken as part of a previous stage of work. It was concluded that generally the existing areas are appropriate, but the inclusion of a few additional areas in the report issued to HDC in May 2013 was recommended.

This more detailed review of some ONFL boundaries as part of the district plan review was required to assist HDC in response to specific landowner requests. These requests relate to existing ONLs and the requests were made during the pre-notification consultation period. A number of property owners have requested reviews, which are located within the following identified ONFLs:

1. Coastal ONL (6 properties),
2. Weka Pass ONL (11 properties),
3. Mt Grey ONL (1 property),
4. Mt Cass ONF (2 properties),
5. Mt Lyford ONL (8 properties),
6. Western Divide ONL (1 property).

This review allowed only for limited site investigations, due to budget and access constraints to private land. Some of the issues raised by landowners could be resolved as a desktop exercise, however, most required field investigations together with landowners. A quick desktop review of aerial photos and the land cover database was carried out prior to each site visit with maps prepared for the field work.

Following the on-site investigations re-mapping of areas was undertaken in the office, based on discussions and findings in the field. The mapping was undertaken in GIS on topographical maps and aerial photographs to ensure consistent boundary outlines. The amended GIS files were then issued to Council for further land owner consultation/ liaison. Boundary outlines on immediately adjacent properties were considered, and a review of the wider landscape values for each ONL currently identified in the district plan was prepared. This was carried out as a preliminary desktop study, based on literature and GIS information. Following the desktop study the requested site visits were used to confirm landscape values and ONL boundary outlines in the field, as much as possible. We note that some areas identified as ONLs are difficult to access due to absence of roads and private landownership. It is likely that boundaries could be refined further in those areas, if necessary in the future.

This report includes reviewed maps and a description of landscape character and values for each ONL. This document will be available during the district plan review and is expected to assist in consultation with landowners to ensure consistency in boundary outlines and a robust approach to landscape value identification.

## 3.0 Approach to Study

The original Hurunui Landscape Study was one of the first district wide landscape studies undertaken under the RMA in New Zealand. It was similar in landscape assessment methodology to the 1993 Canterbury Regional Landscape Study. Subsequently case law has endorsed and refined the assessment criteria. The approach used in this investigation reflects current 'best practice' and is in line with the region-wide assessment undertaken in the Canterbury Regional Landscape Study Review (BML, 2010). As identified in the regional landscape study and confirmed by case law (eg EC C45/2008 Briggs et al vs CCC) ONF/Ls may be smaller or larger at a district level.

The focus of this study is a review of the Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes identified in current District Plan. The review process involved the following tasks:

1. Project familiarisation and desktop analysis of the existing ONLs.
2. Analysis of currently identified ONFLs against assessment criteria and documentation of landscape values based on site investigations, GIS data, the existing district assessment, and literature.
3. Mapping of recommended amendments to the Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features identified in the current plan and description of values for each ONFL area.

### 3.1 Desktop analysis

Geographic information systems (GIS)<sup>1</sup> were used for capturing, storing, analysing and managing data and associated attributes which are spatially referenced to the study area. GIS is a tool that allows interactive queries (user created searches) to analyse the spatial information, edit data, maps, and present the results of all these operations.

For the landscape value assignment the use of GIS provided significant advantages compared to graphic or CAD applications. A range of existing data was used for the landscape character and value assessment. A full list of useful data, including its sources, is provided below. The existing base data can be displayed to scale and geo-referenced, which means that data will be accurately overlaid to maps or aerial photographs. Attributes, which are assigned to spatial information and linked to a database, can be queried and used for analysis. ONL areas as identified in the current Hurunui District Plan, were reviewed by applying GIS at a scale of 1:50,000, or in many cases aerial photos were reviewed in more detail if required. The identification of ONLs in the current district plan was undertaken at a district scale, but mapping accuracy at the time of preparation of the Hurunui Landscape Study (1995) was lower than what can be achieved nowadays with modern Geographic Information Systems (GIS). GIS allows the

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<sup>1</sup> All BML maps were prepared using the software package Arc GIS 10 (ESRI product) in New Zealand map grid projection. GIS was employed for visualisation of the data in hard copy format for the report. Electronic versions of all GIS maps were supplied as shapefiles and Google Earth kmz files.

assessor to zoom in and determine a more accurate location of landscape boundaries. The mapping of the original areas in the current district plan has been undertaken at a variety of scales, which is reflected in a variation of accuracy throughout the district. This review aims to address this issue by undertaking boundary refinement based on aerial photography (Canterbury Ortho Imagery 2004-2005).

The review of ONF/L outlines was primarily based on geomorphological and geographical patterns. However, variations in land cover/use were taken into account as a secondary factor. This information was sourced from aerial photos, and other GIS information, such as the LCDB (Land Cover Data Base). The following data were used for the preparation of this review:

National GIS data provided by BML:

- Topo Maps (LINZ)
- Digital contour information 20m interval (LINZ)
- Land Cover Database III (Landcare Research, based on SPOT 5 satellite imagery acquired 2006 - 2008)
- DOC conservation Units (2012)
- QE II covenants (2013)
- Land Resource Inventory (Landcare Research)
- Geopreservation sites and areas, as indicative points (Kenny & Hayward, 1998)
- Archaeological Sites (New Zealand Archaeological Association)

The following data was provided by Environment Canterbury for the district:

- Georeferenced orthophotos (2004-2005)
- Digitised (shp file format) land types of the Canterbury Region (Fig 1, 1993 Canterbury Regional Landscape Study)
- Regionally outstanding natural features and landscapes (Canterbury Regional Landscape Study Review, 2010)
- Sites affected by Ngai Tahu Settlement Claims Act (ECAN, NRRP, 2002)

### 3.2 Site Investigations

A flight over the Canterbury Region was undertaken in 2009 as part of the RPS review. ECAN has made photographs taken on this flight available for the Hurunui District Plan review. While this was useful to gain an overview of the various landscapes, the District Plan review required more detailed assessment of the ONL boundaries on the ground. A number of landowners (around 30 properties) requested on site assessments and were visited as part of this review. While some landowners required site visits, which covered part or all of their properties, others preferred review of the ONL outlines on maps. Due to access restrictions to private land, other private properties could not be reviewed, unless they were visible from public viewpoints. Attempts were made to ensure that the ONL outlines are consistent across the district, and that the same assessment methodology was applied on properties that could not be viewed on site. However, it is acknowledged that there is less certainty about the accuracy, appropriateness and extent of ONLs on properties that were not visited as part of this review.



### 3.3 Statutory Planning Context

The Environment Court has commented that “A precise definition of ‘landscape’ cannot be given ...” [WESI vs QLDC [2000] NZRMA 59]. It is now accepted that landscape is far more than scenic views. Landscapes have been described as the expressions of environmental processes, human activity and regional identity. Landscape is a large subset of the environment, which involves both natural and physical resources and various factors relating to the people and their perception of the resources. Our attitudes to those resources are affected by social, economic, aesthetic and cultural conditions. For the purpose of these investigations, the study team has interpreted ‘landscapes’ as the physical and characteristic products of the interaction between human societies and culture with the natural environment. Landscape is the cumulative expression of natural and cultural elements, patterns and processes in a geographical area. Landscape attributes fall into three broad categories: Biophysical features, patterns and processes; sensory qualities, including visual attributes, sound and smell, and associative activities and meanings. Because the underlying human and natural processes are subject to change and evolution, landscapes are dynamic systems. This understanding is consistent with the purpose, principles, definitions and interpretations of the Resource Management Act (RMA), which provides the context for this study.

The Hurunui District Council is required under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) to exercise certain functions and powers. In exercising these functions and powers the Council shall recognise and provide for the “preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins” (S6a), and the protection of these features and of “outstanding natural features and landscapes (S6b) from inappropriate subdivision, use and development”. Also, the Council shall have particular regard to a number of other matters set out in S.7, including (c) the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values. Under S.8 the Council shall take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

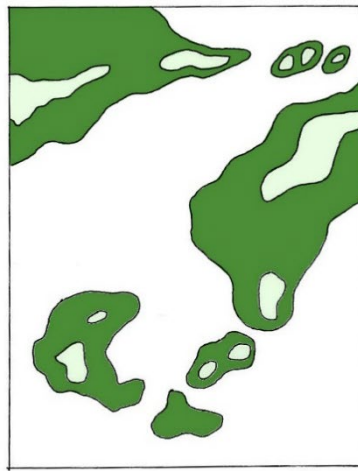
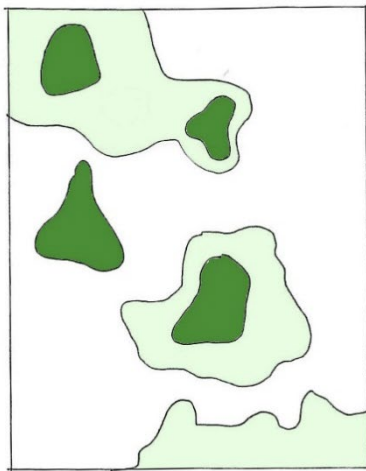
The brief for this review required the identification of landscapes that meet the ‘outstanding’ threshold under S6b of the RMA. Natural features and landscapes that do not meet the criteria for being ranked as “outstanding” can nonetheless qualify for protection under other clauses in S.6 or be required to be “maintained and enhanced” either as “amenity values” or part of the wider “environment” under S.7(c) or S.7(f). Thus, for example, coastal landscapes or rivers or lakes that were not “outstanding landscapes” would still be required to have their “natural character” preserved under S.6(a), or significant areas of indigenous vegetation or habitats of indigenous fauna that were not considered “outstanding natural features” under S.6(b) will require protection under S.6(c).

While all of the RMA sections listed above are relevant to landscapes, this review focuses on Section 6(b), outstanding natural features and landscapes. This section of the Act has proved particularly problematic in the past. However, there appears to be a convergence between the ways in which Section 6(b) is being interpreted, ‘practitioner’ views on what the concept of ‘landscape’ embraces, and general public interest, awareness and concern for ‘landscape’.

The focus of this review is natural features and landscapes that are outstanding when assessed at a district level. There is a complex relationship between the status “outstanding” and the scale

at which an evaluation is made. Two contrasting approaches have been adopted by various assessments in the past. The first is based on the identification of additional areas of outstanding natural features and landscapes as the scale moves from national, to regional, to local. While some areas may not meet the threshold to be regionally outstanding, they may well be outstanding within a district (eg a minor mountain range). In this instance district ONLs would be larger than regional ONL areas.

The second approach involves a gradual refinement of outstanding areas as the focus narrows from a national towards a local scale. This may result in broad areas assessed at a regional scale being re-analysed in more detail at a district or local scale and variations in quality identified. Under this 'refinement' model it may be appropriate to be more selective at a district scale, in particular in instances where regional ONLs include extensive parts of a district. Recent case law (C45/2008 – Briggs et al vs CCC) confirmed that an entire district may be identified as outstanding at a regional scale, while the ONL delineation within the district may differ from the regional outlines.



Left diagram: New areas of ONF/L are added as the focus moves from regional (dark green) to the district (light green) level.

Right diagram: Gross areas identified at a regional level maybe refined as the focus moves from regional (dark green) to the district (light green) level.

Case law has found that the word 'outstanding' in 'outstanding natural features and landscapes' in section 6(b) of the RMA means 'conspicuous, eminent, especially because of excellence' and 'remarkable' (WESI vs QLDC [2000] p. 48). A landscape may be magnificent without being outstanding. Usually an outstanding natural landscape should be so obvious (in general terms) that there is no need for expert analysis (WESI vs QLDC [2000] p. 57).

The Environment Court also found that if 'outstanding landscapes' are being considered by a district council, then outstanding must be considered in terms of the district. In relation to a district plan, what is outstanding can only be assessed on a district-wide basis, because the sum of the district's landscapes are the only immediate comparison that the council has (WESI vs QLDC [2000] p. 49).

## 4.0 Landscape Value Assessment Methodology

The methodology for landscape value assessment applied in this study has been widely accepted as best practice by landscape architects (see Best Practice Note Landscape Assessment and Sustainable Management by NZILA Education Foundation, March 2010).

The following steps have been undertaken:

Step 1: Review of desktop information and site investigations to assess ONFLs currently identified in the district plan against an agreed set of criteria (outlined in the section 4.1)

Step 2: Describe and document these landscape values for each ONFL in report format (see section 5)

Step 3: Review and refine the existing ONFL boundaries on aerial photographs, and where possible through site investigations

### 4.1 Landscape Value Assessment

New Zealand's landscapes are widely recognised as being exceptional. Within a relatively small area we enjoy a great variety of natural features and landscapes. This quality and diversity is increasingly recognised as one of the country's key attributes. Similar to other districts in Canterbury, Hurunui contains diverse natural features and landscapes, ranging from the rock outcrops of Weka Pass to alpine peaks around Lewis Pass and cliffs and beaches along the extensive coast line. The difficulty faced during the landscape evaluation phase is to determine whether these landscapes meet the threshold of being an outstanding natural landscape in a district-wide context.

In accordance with the Hurunui District Council's background report, "Landscape Values: Literature Review" (1994), the definitions and criteria developed in the Canterbury Regional Landscape Study (1993) were adopted in the 1995 "Landscapes of the Hurunui District" Report. "Landscape" has thus been used to encompass both the physical expression of the land and a reflection of the values people place on the land. In the context of the District, for identification as "outstanding", a landscape would need to have exceptional characteristics or values with regard to at least one of these criteria.

These criteria applied for the 1995 Hurunui Landscape Study are a set of values which have subsequently been established and modified by case law over the years, and are known as the 'Amended Pigeon Bay Criteria' (eg C180/1999 - Wakatipu Env. Society v QLDC). There is now a level of acceptance of their use as an assessment framework within the landscape planning profession. The criteria used for the 1995 Hurunui Landscape Study are still applied in today's context and we therefore consider the assessment methodology remains appropriate and robust.

The following criteria are an evolution of those used in 1995, and have been used as a basis to structure the evaluation of each landscape character type/ unit in relation to this current study (see Appendix 1 for detailed definition of each attribute):

- The natural science factors - the geological, topographical, ecological and dynamic components of the landscape
- Its expressiveness (legibility) - how obviously the landscape demonstrates the formative processes leading to it
- Its aesthetic values including memorability and naturalness
- Transient values - occasional presence of wildlife; or its values at certain times of the day or of the year
- Whether the values are shared and recognised
- Its value to tangata whenua
- Its historical association.

As described in the Best Practice Note Landscape Assessment and Sustainable Management (NZILA Education Foundation, March 2010) the values listed above may be grouped as biophysical, sensory and associative qualities and each group requires particular management techniques. There are various different ways in which landscapes may be appreciated and which may help determine thresholds of quality.

In recent decisions (eg EC C387/2011 – PC13 Mackenzie Basin) the Courts have indicated that ‘natural’ in the context of landscape identification under RMA section 6(b) does not signify ecological intactness. Modifications to endemic naturalness can still be perceived as natural. Based on findings in case law over recent years, thresholds for identifying ONF/Ls have changed, as have landscapes in terms of their qualities.

## 4.2 Identification and Mapping of recommended ONF/ Ls

Following the landscape evaluation, the next step in the review process involved an assessment of the appropriateness of the district’s Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features (ONL). The review focused in particular on areas that have previously been identified as ‘outstanding’ in the current district plan. A comparative landscape value assessment has been undertaken to define a threshold for identification of ONL areas.

The GIS information on landscape attributes (e.g. native vegetation, geopreservation sites) and qualitative evaluation findings (eg aesthetic values) were assessed and judgements were made by the study team based on this collated material, supported by their knowledge and understanding of the district, as well as on-site investigations where possible. In many areas these values overlap suggesting that the landscape is exceptional for a range of reasons. These areas were cross checked against the aerial photographs and on-site photography where available. Where the study team identified discrepancies between the ONL areas identified in the current district plan and the values identified during this review, recommendations were made regarding possible changes. These recommendations are outlined for each ONF/L area in this report.

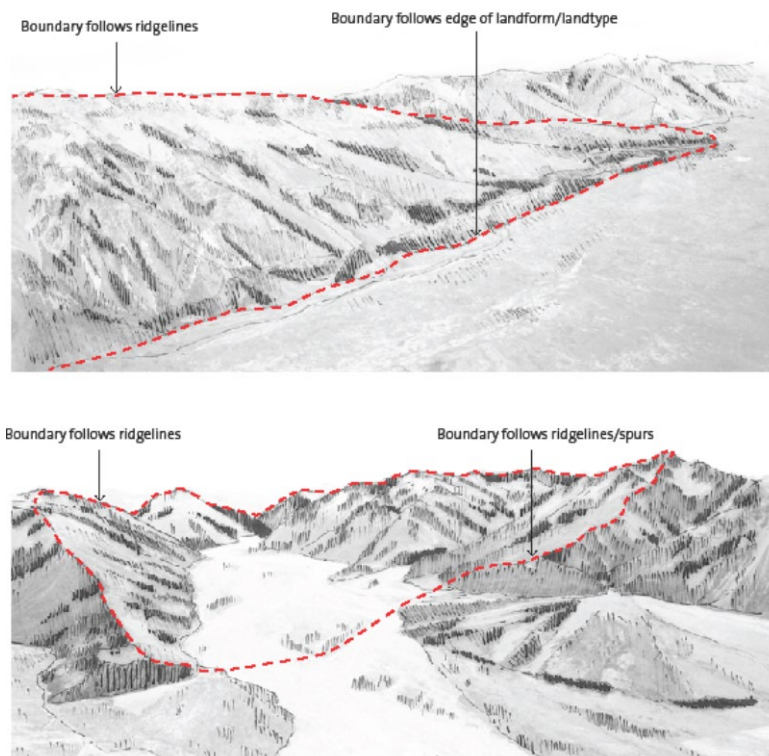


#### 4.2.1 Outlining areas and boundary issues

While GIS allows the viewer to zoom in and assess the exact location of ONF/L boundaries, they are meant to be viewed in the context of surrounding broad geographical features at a district and not a site specific scale. In this study a geomorphological approach has generally been taken and land cover and land use were secondary considerations. In some locations, if there was a significant contrast in naturalness of land cover along an ONL boundary, the land cover was given more weight than the landform.

Typically landform boundaries were followed, where ONL areas included mountain ranges, but excluded the adjacent flats or plains (e.g. Western Mountain Ranges). In these instances, which occurred most frequently, the boundary outline followed the base of the range/ mountain.

Where coastal slopes, basins or upper river valleys were part of an ONL a (visual) catchment approach was generally taken. This means that the slopes containing a valley or basin were identified as part of such an ONL up to the ridgeline.



#### 4.2.2 Variability of landscape quality and naturalness

All landscapes are valuable and the only way in which bits of landscape can be seen as more valuable than others is to define the criteria or considerations on which the judgement is to be made. It is acknowledged that the areas within identified Outstanding Natural Landscapes vary internally in land cover and landscape quality. Where small townships/ settlements occur in the ONL area (eg Gore Bay, Mt Lyford), they do not provide the outstanding natural qualities that may be displayed in the wider ONL.

## 5.0 Assessment of ONF/Ls

### 5.1 Coastal Hills and Waiau Mouth ONF/L

Site visits (date 19/02/2014, 27/03/2014 and 21/10/2014):

- Mark Wybourne (Gore Bay Forest Farm)
- Buxton Creek subdivision (unaccompanied)
- Lorna Winskill (Glenkens Road)
- Lynn Harrison (Port Robinson)
- Richard Parsons (Waiau mouth north)
- Richard Winskill (Waiau mouth south)
- Public viewpoints around Gore Bay, Manuka Bay and Hurunui Mouth

#### 5.1.1 Landscape Character Description

##### **Waiau Mouth and Mt. Beautiful Coast**

The Waiau River is the largest river in north Canterbury and has a distinctive, unmodified mouth with a hapua lagoon. The river mouth is publicly inaccessible, as a coastal hill range separates the coast from the inland Parnassus Basin, which contains the township of Cheviot and other settlements. The braided river meanders through steep coastal mountain ranges and terminates in a large lagoon, which extends for over 2 km along the coast. A number of hill slopes and gullies surrounding the mouth comprise large areas of native vegetation. The coastline south of the river mouth, extending to Gore Bay, contains steep slopes that extend down to a rocky shore, including Shag Rock. This area contains a mix of native regenerating bush in the gullies and extensive grassland on spurs and upper slopes. The natural coastal processes are particularly legible along the coastal cliffs and gullies. The combination of an impressive coast line, steep coastal hills with little built modification and vegetated gullies create a special landscape character.

##### **Gore Bay**

The dramatic land-sea interface of the Gore Bay and Port Robinson coast is valued as lived-in but coastal landscape with important natural values. Gore Bay Scenic Reserve with its walking tracks extends along a prominent gully system on the southern side of Gore Bay settlement. While the Cathedrals are the key feature of the reserve, the forest and shrubland on steep slopes of gullies and badlands are also distinctive for the area. The Cathedral Rock Pillars are a geopreservation site, which comprises impressive erosion features. The Buxton Creek and its tributaries contain native vegetation, while the remainder of the surrounding hills are covered in extensive pasture and small-scale forestry. The diverse and dramatic landforms create a stunning coastal landscape of high aesthetic value. The mild coastal micro-climate is valued by residents and visitors, and expressed through a rich natural flora.

Unlike Point Gibson and the shoreline to the north of Gore Bay, the shore in this area is wide enough to contain a long beach, which is popular with surfers. The backshore of the beach is strewn with driftwood and the composition of a sweeping beach with steeply rising, vegetated cliffs forms a distinctive setting. A popular coastal walkway runs past Port Robinson along the coastal strip to the south of Manuka Bay as far as the Hurunui Mouth, passing through spectacular scenery and forested scenic reserves.

### **Napenape**

A striking amphitheatre-shaped coastal slump, with unusual geology and impressive land-sea naturalness are captured in a small-scale ONL. The unusual and varied limestone landforms in this area, located within the Napenape Scenic Reserve, include colluvial hill slopes, limestone bedrock cliffs and outcrops, screes, sinkholes and blockfields. These landforms are uncommon in Hurunui and the naturalness of the bush-sea interface and limestone cliffs in the Napenape amphitheatre are particularly impressive.

### **Motunau Island**

Motunau Island, with its distinctive flat top, lies 1.2 kilometres off the Hurunui coast, near the Motunau Beach settlement. It is the only major offshore island located on the wider Canterbury Coast and has been identified as an Outstanding Natural Feature within the region. The island is approximately 200 metre wide, formed of eroding cliffs and represents the most important seabird breeding area between the Marlborough Sounds and Foveaux Strait, as well as being an important habitat for many other species. The island is uninhabited.

## 5.1.2 Summary of Landscape Values

### Natural Science Values

- Hapua-style lagoon at Waiau River mouth, with beach barrier. Very limited modification.
- Waiau Mouth is an important site for birds, in particular as a resting and roosting site for river birds. It is also a bird breeding site for some species
- Large scenic reserve on the Waiau North Bank, with uncommon lowland podocarp forest.
- Scattered podocarps also found on hill slopes/ gullies elsewhere along coast and on the northern river terrace and valley floor.
- Dalziels Gully and Barner Stream on the Waiau South Bank contains indigenous hardwoods, but overall native vegetation is more limited than to the north of the river mouth.
- Shag Rock coastline displays rocky shore and stacks with associated wildlife (including bird and seal colonies) and landwards remnant bush including podocarps
- Gore Bay Scenic Reserve (Tweedies and Cathedral Gullies) contains a coastal broadleaved forest with manuka.
- Buxton Creek and steep coastal gullies around Manukau Bluff contain large stands of remnant native bush.
- Napenape Scenic Reserve clad in indigenous coastal vegetation. Significant stands of indigenous coastal forest, with rare grass found on coastal margin.

- Bird breeding colonies along this coastline, including Waiiau Mouth, Shag Rock and Motunau Island.
- Motunau Island is free of introduced mammals and provides habitat for regionally uncommon species of lizards. Rocky shore platforms are used as a haul out area for fur seals/kekeno.

#### Legibility Values

- Steeply eroding cliffs, with dissected spurs.
- Shag Rock is a Geopreservation site.
- Cathedral Rock Pillars is a Geopreservation site: One of best examples in New Zealand of large-scale badlands erosion with deeply dissected and fluted gravel cliffs and pinnacles.
- Striking amphitheatre-shaped slump with unusual limestone landforms in Napenape Reserve.

#### Aesthetic Values

- Dramatic coastline, with impressive slopes and vegetated gullies surrounding the Waiiau mouth and the coast to the south.
- Unmodified steep coastal cliffs and beaches, with limited tracks.
- Views to the sea with waves, weather and atmosphere that can only be found in a coastal setting.
- Shag Rock Scenic Reserve with native vegetation form impressive setting with rugged coastline.
- Impressive eroding coastal cliffs and incised gullies covered with indigenous vegetation in the backdrop to Gore Bay.
- Napenape Reserve contains unusual landforms which forms an impressive setting in combination with the coastal bush in the reserve.
- Motunau Island, which has sharp cliffs and a distinctive flat top, is free of human development.

#### Transient Values

- Bird colonies can be found during the breeding seasons.
- The changing river levels of the Waiiau lead to distinctive plumes during flood flows.
- The richness of wildlife found on Motunau Island provides transient values, which can only be experienced in few places in New Zealand.

#### Tangata Whenua Values (see also Appendix 2)

- Archaeological sites in the reserve near the Waiiau mouth tell the story of early Maori occupation. On the East Coast the Waiiau River trail connected to the Kaikōura Coastal trail, as well as inland to passes for access to the West Coast.
- For Ngāi Tahu, water is a taonga left by the ancestors to provide and sustain life.
- All waterways, and their associated tributaries, wetlands and springs, are considered significant resources of value to Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura.



- In the Waiau River catchment, the river mouth, a number of the tributaries and Mata Kopae (St Anne's) lagoon are of particular significance, for values such as ara tawhito (trails), Tapuae Tipuna, mahinga kai and wāhi tapu sites.
- Several archaeological sites are located near the shore around Gore Bay and Jed Vale, as a sign of early Maori occupation.
- W.A Taylor records the existence of a small Maori settlement at Gore Bay named Pariroa that was associated with a chief named Turaka tuarua. Groves of Karaka trees and burial sites, as well as cooking areas and artefacts were found there.
- The coastline was particularly important due to the abundance and variety of food resources for local communities and travellers by sea.
- Napenape limestone landscape has been recognised as of particular significance to tangata whenua.

#### Historic Values

- Motunau Island contains an archaeological site and was once a whaling station.
- Port Robinson and Gore Bay have a rich history as the transit point for wool and supplies transported by coastal shipping during the days of the Cheviot Hills Run.

#### Shared and Recognised Values

- Highly accessible, the Gore Bay area is widely recognised throughout the region as a very important coastal landscape.
- Port Robinson and Gore Bay are popular holiday locations and surf destination.
- The Port Robinson – Hurunui Mouth Walkway provides a unique opportunity to experience this part of the coast.
- Cathedral Gully Scenic Reserve and coastal walkway provide important recreation opportunities.
- The coastal landscape has been identified as of particular values to the community in the 1995 Hurunui Study.

### 5.1.3 Recommended Changes to Boundary Outlines

The surroundings of the Waiau River mouth and coastline to the south have been identified as an ONL through an Environment Court decision as part of the operative district plan (Wilkinson v HDC, EC C50/2000). The coastal slopes in the northern part of the ONL is largely unmodified by man-made structures and the lower, steep coastal slopes contain predominantly native vegetation. The current outlines of the ONL extend up to the first major ridgeline confining the coastal catchments, including both gullies and slopes. The outstanding landscape area facing the sea includes a mix of impressive bushed valleys and broad open pasture shoulders and ridges. Only part of this area has been visited as part of this district plan review. The boundary outlines have been modified slightly along the western extent of the ONL on the tops to relate more closely to the coastal slopes rather than the more modified tops, while maintaining the overall ONL area.

Around Gore Bay the landscape has been assessed on site, predominantly from public viewpoints, with the exception of two properties where private land was accessed. The hinterland of Gore Bay has been included in the current ONL, extending up to 1.5km inland. It

is justified to include large, intact areas of native vegetation, such as Buxton Creek and Tweedies Gully, or particularly impressive landforms, such as the Cathedral Rock Pillars, in the Coastal ONL. However, in some parts of the ONL land cover varies significantly with predominantly exotic vegetation. Around the Gore Bay settlement between Jed Valley and Manukau Bluff the existing ONL has been reduced to exclude some of the more intensively farmed back slopes where boundaries extended past the first major ridgeline, which confines the immediate visual catchment of the coast. Land that has been rezoned for residential development since the preparation of the operative plan has also been excluded from the ONL.

Around Port Robinson the ONL included substantial residential areas, which have developed along Cathedral Road and Manuka Bay Road. The coastal influence and visual connection to the coast are the characteristics that distinguish the landscape contained within this ONL catchment from other hill landscapes further inland. Due to the existing level of modification, in the form of residential buildings and exotic planting along the road, an exclusion from the ONL is proposed as part of this plan review. While the Gore Bay Road corridor is a contributor to the coastal experience, it is considered that these areas do not display the same high aesthetic, natural science or legibility values, as the landscape closer to the coast does. The new proposed ONL outline has, therefore been aligned with the extent of the Coastal Environment identified under the NZCPS (2010) requirements in the proposed district plan.

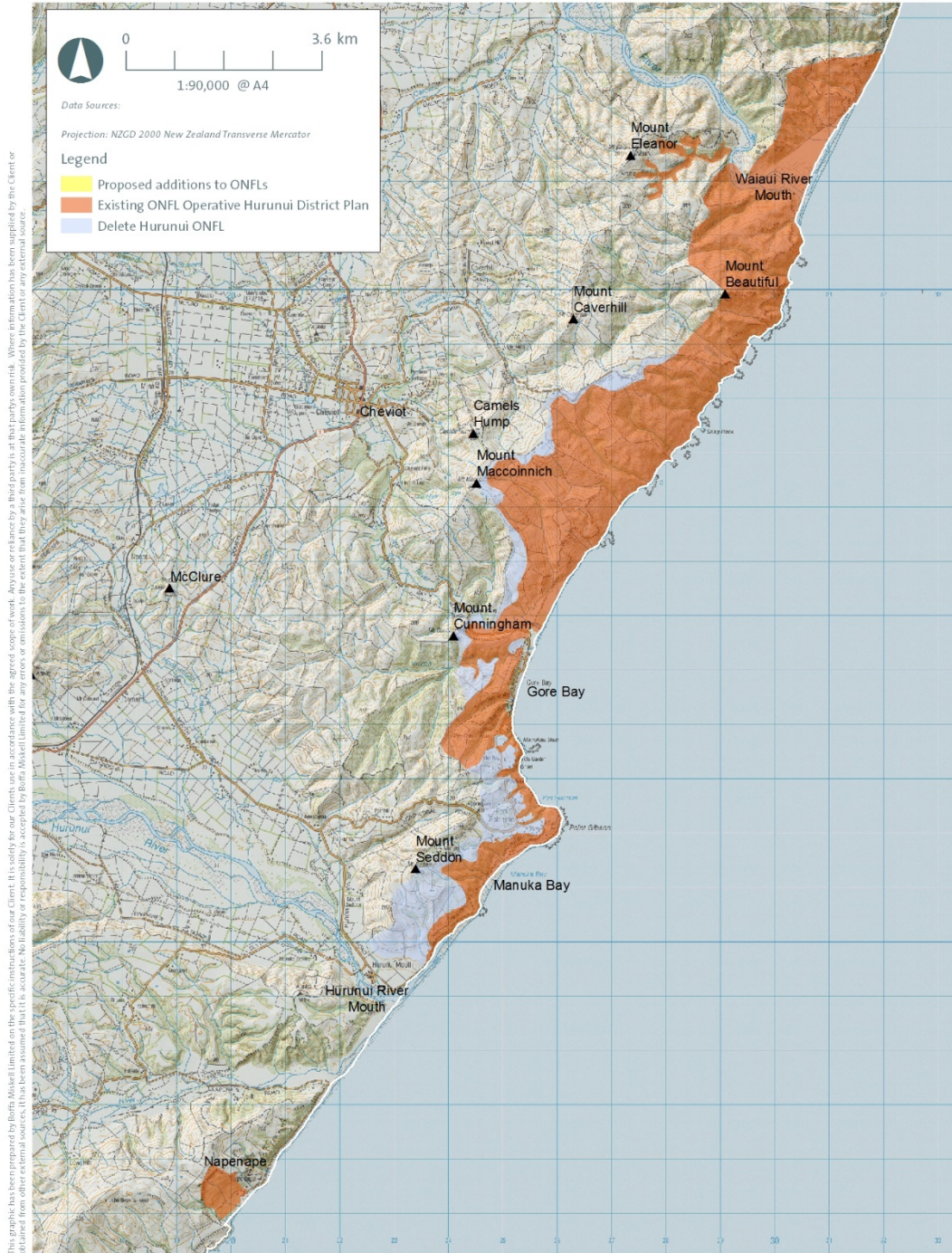
Further to the south, around Manuka Bay, below Mt Seddon, extending to the end of Port Robinson Walkway near the Hurunui Mouth, a similar rationale has been followed to amend the ONL outlines. The existing ONL includes the upper slopes of Mt Seddon, which have been substantially modified by intensive farming, shelterbelts and small-scale forestry. The Hurunui Mouth and hapua lagoon are considered outstanding, but fall outside the district boundary (located at Mean High Water Spring).

Motunau Island has been included as an ONF/L due to its very high natural science, legibility and aesthetic values. This is in line with findings in the CRPS.

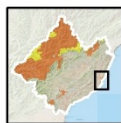
The Napenape ONF/L is currently confined to the DOC managed reserve. It is proposed to maintain the existing ONF/L boundaries.

## 5.1.4 ONL Map

File Ref: C12060\_041a\_Report\_ONL\_Coastal\_A4P.mxd



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### OUTSTANDING NATURAL LANDSCAPE Coastal Hills and Waiau Mouth

Date: 19 December 2014 | Revision: 1  
Plan prepared for Hurunui District Council by Boffa Miskell Limited  
Project Manager: SST | Drawn: BMC | Checked: YPF

## 5.2 Weka Pass/ Waipara Gorge ONF/L

Site visits (date 18/02/2014, 11/03/2014, 26/03/2014, 25/06/2014 and 31/10/2014):

- Richard Murchison (Kintail Downs)
- Lyndon Matthews (Puketira Deer Ltd)
- Claremont Farms (assessed from public places)
- Marle Vineyards Ltd– assessed from Pyramid Valley Road
- Graham Uren– Stringers Rd
- John Mc Grath - Waikari Valley Rd
- Jack Burrows – Glenmark Drive
- Tony Knowles - Glenmark Drive
- Sam Bethell - Weka Pass Road
- Jane Parrott- Weka Pass Road
- Robert Mander - Old Weka Pass Road
- Public Places along roads through Weka Pass, east and west of Waikari and along Glenmark Drive and Ram Paddock Road

### 5.2.1 Landscape Character Description

The limestone hills in the Weka Pass area form a distinctive land type that differs from the remainder of the coastal and front ranges in terms of their underlying geology and appearance. The limestone outcrops of Weka Pass are highly legible landforms, which provide unique habitats for a range of flora. This landscape is of great importance to tangata whenua, and has a large number of maori rock art sites. The limestone outcrops are highly visible due to their proximity to State Highway 7 and parts of SH1, and have been affectionately named (eg Frog Rock) over many generations. The area has an array of important geopreservation sites and the Weka Pass railway passes through this landscape.

A number of internationally and regionally significant geopreservation sites occur in the Weka Pass area, where notable fossils, corrugated folds and limestone outcrops occur. The Waipara River Cretaceous-Palaeocene sequence is one of the most complete and well exposed sequences in New Zealand. A large number of geopreservation sites lie within this landscape type, most of them identified for their (fossil bearing) limestone outcrops.

The landform is varied, but its hills, limestone outcrops and river gorges are expressive of their formation. In particular the limestone outcrops around Weka Pass and the Deans display outstanding legibility values. The incised Waipara Gorge is an excellent example of a river downcutting at the pace of a growing fold. In particular fossil – bearing limestone formations show their formation very clearly.

### 5.2.2 Summary of Landscape Values

#### Natural Science Values

- Important habitat for indigenous flora, in particular specialist limestone species.
- Recommended inclusion of the following three Geopreservation Sites in the ONL:



- Deans Earthflow complex (between the Deans and Waipara River),
- Waipara River Cretaceous Paleocene Sequence bluffs on south bank about 0.7km upstream from Laidmore Station Road crossing, Waipara River between Doctors Gorge and junction with Birch Hollows Stream),
- Waipara River Saurian beds (just downstream of site No 2 in Waipara River)
- A number of internationally and regionally significant geopreservation sites along the Weka Pass highway, such as the corrugated folds of Weka Pass and the Maori rock drawings near Timpendean

#### Legibility Values

- Limestone outcrops are legible landscape features that are highly expressive of their formation.
- The downcutting of the Waipara River through its gorge section is an important example of uplift and river erosional processes.

#### Aesthetic Values

- The impressive limestone outcrops and rock exposures are highly visible and have high aesthetic value.
- The high folded hills form an important backdrop to the Waipara Basin.
- Waipara Gorge with its impressive limestone cliffs is unique in the district.

#### Tangata Whenua Values (see also Appendix 2)

- A notable concentration of Maori rock art sites and rock shelters can be found throughout the Weka Pass area. This includes other signs of use of the area, such as ovens and middens.
- The rainfed Waipara River is in the takiwā of Te Ngāi Tuahuriri Rūnanga. The Waipara River from source to sea is included in the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, recognising the immense cultural, spiritual and traditional significance of this river.
- Traditions associated with the Waipara River tell of a duel between two famous rangātira (chiefs) that happened in the area (Tūtewaimate, a Ngāti Mamoe rangatira from Rakaia and Moko, a rangātira of the Ngāti Kuri hapu of Ngāi Tahu).

#### Shared and Recognised Values

- Impressive views of these limestone outcrops can be obtained from State Highway 7, which is a major transit route from the Buller and Tasman Regions.

#### Historic Values

- Historic features include the Weka Pass Railway with its station buildings along the line.
- A number of historic buildings can be found in the area.

### 5.2.3 Recommended Changes to Boundary Outlines

The Weka Pass area and its limestone outcrops are considered outstanding due to their high aesthetic, tangata whenua and legibility values. The area also has moderate to high shared and recognised and historic landscape values. The central part of this ONL is located on either side

of Weka Pass Road between Weka Pass settlement and Waikari. The landforms of the Deans extends along the south-western part of the ONL, as far as Ram Paddock Road in the west.

The landforms included in these areas are the most legible and visually impressive ones, displaying the key values within a coherent limestone landscape. In the current plan there are also areas around the north western and eastern corners included in the ONL that form part of the limestone landscape from a geological perspective. However, these areas, while of similar geological make-up, do not display the same expressiveness of their formative processes and aesthetic values as the core parts of the ONL. As part of this review, several properties were visited and others assessed from the road. The rolling downlands near the north western and eastern corners of the ONL have subsequently been removed, as they do not display the same natural science, legibility, tangata whenua and aesthetic values as the areas remaining with the ONL. However, it is recommended to add small areas in the western corner, to the west of the Deans.

It appears that the boundaries of this ONL have been identified to include the majority of the limestone hills landtype. This area includes a range of examples, including the most impressive rock outcrops around Weka Pass and the Deans, as well as rolling hills and downlands that have limestone as the underlying base rock without displaying the same impressive exposures.

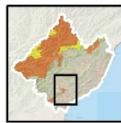
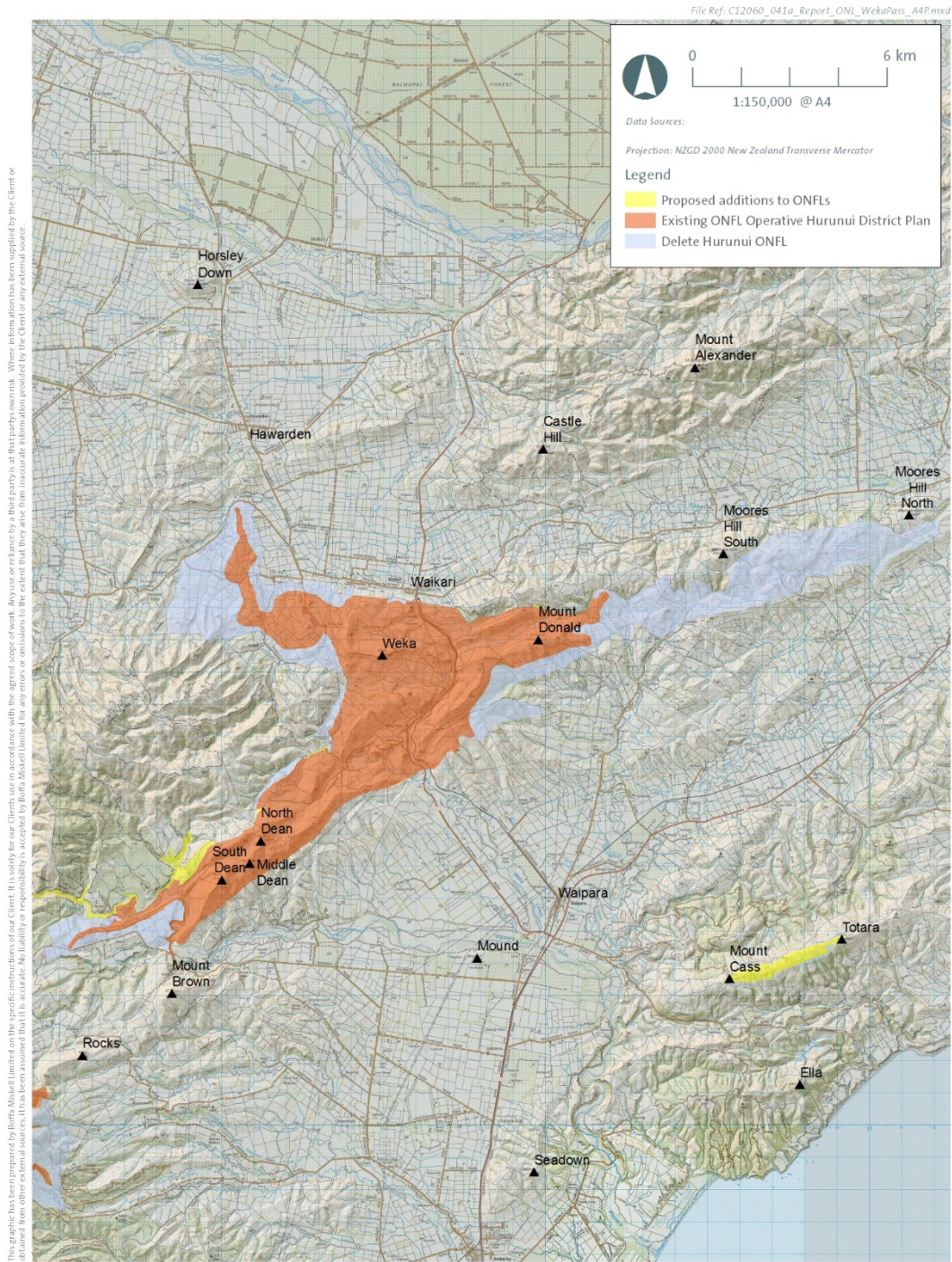
The land cover in the area mainly contains improved pasture, apart from the highly valuable limestone flora which is largely confined to the outcrops where grazing has not led to modification. Some pockets of native shrubs can be found, but the main value of this ONL relates to the distinctive limestone landforms. These landforms could be seen as individual features, but the proximity and sequence of outcrops increases the overall value and means that these features are perceived as part of a wider outstanding natural landscape. The modified pastures between rock exposures form part of the landscape setting, but are of lesser landscape value. The low-lying areas with rural land use, which are not visible from SH7, have a higher ability to absorb landscape change that is in character with the existing rural land uses.

The boundary of the existing ONL has been refined in response to findings from site visits which more accurately follows the most representative parts of the limestone exposures. It is considered appropriate to limit the area identified as outstanding to those parts of the wider landscape that display characteristics that contribute to this status, while excluding some flat farmland areas and less expressive limestone ridges around the fringe.

The existing south western ONL boundary in the upper Waipara catchment follows an impressive limestone ridge with high outcrops on its northern side and distinctive limestone exposures along the upper southern slopes. A QE2 area has been proposed on the Claremont property, which includes impressive limestone outcrops on the western side of the Deans. The improved pasture on the lower slopes and flats, adjacent to Ram Paddock Road do not contain the same landscape values as the limestone features and the vegetated river bed and gullies (contained by steep limestone cliffs). We recommend the inclusion of the limestone feature on both sides of the ridge to ensure that the integrity of the landform is maintained.

The Waipara Gorge continues to lie within this ONL area and some areas containing significant geopreservation sites in close proximity to the existing ONL have been added. The additional areas also include DOC managed conservation areas in the Waipara and Ohuriawa Gorge.

## 5.2.1 ONL Map



### OUTSTANDING NATURAL LANDSCAPE Weka Pass / Waipara Gorge

Date: 19 December 2014 | Revision: 1

Plan prepared for Hurunui District Council by Boffa Miskell Limited  
Project Manager: SST | Drawn: BMC | Checked: YPF

## 5.3 Mt Grey/ Maungatere ONF/L

1 property -Matarirki Forest, requested boundary review but not site visit

### 5.3.1 Landscape Character Description

The dark sedimentary basement rocks of the Torlesse terrain form the spine of the high peaks along the foothills, such as Mt Torlesse, Mt Oxford and Mt Grey. The deeply incised river gorges of the Ashley/ Rakahuri and Okuku Rivers, which cut their way through the Mt Oxford/ Thomas/ Grey Ranges, are a distinctive feature of the wider area. Parts of Mt Grey (934masl) are considerably modified compared with other peaks found in this range. Large areas of plantation forestry occur along the southern and western slopes of Mt Grey and on the eastern slopes of Mt Karetu. The tops of the mountain are, however, covered in tussock grassland and some of the gullies contain large stands of remnant beech forest. The area is popular with day visitors, many of whom explore the track that leads to the top of Mt Grey on foot and bike. Mt Grey forms an important landmark on the northern extent of the Canterbury Plains and is visible from distant viewpoints.

### 5.3.2 Summary of Landscape Values

#### Natural Science Values

- Includes the Mt Grey/Maungatere Conservation area with remnant native forest and tussock grasslands. Especially indigenous vegetation on upper slopes
- Remnant native tawai/mountain beech, red beech and mixed podocarp forest largely covering the western slopes and gullies on the southern and eastern side of Mt Grey. Forest species include rimu, miro, kahikatea and matai
- Remnant tussock grasslands are located at the summit of Mt Grey
- Conservation areas in Ashley Forest contain threatened species *Korthalsella salicornioides* and *Muehlenbeckia astonii*
- One QE2 covenant is located within the Mt Grey ONL area, on the lower south eastern slopes.
- A prominent feature of the Mt Grey/ Maungatere area is the native clematis vines with their eye-catching treetop display of white flowers during spring.
- There is a variety of birdlife to be seen and heard in this forest area. Native species include pīwakawaka /fantail, korimako/ bellbird, silvereye, miromiro/ tomtit, riroriro/ greywarbler, brown creeper, kererū/ wood pigeon and tititipounamu/ rifleman. Notable fauna also includes New Zealand falcons and moreporks.

#### Legibility Values

- Interbedded greywacke and argillite (greywacke graded in places); minor basaltic and spilitic volcanics, chert; rare limestone
- Legible vegetation sequence of beech forest on lower slopes/ gullies and tussock grassland on the tops.

### Aesthetic Values

- Identifiable peak and prominent landmark, which forms the backdrop to northern Canterbury Plains.
- Marks the eastern limit of the foothills of the Southern Alps.
- Panoramic views of the Canterbury plains from Mt Grey.
- Lake Janet is a beautiful small lake set in a secluded spot on the eastern side of Mt Grey.

### Transient Values

- Most impressive after snowfall that covers the tops. Snow fall on upper slopes can be widely seen across the Canterbury Plains.

### Tangata Whenua Values (see also Appendix 2)

- Importance – named Maungatere meaning floating mountain because the spirits of the dead were believed to leave from the summit on the long journey to Cape Reinga.
- Maungatere is the mountain Ngai Tuahuriri, the Ngai Tahu hapu based at Kaiapoi-Tuahiwai, strongly associate with. Mt Grey is also the dominant landscape feature of the area and visible from both the Tuahiwai and Kaiapoi pā sites.
- Mountains were tapu because they were ancestors. The Canterbury mountains such as Maungatere (Grey), were ancestors who came to New Zealand on the Arai Te Uru canoe. After the canoe overturned in a storm, the crew struggled ashore and headed inland, and when the morning dawned they had turned to stone (forming the Southern Alps).

### Historic Values

- Mt Grey is named after Sir George Grey, Governor and Premier of New Zealand between 1845 and 1879.
- Pohio, as secular leader of Te Maiharoa's community, was concerned with the consequences of Ngai Tahu land sales. Ngai Tahu contested the boundary of the Canterbury purchase. They understood that the purchase applied to the area from Maungatere (Mt Grey) in the north to Maungatua, at the boundary of the Otago block, in the south, and west as far as the foothills of the Southern Alps. The purchasers insisted that the western boundary was the main divide itself.

### Shared and Recognised Values

- Mt Grey is a prominent landmark that features in Canterbury art.
- Mt Grey and Ashley Forest are popular recreation destinations for trampers, mountain bikers and hunters.
- Mt Grey is easily accessible to the public due to its proximity to urban areas. There are many tramping tracks in the Mt Grey/ Maungatere Conservation area, including the Mt Grey/ Maungatere Track that leads to the summit.
- Lake Janet and Grey River Picnic areas are popular destinations for day trippers.

### 5.3.3 Recommended Changes to Boundary Outlines

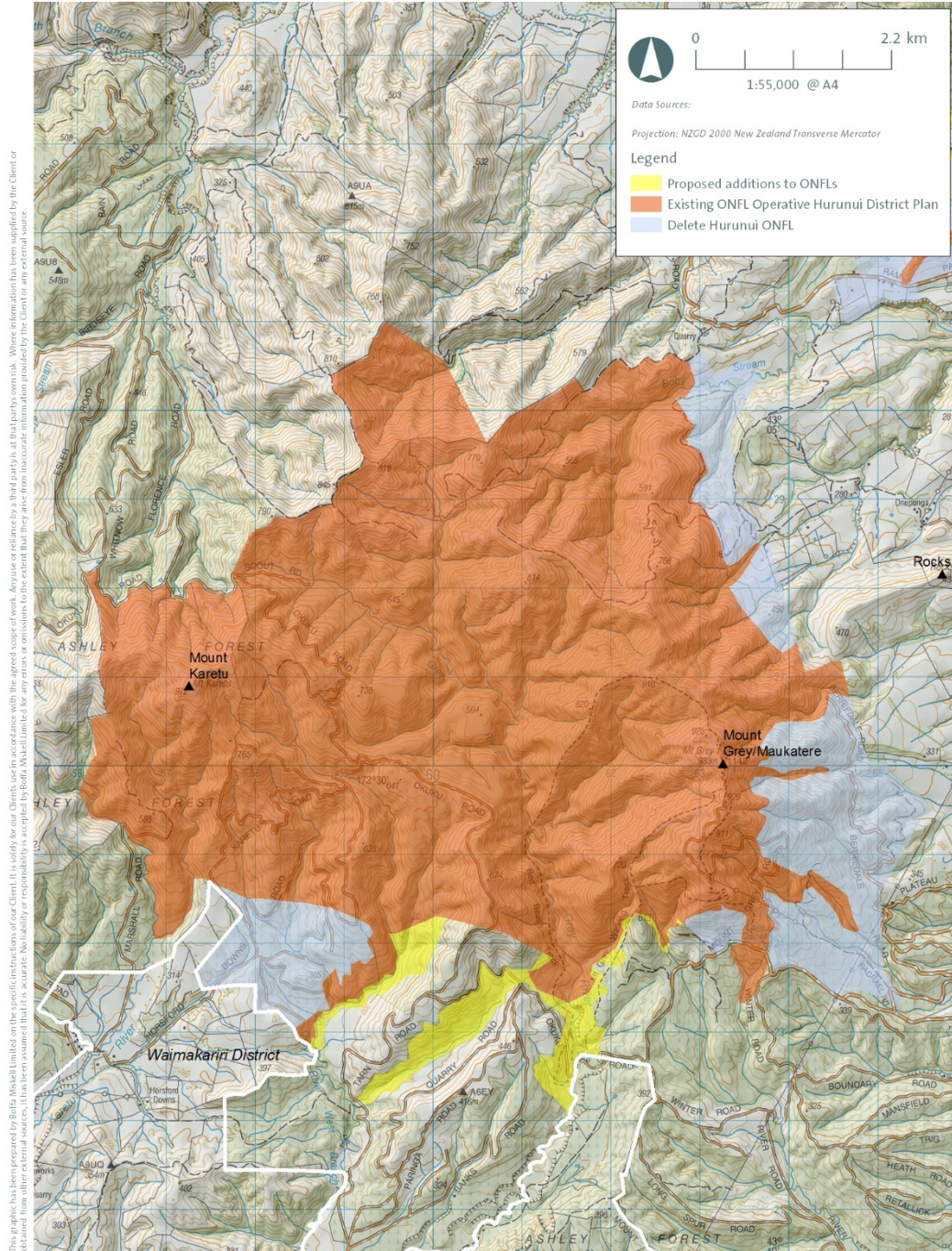
Maungatere/Mount Grey ONL extends from the western slopes of Mt Karetu to the southeastern foothills of Mt Grey and encompasses two small river catchments, the Grey and the Karetu. The ONL includes the upper parts of the Ashley Forest, a private exotic plantation forest extending from the eastern slopes of Mt Karetu to the eastern side of Mt Grey. The ONL has many unsealed forestry roads on the south facing slopes of Mt Grey and the eastern to south eastern facing slopes of Mt Karetu.

Following a request for review by Matariki Forest, the boundaries of the ONL have been reviewed. The boundaries have been modified, with some recommendations for exclusion of lower lying forest plantation areas, which are visually less prominent and more modified than adjacent gullies. However, a number of gullies containing important native vegetation communities have been recommended for inclusion into the ONL. The majority of these gullies are managed by DOC. The upper slopes of Mt Grey are considered an important landmark, visible from large parts of the Canterbury Plains, and have been included despite their exotic land cover. The south western extent of the ONL aligns with the Hurunui/Waimakariri District boundary.



### 5.3.4 ONL Map

File Ref: C32060\_041a\_Report\_ONL\_MtGrey\_A4.mxd



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#### OUTSTANDING NATURAL LANDSCAPE Mt Grey

Date: 19 December 2014 | Revision: 1

Plan prepared for Hurunui District Council by Boffa Miskell Limited  
Project Manager: SSt | Drawn: BMC | Checked: YPF



## 5.4 Mt Cass ONF/L

No site visit undertaken, liaison with Mainpower and Gardiner off-site

### 5.4.1 Landscape Character Description

Mt Cass is located east of the Waipara Basin, approximately 10 km north-east of Amberley. Mt Cass is one of three peaks on a distinctive cuesta landform, an asymmetric ridge of limestone rock outcrops. Totara and Oldham Peaks are located along the ridge to the northeast. Typical of this type of landform Mt Cass has a steep north-west facing scarp slope and a gentle south-eastwards dipping backslope. The steep scarp of the formation faces to Waipara Valley and the dip or backslope of the cuesta faces the coastline, which it runs parallel to. Located along both sides of the ridgeline are boulder fields and scree slopes, which are more prominent on the scarp where cliff faces are present as well. On the upper slopes of Mt Cass native forest and shrubland is found interspersed with patches of pasture, which generally occurs on the exposed spurs. The combination of the limestone features, regenerating bush along the ridge and relict forest communities on the dip slope provides a series of distinctive habitats. The exposed ridgeline contains a mosaic of mingimingi shrub land across pasture, mixed pasture and silver tussock grasslands, and broadleaf scrub on knolls and rocks. Significant modification has occurred on lower slopes, where farmland and plantation forestry dominate.

### 5.4.2 Summary of Landscape Values

#### Natural Science Values

- Excellent example of a cuesta and is a geomorphic feature of regional significance.
- Outstanding indigenous limestone ecosystem with the most significant values being concentrated along the ridge crest between Mt Cass and Totara Peak.
- Diverse range of ecotones between limestone pavement, boulder field, forest, shrubland and grassland communities.
- High species abundance, richness and diversity- one of the best examples of a limestone ecosystem in the eastern South Island.
- Bush remnants are most evident on the south facing dip slope of the cuesta being concentrated on areas of limestone pavement and outcrops or in deep gullies.
- Limestone ecosystems supports different assemblages of rare plant species.
- Low broadleaf dominated bush and scrub on the ridge crest, regenerating woodland on the mid-slopes, mature podocarp/broadleaf forest on lower slope.
- Native lizard and bird habitat.

#### Legibility Values

- Diverse, distinctive and impressive range of karst features, including dolines (sink holes) and karren (fluted rock outcrops), can be found on the feature, providing evidence of formative processes.
- Mt Cass cuesta, limestone pavement and boulders on the ridge have geomorphological significance at a regional and district level.

### Aesthetic Values

- The Mt Cass ridgeline forms the backdrop to views gained from the Waipara Basin landscape north of Amberley.
- The Mt Cass range supports a delightful mosaic of native bush interspersed with grasslands largely comprising silver tussock and exotic pasture.

### Tangata Whenua Values (see also Appendix 2)

- Significant Maori cultural values attached to the Mt Cass ridge.
- Cultural values associated with Mt Cass predominantly relate to the native vegetation in that area, in particular rongoa plant species used in traditional remedies.
- Mt Cass is a traditional Mahinga kai area and moa skeletons have been found on the ridge.

### Shared and Recognised Values

- Walkways provide access to the area, developed by Transwaste.
- DOC managed Tiromoana Scenic Reserve to the east.
- The impressive limestone landscape is valued by the community and visitors to the Waipara Basin, as well as those passing through the basin on SH1.

#### 5.4.3 Recommended Changes to Boundary Outlines

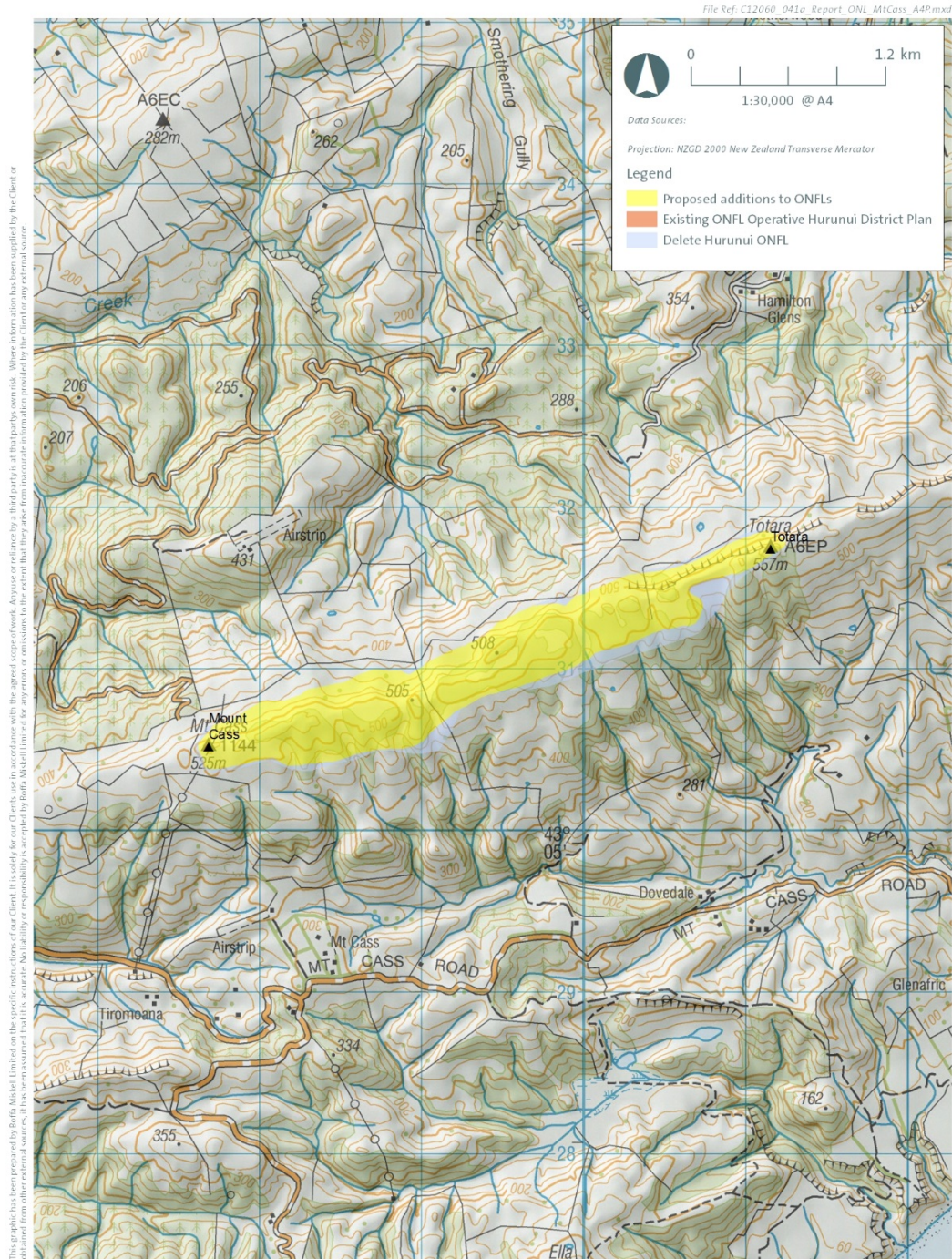
Mt Cass was not identified as an Outstanding Natural Landscape in the Hurunui Landscape Study (Lucas Associates, 1995). However, in a decision concerning a wind farm proposal on Mt Cass the landform was considered to be an Outstanding Natural Feature (ONF). In the Environment Court hearing considerable and detailed evidence on the question of whether Mt Cass ridge is an ONF was presented. Between experts there was general agreement on its local significance to the Waipara landscape. The identification was undertaken on a site-specific basis rather than in the context of a district-wide landscape study. The Commissioner's view that Mt Cass qualifies as an ONF was upheld in the Environment Court decision (EC C384/2011) released in 2011. The court concluded that the ridge feature between Mt Cass and Totara Peak is distinctive within the wider landscape and is an ONF. This is the only ONF within the district.

For the preparation of this report we analysed the EC decision to determine the extent of the ONF for adoption into the District Plan. The following paragraph of the decision gives guidance in relation to the location and extent of the ONF:

*[323] The Hurunui Commissioners concluded that Mt Cass ridge (that part of the site between Mt Cass and Totara Peak incorporating the limestone platforms, the native woody vegetation and the limestone escarpment) is an outstanding natural feature for the purposes of section 6(b) of the Act. 255 Ms Lucas and Ms Briggs agree that there is an outstanding natural feature at Mt Cass, and that the escarpment is an integral part of the limestone landscape feature, as do the two geomorphologists.*

In order to fully understand the extent of the ONF we also reviewed the evidence of the Council landscape witness, whose recommendations were adopted (Liz Briggs) and her graphic attachment which illustrates indicative outlines for the ONF. Based on this assessment we identified the extent of the ONF. Unfortunately no maps are provided as part of the EC decision.

## 5.4.1 ONL Map



## 5.5 Mt Lyford/ Terako ONF/L

8 properties were visited (13/03/2014, 25/06/2014, 31/10/2014, 27/03/2015)

- Peter Turnbull Mt Terako Station
- Ross Barns, Lyford village holiday accommodation
- Doyle James Patrick, Mt Lyford village
- Warwick Dean, Mt Lyford village
- Ian Bisman, Mt Lyford village
- Daniel Koning, Mt Lyford village
- Michael Boissard, Sherwood Road
- Jane and Hugh Northcote, Inland Kaikoura Road

Public road through Lyford village and Inland Kaikoura Road were visited

### 5.5.1 Landscape Character Description

The landscape contained within this ONL is visually diverse and particularly impressive. The broader 'contextual' mountainous setting forms an important backdrop to the gentler landscape in the lower lying areas, such as the Mason River valley. The impressive rock features, relative isolation of the upper slopes and tops and spectacular views all contribute to the area's high landscape value status.

The base geology of the area is predominantly sandstones, siltstones and mudstones commonly referred to as greywackes and argillites. The area has not been glaciated but has been intensely eroded by frost and ice during glacial periods. Faulting is very pronounced in the area, as the Amuri Range lies between two major faults. The Elliot fault extends to the north near the Clarence River and the Hope fault runs through the ONL to south of the range, both of which trend north-east.

Exposed rock, slips and boulders characterise the upper slopes and rugged tops. The majority of the tops contains little vegetation apart from alpine herbs and tussocklands, sporadically located throughout the area between scree slopes. The wetter gullies often contain mountain beech forest with occasional red beech, podocarps and broadleaved trees. The mid and lower slopes comprise extensive kanuka and manuka shrublands that form a particularly coherent cover throughout the area. Often the warmer sunnier slopes have been partially cleared for extensive grazing, while areas of beech forests have been retained on the colder faces and inaccessible gullies.

The headwaters of important rivers, such as the Lottery, Mason, Conway and Charwell Rivers all fall within this ONL. The Mason River valley forms an important visual corridor, as it is a tourist route. The valley with its steep bluffs and diverse slopes represents a special picturesque New Zealand landscape. Open views within the valley include important natural features such as the Annandale Bluffs/ The Battery, consisting of karst formations situated below Mt Cookson.

Mt Lyford village is an important node of development in the area, containing a number of private dwellings and a lodge. The nearby skifield, located within Marlborough District is one of the major attractions of the area.

### 5.5.1 Summary of Landscape Values

#### Natural Science Values

- Annandale (Mt Cookson) karst geopreservation site containing a field of dolines/ tomos
- Kaikoura Inland Road Oligocene microfossils geopreservation site near Whaleback ridge, which consists of diverse and unusual fossils of marcofauna at the top of volcanics.
- These immense landscapes, where natural patterns, elements and processes dominate, hold an array of unique landscape values.
- Podocarp and beech forest remnants, particularly found in gullies and mid slopes
- Tussocks and grey shrubland on the upper slopes, mixed with scree and rock vegetation
- Tomtit, bellbird, paradise duck, morepork, tomtit, pipit, brown creeper, pied stilt, NZ falcon, banded dotterel, black-fronted tern (last three threatened species).
- Lottery Bush Scenic Reserve contains low, rolling upper-lowland hills country and old terraces with 2 blocks of beech/ podocarp forest between the Lottery and Wandle Rivers
- Little Lottery catchment contains diverse forest dominated by mountain beech with some red beech, occasional scattered matai on riverflats and a variety of broadleaved trees.
- Kanuka/ manuka shrublands are extensive throughout the catchments within the ONL and make up the majority of the vegetation cover on the lower slopes. There is little diversity of species with the kanuka.
- Endemic, threatened snail *Wainuia edwardi* reported in Lottery Bush Reserve
- A number of DOC managed reserves can be found within the ONL, such as Terako Downs, Wairangi and Snowden Scenic Reserves; Hossack, Tinline Down and Wandle Bush Conservation Area and the southern part of Ka Whata Tu o Rakihouia Conservation Park

#### Legibility Values

- Varied geology and the tectonic, climatic and erosional forces at work clearly express its formative processes
- This rugged range, influenced by the tectonic forces of the Hope Fault, has been sculpted and eroded by glaciers and rain, where watercourses drain the steep terrain.

#### Aesthetic Values

- The mountainous spine retains varied and dramatic features that contribute to the unity of this ONL.
- All of these features are interlinked by mountains, valleys and ecological patterns and processes which share the same unique geological, cultural and sensory attributes.
- The views to Annandale Bluffs/ The Battery are particularly impressive
- The setting of Lyford Village below the mountain ranges to the north creates a unique opportunity to enjoy this landscape from the amenities of a village

- The Mason River is an important feature of this landscape, as it forms an intimate, enclosed landscape next to the Scenic Highway with varied, impressive views out to the mountain ranges beyond.
- The visual diversity of dense native shrublands, open tussock land, mixed with introduced trees and human habitation forms a particularly coherent landscape

#### Transient Values

- The views to the high snow covered peaks add to the aesthetic value of the area
- Typical high country tussock hills that change colours with the seasons

#### Tangata Whenua Values (see also Appendix 2)

- Interspersed throughout this area are a number of trails and freshwater springs. These are important as they connect the Mt Lyford/Terako area to other important areas of Tangata Whenua values.
- This was an area that was traversed for travel, trade and to access mahinga kai.
- The stories, place names and mahinga kai traditions associated with high country areas are an integral component of Ngati Kuri history, linking the people to the landscape.
- Mt Lyford is also highly valued because of the variety and range of native bush present and the habitat that this creates for wildlife, particularly native bird life.

#### Historic Values

- The Hossack was originally part of the huge Lyndon run which was taken up in 1859 by John Tinline. The Hossack became a separate run of 15,182 hectares in 1897.

#### Shared and Recognised Values

- The Scenic highway follows the Mason River in this area, which allows for highly valued views to the river, slopes, gullies and mountain ranges beyond.
- Lyford Village is a popular visitor destination which attracts tourists in summer and winter, with Lyford ski field being a major attraction.

### 5.5.2 Recommended Changes to Boundary Outlines

The district's northern boundary meets up with Marlborough District along the spine of the mountain range within this ONL. To the north of the Amuri Range the Clarence River catchment falls within Marlborough, whereas the south facing slopes of this ONL feed into the Lottery and Mason River catchments. The Mt. Lyford ski field itself and the ski field lodge are located within Marlborough District. The remaining part of Mt. Lyford village, however, lies within the Hurunui District. An access track on the western side of Mt Lyford connects the ski field with the village area. An adjacent ONL has been identified in Marlborough District, Mt Lyford village and skifield are, however, currently both excluded from the wider ONL in both districts.

Access to this part of the District is difficult and views to the mountain ranges were predominantly gained from the Inland Kaikoura Road, which is also a scenic highway following the Mason River in this area. Mapping of the ONL line was undertaken on desk-top in some areas that cannot be seen from the Inland Road or Lyford Village, such as parts of the upper Lowry and Mason River and Campbell Stream catchments. It should be noted that the ONL includes the viewing corridor along the Inland Kaikoura Road, where currently a number of farm buildings



and residential buildings are located in proximity to the road. A certain level of further modification in relation to a variety of farming-related activities and structures, such as stock yards and sheds, is to be expected in this environment.

Based on findings during the site visits the ONL boundary has been refined on some properties to exclude parts of the ONL. In the current plan Lyford Village has been excluded from the ONL based on existing subdivision within the zone boundaries rather than existing buildings on site. The on-site findings showed that land uses, such as forestry, intensive farming and residential development have led to modifications in this area that warrant an exclusion from the ONL. Instead of following zone boundaries the ONL boundaries have now been amended to follow land form and land use changes.

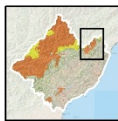
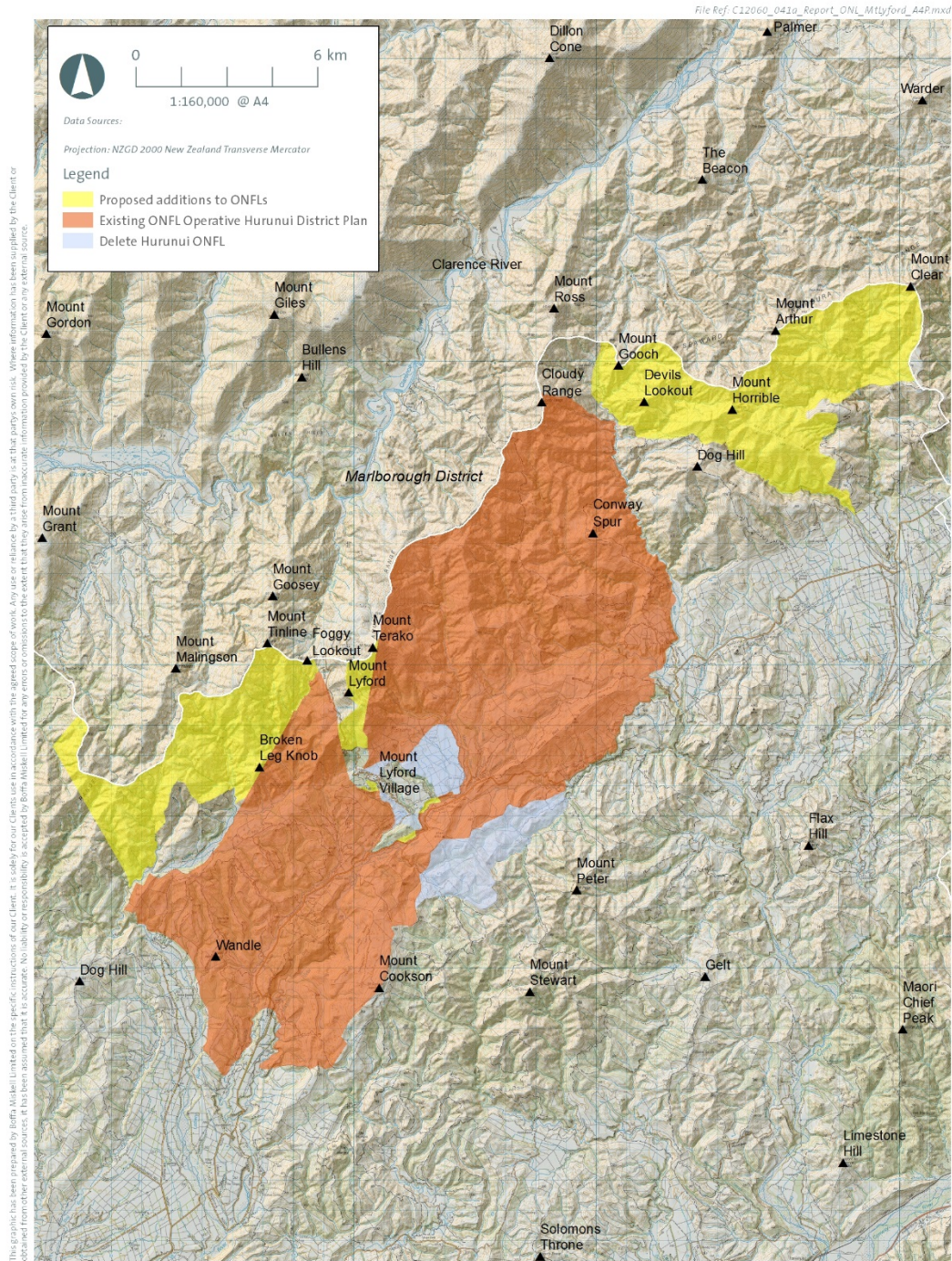
A further amendment has been made as part of this landscape review, where an area along the south western boundary of the ONL has been excluded. The area is situated outside the visual catchment experienced from the viewing corridor along the scenic highway that follows the Mason River valley floor. The shared and recognised values of the rural hill country beyond the ridgeline that confines the Mason River valley to the south, are significantly lower, which has led to the boundary amendment of the ONL, while the impressive landform of The Battery remains within the ONL in its entirety.

It is recommended to identify the impressive upper slopes of the mountain range behind Lyford Village as an ONL, despite the fact that they form part of the Lyford Zone. This mountainous landscape includes the south eastern flanks of Mt. Terako, which rises to 1,742 metres above sea level (masl) and Mt Tinline (1747masl), which forms an important backdrop to the village and view from the scenic highway.

The existing south western boundary of the ONL along the Lottery River (east of Sherwood Road) follows the landforms of the river terraces and includes grazed hill country on slopes and ridges with regenerating bush in the gullies. While the landscape value of the more intensively grazed land is considered lower than for the areas covered in native vegetation, it was not practical to separate these areas out from the ONL identification. The farmland forms part of the setting, where rural land uses and structures currently predominate and are expected to continue into the future.

It is also recommended to include additional land, which is now managed by DOC in the Amuri Range following the tenure review of high country stations in this area. This includes land retired from Hossack Station (north of the upper Lottery River headwaters) and the southern part of the Ka Whata Tu o Rākihōuia Conservation Park around Mt Horrible, which extends into Kaikoura District. These DOC managed areas have been described to contain significant landscape and ecological values. Based on initial consultation with DOC an inclusion as ONL has been seen as desirable.

## 5.5.1 ONL Map





## 5.6 Western Mountain Ranges ONF/L

1 property visited (date 25/06/2014):

- Lakeview Rural Holdings Ltd, Woodbank Road, Hanmer Springs

### 5.6.1 Landscape Character Description

This ONL is located in the western part of the district and covers an extensive area across the intermontane basins, valleys and ranges, and ranges of the Main Divide. The ONL has been separated into two parts in the character descriptions, with the Lake Sumner/ Lewis Pass falling into the southern half and the Molesworth/ St James/ Hanmer Ranges falling into the northern half.

#### **Lake Sumner / Lewis Pass**

This ONL contains the headwaters and the tributaries of the two major rivers in Hurunui District, the Hurunui and Waiau Rivers (Boyle tributaries). The Lake Sumner and Lewis Pass area is a landscape of mountains with bush clad slopes and clear mountain lakes and rivers. This is a spectacular landscape with impressive, diverse landforms and land cover. The area is rich in history with particular importance to tangata whenua. This area was part of a network of trails and access routes used by Maori to travel within the South Island. Nowadays, the Lewis Pass and Lake Sumner area offers a great range of recreational opportunities.

This area is highly accessible due to State Highway (SH7) which passes through this landscape. Here, the landscape is dominated by legible landscape features such as glaciated valleys, glacial moraine deposits, streams, wetlands, lakes, and high altitude tarns.

The ONL encompasses the nationally important conservation areas of Lake Sumner Conservation Park and Lewis Pass Scenic Reserve. The Lake Sumner Conservation Park has the richest forest bird diversity in Canterbury. Lake Sumner (Hoka Kura), Loch Katrine, Lake Taylor and Lake Sheppard are among a group of remote high country lakes located in this landscape. These remote high country lakes are set amongst beech-clad mountains, wide rivers and hot springs. The Hurunui Mainland Island, situated in the Hurunui River catchment of Lake Sumner Forest Park, is one of six nationwide and with a total area of 12,000 ha it is the largest; and the only one in Canterbury. The braided riverbeds of the glacial rivers are home to some of New Zealand's rarest birds.

#### **Molesworth/ St James/ Hanmer Range**

Molesworth Station lies within both the Hurunui and Marlborough District. The northern section of the Clarence River is within Marlborough, while its southern part is located within Hurunui District. The headwaters of the Clarence and Waiau Rivers around Lake Tennyson and the Spenser Range form an important part of this landscape. This ONL also includes St James Station with its impressive ranges and valleys, as well as the tops and western slopes of the Hanmer Ranges.

Molesworth and St James Stations are remote areas, surrounded by snow-capped peaks, beautiful river valleys, extensive tussock lands, and pasture. While parts of these high country

stations are still working farms, they are now reserves managed by the Department of Conservation. The area provides exceptional recreation opportunities.

A history of glaciation can be read in the landscape of terminal and lateral moraines, glacial outwash plains, hanging valleys and waterfalls, cirque basins, tarns and arêtes. This is a spectacular landscape of extremes, with searing summer heat and drought alongside bitter snowy winters. These well-known high country stations hold a special place in New Zealand's history.

The Hanmer Range forms the skyline and backdrop to the Hanmer Basin. The Hanmer Forest Park includes a large area on the eastern slopes and tops of the Hanmer Range, while the western slopes are within the St James/ Molesworth Conservation Areas. These areas are recommended for inclusion in to the ONL due to their regenerating native vegetation cover. On the eastern slopes of the Hanmer Range manuka/ kanuka shrublands can be found on spurs, while forest remnants are predominantly located in the wetter gullies. These beech remnants are typical of much of Canterbury's beech forests with little else growing in the understorey besides beech seedlings and occasional shrubs. A number of smaller rivers and streams drain the eastern slopes of the Hanmer Range and flow through the Basin in an easterly direction towards the Waiau River. The headwaters of these waterways are located within the proposed addition to the ONL. The lower slopes above Hanmer Township, which fall outside the ONL, are covered in plantation forest.

## 5.6.2 Summary of Landscape Values

### **Lake Sumner / Lewis Pass**

#### Natural Science Values

- Lake Sumner Conservation Park is one of the largest conservation areas in the district.
- The Hurunui Mainland Island is an important DOC managed conservation area where pest eradication is carried out.
- Significant cover of relatively unmodified red beech forest which supports rich bird life, including kaka and parakeets. The conservation areas contain extensive intact ecosystems.
- Lake Sumner contains valuable native aquatic vegetation and fish life. It is particularly important as it displays an intact sequence of lake to forest margins with a number of bog rush wetlands in the vicinity. Lake Sumner is one of the few lakes in Canterbury with an unmodified, predominantly forested margin.
- Braided riverbeds with several important endemic bird species are found in the area.

#### Legibility Values

- The landscape contains numerous geopreservation sites which are notable features, such as the Hope Fault near the Lewis Pass area.
- The vegetation sequence from lake/ forest to grey shrubland, tussock land and bare scree tops is particularly legible in this basin and mountain landscape.
- Braided rivers with shingle scree show ongoing formative processes. The Lewis-Hope-Boyle-Waiiau Rivers Corridor is an important river system.

### Aesthetic Values

- The lakes, large river valleys and enclosing forested mountain ranges are spectacular.
- Wild, remote, rugged, natural landscape within the upper Hurunui catchment. Open valley, rivers, lakes with mountain backdrop create dramatic and classic picturesque landscape.
- This landscape is highly intact with few signs of human modification.
- The Lewis Pass area is one of the most spectacular areas, where mountains and native forests can be experienced from a major highway.

### Transient Values

- The wildlife values in the Lake Sumner area is particularly varied and important.
- Snow covered mountain peaks in the winter months contrast with the green forested slopes below.

### Tangata Whenua Values (see also Appendix 2)

- A crucial place for Tangata whenua. Lake Sumner (Hoka Kura) and the Upper Hurunui River are acknowledged in the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act (1998), which is a reflection of historical importance of the lake, and the mahinga kai and wāhi tapu values associated with it.
- The Lake Sumner area has numerous sites associated with Ngai Tahu who used the passes to travel to and from the West Coast (Te Tai Poutini). The passes were utilised by Maori for travel and trade, particularly the precious pounamu (greenstone).
- There are a number of urupa and wahi tapu in this region.
- The mauri of Hoka Kura represents the essence that binds the physical and spiritual elements of all things together, generating and upholding all life.
- The Hurunui River is the southern boundary of the Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura takiwā. Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura shares kaitiaki rights and responsibilities associated with the Hurunui with Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga.
- The Hurunui River is a Statutory Acknowledgement / Deed of Recognition site under the NTCSA 1998, providing for the special association of Ngāi Tahu with the river.

### Shared and Recognised Values

- The Spencer Mountains Range includes bush clad slopes and varied river valleys. The area is one of the best examples in the district.
- The complex of beautiful lakes and surrounding lands are widely recognised as Outstanding by the community due to the unique combination of wild mountains, vegetation, rivers, lakes, backdrop, wildlife and isolation.
- A special inland basin, with high landscape integrity and coherence, has long been highly valued by the community. Well-recognised as a valued place through community processes for the 1995 Hurunui Landscape Study.
- Te Kooti and the Tekoa and Organ Ranges form the backdrop to distant views from the main highway defined by ridgelines.
- Recreation opportunities include fishing, boating, canoeing, waterfowl shooting, four-wheel driving, camping and walking.

- The Lewis Pass Highway (SH7) runs through this landscape connecting the Canterbury and Buller regions, which allows high numbers of visitors to experience the beech forest on short walks.
- Large areas of DOC managed land, including St James and Lake Sumner Conservation Parks provide easily accessible recreation opportunities;

#### Historic Values

- Early explorers investigated this area and passes for their suitability to establish a railway line to the West Coast.

### **Molesworth/ St James/ Hanmer Range**

#### Natural Science Values

- Molesworth is an area of national ecological significance. Over 70 threatened plant species grow here, a quarter of which are acutely threatened. The vegetation reflects the sharp E-W rainfall gradient (670mm- 3000mm).
- Molesworth supports one of New Zealand's most diverse lizard faunas.
- New Zealand falcon, banded dotterel and black-fronted tern are among threatened bird species found here.
- Rivers and streams are populated by native fish species and trout.
- Several species of spectacularly large giant wetas and speargrass weevils are found here.
- Lake Tennyson provides important lake, wetland and kettle hole-bog habitats.
- The large high country station is now managed by DOC to maintain its conservation values. Farming operations are carried out under a lease agreement.
- The landcover of the front ranges has not been modified to the same extent as the plains of Hanmer Basin below. The remaining native vegetation communities are generally restricted to steep slopes and gullies. They include mountain beech fragments, mixed broad-leaf forests, mixed devarigate shrublands and tussock grasslands.
- Podocarp forests around the base of the foothills have been heavily logged and only defined fragments remain. The remainder of the area contains plantation forests and extensive pastoral grassland

#### Legibility Values

- Legible landscape features include terminal and lateral moraines, glacial outwash plains, hanging valleys and waterfalls, cirque basins, tarns and arêtes.
- Awatere and Hope fault lines
- Lake Tennyson geopreservation site

#### Aesthetic Values

- The Molesworth Station is one of Canterbury's/ Marlborough's iconic high country landscapes.
- The area contains memorable landscape elements, such as bare scree slopes, rugged mountain tops, valleys with unmodified rivers and cultural features.
- Despite the land cover modifications induced by historic farming practices, the area maintains a high level of visual coherence.

### Transient Values

- The Molesworth endures continental climates of extremes with hot summers and harsh winters. Snow may fall at any time of the year and cover the bare mountain tops.

### Tangata Whenua Values (see also Appendix 2)

- Different iwi and hapū have used the area now known as the Molesworth for successive generations.
- An early inland route via the Upper Wairau was used by Maori travelling south. The early Europeans learned of them and William Travers employed the Māori guide Napera in his exploration through the Upper Wairau in 1855.
- Maori established many trails through the area for food gathering and access between the west coast - an important source of jade (pounamu) - and the east coast.
- There have been several reports of the discovery of Māori remnants throughout Molesworth. Travers recorded finds of Maori artefacts on his run at remote Lake Guyon. There is also a record of moa bone and an obsidian flake having been found at the outlet of the Clarence River at Lake Tennyson and the remains of a whare (house) in the Acheron Valley, which was certain evidence of an old Māori encampment.

### Shared and Recognised Values

- The St James walkway corridor that links up the Upper Waiau (incl. Ada & Henry, Lake Guyon and Tennyson), where St James cycle way is located is an extensive recreation network
- Molesworth and St James Stations are New Zealand icons.
- DOC manages the outstanding recreation values of the area, which include hiking, four wheel driving, hunting, fishing, rafting, camping and biking. The area is celebrated for the remote experiences it provides.
- Hanmer Springs ski area
- Inspiration for many artists and writers.

### Historic Values

- Strong heritage associated with pastoral farming.
- Acheron cob accommodation house was among a string of dwellings placed to service travellers through the area.
- Both the Molesworth roads were built to enable the construction and maintenance of power lines, the Hanmer-Rainbow Road in the 1950s and the Acheron Road in the late 1960s.

#### 5.6.3 Recommended Changes to Boundary Outlines

The existing ONL boundaries, as currently shown in the District Plan, generally align with the ONLs identified in the Canterbury Regional Landscape Study. However, two anomalies in the western part of the District were identified, where areas were excluded from the wider ONLs. These areas are located:

- a) around Philosophers Knob within the St James Conservation Area (surrounded by St James walkway) and
- b) around the headwaters of Hope, Doubtful, Nina Rivers (south of Lewis Pass within Lake Sumner Forest Park and two smaller conservation areas).

Both of these areas were originally identified as significant landscape areas in the proposed Hurunui District Plan. A review of the 1995 landscape assessment (prepared by Di Lucas) was carried out by Allan Rackham of Boffa Miskell in 1999. This review again identified the Philosophers Knob area as a significant landscape. The Lewis Pass/Lake Sumner area was not included in this review. We note that the Wilkinson court decision (Wilkinson v Hurunui District Council C050/2000 [2000] NZEnvC 78 (29 February 2000) led to the removal of significant landscape areas from the Plan.

Since then these areas have been retired from farming and included in the Department of Conservation (DOC) managed conservation estate. This means that land cover regeneration is occurring in these areas and their biophysical, sensory and associative qualities have improved since ONLs were identified for the currently operative district plan. We consider that these areas are of similar landscape quality in terms of their values and naturalness to the surrounding ONLs. We, therefore, recommend that these areas are included into the surrounding ONLs from a technical point of view. While both of these areas are now owned by the Department of Conservation and therefore have public conservation land status, we consider additional protection through ONL identification appropriate.

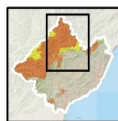
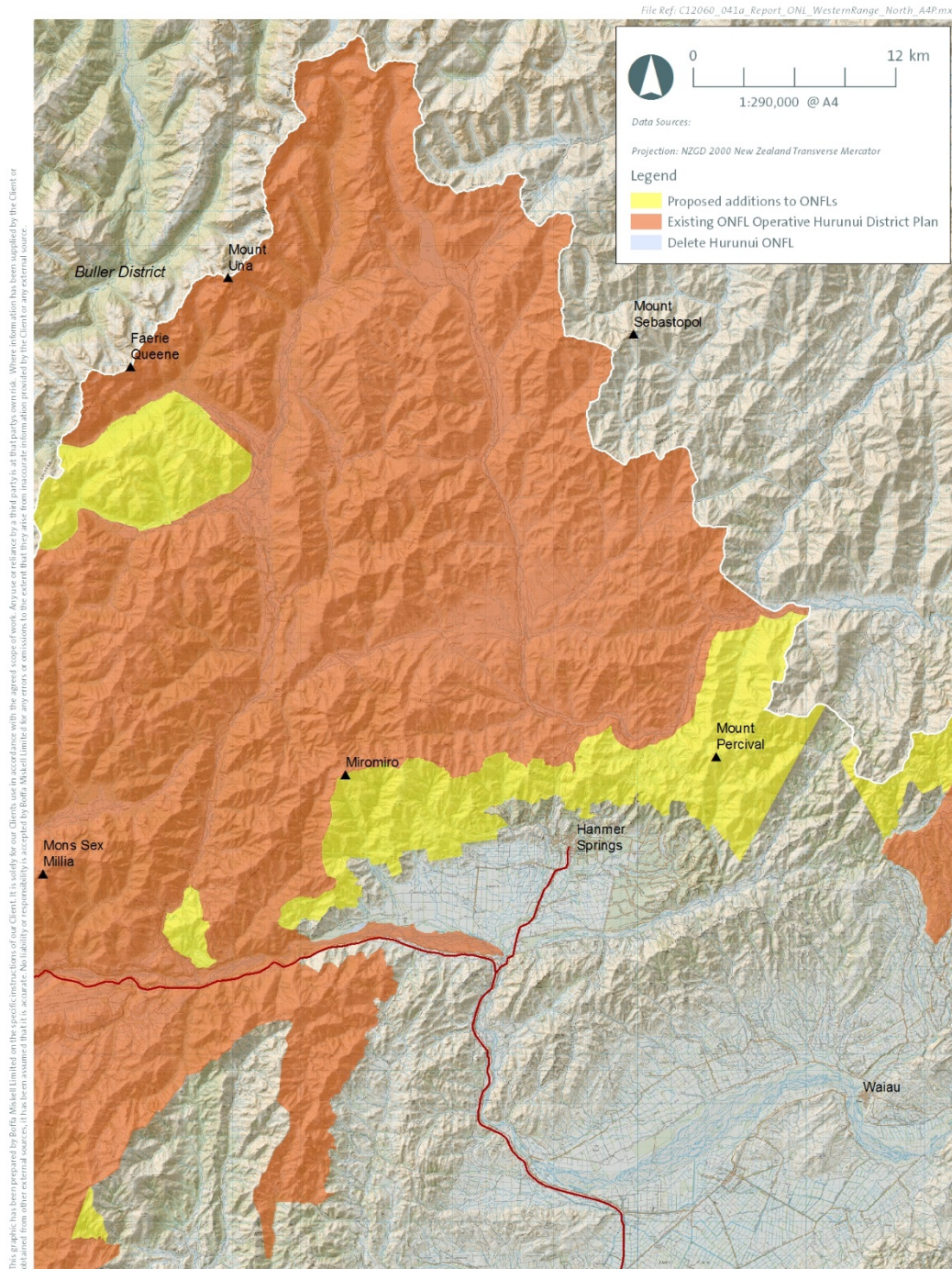
HDC has discussed this matter with DOC (Waimakariri and Nelson/ Marlborough Area offices) who have indicated their full support for the inclusion of the areas as ONLs. Smaller additions of DOC managed land have occurred along the tops of the Hanmer Range, a narrow strip of DOC land adjacent to the north bank of the Hurunui River and in the headwaters of Silver Brook.

In addition, a review has been undertaken of an exclusion of an area located within Glenhope Station. In the current plan this area on the eastern side of the Boyle/ Waiau confluence, located between the rivers and Handyside Peak (1171m) forms a distinctive exclusion. From a preliminary desktop assessment it is unclear why this area has been excluded, as it seems to contain similar values to the surrounding landscape. It is, therefore, recommended to include this area.

A small area, which has been cleared of native vegetation and converted to pasture on the true left bank of the Waiau River in the upper Hanmer Basin, has been excluded from the ONL.

The remainder of the ONL boundary, located on the western side of the Hurunui River north of the Glenrae confluence, is particularly inaccessible as it contains the Organ and Tekoa Ranges. The majority of this area is private land that cannot be accessed easily by 4WD. Therefore, these areas have only been reviewed on aerial photos. The current ONL boundary follows ridgelines, catchment boundaries and property boundaries. While small amendments could be made along this extensive ONL boundary, it appears to be more or less in the correct place. Amendments to be boundary based on land cover may be appropriate. Given the extent of the ONL and scale of the landscape, land owners have informed HDC that on site assessments would not be practical in this area.

## 5.6.1 ONL Map Northern Part



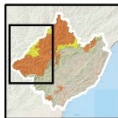
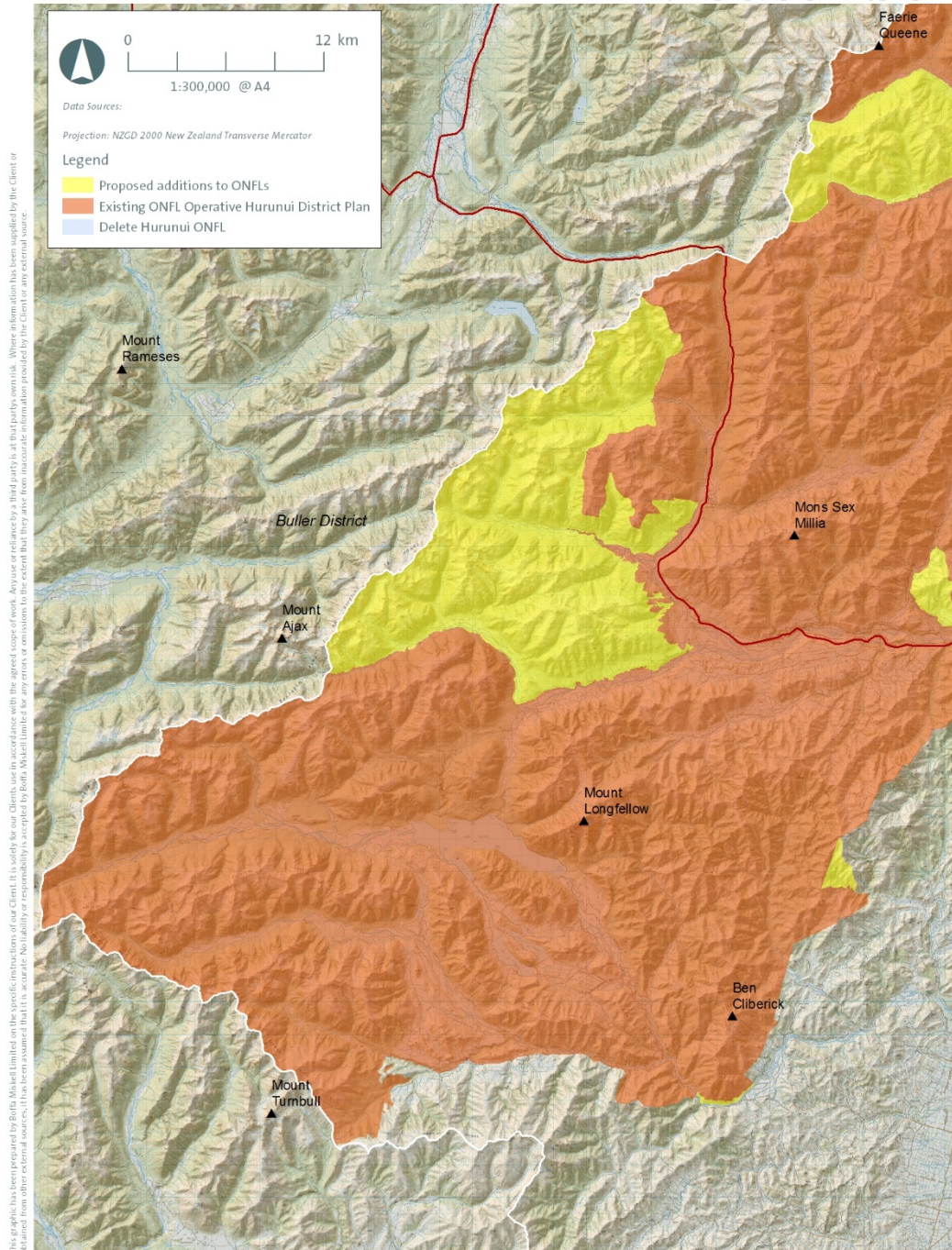
### OUTSTANDING NATURAL LANDSCAPE Western Mountain Ranges (North)

Date: 19 December 2014 | Revision: 1  
 Plan prepared for Hurunui District Council by Boffa Miskell Limited  
 Project Manager: SSt | Drawn: BMC | Checked: YPF



## 5.6.1 ONL Map Southern Part

File Ref: C12060\_041a\_Report\_ONL\_WesternRange\_South\_A4P.mxd



### OUTSTANDING NATURAL LANDSCAPE Western Mountain Ranges (South)

Date: 19 December 2014 | Revision: 1  
Plan prepared for Hurunui District Council by Boffa Miskell Limited  
Project Manager: SSt | Drawn: BMC | Checked: YPF



## 6.0 Recommendations

The following section of the report outlines recommendations based on the findings of the landscape evaluation and ONF/L boundary amendments described in Section 5. The recommendations also include comments on existing and potential land use occurring in the proposed ONF/L areas. These pressures for landscape change, together with the values and sensitivities of these areas described in the evaluation may assist council to develop an appropriate set of landscape management mechanisms.

### 6.1 Landscape Evaluation and Boundary Amendments

Over the past years case law has confirmed that the identification of landscape values through a rigorous assessment process determines whether a landscape meets a certain 'quality threshold'. The brief for this review required specifically a focus on areas that are current identified as 'outstanding natural landscapes' in the district plan (under section 6b of the RMA). This included the review of landscape values and appropriateness of boundaries within existing ONF/L.

As part of this report the values for each of the identified ONF/Ls has been made explicit. This evaluation makes the rationale behind the ONF/L identification more transparent and will help to ensure that 'value thresholds' around landscapes of the district are comparable. Some small and sporadic features, such as limestone outcrops, wetlands and vegetation remnants, while locally important have not met the standard required for ONF/Ls. Other chapters of the district plan may, however, offer protection for these landscape elements. It should also be noted that Geopreservation Sites are often of high natural science and legibility value which may elevate their importance as landscape features.

All landscape have values and there are many natural features and landscapes that are of significance within the district, but do not meet the threshold required for 'outstanding' status. In the 1995 'Landscapes of the Hurunui District' study some of these features were identified as 'significant landscapes'. Some of the areas that have been identified as 'significant' in the 1995 study, have now been recommended for inclusion in the ONLs. This applies in particular to areas that have since the preparation of the 1995 study been retired from grazing and included in DOC managed conservation land. This has in many instances led to an increase in native vegetation cover and additional recreation opportunities in these areas. The additions include mostly mountain ranges and river valleys in the western part of the region, which display high levels of naturalness and landscape quality. The application of the 'Pigeon Bay Criteria' throughout the assessment process led to the inclusion of areas that display similar qualities to previously identified ONF/Ls.

The review process has also led to boundary adjustments of existing ONLs, where areas that displayed lesser landscape value were excluded. This applies in particular to parts of the Coastal

and Weka Pass ONLs, where land use changes have occurred over the past decades that have reduced the naturalness and legibility of landscape values in some parts.

The boundaries have been refined where possible to reflect the technology available today which allows for more detailed assessment and boundary identification on aerial photos. Some areas may be refined further, as no changes have been made where no review was requested and site visits were not possible due to logistical or access reasons. Unless there was an obvious mapping error or unclear rationale for the boundary outlines, these ONLs remained the same as the existing ones in the Plan.

It is recommended to provide maps showing the amended ONF/L outlines to landowners for further comment and to subsequently adopt the recommended boundaries into the Proposed District Plan.

## 6.2 Pressure for Landscape Change

It is acknowledged that some areas within the identified ONF/Ls vary internally in landcover and landscape quality. Where individual buildings/ structures or other modifications occur in an ONL area, the immediately surrounding land does not necessarily provide the outstanding natural values that may be displayed in the wider ONL. Generally modifications occur in relatively confined areas within the wider ONL areas.

The potential pressure for modification on the high country, limestone, hills and coastal landscapes, in particular from land use change, is currently not clear and is expected to be highly dependent on economic variables. Landscape change is in general difficult to predict. However, an attempt was made in this report to describe the sensitivities of the identified landscape values.

While farming in flat lowland areas has experienced a shift from extensive sheep grazing to dairy farming over recent years, the older extensive farming systems have persisted in the high country and on steep coastal slopes where land is economically marginal. In the high country, tussock grassland is the principal vegetation and forms the basis for the large extensive runs. It is acknowledged that the land cover in these high country areas has been modified from the original native forest cover. However, the appearance of most of the high country farmland, apart from a distinctive pattern of fence lines and occasional over-sown paddocks is largely perceived as natural. Historically only some of the high country land was freehold with the majority held under Crown lease, the lessees often owning the land in the immediate vicinity of the homesteads or near fords. The ongoing tenure review process is leading to a change in high country land ownership. The Department of Conservation has seen a significant increase in conservation land in the western part of Hurunui District through tenure review.

The potential impacts of landscape modifications will vary between each of the six identified ONF/Ls. The sensitivities of an ONF/L do not only depend on their landscape values, but they also relate to the visibility of an area, its importance as a visual resource, and its accessibility. Appropriateness of potential future activities and actual effects of any proposed change would have to be assessed on a case to case basis.

It is difficult to anticipate potential threats to the landscape in the future, as they are highly dependent on external drivers such as technological progress and economic factors. Therefore, there is a need to regularly review the district plan in the light of external pressures and ongoing landscape change. Landscape change has occurred over the past 20 years, since the preparation of the 1995 district study, and it may be valuable for council to identify current trends and pressures for this current District Plan Review. This could be done by analysing differences in land cover on aerial photos or from the land cover data base (GIS) and by reviewing resource consents granted within ONLs during this period of time.

Alternatively an assessment of the landscape's sensitivity to change could be carried out separately to the landscape value identification undertaken as part of this study. This type of capacity approach is suitable for specific areas that are experiencing particular pressures, but is less appropriate for the entire district. A capacity study may help to identify, for example areas suitable for more intensive residential development along the coast.

### 6.3 Potential Future Land Uses and Management Mechanisms

Within this section landscape vulnerability to a variety of human activities is addressed as part of the suggested landscape management mechanisms described below. Landscape mechanisms would ideally be targeted to the identified values within each specific ONF/L area, but a range of generic aspects of landscape management that apply to all ONF/Ls are outlined below to reflect the wider range of values. Potential land uses that may change the appearance and identified values of various ONF/Ls are identified. The list is, however, not necessarily comprehensive and the future may hold a different range of uses that cannot be anticipated at the moment.

Tree planting: Tree planting can have visual effects on the openness of the landscape and in some cases this reduction in openness can have adverse effects on the legibility of landscapes and features. Tree planting for commercial purposes is often linear in form with distinctive, unnatural edges and generally consists of exotic, single species monocultures. This results in an 'unnatural' appearance of plantation forests compared with indigenous vegetation communities, which generally contain a variety of plants of different age, size, colour and texture, which follow the natural terrain with more natural edges and transitions. The landscape effects of the larger scale, commercial plantation forests can also include the creation of access tracks and visual scaring of the landform during harvesting. When considering the effects of tree planting the scale, location and layout in relation to the underlying landform, species composition and edge treatment should be taken into account. While small-scale woodlots, shelterbelts and erosion control planting may be widely accepted in sensitive landscapes, large scale commercial forestry could lead to significant visual and physical effects that causes degradation of landscape values.

Consideration should be given to:

- The scale of planting;
- Mix of species and the effect on the naturalness of the landscape;
- Visual domination, and in particular effects on openness of the landscape;
- The potential for the planting to block views from roads and other public places;

- Effects on existing vegetation patterns;
- Layout, including spacing and pattern;
- Relationship to other areas of forestry and the potential for cumulative effects on landscape values;
- Potential to obscure or encroach upon important landforms;
- Location and visibility of tracks (covered by earthworks matters); and
- The purpose of the planting.

Vineyards: Parts of the district, in particular the Waipara Basin, have experienced a significant increase in vineyards over the past decades. Currently the majority of vineyards are in the north eastern part of the basin and located on flat or slightly undulating land. While generally perceived as an appropriate rural land use, the creation of unnatural lines could have effects on the naturalness and legibility of outstanding landscapes and features. While there may be appropriate locations, in particular for smaller scale vineyards, it is recommended to control establishment of new vineyards within the Weka Pass ONL, where pressure for such land uses appears to be greatest in comparison with other ONF/Ls in the district.

Earthworks: Earthworks can leave exposed and cut surfaces which often contrast with surrounding vegetation and natural contours. In particular, if earthworks are carried out on slopes, the scarring can be visually prominent with an adverse effect on the surrounding landscape. The location, shape, volume and size of earthworks generally determine their visual impact, but other factors, such as extent and treatment of cut, batter and spill on slopes are also important aspects that can influence the landscape outcomes of larger-scale earthworks.

Removal of native vegetation: For many of the ONF/Ls the presence of indigenous vegetation is an important contributing factor that adds to the natural science values of the areas. The quality and quantity of native vegetation cover varies considerably between ONLs. The extent and species composition of vegetation cover/ remnants needs to be considered when effects of vegetation removal are to be assessed. There is a strong overlap with parts of the district plan that are aimed at protecting the biodiversity of the district.

From a landscape perspective consideration should be given to the extent to which the loss of indigenous vegetation will adversely affect:

- The natural science values of an ONF/L
- The overall natural character of an area, including its natural elements, patterns and processes;
- Indigenous ecosystem integrity and function;
- Cultural values;
- Natural character associated with the coast, a water body or wetland

Buildings and Structures: Buildings and structures have the potential to modify the landscape depending on their location in relation to the topography, size/ scale/ height, form, colour, materials/ finish as well as surrounding existing and proposed vegetation. For residential dwellings landscape change can also relate to other consequential modifications that lead to domestication, such as gardens, driveways, washing lines, etc.

It is unlikely that some parts of the identified ONF/Ls in the district would be intensively developed for residential use due to their remoteness and often difficult access. The exceptions

to this may be parts of the Weka Pass, Mt Lyford and Coastal ONLs in proximity to existing nodes of residential development. It may be appropriate to identify areas that are suitable to absorb residential development outside the ONLs to ensure future development is planned in a strategic rather than reactive manner.

Structures can also include telecommunication towers, electricity pylons, wind turbines, solar panels and farm buildings, such as sheds. Ridgelines are particularly sensitive to the locations of structures, since their appearance on the skyline is often visually prominent from a variety of viewpoints. The expressiveness of particularly legible landforms may be modified by structures, if they visually dominate their surroundings.

Consideration of the following factors should be taken into account when assessing landscape and visual effects of buildings and structures in ONF/Ls:

- Type of building/structure and the effects on the rural/ natural landscape character;
- Location in relation to the landform and topography and specific landscape features that are particularly legible within the ONF/L;
- Scale, form, and finish of any structure, including colour and materials;
- Impact on coherence of landscape character or pattern of natural features such as indigenous vegetation, coastal escarpments, ridges, limestone outcrops etc;
- The nature and extent of existing development within the vicinity or locality;
- Whether or not the proposal is likely to lead to the introduction of urban/ domestic elements into the landscape, inconsistent with rural amenity values.
- The extent to which the number of dwellings or the building coverage on a site would visually dominate or contrast with existing character and amenity values;
- The need for any increased height of a building/structure in order to undertake the proposed activity and how this may detract from views and outlook from adjoining properties or from public roads and places;
- Cumulative effects and potential to visually dominate the landscape;
- The benefits that may be obtained from clustering of buildings/ structures within the landscape;
- Consideration of and the extent to which any building or structure conforms with design guidance provided in the Hurunui District Rural Subdivision Guide <sup>2</sup>

Threats to landscapes can also arise from cumulative effects from a variety of activities or from incremental development over time, such as sprawl or 'creep' of development where an existing modification in the landscape leads to further co-location of modification.

As part of an assessment of landscape effects opportunities for benefits should, however, also be taken into account. These benefits could include opportunities to remedy or mitigate an existing adverse effect and opportunities to protect open space from further development through eg the use of restrictive covenants. The extent to which a proposal avoids fragmentation of the landscape and allows for the physical and visual connections between natural features and elements should also be taken into consideration.

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<sup>2</sup> Hurunui District Rural Subdivision Guide- A guide to rural subdivision that retains rural character and enhances the attractive qualities of the rural environment (prepared by BML for HDC, 1998)

# Appendix 1- Landscape Values/ Assessment Criteria

## **Natural Science Values**

The Natural Science aspects considered by the Environment Court were described in the Queenstown decision as “the geological, ecological and dynamic components of the landscape”. Natural science values were considered important if a landform (including geology and soils) and/or landcover (in particular native vegetation communities, wildlife and ecosystems) displayed particular representativeness or rarity within the region. Representative natural features and landscapes are clearly and recognisably characteristic of the area, district or region. The key components of the landscape will be present in a way that more generally defines the character of the place. Natural features in a good state of preservation are representative and characteristic of the natural geological processes and diversity of the region. Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, if few comparable examples exist. Natural features may be a landscape feature or an element/component of the landscape.

In the past century, almost all areas protected in New Zealand have been identified for aesthetic or biotic values. While this has resulted in the protection of a large number of earth science sites of significance, it has also resulted in considerable bias in what has been preserved. New Zealand has a unique and extremely diverse natural landform, geological and soil heritage. This is a result of its long and complex geological history, its climate and location on a volcanically and deformationally - active boundary between two of the world's major crustal plates. The Geopreservation Inventory lists information on all the internationally, nationally and many of the regionally important earth science sites throughout New Zealand.

The overriding objective of earth science conservation in New Zealand should be to ensure the protection of the integrity of the best representative examples of the broad diversity of geologic features, landforms, soils sites and active physical processes, so that we can understand the unique geological history of New Zealand, development of its landforms and evolution of its biota.

The Department of Conservation is one of the largest landholders in New Zealand, with over 800 thousand hectares of conservation land in Canterbury, in particular in the western parts to the region. Hurunui District has a vast number of protected areas. The protected areas in the east are generally smaller and fragmented, while the western part of the district contains large, adjoining conservation areas. Information available from various documents published by DOC, including the Conservation Management Strategy and Critical Sites Information, was used to inform the study team about natural science values in the district.

## **Legibility Values**

Legibility is one of the key aspects or criteria for assessing a landscape. The Environment Court described this criterion as “how obviously the landscape demonstrates the formative processes leading to it” (Barton, 2005), in other words the degree to which the processes (geomorphological, hydrological, climate, vegetation, coastal and cultural) are actively displayed in the landscape. Some landscapes (or natural features) clearly express past natural and cultural processes. This criterion is linked to geological values. However, landscapes or features which are significant in terms of their geomorphological values, may not be expressive of these processes, whilst those which are highly expressive may not have a specific

geomorphological value. Natural features and landscapes that exemplify the particular processes that formed them may also have strong historical connotations and a distinctive sense of place.

Legibility is an important concept in landscape assessment. It refers to the expressiveness of the landscape, how easy it is to understand all its subtleties in terms of past events - both natural and cultural. Overseas visitors often remark that New Zealand landscapes provide a wonderful lesson on physical geography. Past processes are often clearly understandable, and present geological activity, such as coastal erosion, river sediment transport or rock slides, are clearly evident in many places. Legibility need not necessarily relate to 'attractiveness', but clarity of natural and cultural processes is important.

### **Aesthetic Values**

The aesthetic value aspects considered by the Environment Court were described in the Queenstown decision as "including memorability and naturalness". This decision included some discussion of the adequacy of this description. It was of the view that traditional scenic and visual considerations may be underplayed. It noted that considerations such as pleasantness raised in the RMA amenity definition with reference to S 7c will be relevant. Vividness, intactness and visual coherence were aspects considered as contributors to a landscape's visual quality in the 1993 study. The definitions of these terms shows that they are interrelated:

**Memorability:** This term describes the way in which a landscape remains in the memory. Highly memorable landscapes comprise a key component of a person's recall or mental map of a region or district. This is also often related to a landscape's legibility.

**Naturalness:** Natural features and landscapes appear largely uncompromised by modification and appear to comprise natural systems that are functional and healthy. Naturalness describes the perception of the predominance of nature in the landscape. A landscape may retain a high degree of aesthetic naturalness even though its natural systems may be modified. Similarly landscapes that have high ecological values may not display high qualities of visual naturalness.

**Vividness:** Vivid landscapes are widely recognised across the community and beyond the local area and remain clearly in the memory; striking landscapes are symbolic of an area due to their recognisable and memorable qualities, including their landform.

**Coherence:** Natural systems are intact and aesthetically coherent and do not display significant visual signs of human modification, intervention or manipulation. The patterns of land cover and land use are largely in harmony with the underlying natural pattern of the landform of the area and there are no significant discordant elements of land cover or land use; Coherence describes the way in which the visual elements or components of any landscape come together. Landscapes with high levels of coherence will have their visual elements in harmony and reinforcing each other. They will have unity, whilst they may be either visually diverse or relatively simple in terms of their elements. They work together in terms of their composition.

While an individual feature may have an aesthetic value when viewed from beyond its boundaries, aesthetic quality of landscape is more likely to relate to a place or an area. The Oxford English Dictionary (2002) defines 'aesthetic' as 'concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty; of pleasing appearance'. This appreciation of beauty encompasses not only the visual aspects of a landscape, but also other sensory experiences, such as sound, smell and touch. Many scientific studies have been undertaken



to examine and quantify scenic beauty of landscapes<sup>3</sup>. A number of researchers<sup>4</sup> found that both a landscape's intrinsic physical properties (natural beauty) and/or cultural elements (relating to human creation) can result in aesthetic landscape quality. Areas identified as outstanding landscapes, generally contain these favoured characteristics. Significant visual signs of human modification, intervention or manipulation often detract from the visual 'wholeness' and the aesthetic qualities of a landscape.

### **Transient Values**

Transient values describe the contribution which wildlife, climate and hydrological processes make to landscape. A landscape may gain significance due to the way in which wildlife seasonally (or at times in the day) gathers or occupies a specific area. Similarly, locations that benefit from the rising or setting sun, time of day and seasons of the year may be elevated in value due to this 'transient characteristic'. This criterion is linked to those of the ecological values set and provide for the recognition of the contribution to wildlife – which may or may not have intrinsic scientific value – to the perception of landscape.

The consistent occurrence of transient features (for example the seasonal changes in the mountains or particular weather patterns and cloud formations) contribute to the character, qualities and values of the landscape. Some landscapes are widely recognised for their transient features and the contribution these make to the landscape. The natural features or landscapes of regional significance providing predictable or regular experience of dimensions of nature other than landform or land cover eg. concentrations of wildlife.

Natural features and landscapes are generally characterised by their landform and their land cover. However, the experience of some landscapes is significantly influenced by other, sometimes ephemeral, characteristics. Where these characteristics occur regularly they become a recognised and integral part of the landscape.

### **Tangata Whenua Values**

Some natural features and landscapes are clearly special or widely known and influenced by their connection to the Maori values inherent in the place. These landscapes (or parts of them) have been identified as having particular regional importance to tangata whenua.

In 1998 the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act was passed to achieve full and final settlement of historical Ngai Tahu claims (grievances) against the Crown. The Act records the apology given by the Crown to Ngai Tahu, for injustices suffered by the Crown's actions in purchasing Ngai Tahu land, and gives effect to the provisions of the Deed of Settlement 1997 entered into between Ngai Tahu and the Crown. The concept of manawhenua secures an ongoing relationship between tangata whenua and local, regional and central government authorities in terms of natural resource management. The provisions of the Settlement are aimed at recognising the mana of Ngai Tahu on the landscape and restoring the ability of Ngai Tahu to give practical effect to kaitiaki responsibilities. Such provisions include the statutory acknowledgements as recorded statements of the association of Ngai Tahu with a particular area. This mechanism is intended to improve the effectiveness of Ngai Tahu participation in RMA processes. Topuni status was applied as public symbols of Ngai Tahu mana and rangatiratanga over specific areas of land managed by the

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<sup>3</sup> Landscape Quality Assessment of South Australia, Andrew Lothian, Dissertation for Doctorate of Philosophy, Department of Geographical & Environmental Studies, University of Adelaide, 2000

<sup>4</sup> Eg Zube, Sell and Taylor (1982) analysed 160 published papers and found that the physical elements, compositional construction, locational context, naturalness, man-made elements, and gestalt were the key characteristics that were considered in landscape quality assessments.

Department of Conservation, through providing an overlay or 'cloak' of Ngai Tahu values, and thus ensuring those values are recognised and provided for.

In addition to the data included in the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) database, valuable information was provided by local hapu, Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri and Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura, and collated by TRONT. This input proved vital to ensure that associations and stories relating to local landscape features could be captured as part of the value assessment. This more detailed information provided by local hapu associated with each ONF/L has been included as Appendix 2 to this report. Additionally, the key information relating to tangata whenua values has been summarised in the relevant section of each ONF/L description.

### **Shared and Recognised Values**

Certain Natural features and landscapes are widely known and valued by the immediate and wider community for their contribution to a sense of place leading to a strong community association with or high public esteem for the place. There should be a substantial measure of agreement between professional and public opinion as to the value of natural features and landscapes, for example as reflected through writings and paintings or through favourite locations for visitors. The presence of existing protected sites is also likely to reflect shared and recognised values.

Research has shown that many professional landscape assessments have reflected fairly accurately the views of the general public. Nonetheless, it is fully accepted that in some circumstances the expert's perceptions may be different. Public perception exercises are often extremely costly and not always feasible as part of a landscape study.

The 1995 Hurunui Landscape Study (Lucas Ass.) attempted to reflect community values through a series of workshops, where public perception of landscape was explored. This information was used to identify the ONLs in the current district plan.

Tourism in Hurunui District is important for the local economy. Some of the main tourist attractions in the district are located in townships, such as the hot springs in Hanmer, others are often considered to be 'iconic landscapes' of the district, such as mountain ranges, rivers, lakes or forests. Certain types of recreation destinations reflect the landscape resource. Conservation areas and popular recreation opportunities within them have been considered under this set of values. Scenic reserves and a number of other protected areas reflect a community recognition of an area's landscape quality affording them a high level of protection.

### **Historic Values**

Cultural legibility is a vital component of many overseas landscapes where many centuries of human endeavour can be unravelled through study of the present landscape. In New Zealand this aspect of landscape has received only limited and belated attention. This has led to a recognition of how modified our 'natural' landscapes really are. The developing awareness of complexity of the 'cultural landscape' of the Tangata Whenua is covered under the Tangata Whenua evaluation criterion. The result is an increased understanding of the value of landscape as a living record of social change, which adds to the increasing significance attached to the legibility of our landscapes.

Some of Hurunui's landscapes are clearly and widely known and influenced by their connection to the historical values inherent in the place. Cultural and historical values are based on traditional land uses

such as farming and food gathering practices, traditional settlement patterns, architectural periods, or notable landmarks, events or figures. Some of them are specific sites of significance, others are wider areas that reflect a high degree of unity or integrity as a setting for historic sites or activities. Individuals and communities leave their different marks on the landscape. From our choices of architecture and land use to our memories of events, landscapes can tell stories of from where and from whom we came and why we have responded to the physical environment in the ways we have. All landscapes are inextricably linked to historic processes.

## Appendix 2 – Ngāi Tahu values associated with Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features

### Coastal Hills and Waiau Mouth ONL

#### **The Waiau River**

*“The Waiau-uha has a cosmological link with the Waiau-toa (Clarence River). The river in legend is the female spirit of the inland mountains, and the Waiau toa is the male. Moving from the Spenser Mountains and Miromiro (Jollies Pass), where the Waiau uha meets the Waiau toa, the waters become separated. As Waiau-uha laments the parting, her tears fall as warm rain to melt the alpine snows, swelling both rivers to massive proportions.”*

- *Te Poha o Tohu Raumati (2005:175).*

The spiritual and cultural connection to rivers, and to freshwater in general, is of primary importance when considering tangata whenua values associated with a river catchment. For Ngāi Tahu, water is a taonga left by the ancestors to provide and sustain life. All waterways, and their associated tributaries, wetlands and springs, are considered significant resources of value to Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura. In the Waiau River catchment, the river mouth, tributaries such as the Caroline Stream, Lemmington Stream, Tuahuka (Leader River), Hope and Boyle Rivers, Middle Drain and Mata Kopae lagoon are of particular significance, for values such as ara tawhito (trails), Tapuae Tipuna, mahinga kai and wāhi tapu sites. Rivers are the lifeblood of Papatūānuku that supply nourishment to her, through her, and to all living things. They are connected through whakapapa to the landscape and to the people, and as such are a source of mana and identity.

The Waiau River catchment is a Ngāi Tahu cultural landscape. Tribal history is embedded in the river, and the lands that it flows through. Over the generations, the river, its tributaries, the vast areas of repo raupo (wetlands), waipuna (springs), and riparian areas, as well as the surrounding forests, valleys and maunga (mountains) provided tangata whenua with abundant natural resources, mahinga kai and cultural and spiritual associations.

The Waiau river catchment was included in the Kaikōura land purchases, an important time of Ngāi Tahu history. It was a time of land dispossession that changed the physical and cultural landscape of the region, and thus the economic base of Ngāi Tahu.

#### **The Waiau River catchment and the 1859 Kaikōura Purchase**

The Waiau River catchment was part of the Crown’s 1859 Kaikōura Purchase, one of eight +major land purchases that saw Ngāi Tahu land sold to the Crown between 1844 and 1864.<sup>4</sup> The demand for land by European settlers led the government to send Mackay Jr to secure both the West Coast and the Kaikōura blocks from Ngāi Tahu. Mackay wrote to Kaikōura Whakatau at Mikonui, inviting him to discuss the purchase of the land. Most of the land that Ngāti Kuri held customary title over (from Te Parinuiowhiti to the Hurunui) had already been sold or leased to settlers by the Nelson Land Office. For example, Ngāti Kuri had requested a large pastoral reserve between the rivers Kahutara and Tutaepuaputa (Conway), which was refused – because the land in question had already been leased to three run holders. This,

coupled with threats of involving Ngāti Toa, left Kaikōura Whakatau and the others with little to negotiate with.

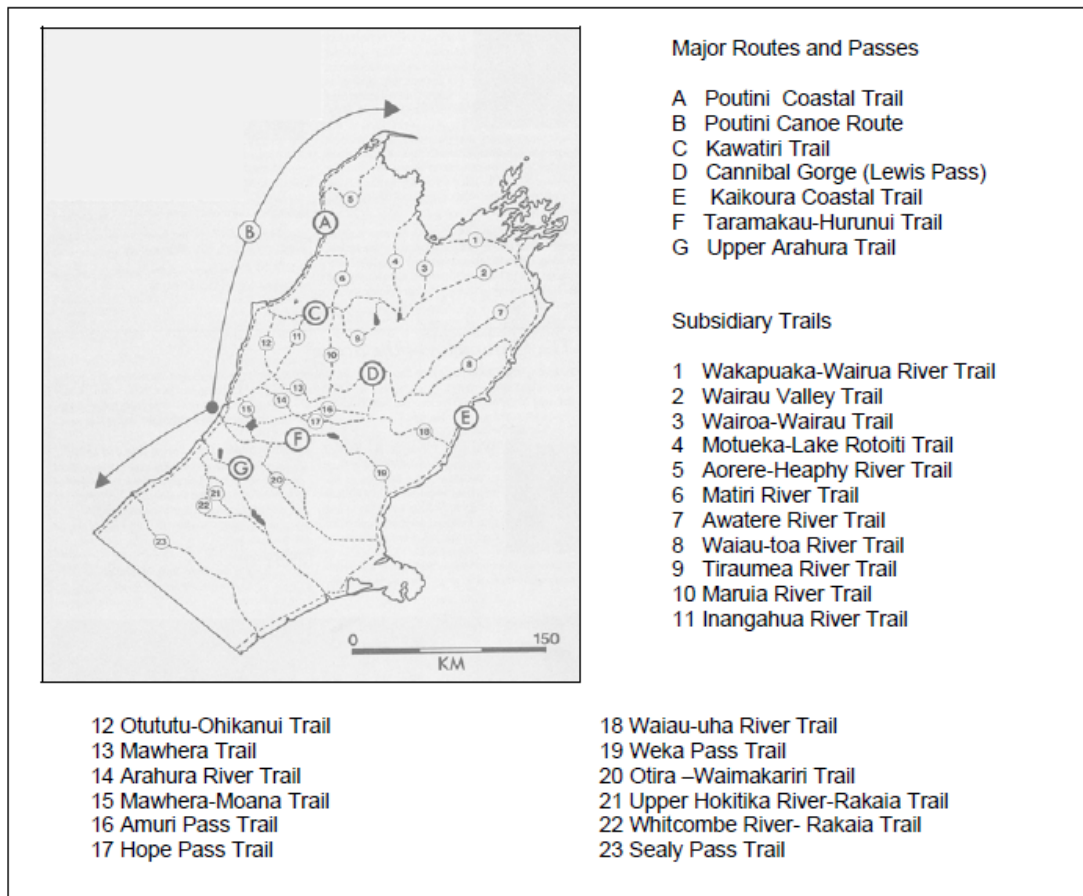
Early resistance by Ngāi Tahu to the sale of their lands was met with steady pressure until an agreement was finally signed between Ngāi Tahu and Commissioner McKay in 1859. Source: Evison, H.C 1987, 1997

**Ara tawhito ki pounamu**

The Waiau-uha River trail was a subsidiary trail in the network of routes and passes used by Māori to travel between Canterbury and Te Tai Poutini. On the east coast, the Waiau River trail connected to the Kaikōura Coastal trail. The inland Amuri Pass route, at the headwaters of the Doubtful River, went from the Waiau River to the Arahura River, then down the Mawhera and on to the Arahura pounamu areas. The Hope Pass route also linked the Waiau River trail and the western rivers of Te Tai Poutini. Alternatively, travellers could branch northwards from the Waiau River, to the Cannibal Gorge (Lewis Pass) trail (see Figure 1).

The Maruia and the route now known as the Lewis Saddle, thence to the Waiau-uha and so on into South Marlborough and North Canterbury made a convenient, if hazardous, highway for the swag-carrying parties of greenstone-getters and warriors in the long ago through a very wild territory, an eternal jumble of mountains and cliff and defile, with here and there a flat valley which comes as a welcome break in the vast wilderness of ups and downs.

**Figure 1: Ara tawhito ki pounamu: major routes and passes. Source: Brailsford 1996**



## **Ki uta ki tai: From mountains to sea**

The Waiau River flows *ki uta ki tai* – mountains to the sea – from its headwaters in Ka Tiritiri o te Moana (the Southern Alps), the ancestors of Ngāi Tahu and the gateway to the atua (gods), through the Amuri Ranges and Emu Plains, downstream through the Parnassus Gorge and lowland areas to the river mouth and coastal marine boundary. The river flows from a mountain and high country landscape of beech forest, tussock grasslands and valley flats to a lowland floodplain and coastal lagoon, where it flows into the sea.

The principle of *ki uta ki tai* is central to Ngati Kuri perspectives on the management of water resources. It captures the essence of the tangata whenua relationship with a river – valuing a river as a source of life (as opposed to a resource that is a source of money), from source to sea across multiple, diverse landscapes.

## **The Waiau River mouth**

The Waiau River has high concentrations of wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga values, many of which are concentrated in the coastal river mouth area. In addition to these values, the river mouth is also valued for its hydrological and ecological importance. The river mouth facilitates the natural mixing of salt and freshwaters. The water that flows into the sea at the Waiau river mouth is a crucial link in the water cycle. When the link is broken or lessened, the ecological balance of land and oceans, fresh water and seawater, also gets disrupted. Saline water may start intruding inwards, swallowing the beaches and eroding the coast. The protection of the exchange of freshwater and seawater at river mouths is seen as necessary to protecting the mauri of waterbodies.

The Waiau River catchment historically had an abundance of mahinga kai associations, such as nohoanga. The term nohoanga traditionally referred to the seasonal occupation sites that were an integral part of the seasonal mahinga kai cycles of Ngāi Tahu. Such sites would have been all along the Waiau River, often one day apart. The traditional concept has been given contemporary effect, in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, through the provision of temporary campsites adjacent to lakes and rivers, to facilitate customary fishing and gathering of other wāhi natural resources. One such site is located at the mouth of the Waiau River.

Tangata whenua have described how particular areas in the Waiau flats (lowlands) were used as mahinga kai to supply the pā site at the river mouth. Places such as Mata Kopae (St. Anne's Lagoon) supplied freshwater fish such as tuna (eel) and waterfowl, as well as weaving materials. Several waipuna (springs) along Lemmington stream were used as a freshwater source when the river flooded.

Connected to the Waiau River through Caroline Stream, Mata Kopae is an extremely significant site to Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura. During site visits, tangata whenua expressed their connection to this place – as a place that is ancestral and a place that is Ngāi Tahu, despite a contemporary landscape that is largely European.

As described, Mata Kopae has strong mahinga kai associations. A place rich in tuna (eel), other native fish, and waterfowl, the lagoon was valued by Ngāi Tahu for breeding stock. Tangata whenua would remove breeding stock from the wetland area and transfer them to other places. The banks at the entrance of Mata Kopae were originally made by Ngāi Tahu ancestors, to protect breeding stocks (so that they remained in the lagoon).



## Conway

The Conway River / Tūtae Putaputa has a long history of Māori land use and occupancy. The area is significant in the historical accounts of the southern migration of Ngāti Kuri (Ngāi Tahu), including how Ngāi Tahu gained control over existing Ngāti Māmoë settlements along the Kaikōura coast, gaining customary authority over the lands and resources of the area. Tūtae Putaputa is also known as *Piritūtaeputaputa*, the name of a battle that occurred at the river. Tūtae Putaputa was first and foremost known as a mahinga kai (food gathering) area for Ngāi Tahu, largely centred on the coastal hāpua, or lagoon. Archaeological evidence from the lower catchment highlights mahinga kai associations, including the presence of midden, pits and umu (ovens). Fire cracked stones are found in abundance along the coast.

*“The Kahutara, Ōaro and Conway rivers are our three main mahinga kai rivers; known for their abundance of kai.” -*

*Cultural Mapping Group discussion, Takahanga Marae.*

The importance of the river and associated coastal environment as a cultural landscape is recognised in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act (NTCSA) 1998. Tūtae Putaputa and Te Tai o Marokura (Kaikōura Coastal Marine Area) are recognised as Statutory Acknowledgments (SA), due to the immense historical, cultural, traditional and spiritual associations of Ngāi Tahu with the sites.

*“The tūpuna had considerable knowledge of whakapapa, traditional trails and tauranga waka, places for gathering kai and other taonga, ways in which to use the resources of the river, and the relationship of people with the river and their dependence on it, and tikanga for the proper and sustainable utilization of resources. All of these values remain important to Ngāi Tahu today.” – Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998: Schedule 65*

The coastal hāpua, or lagoon, at the mouth of Tūtae Putaputa is of immense cultural importance to Ngāi Tahu. It is a wāhi taonga; a tangible treasure that transcends the generations. The mahinga kai resources of the hāpua once supported Pariwhakatau pā (NTCSA 1998). Numerous midden, pits and umu in the vicinity of the river mouth are evidence of the mahinga kai associations. Today, Ngāi Tahu families continue to fish at the lagoon, engaging with the river as their ancestors did.

The hāpua has always been known for its pātiki and tuna. Summers were spent fishing and swimming in the lagoon. Members of Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura describe going fishing with their parents in the summer, some walking all the way from the SH1 Bridge. The banks of the Limestone Creek, near where it meets Tūtae Putaputa, was a popular camping spot.

*“As a boy I would go down to the river mouth with my father and collect kai - patiki, tuna and watercress. My father used to tell me stories about the richness of this area for mahinga kai”*

*- Norm Kerei Keepa*

*“Three of us would go across the lagoon, spearing eels and pātiki. You could only go once because we would stir up the silt so bad that you couldn’t see the fish. But there was so many fish that you didn’t need to go again.” – Tim Manawatu*

Table 1: Cultural values associated with Tūtāe Putaputa

VALUE	DESCRIPTION
Pariwahakatau pā	"The cliff where we were persuaded to settle". Pariwahakatau is a historically significant Ngāti Mānōe pā built by Tukiaua, where the stream Waitātarau flows into the sea (Carrington Manuscripts 1934; Tau and Anderson 2008:99).
Pūhiki waiwai	Historically significant tauranga waka (canoe landing site). The Ngāti Kuri war party landed at Pūhiki waiwai when Pariwahakatau pā was besieged and taken (Carrington 1934).
Mahinga kai	Tūtāe Putaputa is known to Ngāti Tahu as a food gathering area. A series of maps prepared by Ngāti Kuri kauriwhiri (see Figure 1) identify a wide range of mahinga kai values associated with Tūtāe Putaputa and Pariwahakatau, including rākau (trees), kaimama (birds), kumara cultivations, and kai awa (fish from the river).
Wāhi pakanga	Pariwahakatau pā, and the coastal flats below, is a known wāhi pakanga (battle site), where Ngāti Kuri defeated Ngāti Mānōe. Two other very significant Ngāti Tahu battles were fought at Tūtāe Putaputa: one on the river, giving the river its name Piri-tūtae-putaputa, and one at the southern end of the main road bridge over the river known as Rēweraewere (Tau and Anderson 2008).
Wāhi ingoa	Ancestral place names are tangible reminders of the history of Ngāti Tahu on the landscape. Wāhi ingoa associated with Tūtāe Putaputa include Nya Irua a Te Rakihuru, Pare Kāua, Pūhiki wai wai, Pariwahakatau, Waitātarau, Pūhiki, Rēweraewere, Piri-Tūtāe Putaputa (Tau and Anderson 2008; Ngāti Kuri mahinga kai maps)
Archaeological sites	Numerous registered archaeological sites are present in the river mouth and coastal flats environment, including pā, ovens, pits, midden and artefacts (NZAA 032/20, 032/21, 032/30, 032/31, 032/33, 032/46, and 032/47). The Conway Flats comprise an extensive archaeological site complex, "in keeping with other places adjoining river mouths" (Allingham 2006). Te Rānanga o Kaikōura considers the likelihood of undiscovered sites in the lower catchment to be 'high'.  The Lagoon Flat Archaeo Site Complex (NZAA 032/31) is a particularly important moa hunting age site, with evidence of occupation including moa bones, midden and overstones, artefacts and burials.
Pūhiki	The coastal flats north of Tūtāe Putaputa are known as Pūhiki. Cultivation of the flats has revealed extensive living areas (Allingham 2006).
Urupā	Urupā are the resting places of Ngāti Tahu tūpuna. There are numerous urupā and other wāhi tapu associated with Tūtāe Putaputa, particularly in the vicinity of Pariwahakatau pā (NTCSA 1993, Schedule 63). The Lagoon Flat site (NZAA 032-031), a large area just north of the river mouth, was used for the interment of ko iwi tangata (NZAA site record).

## Gore Bay

The eastern coastline of South Island from Kaikōura to Te Pataka a Te Rakaihautu (Banks Peninsula) is named Te Tai o Marokura. There are a number of permanent and temporary settlements located along the length of the coastline, including Gore Bay. As a testament to the strong occupation of Ngāi Tahu Whānui of the eastern coastline there are hundreds of publicly recorded Māori archaeological sites along the eastern coastline of Te Waipounamu with many other Māori archaeological sites yet to be discovered.

The eastern coastline of Te Waipounamu was a significant travel route, particularly in areas where travel by land was difficult. Travel by sea between settlements and hapu (sub-tribes) was common, with a variety of different forms of waka, and consequently there are numerous tauranga waka (waka landing sites) along the coast. Considering the significance of the eastern coastline from Kaikōura to Te Pataka a Te Rakaihautu (Banks Peninsula) it was granted a Statutory Acknowledgement under the Ngāi Tahu Deed of Settlement in 1997.

Place names are an important component of Ngāti Kuri traditions and histories. Place names tell us stories associated with the region, such as the names of important ancestors, the mahinga kai resources, landscape features and historical events. W.A Taylor records the existence of a small Māori settlement at

Gore Bay that was associated with a chief named Turaka tuarua. The Māori name provided by W.A Taylor for Gore Bay is Pariroa (W. A Taylor 1950:28; Ngā Ingoa o Aotearoa pg28). Pariroa means 'Long Cliff'. In the New Zealand Archaeological Site Record Form for 033/5 Beverley McCulloch states the name 'Pau-pirau', however I am unclear whether this is the name for either a village at Gore Bay or for Gore Bay itself (New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Survey Form for NZAA Site No 033/5).

The number of publicly recorded Maori archaeological sites at Gore Bay is evidence of Māori occupation and use of Gore Bay. Archaeological sites that have been discovered at Gore Bay include umu (cooking areas), middens (refuse from occupation), artefacts, clusters of karaka trees and burials.

### Archaeological Finds in Gore Bay



The coastline provided a variety and abundance of food resources that sustained local communities and travellers. Evidence of the importance of the coastline as a food resource is highlighted in the analysis of the umu (cooking areas) and midden (refuse from occupation), in which the following foods were identified:

- Pāua
- Mussel
- Fish bones
- Seal bones
- Shag
- Penguin
- Shells, *mytilus edulis*, Blue Mussel Shell, limpets
- Dosnia

An enormously significant cultural feature of Gore Bay is the site of two groves of karaka trees (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*). As McCulloch outlines in her preliminary report from her archaeological investigation at Gore Bay in 1983 there is considerable botanical suggestion that karaka, at least on the east coast of the South Island, occurs only as groves planted deliberately in the prehistoric period; certainly it is always found in conjunction with other prehistoric occupational evidence. McCulloch notes that until good evidence to the contrary is found, South Island east coast karaka groves should be regarded as prehistoric sites<sup>1</sup>. In her preliminary report McCulloch suggested that there is some evidence of agricultural use in Gore Bay, although future work would be required to establish whether these features are natural or not.

Several artefacts have also been discovered at Gore Bay, including a flake knife, fragments of burnt flint, adze portion with some polish and occasional scattered flake tools, including some of orthoquartzite. Two burial sites have also been discovered at Gore Bay.

Buxton Creek would have been an important resource for Ngāi Tahu Whānui. Fish, such as tuna (eel), would have been gathered from Buxton Creek and the creek would have been an importance source of freshwater. It is also high likely that there was a tauranga waka associated with Buxton Creek. All of the information in this section tells us a story of the strong Māori occupation and use of Gore Bay. The coastline as an important travel route, the food resources of the coastline and surrounding native vegetation, the cooking areas, middens, artefacts and burial sites discovered at Gore Bay, groves of karaka trees, Māori place names associated with Gore Bay and the Buxton Creek all evidence of Māori occupation at Gore Bay. In particular, the groves of karaka trees and the reported discovery of burial sites indicate that there has been some form of permanent occupation at Gore Bay.

## Weka Pass/ Waipara Gorge ONF/L

The rainfed Waipara River is in the takiwā of Te Ngāi Tuahuriri Rūnanga. The relationship of Ngāi Tahu with the Waipara River is specifically provided for within the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 as a statutory acknowledgement area, recognising the immense cultural, spiritual and traditional significance of this river.

Ngāi Tahu recognises a relationship between the Waipara and the Kōwai River; the name Waipara is a reference to the fish caught in the rivers. Traditions associated with the Waipara River tell of a duel between two famous rangātira (chiefs) that happened in the area. Tūtewaimate, a Ngāti Mamoe rangatira from Rakaia, found that the northward trade route along which he sent his goods was being disrupted by Moko, a rangātira of the Ngāti Kuri hapu of Ngāi Tahu, who had been acting as a bandit along the route. Tūtewaimate went to confront Moko, who lived in a cave at Waipara, but found him sleeping. Tūtewaimate allowed Moko to wake up before attacking him. Tūtewaimate's sense of fair play cost him his life, and is recalled in a tribal proverb. Resources and values of importance to Ngāi Tahu associated with the Waipara River catchment include:

- Native fisheries (tuna, patiki, inanga)
- Waipara and Ngāi Tuahuriri identity
- Repo wai and lagoon areas
- Relationship with Kōwai River
- Remnant wetlands in the catchment
- Culturally important manu species associated with the river used for food, eggs and feathers.
- Culturally important plants – food, medicines and fibre
- Riparian (parenga) zones
- Concentration of wāhi tapu / wāhi taonga sites at river mouth and coastal area (middens, pits, ovens, caves and rock shelters)
- Urupā at Teviotdale
- Rock shelter/rock art sites at Mt. Donald Run
- Rock shelter / rock art sites at Weka Pass, Timpendean and Sandhurst
- Also at North Dean, South Dean and Pyramid Valley
- Tauranga waka at the north end of the lagoon
- Ngāti Wairaki, Ngāti Mamoe and Ngāi Tahu urupā and other wāhi tapu sites along the river and associated coastline
- Archaeological sites in the catchment
- Tapuae Tipuna (footprints of the ancestors)
- Mouth of river known for kaimoana, particularly paua
- Waiamaiaia reserve (fishing easement, Māori reserve)
- Maungatere (Mount Grey) – Tapuae Tipuna, the mountain that Ngāi Tuahuriri identify with
- Maunga - Mount Virginia
- Nohoanga at river mouth, and inland behind Waipara village
- Wāhi ingoa / ingoa tawhito
- Mauri values – natural character, life supporting capacity, moods and variability of the river, water quality, productive capacity, fitness for cultural usage, and continuity of flow
- Indigenous forest remnants (black beech forest with totara and hardwoods)
- Gorges – Ohuriawa, White Gorge
- Limestone downlands of Weka Pass area

## Mt Grey/ Maungatere ONL

*“Ko Maungatere te maunga ki runga,  
Waimakariri te awa,  
Tuahuriri te tangata.  
Maungatere (Mt Grey) stands above,  
Waimakariri is the river,  
Tuahuriri is the man.”*

*This is the saying of Ngai Tuahuriri, the Ngai Tahu hapu based at Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi, whose traditional rohe extends from the Hakatere (Ashburton) and Waikirikiri (Selwyn) Rivers to the Hurunui.*

Anecdotal evidence confirms that following from the sacking of Kaiapoi pā, refugees headed to the slopes of Mt Grey. Mt Grey is also the dominant landscape feature of the area and visible from both the Tuahiwai and Kaiapoi pā sites.

## Mt Cass ONF

Cultural values associated with Mt Cass predominantly relate to the native vegetation in that area. The Mount Cass ridge area has an abundance of rongoa plant species that were used by tipuna for use in traditional remedies.

The abundance of such a wide variety of these species and also a number of native plant species prized for seasonal food opportunities or other uses by tangata whenua, creates an environment suitable to disseminate traditional knowledge and philosophies from one generation to the next.

Mt Cass is a traditional Mahinga kai area and moa skeletons have been found on the ridge.

## Mt Lyford/ Terako ONL

Interspersed throughout this area are a number of trails and freshwater springs. These are important as they connect the Mt Lyford/Terako area to other important areas of Tangata Whenua values. This was an area that was traversed for travel, trade and to access mahinga kai.

*“Traditional western beliefs based upon anthropocentric views of the natural world are at odds with the belief of Te Runanga o Kaikoura that tangata whenua whakapapa back to Papatuanuku (the earth mother) and Rakanui (the sky father). When viewed in this light, it can be seen that it is simply not possible to interpret a landscape from a cultural perspective without first having an appreciation of the legendary stories, traditions, waiata, customs and values of which the landscape is comprised. In this respect, the Hurunui backcountry landscape is not only characterised by its natural and physical aspects, but also by its significant cultural sites, whakapapa, stories and mahinga kai that are all comprised within it.”*

*Takerei Norton and Paul Horgon – Mt Lyford Estates CIA*

High country and mountain regions are the source of life and nourishment for rivers and lowland areas. They are also part of the cultural heritage of Ngati Kuri. The tupuna possessed considerable knowledge about high country areas. This was knowledge of places – for gathering mahinga kai and other natural resources, knowledge of the relationship between people and the land, and knowledge of tikanga – ways of ensuring the appropriate and utilization of resources. The stories, place names and mahinga kai traditions associated with high country areas are an integral component of Ngati Kuri history, linking the people to the landscape.

Maori have occupied the Kaikoura district for over 800 years before the arrival of the first Europeans. The principal area of settlement for Maori in the Kaikoura region was along the Kaikoura coastline, primarily because of the abundant food resources along the coastline.

Although the primary Maori settlements were along the coastline the hinterland is a fundamental component of what it means to be Ngati Kuri. The high country has been traversed by our collective Kati Waitaha, Kati Mamoe and Kai Tahu tupuna for as long as they have inhabited Te Waipounamu; The Place of Greenstone.

The numerous trails throughout the Southern Alps formed part of a complex infrastructure of routes which were used for both accessing and transporting that most treasured of taonga – the ever-valuable pounamu – from Te Tai Poutini. These routes and their associated resting places are recorded in waiata and traditions, which are still known to many Ngai Tahu today. The harshness of the journey through the Alps is also recorded in tradition, and is further evidenced by the number of burial sites to be found alongside or near these trails.

Ngati Kuri used the valleys and rivers of the hinterland as travel routes throughout the island. The Clarence River / Waiau Toa and the Waiau-uha are the two most well-known trails associated with the Mt Lyford area located just to the south and north of Mt Lyford. These would have been two of the trails that Maori would have used to travel into the hinterland. There would also be a number of other trails associated with these two main trails that Maori would have used through this part of the Kaikoura hinterland, including the Mt Lyford area.

Mt Lyford is also highly valued because of the variety and range of native bush present and the habitat that this creates for wildlife, particularly native bird life.



## Western Mountain Ranges ONL

### **Molesworth/St James/Hanmer Range**

The country now known as Molesworth has been important in the occupation and settlement of this area by both Māori and European.

Different iwi and hapū have used the area now known as the Molesworth for successive generations. Ngāti Kurī established themselves in Kaikōura when the Ngāti Kurī rangatira (chief) Maru Kaitātea ate the sacred food within the pōhā known as Te Poha o Tohu Raumati at Takahanga on the Kaikōura Peninsula.

Ara tawhito are the travel routes that were used throughout Te Waipounamu. These routes were the arteries of economic and social life and of the relationships between people and places. A complex series of trails throughout Te Waipounamu connecting kāinga (settlements) with one another and to mahinga kai (food gathering places) and other significant tribal resources.

The eastern coastline of Te Waipounamu was equivalent to today's State Highway 1. It was a major route that was used and is evidenced by the quantity of pā and archaeological sites located along the eastern coastline. Trails followed mahinga kai resources such as vegetation, repo raupō (wetlands), awa (rivers) and roto (lakes), which were used to survive throughout the journeys.

The major trails into Molesworth from the eastern coastline were along the major rivers, Awatere, Wairau and the Waiau-toa (Clarence River). There are significant Māori settlements located at the mouths of all these rivers. These trails provided access into the hinterland and connected with other trails leading to Te Tai Poutini and other areas of the island.

Numerous trails were developed throughout the high country to link Māori settlements to mahinga kai/food gathering resources and pounamu/greenstone. Trails followed mahinga kai resources such as vegetation, repo raupō/wetlands, awa/rivers and roto/lakes, which were all used by travellers to survive in the high country. The abundance of mahinga kai ensured that Māori regularly travelled to the high country to gather food and other cultural resources. The Molesworth country was one link in the trails developed throughout the high country (Brailsford 1984), offering an easy summer route to the West Coast by way of the Upper Wairau or Awatere valleys, Tarndale and Lake Tennyson. The early Europeans learned of them from Nelson Māori and William Travers employed the Māori guide Napera in his exploration through the Upper Wairau in 1855.

The early Europeans learned of the trails from Nelson Māori and William Travers employed the Māori guide Napera in his exploration through the Upper Wairau in 1855 (Molesworth Management Plan).

There have been several reports of the discovery of Māori remnants throughout Molesworth. In the 1850s explorers Mitchell and Dashwood found a quantity of firewood collected and the remains of a whare (house) in the Acheron Valley, which was certain evidence of an old Māori encampment<sup>5</sup>. Travers, who owned the Lake Guyon run, described his men finding stone axes (adzes), paua shells, remains of eel baskets and other articles left on the line of march<sup>6</sup>. There is also a record of moa bone and an obsidian flake having been found at the outlet of the Clarence River at Lake Tennyson in the 1980s.

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<sup>5</sup> McCaskill, L.W. (1969). Molesworth. pp18-19.

<sup>6</sup> Molesworth Management Plan (2003). p1.

In 1959 positive evidence was obtained of moas having inhabited Molesworth resulting from the survey of the route for the powerline leading to the Cook Strait cable. The site is on the western side of the Acheron Valley, half way between the Clarence-Acheron Junction and the Five Mile, and 300 yards from the river. Dr Roger Duff, Director of the Canterbury Museum, led a party to investigate the site and found a high concentration of bones in a swamp about 50 feet square. Due to the shallowness of the peat and the fact that the area had been trampled by cattle, the bones were in an indifferent state of preservation. Nevertheless identification was possible, and the commonest skeletons turned out to be those of *Dinoris torosus*, moa standing up to seven feet high, and of shorter, heavy *Pachyornis elephantopus*, two moas which figure hardly at all in the middens of moa hunters on the South Island east coast.

Dr Duff believes that the information gained indicated that moas ranged through the area some thousands of years before the first human inhabitants came to New Zealand and that it provides the most convincing evidence yet obtained at the time of the mountain habitat of moas. He believes that they probably came up the Awatere and Wairau, avoiding the high passes on the Canterbury side<sup>7</sup>.

### **Hanmer Range**

The Ngāi Tahu name for Hanmer is Te Whakatakanga o te ngārahu o te ahi a Tamatea, which means "Where the ashes of Tamatea's fire lay". The name comes from the story of Tamatea Pokai Whenua's travels to the South Island. His waka, the Takitimu, capsized in the south of the South Island. Tamatea Pokai Whenua and his followers had to walk up along the east coast of the South Island in blizzard like conditions.

When they reached Banks Peninsula, Tamatea stood on the mountain now known as 'Te Poho o Tamatea' and recited karakia to North Island tohunga. The tohunga responded by sending large flames from volcanoes in the North Island, which reached Banks Peninsula and helped keep Tamatea and his followers warm. When the flames were travelling down the country some fragments fell off and formed the area that we know as Hanmer Springs.

Three major river catchments are included in the Okarahia ki te Hurunui region: the Tūtae Putaputa (Conway), Waiau and Hurunui. These rivers flow from mountain to sea, and are connected to numerous tributaries, wetlands and waipuna, as well as the groundwater that nourishes the catchment from below. The Tūtae Putaputa, Waiau and Hurunui are part of Ngāti Kuri and Ngāi Tahu cultural identity. While the last 165 years have resulted in significant changes to these rivers, their importance has not diminished. Nor has the importance of the relationship between these rivers and the mountain range beyond.

### **Lake Sumner/Lewis Pass**

Hoka Kura (Lake Sumner) is a Statutory Acknowledgement / Deed of Recognition site, a reflection of historical importance of the lake, and the mahinga kai and wāhi tapu values associated with it. Schedule 20 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act states that:

*"Hoka Kura is one of the lakes referred to in the tradition of 'Nga Puna Wai Karikari o Rakaihautu' which tells how the principal lakes of Te Wai Pounamu were dug by the rangatira (chief) Rakaihautu. Rakaihautu was the captain of the canoe, Uruao, which brought the tribe, Waitaha, to New Zealand. Rakaihautu beached his canoe at Whakatu (Nelson). From Whakatu, Rakaihautu divided the new arrivals in two, with his son taking one party to explore the coastline southwards and Rakaihautu taking another southwards*

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<sup>7</sup> McCaskill, L.W. (1969). Molesworth. pp15-16.

*by an inland route. On his inland journey southward, Rakaihautu used his famous ko (a tool similar to a spade) to dig the principal lakes of Te Wai Pounamu, including Hoka Kura. The origins of the name 'Hoka Kura' have now been lost, although it is likely that it refers to one of the descendants of Rakaihautu.*

*For Ngai Tahu, traditions such as this represent the links between the cosmological world of the gods and present generations, these histories reinforce tribal identity and solidarity, and continuity between generations, and document the events which shaped the environment of Te Wai Pounamu and Ngai Tahu as an iwi.*

*Hoka Kura was used as a mahinga kai by North Canterbury Ngai Tahu. The tupuna had considerable knowledge of whakapapa, traditional trails, places for gathering kai and other taonga, ways in which to use the resources of the lake, the relationship of people with the lake and their dependence on it, and tikanga for the proper and sustainable utilisation of resources. All of these values remain important to Ngāi Tahu today.*

*The mahinga kai values of the lake were particularly important to Ngāi Tahu parties travelling to Te Tai Poutini (the West Coast). The lake was an integral part of a network of trails which were used in order to ensure the safest journey and incorporated locations along the way that were identified for activities including camping overnight and gathering kai. Knowledge of these trails continues to be held by whanau and hapū and is regarded as a taonga. The traditional mobile lifestyle of the people led to their dependence on the resources of the lake.*

*There are a number of urupa and wahi tapu in this region. Urupa are the resting places of Ngai Tahu tupuna and, as such, are the focus for whanau traditions. Urupa and wahi tapu are places holding the memories, traditions, victories and defeats of Ngai Tahu tupuna, and are frequently protected by secret locations.*

*The mauri of Hoka Kura represents the essence that binds the physical and spiritual elements of all things together, generating and upholding all life. All elements of the natural environment possess a life force, and all forms of life are related. Mauri is a critical element of the spiritual relationship of Ngai Tahu Whanui with the lake."*

Within the Lewis Pass area, and attached to Lake Sumner is the Hurunui River, which has traditionally been a mahinga kai area. This is highlighted by the presence of a historic tauranga waka (canoe landing site) at the mouth, and a nohoanga (seasonal camp site) at the outlet of Hoka-kura / Lake Sumner into Wai-tete-moroiti (Loch Katrine). Both features indicating intensive traditional resource use.

The significance of the Hurunui River and its associated waterways today lies in the fact that this ecosystem has yet to be substantially altered by intensive water abstractions and the inevitable associated land use practices which continue to drain wetlands, destroy riparian margins, and pollute the waterways by allowing nutrient rich run-off to flow back into them and ultimately damage key mahinga kai species.

The Hurunui River is the southern boundary of the Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura takiwā. Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura shares kaitiaki rights and responsibilities associated with the Hurunui with Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga.

The Hurunui River is a Statutory Acknowledgement / Deed of Recognition site under the NTCSA 1998, providing for the special association of Ngāi Tahu with the river. Historically, the river was treasured for its yield of customary resources, and as the gateway for Canterbury Ngāi Tahu to the pounamu resources of Te Tai Poutini. Today, the customary importance of the river remains for tangata whenua.