

Appendix A – Recommended Amendments to Appendix 5 – Landscape Values

KEY

Red Underlined – Additions recommended as part of s42A Report

~~Red Strikethrough~~ – Deletions recommended as part of s42A Report

Appendix 5 - Landscape Values - ~~ONL~~NFL-APP

Hokonui / Waterfall Range ONL



Description

This area includes that part of the Hokonui Hills within the boundaries of the Gore District including the Waterfall Range, East Peak / Hokonui, Dolamore Park and Croydon Bush / Haumuri.

The Waterfall Range forms a dramatic and highly expressive part of the Southland Syncline. Alternating harder sandstone and softer mudstone have been eroded to form strike ridges, which define the northern limb of the syncline. This ends abruptly at the Murihiku Escarpment, the geomorphic expression of the Hillfoot Fault. The mapped area is generally consistent with the site mapped in the New Zealand Geopreservation Inventory, described as 'some of New Zealand's most distinctive strike ridges and has a 'trellised' drainage pattern along the Southland Syncline. The Range is a very legible part of the broader Southland Syncline and a distinctive and memorable landform with its pattern of repeated pyramidal peaks and ridge forms.

~~It~~-The area contains several significant ecological and scenic areas. Croydon Bush is a particularly significant area of remnant vegetation, and the only substantial area of indigenous forest remaining near Gore. It supports a range of successional communities that show recovery from fire and logging, including kahikatea and mataī, and contains several nationally threatened and locally uncommon species. At least 35 indigenous birds breed within the forest remnants, including the korimako / bellbird,

pīwakawaka / fantail, pīpipi / brown creeper and kererū. Red tussock is found on the summit areas, often with mānuka.

~~The Range is a very legible part of the broader Southland Syncline and a distinctive and memorable landform with its pattern of repeated pyramidal peaks and ridge forms.~~

~~The southernmost part of the ONL is public land that takes the form of Croydon Bush and Dolamore Park. The vegetative cover of this public reserve land is dominated by regenerating native systems. Naturalness is reduced where the land is under pasture but is high in areas with indigenous bush cover. The area is largely free of structures and has naturalness and wilderness qualities as experienced from within and is a scenic feature of the district.~~ Croydon Bush / Haumuri is managed as a Scenic Reserve and used for recreation including walking and tramping and there is a mountain bike track in Dolamore Park. ~~The remainder of the ONL is managed under a predominantly pastoral farming land use regime and has been for many decades. The resultant grassland cover contributes to landform legibility and the managed, orderly aesthetic that is widely appreciated. The patterns of indigenous forest and scrub on steeper, rockier terrain with pasture on the more amenable slopes, contributes to a high degree of landscape coherence. Naturalness is reduced where the land is under pasture but is high in areas with indigenous bush cover. The area is largely free of structures and has naturalness and wilderness qualities as experienced from within the public parts of the ONL, and, as a whole, is a scenic feature of the district.~~ The Southland Murihiku Regional Landscape Study (Boffa Miskell, 2019) identifies this area as an ONF and the Waterfall Range is a well-recognized and valued feature of the Gore area (often referred to in promotional material).

Strong cultural values are present in this landscape for mana whenua. Many of the peaks within this landform link to Ngāi Tahu cultural histories – specifically pūrākau & creation stories related to the Tākitimu waka, and Matamata & Te Rakitaunke. These pūrākau connect this area with the wider Otago/Southland region both geographically & via whakapapa links. Hokanui (East Peak) is of particular importance to Hokonui Rūnanga as it is considered an ancestral mountain for whānau who whakapapa to this area. Mana whenua also have strong cultural associations with the various waterways originating within the Hokonui/Waterfall range, such as the tributaries of the Ōtamatea (Otamita Stream), Mānuka (Charlton Stream), and Waimumu. Haumuri in its entirety is also an area with strong connections to Ngāi Tahu mahinga kai practices, which are a key vehicle for expressing and perpetuating Ngāi Tahu culture and identity. Finally, the Hokonui/Waterfall range is near a number of historic Māori reserves, including a range of SILNA reserves, which have historic and contemporary significance for Ngāi Tahu.

The area identified as ONL has a complex landform and vegetation cover, and variable degrees of visibility and natural character. Given the majority of the ONL is private farmland, the community's appreciation of it is largely visual and from an external perspective. Reflecting this, two management areas are identified (termed lower and higher sensitivity areas) with some differences in management provisions, so as not to unduly constrain rural land use activities, whilst still protecting the landscape values

Values to be protected

- The geo-heritage values of the distinctive and memorable landform including the strike ridges and trellised drainage pattern.
- The ecological / biodiversity values associated with significant presence of indigenous vegetation cover.
- Ngai Tahu cultural landscape values associated with indigenous vegetation (habitat for indigenous fauna, mahinga kai, taonga species), waterways, and peaks (links with cultural histories and creation stories).

- Landmark values for Gore generally – The Hokonui Hills are a significant contributor to the identity of the District, and have value for recreational opportunities in a natural setting.
- Aesthetic values associated with memorable hill forms (including the distinctive pattern of pyramidal peaks and ridges) and natural or rural character.
- Perceptual values based on high natural landform legibility and landscape coherence (i.e. patterns of vegetation cover that reflect the natural landform and / or low stature, uniform grassland providing for landform legibility)
- Naturalness values based on the significant dominance of natural elements and patterns in the landscape and low influence of built form, human modification of landforms or lineal block or lines of exotic trees.
- The natural character of the area generally and in particular, of the visually prominent skylines and hillslopes.
- Qualities of naturalness and wilderness as experienced from within the area.
- ~~Natural landform and its legibility.~~
- ~~The quantity and quality of indigenous vegetation cover. Where possible this should be managed to enhance its natural and Ngāi Tahu cultural values, including habitat value for indigenous fauna, and Ngāi Tahu mahinga kai and/or taonga species.~~
- ~~Coherence of the landscape created by the vegetation patterns reflecting the natural landform.~~
- ~~The natural character of the area generally and in particular, of the visually prominent skylines and hillslopes.~~
- ~~Qualities of naturalness and wilderness as experienced from within the area.~~
- ~~Qualities that contribute to Ngāi Tahu cultural associations, including the naturalness of the hill profiles, the natural character of waterways, and the ability to practice mahinga kai~~

Potential threats to landscape values

- Quarrying / Earthworks that significantly erode the legibility of the natural landforms and the landscape coherence.
- Clearance of or damage to, areas of indigenous vegetation.
- Visually prominent buildings and structures.
- Visually prominent exotic forestry and shelter plantings.
- Lighting
- Alterations to the naturalness of waterways
- Pest plant and animal infestation

Management Areas

In recognition that much of the ONL is farmed, two different management areas, along with mapped ridgelines, have been identified based on their varying degrees of sensitivity to landscape change. This is to ensure that farming land use and development activities are not unreasonably constrained, whilst still appropriately protecting the landscape values of the ONL.

A Higher Sensitivity Area has been identified to include:

- The peaks and ridgelines along with associated upper slope areas. These are a primary feature underpinning ONL identification and major character defining elements of the ONL. These are generally more visually dominant than lower elevation valley areas, and at least some of these have Kai Tahu cultural landscape significance
- All areas assessed as 'high value indigenous vegetation'.

- Along with upper slope areas, mid and lower slope / valley areas with high visibility from surrounding areas and public viewpoints.

The higher sensitivity areas are mapped as the ONL layer (excluding the “Lower Sensitivity Areas”), and are managed through the Natural Features and Landscapes Chapters as “All other areas”

Lower Sensitivity Areas have been identified to include:

- Mid – low slope, low visibility areas from surrounding areas and public viewpoints.
- Areas with more modified rural character.

The lower sensitivity areas are identified and mapped as a subset of the ONL (“Lower Sensitivity Area”), and are managed through the Natural Features and Landscapes Chapter as “Lower Sensitivity Areas”

Mapped Ridgelines have been identified to include:

- Strike ridge features
- Highlighted with rocky outcrops and *indigenous vegetation*

These have been identified and mapped as a subset of the ONL and are managed throughout the provisions of the Natural Features and Landscape Chapters.

~~**Mata-Ura / Mataura River High Natural Character Feature (HNCF)**~~



Description

~~The feature identified includes the entire main stem of the Mataura River within the Gore District, including the river margins. The river and its margins are defined as including the active river flood plain to the top of the defining terraces.~~

~~The Mataura River is clearly a major natural hydrological feature of the district, responsible for the creation of many of the adjacent landforms and subject to powerful natural processes. The river corridor morphology strongly expresses the natural fluvial processes in features such as gravel beds and~~

channels, river terraces and meander loops. The natural character of the river margins are now generally highly modified by farming, and the presence of stop banks, exotic trees, scrub and grass species. Whilst natural character attributes are modified, they are still present, and the river has been designated an 'important bird area' by Birdlife International because it supports breeding colonies of endangered tarāpuka/Black Billed Gulls. The mahinga kai values of the river have also been recognised through the establishment of the Mataura River Mātaitai Reserve in 2006, which recognises its importance as a habitat for a range of mahinga kai species — most notably kanakana/lamprey. Additionally, the river is famous for its Brown Trout fishery and is covered by a Water Conservation Order (1997). Under this, the recognized outstanding values relate to fisheries and angling amenity.

The river is a memorable natural feature for its scale and power, but memorability is reduced by its modified natural character. Perceptual natural character remains due to the flowing water and river landforms but has been significantly modified by agricultural land use on the floodplain. Indigenous vegetation presence is minimal. There are transient values associated with various flow regimes, and the presence of bird and fish life. The river has some wildness qualities due to its scale and power but these, and its scenic values are modified by the exotic character of the vegetation along its margins and by the presence of urban development in the vicinity of the towns of Gore and Mataura.

The Mata-ura (Mataura River) has significant cultural values for mana whenua. It is considered an ancestral river for local whānau, and has fed and guided generations of Waitaha, Ngāti Māmoe and Ngāi Tahu as they have traversed the Murihiku region. A number of ara tawhito (historic trails) follow the Mata-ura linking coastal Murihiku and its offshore islands (such as Ruapuke) to the Central Lakes area, connecting a number of kāiks (settlements), nohoanga (seasonal settlements), mahinga kai resources, and communities along its length. The presence of these trails has also seen a number of tribally significant historic events occur along the length of the Mata-ura. This importance is formally recognised through a Statutory Acknowledgement within the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1996. The Mata-ura and its tributaries are also areas with strong connections to Ngāi Tahu mahinga kai practices, which are a key vehicle for expressing and perpetuating Ngāi Tahu culture and identity. Finally, the intrinsic value of wai and its mauri are key cultural values for the Mata-ura.

Values to be protected:

- Remaining natural characteristics including natural riverbed, floodplain and terrace landforms, and any remaining indigenous vegetation and areas of wetland.
- Attributes that contribute to its habitat value for birds and aquatic fauna, particularly indigenous species and Ngāi Tahu taonga and mahinga kai species.
- Low visual impact of built elements.
- Qualities of naturalness and wilderness as experienced from within the area.
- Qualities that contribute to Ngāi Tahu cultural associations, including mauri, river access, and the ability to practice mahinga kai.

Potential threats to landscape values

- Quarrying / Earthworks that significantly erode the legibility of the natural landforms and the landscape coherence.
- Clearance of or damage to, areas of indigenous vegetation.
- Visually prominent buildings and structures.
- Exotic tree planting that obscures the legibility of the natural river landforms.
- Alterations to the naturalness of the waterway
- Activities resulting in inappropriate discharges to the waterway
- Structures and land-uses that restrict access to the Mata-ura for Ngāi Tahu cultural activities (including mahinga kai practices)

Te Au Nui Pihapiha Kanakana / Mataura Falls ONF



Description

The Mataura Falls are a natural feature of the Mataura River located adjacent to the town of Mataura, just north of the State Highway 93 bridge. The falls are natural insofar as they are the result of natural geological and hydrological processes, however, they have been much modified by human activity – including intentional destruction to create hydroelectric infrastructure - and their setting is now industrial. Despite this, Te Au Nui Pihapiha Kanakana/Mataura Falls is still appropriately afforded ONF status due to its geo-heritage, cultural, historic, and remaining landscape values.

The falls are the result of the Mataura River flowing over a bed of resistant sandstone. They also represent an outstanding outcrop of the Late Permian to Early Cretaceous Murihiku Terrane, composed of gently dipping interbedded sandstones, conglomerates, and mudstones, representing the fore-arc or back-arc basin of the eastern Gondwana margin. Discontinuous lignite/coal lenses exposed in the surrounding could reveal important insights into the paleoenvironmental history of the Murihiku Terrane, including at the Cretaceous-Tertiary (K-T or K-Pg) extinction event. Their natural form is now much modified due to blasting by adjacent landowners, however, they are a hydrological feature, with natural processes still operating, albeit in a modified context. The river margins are highly modified with little indigenous vegetation character remaining, and bank forms modified by weirs and water races upstream.

The falls are identified in the New Zealand Geo-preservation Inventory as a feature of national importance. The Mataura Falls and gorge are described as ‘eroded over and into nearly flat-lying Jurassic sedimentary rocks of the Murihiku Supergroup. These rocks contain rich plant debris and fossils.’

The Falls have an austere memorability based on the juxtaposition of powerful natural hydrological processes with grim industrial buildings. There are naturalness qualities associated with the river flow but the natural river forms are now much modified and the setting is highly modified. There are transient values (varying moods) associated with the various flow regimes of the river. The river in this area retains some wildness values associated with its powerful flow in a constrained channel. Scenic values are low

from publicly accessible areas due to the industrial setting, however they retain some values when viewed from a close proximity.

The falls were once a spectacular tourist attraction for early European settlers prior to blasting to minimize spray for a pedestrian bridge and works associated with hydro-electricity schemes for industrial uses (paper mill and freezing works) on the adjacent banks. The importance of the Falls is still recognised, however, through the Statutory Acknowledgement of the Maitai River within the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1996 (in part due to the presence of the Falls), and the Maitai River Mātaihai Reserve – the latter having historic value as the first freshwater mātaihai in New Zealand.

Whilst the Mata-ura (Maitai River) in its entirety has significant cultural value for mana whenua, Te Au Nui Pihapiha Kanakana / Maitai Falls has specific value due to its intrinsic mana and mauri, its mahinga kai values and histories, and its connections to Ngāi Tahu historical events. The Falls elicit a strong sense of identity for local mana whenua, and accounts of its discovery by the Ngāti Mamoe tipuna Paroparo Te Whenua create linkages between today and the ancient world. The historic abundance of mahinga kai species – particularly kanakana/lamprey – supported by the Falls is also of historic and cultural significance to Ngāi Tahu and a point of local pride and identity. Mana whenua also have an ongoing relationship with this feature that supports the revitalization and intergenerational transfer of cultural knowledge, particularly through practical environmental projects and mahinga kai activities.

Values to be protected.

- Geo-heritage values.
- Remaining natural characteristics associated with rocky banks and outcrops and powerful river flow.
- Attributes that contribute to its habitat value for kanakana and other fauna, particularly indigenous and Ngāi Tahu taonga and/or mahinga kai species.
- Qualities of wildness.
- Qualities that contribute to Ngāi Tahu associations, including mauri, river access, and the ability to practice mahinga kai and kaitiaki responsibilities.

Potential threats to landscape values

- Further blasting and modification to the riverbed and banks.
- Built development and / or exotic plantings on the adjacent banks that further modifies the natural character of the area.
- Further reductions to access for Ngāi Tahu cultural activities
- Activities resulting in inappropriate discharges to water, including dumping