

# MAW\_54 – Greenstone River/Hokonui (244.0538 ha)

Protected Area(s)	Area (ha)	NaPALIS #	# of Primary Parcels
Conservation Area – Greenstone River/Hokonui	36.9834	2805814	1
Conservation Area – Greenstone River/Hokonui	207.0704	2809291	21

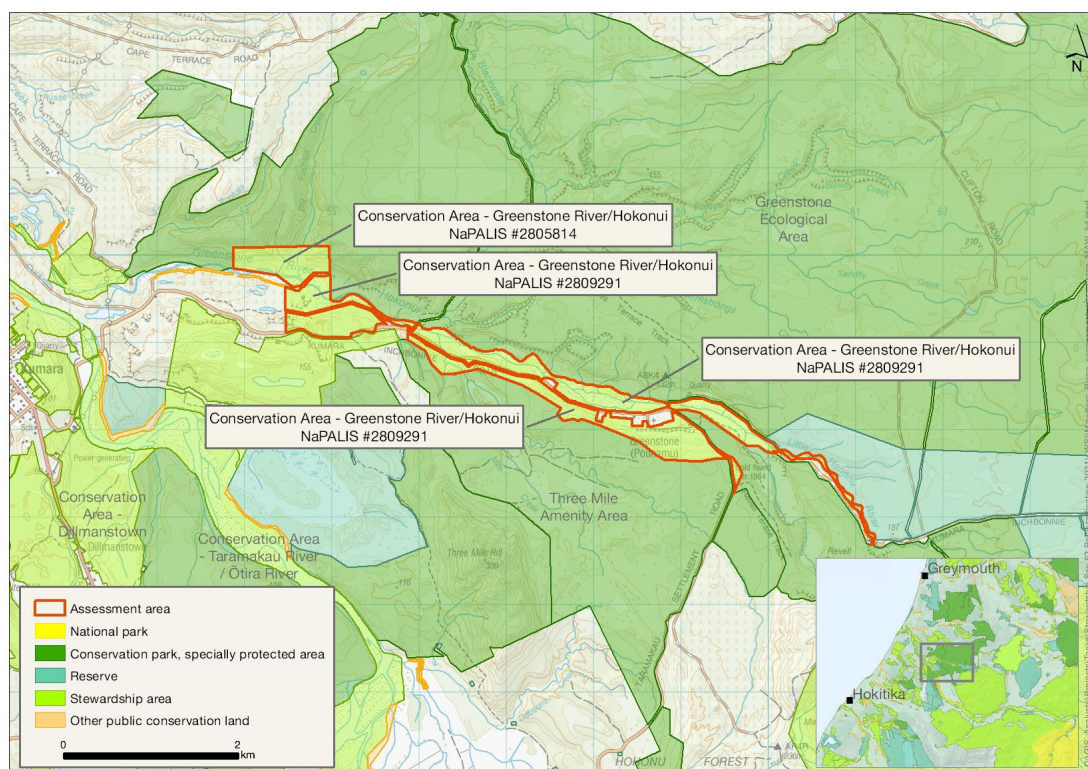
## Location

Strips of land along the Greenstone River/Hokonui between Kumara and Mitchells at Lake Brunner/Moana Kōtuku-Whakaoho.

## Brief Description

The area includes the valley floor/riverbed and lower hill slopes of the Greenstone River/Hokonui valley. The rivers have been historically mined with much of the area covered in regenerating forest and scrub. It is largely surrounded by the Greenstone Ecological Area to the north and Revell Terrace Amenity Area and Three Mile Amenity Area to the south. It also adjoins the Payne Gully Conservation Area to the south and the Hohonu Forest Scenic Reserve to the west. The conservation area contains multiple archaeological sites associated with historic gold mining. There are no DOC-managed tracks or facilities. There are multiple concessions including eight mining concessions for alluvial gold mining, a grazing licence, and a structure easement to convey electricity. There is an urupā (burial ground) in the vicinity of these conservation areas.

## Map



# Ngāi Tahu Values and Interests

*Mo tātou, a, mo ka uri, a muri ake nei – for us and our children after us*

There is a deep connection between Ngāi Tahu and all of the whenua in the Ngāi Tahu takiwā. A section 4 Conservation Act and Te Tiriti principles perspective is required. To avoid doubt, nothing in the proposed classification affects, limits or derogates from the rangatiratanga of Ngāi Tahu over its takiwā, including in relation to freshwater; and/or any other rights or interests Ngāi Tahu may have.

These conservation areas contain pounamu resources. Pounamu is vested in Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu pursuant to the Ngāi Tahu (Pounamu Vesting) Act 1997, in recognition of its significance to Ngāi Tahu. As kaitiaki, Ngāi Tahu has rights and responsibilities for management of pounamu. The reclassification of areas containing pounamu must expressly provide for the rights of Ngāi Tahu over this taonga, including access.

Further assessment of the values and opportunities of these conservation areas for Ngāi Tahu is required, as provided for by section 4 Conservation Act and Te Tiriti principles of informed decision making and active protection. Ngāi Tahu may have future aspirations for this land (such as pounamu) and so those aspirations must be recognised, considered and provided for, when determining a suitable classification for this land.

There is an urupā in the vicinity of these conservation areas.

## Ecological Values

### Representativeness

The vegetation is predominantly regenerating forest and riverbed gravels. The area extends from the floor of the Greenstone Valley (c. 40 m) uphill to c. 160 m and contains four level 3 land environments within the Brunner Ecological District. The area is actively mined in the eastern portion of the area and other parts have been previously mined. The Kumara Inchbonnie Road passes through the area.

### Diversity and pattern

These parcels contain a medium sized river and smaller tributaries feeding the Little Hohonu and Greenstone River/Hokonui and eventually the Taramakau, and include streams with high predicted naturalness. Fish found in the assessment area include longfin eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*), brown trout (*salmo trutta*) (sports fish), redfin bully (*Gobiomorphus huttoni*), kōaro (*Galaxias brevipinnis*), bluegill bully (*Gobiomorphus hubbsi*) and shortjaw kōkopu (*Galaxias postvectis*).

### Rarity and distinctiveness

Forest gecko (*Mokopirirakau granulatus*) (At Risk: Declining), the herb *Gratiola concinna* (Nationally Endangered) and the Westland greenhood orchid (*Pterostylis cernua*) (Naturally Uncommon) have been recorded in nearby areas and may be present. Fish include longfin eel, kōaro and bluegill bully (all At Risk: Declining), and shortjaw kōkopu (Nationally Vulnerable).

### Ecological context

The area is largely surrounded by Greenstone Ecological Area to the north and Revell Terrace Amenity Area and Three Mile Amenity Area to the south. It also adjoins the Payne Gully Conservation Area to the south and the Hōhonu Forest Scenic Reserve to the west. The area adjoins the Greenstone EMU (EMU no. 300374; rank 600).

The area has been heavily modified by goldmining, with gorse on river flats coming back into shrubland and forest. Even given the mining activity, there are some historic whio (Blue Duck, *Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus*) sightings on the Greenstone River/Hokonui five years ago. Ngāi Tahu have cutting rights for Douglas Fir within this and adjoining blocks.

## **Recreation Values**

### **Setting**

The area is in a Backcountry-remote zone. There are no tracks or facilities managed by the Department. The area has been highly modified by mining.

### **Visitor type and activities typically undertaken**

Likely to receive little recreation use.

### **Access**

Access from the Kumara Inchbonnie Road.

## **Heritage Values**

### **Historical overview**

Within this assessment area is the Greenstone goldfield where gold was first discovered at the mouth of the Greenstone/Hohonu River by Ihaia Tainui and his colleagues Neri and Whitau, who received an award of £1000 for the discovery of the first goldfield on the West Coast. It was not rushed, however, until 1864 when coarse gold was found near Revell Terrace. This began a 75-year period of continuous mining along the river.

By late 1864 the claims extended almost continuously from Māori Point on Revell Terrace down to the Taramakau. These were being worked by about 300 miners including Māori families and Chinese parties. Like all the West Coast rushes, miners very quickly moved on after the initial enthusiasm although by 1868 interest had revived again focused on Argus Terrace on the south bank of the river opposite Dukes Terrace. Within a few weeks discoveries on the Duke of Edinburgh Terrace precipitated a new rush and by the early 1870s this was the heart of the field.

The township of Greenstone was first established on the north side of the river at Shed Flat at the foot of the gold workings and by early 1869 the population was estimated at 1500–2000 people. Mining on the flat threatened the town and indeed the section of the township on the northern side of the river was completely obliterated by tailings from Dukes Terrace and erosion by 1877.

Like many of the goldfields an adequate and reliable water supply was an issue and much effort went into the construction of water races particularly over the period 1869–1870. One of the biggest of these races was the Erin-go-Bragh (Ireland Forever) from the main branch of the Hohonu River below Revell Terrace to Argus Terrace in 1869, extended to Quinns and Hayes Terraces in 1878 and finally to Paynes Gully in 1884.

Mining continued in sporadic bursts through into the 1930s. Rushes occurred at Quinns and Paynes Terraces in 1877–78 and Cape Terrace in 1879. In 1910 the government stepped into support mining operations, which saw the extension of the Kumara water race across the Taramakau through the laying of an inverted siphon across the riverbed to provide additional water to Hayes and Quinns Terraces. This significant feat was opened in 1912. This can be regarded as one of the greatest achievements in New Zealand gold mining history although

somewhat paradoxical in that it was transporting water from a tributary of Arahura River while the Taramakau was untapped. This system was not without its problems however and the siphon was replaced by a pipe bridge in 1915. By 1925, maintenance costs were such that following a major break it was not repaired.

Interest in dredging the river began in 1898 and four dredges worked the river 1901–1913. The last major dredge was the Kaniere Gold Dredging Company which started work along the south bank of the Hohonu in 1956. It then worked along the Hōhonu and into the Taramakau until 1982.

Sawmilling in the valley began about 1868. By 1920 large areas on both sides of the Hohonu River had been surveyed off as timber reserves and sawmill areas.

## Sites recorded

Recorded archaeological sites:

- J32/57 Chinese camp
- J32/347 water race
- J32/41 Bun Tuck dredge tailings
- J32/44 Kaniere dredge tailings
- J32/39 Quinns Terrace gold working including massive tail races, hand stacked tailings, sludge channels
- J32/346 Chinese miners' camp or hut site
- J32/348 site of wooden bridge to carry the No-Name Road between Marsden and Greenstone. No bridge remains present but approach cutting still visible
- J32/349 area of gold sluicings including sluice faces, and piles of large tailings
- J32/42 Three Mile dredge tailings
- J32/26 site of former township of Greenstone
- K32/23 Erin-go-Bragh water race

## Heritage values

The Greenstone goldfield has high historical significance as the first field to have been discovered, and although returns in some of the subsequent fields were higher, it endured longer than many of them. During its life it saw almost every method of alluvial mining from early cradling and sluice boxes, to paddocking, tunnelling and ground sluicing claims at its peak and later hydraulic sluicing and steam dredging.

The sites within this assessment area represent different mining methodologies as well as domestic structures and settlements. The Chinese camp site has high archaeological values in terms of being able to provide information about ethnicity in the West Coast goldfields.

## Modifying factors

These sites are part of the wider Greenstone goldfield. The archaeological remains present within the Greenstone Valley represent almost every method of alluvial mining used on the West Coast. The only major methods not used are elevated beach lead and hydraulic elevator mining.

The Quinns Terrace archaeological features within the area have been badly damaged or destroyed as a result of modern mining operations (although the site extends into the adjoining Ngāi Tahu Forestry land to the west).

## Permissions summary

- Eight mining concessions including variations and bonds for alluvial gold mining in the Greenstone River, Kumara Inchbonnie Road, near Kumara
- A grazing licence to graze 13.4 ha of Greenstone or Big Hohonu River
- A structure easement for the right to convey electricity (with overhead power lines and power poles) within part of the Greenstone River Conservation Area to service the Greenstone mine

## Map (aerial photo)

