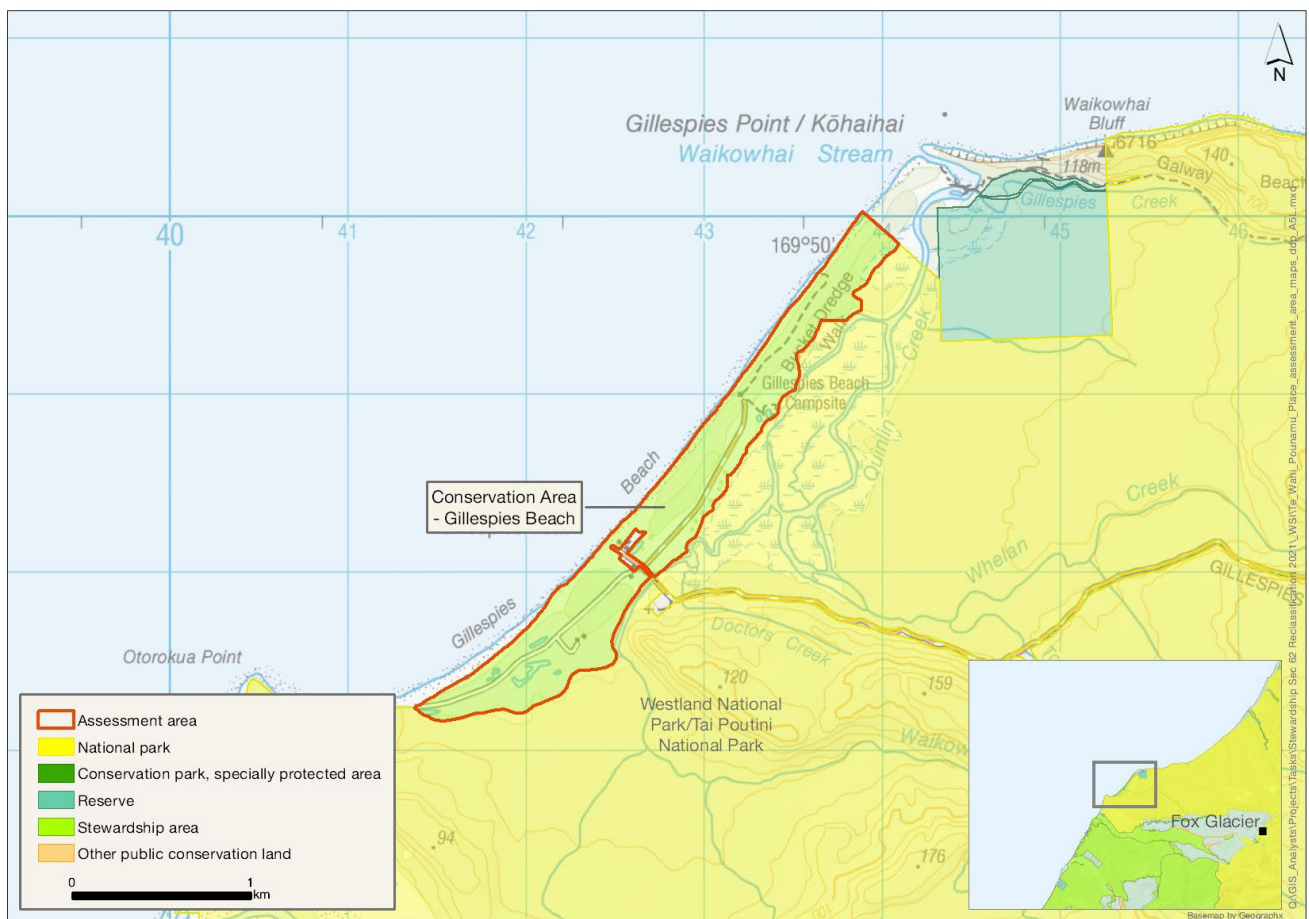


# Stewardship Land Review: Recommendation

## TWP\_31 – Gillespies Beach

Departmental Region	Management Place	Technical report	Assessment #	Held Under
Western South Island	Te Wāhi Pounamu	<a href="#">DOC-6913454</a>	TWP_31	s62

### Gillespies Beach



Protected Areas	Area(ha)	NaPALIS #	# of Primary Parcels
Conservation Area – Gillespies Beach	112.3469	2805316	2

## **Recommendation on Reclassification**

### ***Western South Island National Panel Recommendation***

The Western South Island National Panel recommends:

- The Conservation Area 'Gillespies Beach' (NaPALIS #2805316) is considered to be held under section 23 of the Reserves Act as a Local Purpose Reserve (Waikōhai Ngāi Tahu).
- 

### ***Mana Whenua Panel Recommendation***

The Mana Whenua Panel recommends:

- The Conservation Area 'Gillespies Beach' (NaPALIS #2805316) is classified pursuant to section 16 of the Reserves Act 1977 as a section 23 Local Purpose (Waikōhai Ngāi Tahu) Reserve.
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## **Western South Island National Panel Justification for Recommendation – Executive Summary**

This area is of high significance to Ngāi Tahu, containing historic occupation sites, significant mahinga sites and being bordered by a Māori Reserve. This conservation area consists of coastal shrubland and wetland, noted to be of high ecological value. This area supports a suite of common native forest birds, geckos, skinks and freshwater species. Recreation values are present associated with the Gillespies Beach campsite and multiple short walks. Heritage values are present associated with Māori occupation of the area in addition to a history of gold mining, including the remains of the ‘Try Again’ suction dredge.

Classifying this conservation area as a local purpose reserve is considered appropriate to protect and illustrate the significance of the identified historic and archaeological features and reflect the value of the area to Ngāi Tahu, while preserving the indigenous flora and fauna present and providing for the existing recreational use of the area.

## **Mana Whenua Panel Justification for Recommendation**

The proposed reserve classification for Conservation Area ‘Gillespies Beach’ (NaPALIS #2805316) is required to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (as required by section 4 of the Conservation Act). It will enable Ngāi Tahu whānui to reconnect to their ancestral lands and will provide for the mana and rangatiratanga of Ngāi Tahu as well as reserve purposes.

The area of Waikōhai is a significant site for Ngāi Tahu, including historic occupation sites, urupā and significant mahinga kai sites. The beach has a direct view of Aoraki, the maunga tīpuna of Ngāi Tahu and central to Ngāi Tahu creation traditions. This visual link to Ngāi Tahu whakapapa adds to the importance of this area to Ngāi Tahu. This area is also adjacent to Māori Reserve land in recognition of the significant occupation within this area.

It is noted that further clarification is required of the purposes of the reserve, particularly to ensure that the purposes acknowledge the mana and rangatiratanga of Ngāi Tahu, and provide for Ngāi Tahu wellbeing, kaitiakitanga and mahinga kai. The reserve purposes must also provide a role for Ngāi Tahu in management and decisionmaking, including the option of vesting. These are matters that can be worked through between the Minister of Conservation/Department of Conservation and Ngāi Tahu as the detail of the classification is developed.

Notwithstanding this, the Mana Whenua Panel expressly reserves the right of Ngāi Tahu to seek to have the classification of this area reviewed in the future. There is a deep connection between Ngāi Tahu and all of the whenua in the Ngāi Tahu takiwā. The interests of Ngāi Tahu in this area may change over time which may require the classification to be revisited. In

addition, more appropriate forms of protected area classifications from a Ngāi Tahu perspective may be developed through conservation law reform.

# **Western South Island National Panel Justification for Recommendation**

## **1. *Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi Obligations***

The Western South Island National Panel is required to give effect to the principles of The Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi, in accordance with section (4) of the Conservation Act 1987.

The panel acknowledges that the assessment area is within the Ngāi Tahu takiwā and the rohe of Poutini Ngāi Tahu, and as such appreciates the connection between Ngāi Tahu and the whenua. In making the above recommendation the panel has considered the values and interests of Ngāi Tahu as presented to them. This information has been considered in conjunction with the content provided in the corresponding technical reports.

The panel acknowledges the significance of this area to Ngāi Tahu, containing historic occupation sites and significant mahinga sites. This area is also bordered by a Māori Reserve in recognition of the historic occupation of the area. It is considered that the above recommendation is consistent with the identified Ngāi Tahu values and interests.

## **2. *Treaty Settlement Obligations***

No Treaty/Tiriti settlement obligations are identified in the West Coast Te Tai o Poutini Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) that specifically relate to this assessment area.

## **3. *Consideration of Adjoining Land Classification***

The panels are required to consider the classification(s) of adjacent and nearby public conservation land, enabling a 'landscape' approach to the reclassification work to be implemented.

This conservation area is surrounded by the Westland Tai Poutini National Park and is part of Te Wāhipounamu – South West New Zealand World Heritage Area. The high historical significance of this area to mana whenua is considered to warrant the independent classification of historic reserve.

## **4. *Conservation Justifications***

The panel recommendation is required to include clear conservation justifications. These conservation justifications are addressed in sections 4 (a), (b), (c) and (d), based on information identified in the corresponding technical reports.

### **a. *Identified Landscape Values***

This coastal conservation area includes gravel beach, dunes, lagoon, wetlands, coastal shrublands and some forest, and has high natural character.

## ***b. Identified Ecological Values***

This conservation area consists of coastal shrubland and wetland, noted to be of high ecological value. The catchments above this area are mostly covered in indigenous vegetation and a high level of naturalness is predicted. This area supports a suite of common native forest birds, geckos, skinks and freshwater species. The classification as historic reserve preserves the identified ecological values, being managed to protect indigenous flora, fauna and wildlife as a secondary objective.

## ***c. Identified Recreation Values***

This conservation area contains the Gillespies Beach campsite and contains short walks to the remains of historic gold mining dredges, Gillespies Lagoon and access to the Galway Beach Track. The above recommendation is considered to accommodate the identified recreation values, allowing the public freedom of entry and access, subject to such conditions and restrictions necessary for the protection of the identified historic sites.

## ***d. Identified Heritage Values***

This conservation area contains heritage values associated with Māori occupation of the area in addition to a history of gold mining, including the remains of the 'Try Again' suction dredge. This latter is an actively conserved heritage place and there are several recorded archaeological sites that relate to the goldmining history of the area. The above recommendation is considered to reflect the identified heritage values, being managed to protect structures, objects and sites so as to illustrate with integrity the history of Aotearoa/New Zealand.

## ***5. Current Land Use***

No existing land use is identified in addition to the stated recreation values.

## ***6. Consideration of the Climate Change Commission Report***

The panel gave consideration to the objectives of the [Climate Change Commission report](#) and the recommended policy direction. The key focus of the advice is ensuring a shift to a low carbon and resilient Aotearoa. The panel does not consider the recommended land classification to limit future decision making over the land to mitigate emissions, adapt to climate change and sequester carbon.

## ***7. Strategic Policy Direction***

The assessment area is governed by the West Coast Te Tai o Poutini CMS. The CMS has been reviewed to identify all relevant provisions and conservation area-specific treaty settlement obligations when formulating the above recommendation, and the recommended land classification is considered to be consistent with the aims of the strategy.

The above recommendation has also been considered in conjunction with the Conservation General Policy and conforms with policy 6(b) regarding reclassification and 6(c) & (d) regarding disposal.

## **8. *Additional Comments Regarding Recommendation***

The Conservation Area 'Gillespies Beach' (NaPALIS #2805316) is considered to be held under section 23 of the Reserves Act as a Local Purpose Reserve (Waikohai Ngāi Tahu).