

# HOK\_23 – Hans Bay – Lake Kaniere (0.1059 ha)

Protected Area(s)	Area (ha)	NaPALIS #	# of Primary Parcels
Conservation Area - Hans Bay - Lake Kaniere	0.1059	2805718	1

## Location

Hans Bay on the northeastern side of Lake Kaniere.

## Brief Description

The assessment area is a sliver of roadside land otherwise surrounded by Lake Kaniere Scenic Reserve, and forming part of the Hans Bay camping area, which includes access roads and amenity facilities. It is not ecologically different from the surrounding protected lands into which it appears integrated, and also forms a backdrop to a well-patronised carparking area along the lake front. The small size of this assessment area limits the possibility of it supporting a high diversity of species, communities and ecosystems, or a range of gradients and sequences. There are no heritage values recorded, or permissions.

## Map



# Ngāi Tahu Values and Interests

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

From the preliminary desk top assessments, there do not appear to be any site specific Ngāi Tahu values identified. However, there is a deep connection between Ngāi Tahu and all of the whenua in the Ngāi Tahu takiwā, and the absence of site-specific values in the preliminary analysis does not detract from that connection, nor does it confirm that site specific values are not present. Further, a section 4 Conservation Act and Te Tiriti principles perspective is required as well, and it may be that areas of land are significant to Ngāi Tahu from that broader perspective. 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.

## Ecological Values

### Representativeness

This assessment area is a north-south oriented, very small, narrow strip of flat land 150 m long and about 13 m across at its widest, tapering at both ends and with no freshwater values. It comprises greywacke and argillite-derived gravels, sands and silts that form part of the lower margin of a large recent fan of Tuhua Creek that issues from Mt Tuhua to the east. The soils are therefore relatively fertile. At 140 m above sea level, it is within the lowland bioclimatic zone.

The vegetation cover of the area is a mosaic of rank exotic grass, low-statured copses of natural and planted native trees including kōtukutuku (tree fuchsia, *Fuchsia excorticata*), māhoe (*Melicytus ramiflorus* agg.), broadleaf, makomako (wineberry, *Aristotelia serrata*) and tarata (lemonwood, *Pittosporum eugenioides*), but also tī kōuka (cabbage tree, *Cordyline australis*) and toetoe (*Cortaderia richardii*). Grassland is peppered with stands of prickly shield fern and isolated shrubs of small-leaved *Coprosma*. Bracken is also present within the grassland and appears to be increasing in extent. All original forest cover is gone but regeneration back to secondary forest is evident. Woody weeds that might prevent this regeneration are not apparent. The area is low-to-moderately representative of the vegetation on other fan landforms in Hokitika Ecological District. This representation will increase over time as succession progresses within the area and over the protected lands surrounding it.

### Diversity and pattern

The small size of this assessment area limits the possibility of it supporting a high diversity of species, communities and ecosystems, or a range of gradients and sequences. The mosaic pattern of the various vegetation types – grassland, shrubland and secondary forest – is induced as a result of original forest clearance and previous land uses. When considered in the context of surrounding protected public land, it is part of an extensive, similar mosaic that sequences into consolidated regenerating forest at the top of the alluvial fan and consequently through to taller hill-country forest. There is no on-site freshwater ecological value.

### Rarity and distinctiveness

The land environment status is At Risk, (20–30% indigenous cover remaining nationally) due to it being part of an alluvial fan. Nationally, indigenous vegetation loss on these landforms has been significant. The area does not support any threatened ecosystems, nor have there been any terrestrial or freshwater threatened species recorded from the site. Bat detectors located nearby have not recorded any bat presence.

### Ecological context

The assessment area is very small and lens-shaped and is within 50 m of Lake Kaniere's shoreline. Its western boundary runs alongside Hans Bay Road, which travels the length of the northeastern shoreline of Lake Kaniere.

Other than the road, the area is completely surrounded by the 10,311 ha Lake Kaniere Scenic Reserve that includes the Lake and most of its catchment. The area is indistinguishable from the surrounding vegetation of the scenic reserve, which confers on it good prospects of longterm viability and resilience to loss, depending on how the adjacent camping area is developed. The area also acts as a screen for, and includes the entrance to and water tanks associated with, the 40-site motor-camping Hans Bay Campground at Lake Kaniere.

The assessment area is within 450 m of the Lake Kaniere Forest Ecosystem Management Unit to the north (1,176 ha, National Rank: 275). While exotic grass currently covers a significant proportion, as well as within the adjoining scenic reserve, it is apparent that its successional trajectory through bracken and into mixed broad-leaved forest will occur over time.

## **Recreation Values**

### **Setting**

This area is managed as a Frontcountry site.

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

The area is used by locals, domestic and international visitors.

### **Access**

Access via Hans Bay Road.

## **Heritage Values**

### **Historical overview**

No historic sites or heritage values recorded

## **Permissions summary**

N/A

# Map (aerial photo)

