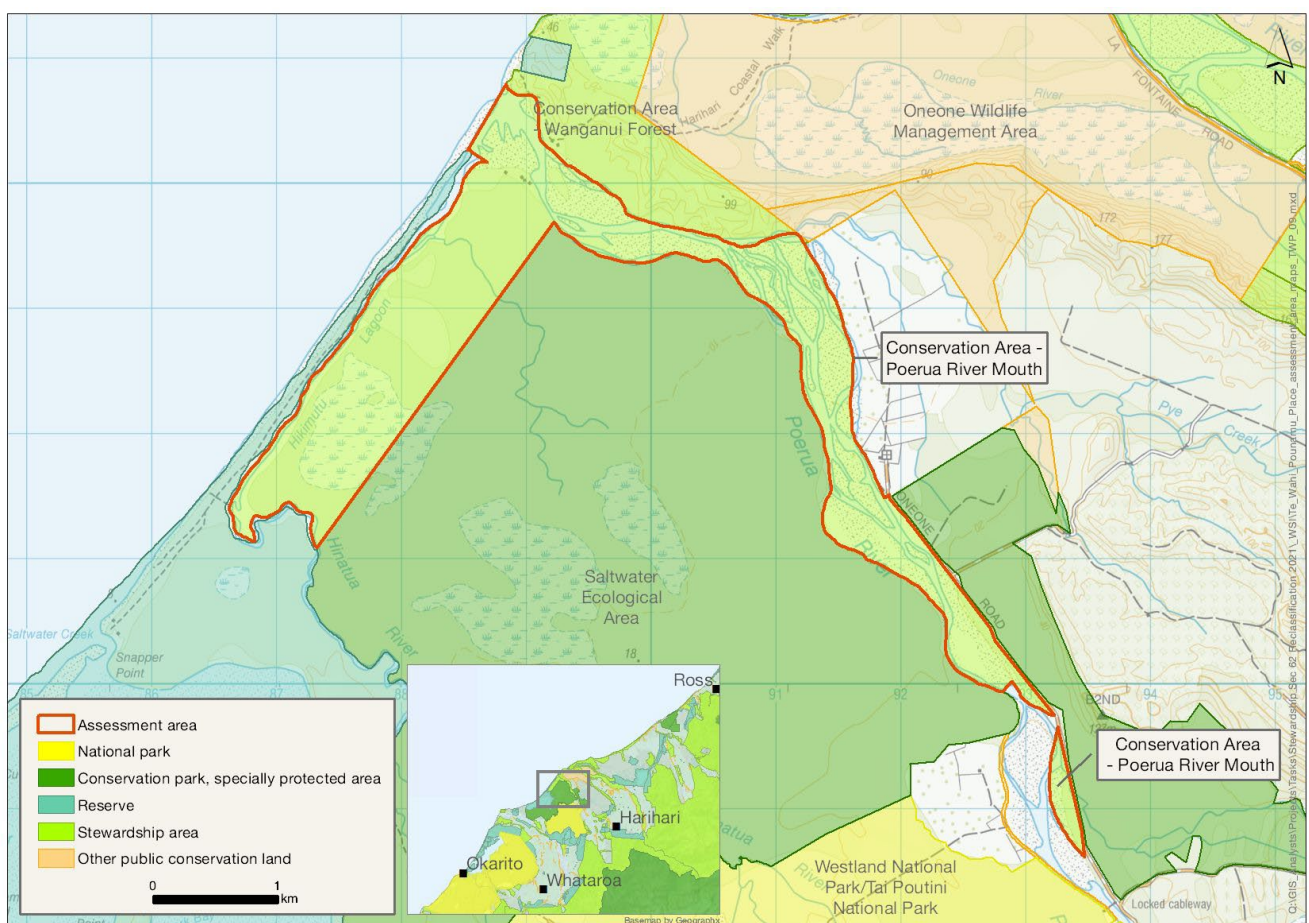


# Stewardship Land Review: Recommendation

## TWP\_09 – Poerua River Mouth

Departmental Region	Management Place	Technical report	Assessment #	Held Under
Western South Island	Te Wāhi Pounamu	<a href="#">DOC-6913476</a>	TWP_09	s62

### Poerua River Mouth



Protected Areas	Area (ha)	NaPALIS #	# of Primary Parcels
Conservation Area - Poerua River Mouth	531.0365	2805644	7

## **Recommendation on Reclassification**

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

The Western South Island National Panel recommends:

- The Conservation Area 'Poerua River Mouth' (NaPALIS #2805644) is declared to be held for conservation purposes, pursuant to section 7(1) of the Conservation Act 1987, is classified pursuant to section 18(1) of the Conservation Act 1987 as a section 23B Wildlife Management Area, and is added to the Oneone Wildlife Management Area.
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### ***Mana Whenua Panel Recommendation***

The Mana Whenua Panel does not seek to make its own recommendation for Conservation Area 'Poerua River Mouth' (NaPALIS #2805644) and does not either support or oppose the Western South Island National Panel's recommendation.

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## **Western South Island National Panel Justification for Recommendation – Executive Summary**

This conservation area contains active braided riverbed, wetland forest and pākihi swamp, supporting open harakeke-dominated swamp and kahikatea forest. The area is highly representative and natural, described as one of the best examples of kahikatea forest in the region. The area supports a diversity of coastal and wetland avifauna, including several threatened and at-risk species. This conservation area contains recreation values associated with whitebaiting access to Poerua River and the presence of several baches. The identified conservation values are of a complementary nature to the proximal Oneone Wildlife Management Area. Mana whenua have indicated that a historic occupation site is located in the vicinity of the coastal and river mouth area. There are also heritage values associated with 19<sup>th</sup> century gold mining.

Classifying this conservation area as a wildlife management area is considered appropriate to reflect the identified values while ensuring that wildlife and wildlife habitat values are protected.

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

The Mana Whenua Panel has been provided with the opportunity to review the Western South Island National Panel's reclassification recommendation for Conservation Area 'Poerua River Mouth' (NaPALIS #2805644) and does not either support or oppose the Western South Island National Panel's recommendation.

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 considers 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 borders the Saltwater Ecological Area, the Saltwater Lagoon Scenic Reserve, the Lower Poerua Ecological Area, the Oneone Wildlife Management Area and the coastal section of the Wanganui Forest Conservation Area (recommended as wildlife management area). The classification of wildlife management area is considered to reflect the mosaic of conservation values present and provide landscape continuity with the nearby existing and recommended wildlife management areas.

## ***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 conservation area includes extensive braided riverbed, coastal swampland along Hikimutu Lagoon to Saltwater Lagoon and some riverbank forest. The area is included in two Outstanding Natural Landscapes (ONL17 and ONL19 Poerua hapua/Saltwater Lagoon).

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

This conservation area contains active braided riverbed, wetland forest and pākihi swamp, supporting open harakeke-dominated swamp and kahikatea forest. The area is highly representative and natural, described as one of the best examples of kahikatea forest in the region. The area supports a diversity of coastal and wetland avifauna, including several threatened and at-risk species. The vegetation and ecological values are of a complementary nature to the proximal Oneone Wildlife Management Area.

The above recommendation as wildlife management area is considered to appropriately protect the identified wetland ecosystems and their flora and fauna associations, ensuring that wildlife and wildlife habitat values are protected.

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

This conservation area provides access to the Poerua for whitebaiting and contains several baches. The above recommendation is considered to accommodate this existing recreation use.

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

There are two recorded archaeological sites in this area, both related to 19<sup>th</sup> century gold mining.

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

This area contains concessions for two baches and a whitebaiting hut bordering Poerua River.

## ***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.