

Hokitika Place Stewardship Land



Alfred Wilson Walsh (1859-1916) Lake Kaniere. Watercolour on paper.

Landscape Values

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Landscape context for decision-making about stewardship land in Hokitika Place

Landscape is formally defined as “all aspects of the environment including its physical form, and all natural and cultural processes and systems, and the interactions of these systems.”

Landscapes are the outcome of many interconnected processes.

All landscapes are evolving. Even pre-human landscapes were constantly changing in response to natural forces, such as cell by cell growth or massive catastrophic landslips, but their character used to be 100% natural. When people arrived processes of modification began, as successive generations shaped the landscape to meet their needs and desires. Original vegetation was harvested or removed, landforms and drainage patterns altered, natural soils cultivated, and many things have been built.

In Hokitika Place processes of modification have occurred everywhere but have affected the flood plains and river mouths most. The original natural character landscapes of the valley floors and some river mouths have morphed into new landscapes where most people make their homes, and where food and other goods are produced. Modified landscapes evolve into cultural landscapes with their own values.

But even where landscapes have been greatly modified, fragments of original natural character survive adding visual interest and a sense of the past. They contribute to overall ecosystem health, maintain biodiversity benefits and help to manage hydrology. Some of these remaining fragments are stewardship land.

Hokitika Place extends from Taramakau River to Waitaha River, from the main divide to the Tasman Sea. It includes mountainous country along main divide, hills, coastal landscapes and modified plains. Part of Arthur's Pass National Park is located within this Place.

Hokitika Place is split in two both geologically and ecologically by the alpine fault which lies about 20 km west of the crest of the Main Divide. East of the fault the mountains and valleys are rugged and broken, and a large portion is protected as public conservation land. West of the fault the geology is more complex, landscapes modified and public conservation lands fragmented.

Waitaha, Mikonui, Hokitika, Kokatahi, Arahura and Taramakau braided rivers cross the place flowing ki uta ki tai. Smaller slower streams and wetlands are recurring features, more so nearer the coast. Natural lakes and impoundments are common with Kaniere and Mahināpua standing out.

From Taramakau River south to Lake Paringa the West Coast is notable for the absence of beech forest (the so-called “beech gap”).

In these landscape values reports the focus is on natural character (and to a lesser extent historic character). This is because the stewardship land reclassification process is occurring under the Conservation Act 1987 and the purpose of this act is “to promote the conservation of New

Zealand's natural and historic resources". "Conservation means the preservation and protection of natural and historic resources for the purpose of

- maintaining their intrinsic values,
- providing for their appreciation and recreational enjoyment by the public and
- safeguarding the options for future generations."

The Department of Conservation's West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* Conservation Management Strategy 2010-2020 (CMS) sets out how the purpose of the Act will be achieved and states the desired outcomes for the whole West Coast region (p177-183). Landscape outcomes sought for the region are:

"Within public conservation lands, natural, historical and cultural heritage is protected, maintained and enhanced." (p177), and

"Where practicable, natural heritage is improved to a more natural state. The ecological integrity and natural character of managed sites is maintained or restored... The connectivity and natural functioning of mountain-sea ecosystems, lowland wetlands and riparian areas is improving."(p181)

At Hokitika Place the landscape outcome sought is:

"4.2.6.3 Geodiversity, landforms and landscapes in 2020

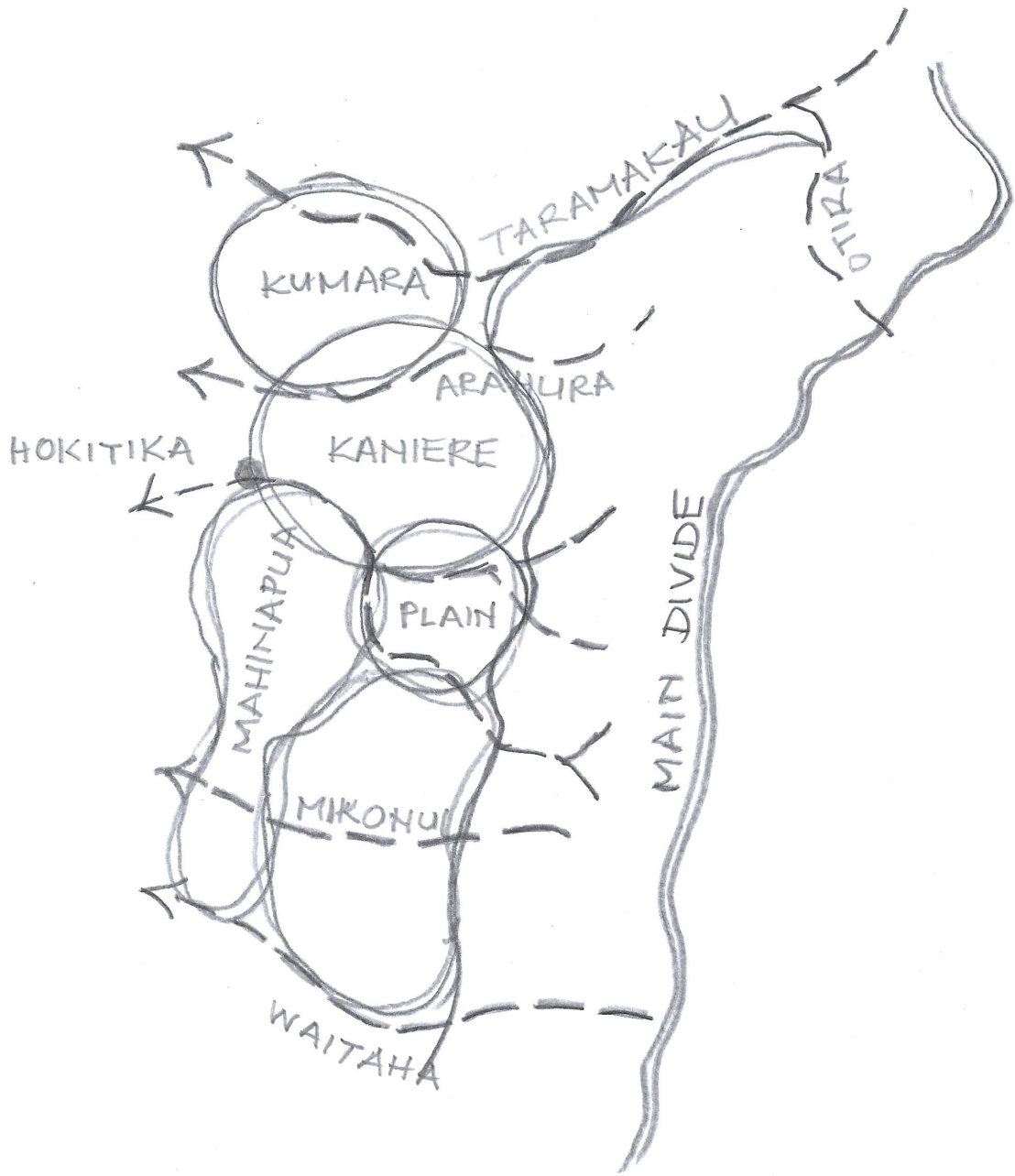
The overall character of geodiversity, landforms and landscapes in Hokitika Place is *maintained in its 2010 condition.* (p241)

West Coast Regional Council also has statutory responsibility for landscapes in Hokitika Place. In 2013 they commissioned two studies to inform their regional planning. **Brown Ltd mapped areas of high and outstanding natural character** first, which was followed by a report identifying Outstanding Natural Landscapes (ONLs) in the coastal zone. This was followed up with the addition of some inland ONLs.

A new combined district plan *Te Tai o Poutini* has been drafted using these ONLs, but it is not yet operative. The **draft *Te Tai o Poutini*** plan also identifies coastal natural character areas which are more or less the same as the natural character units identified by Brown in 2013. Many stewardship land parcels fall into Brown's high and outstanding natural character areas, and some are also located in ONLs identified in the **draft *Te Tai o Poutini***.

One limitation of an approach identifying ONLs on the basis of natural character only is that tangata whenua landscape values and historic landscape values which may contribute to an areas outstanding quality are not taken into account in the rankings. However some of this information is provided in the conservation value reports for each stewardship cluster.

There are about 90 parcels of stewardship land in Hokitika Place. To better understand how each stewardship parcel fits within its wider landscape setting Hokitika Place is divided into eight chunks of similar character. Stewardship parcels in each are identified and landscape factors discussed. Where part or all of a stewardship parcel falls into an **Outstanding Natural Landscape** or **natural character unit** it is stated because this is a consideration which may need to be given some weight. That said, there are many areas of high natural character outside the boundaries of the units identified at a regional scale and stewardship lands by their nature are often in special landscape locations.



ONE WAY TO UNDERSTAND
HOKITIKA PLACE

Contents (Hokitika Place)

Report No.	NaPalis	Name (area in hectares)	ONL	Natural Character
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Taramakau Valley (Hokitika Place)

HOK01	2809263	Taramakau Riverbed Conservation Area (409ha)	ONL28	C34+T81
HOK01	2809267	Kumara Conservation Area (16ha)		T81
HOK01	2809268	Kumara-Wardens Road Conservation Area (31ha)		T81
HOK03	2806316	Taramakau River/Ōtira River Cons Area (3,780ha)	27+28	T82+T86
HOK25	2806322	Ōtira Conservation Area (26ha)		T87
HOK25	2806321	Ōtira Riverbed Conservation Area (0.3ha)		T87
HOK20	2806317	Aickens Base Conservation Area (0.1ha)		

Ka Tiritiri o Te Moana (Main Divide) Hokitika Place

HOK19	2805715	Kawahaka Forest Conservation Area (5,123ha)	25 +28	T87+T84
HOK19	2805713	Wanganui/Otira Catchments Cons Area (90,074ha)	ONL24	T88+T78
HOK19	2806159	Mathias Pass Road Conservation Area (4ha)	ONL22	T75
HOK19	2806272	Hokitika River-Bluff Creek Conservation Area (19ha)	ONL22	T75
HOK52	2805641	Waitaha Forest Conservation Area (30,815ha) (part)	ONL24	T67+T68

Braided Rivers (Hokitika Place)

HOK48	2805517	Waitaha River/Kakapotahi River (33ha)	ONL20B	T66
HOK50	2805634	Waitaha Riverbed Conservation Area (368ha)		T66
HOK50	2805643	Waitaha Riverbed Conservation Area (223ha)		T66
HOK47	2805512	Mikonui River Conservation Area (169ha)	ONL22	T69
HOK42	2805707	Donnelly Creek Conservation Area (4ha)		
HOK38	2805705	Donnelly Creek Conservation Area (1ha)		
HOK38	2805706	Donnelly Creek Conservation Area (7ha)		
HOK38	2805703	Tōtara River Conservation Area (6ha)		T71
HOK38	2805704	Tōtara River Conservation Area (5ha)		T71
HOK21	2805690	Kokatahi/Hokitika Riverbed Cons Area (2,219ha)	ONL22	T74+T75
HOK21	2805720	Kokatahi River Conservation Area (3ha)		T74
HOK19	2805712	Kokatahi Riverbed Conservation Area (17ha)	ONL22	
HOK21	2805710	Styx River Conservation Area (46ha)	ONL22	T74
HOK21	2805711	Toaroha Riverbed Conservation Area (149ha)	ONL22	T74
HOK24	2805714	Wainihinihi Creek Conservation Area (10ha)	ONL22	T78
HOK14	2809287	Kawhaka Creek Conservation Area (30ha)		
HOK03	2806316	Taramakau River/Ōtira River Cons Area (3,780ha)	27+28	T82+T86

Kowhitirangi Doughboys

HOK36	2805721	Camelback Conservation Area (89ha)	ONL23	T75
HOK37	2805708	Lake Arthur Conservation Area (69ha)	ONL22	
HOK37	2805709	Lake Arthur Conservation Area (43ha)	ONL22	

Kumara Goldfields

HOK02	2809264	Kumara Junction Conservation Area (1ha)		C34
HOK01	2809332	Greymouth-Kumara Tramway Conservation Area (3ha)		
HOK01	2809274	Kumara Conservation Area (1ha)		
HOK01	2809269	Kumara-Cashman Street Conservation Area (1ha)		
HOK01	2809271	Kumara-Cashman Street Conservation Area (0.3ha)		
HOK01	2809333	Kumara-Cashman Street Conservation Area (0.1ha)		
HOK01	2809270	Kumara-Town Belt North Conservation Area (0.2ha)		
HOK01	2809272	Kumara-Town Belt North Conservation Area (4ha)		
HOK01	2809273	Kumara-Town Belt North Conservation Area (30ha)		
HOK01	2809268	Kumara-Wardens Road Conservation Area (31ha)		T81
HOK05	2809266	Kumara Straight Conservation Area (216ha)		
HOK05	2809334	Kumara Straight Conservation Area (4ha)		
HOK05	2809275	Dillmanstown Conservation Area (583ha)	ONL27	T81
HOK06	2806209	German Gully Conservation Area (289ha)		
HOK04	2809265	Kapitea [sic] Creek Conservation Area (184ha)		C33
HOK04	2809292	Kapitea [sic] Creek Conservation Area (0.3ha)		
HOK04	2809278	Chesterfield Conservation Area (182ha)		C33
HOK08	2809280	Arahura River Mouth Conservation Area (22ha)		C32?
HOK11	2806208	North Bank Arahura Road Conservation Area (74ha)		
HOK07	2809279	Stafford Conservation Area (18ha)		
HOK09	2809281	Stafford Conservation Area (3ha)		
HOK09	2809331	Stafford-High Street Conservation Area (0.4ha)		
HOK10	2809285	Big Dam Hill Conservation Area (1,207ha)		
HOK12	2809288	Lake Mudgie Conservation Area (501ha)		T85
HOK12	2809283	Duffers Creek Conservation Area (56ha)		
HOK13	2809353	Shamrock Creek Conservation Area (2ha)		
HOK15	2809284	Bells Dam Conservation Area (9ha)		

Kaniere and Blue Spur

HOK18	2805691	Kaniere Forest Conservation Area (776ha)	ONL25	
HOK18	2806246	Blue Spur Range Conservation Area (578ha)		

HOK18	2805688	Blue Spur Road Conservation Area (169ha)		
HOK17	2809286	Blue Spur Road Conservation Area (150ha)		
HOK17	2809289	Blue Spur Conservation Area (65ha)		
HOK22	2805693	Kaniere Farm Conservation Area (52ha)		
HOK22	2805694	Kaniere Farm Conservation Area (1,377ha)	ONL25	
HOK23	2805718	Hans Bay-Lake Kaniere Conservation Area (0.1ha)		

Mahināpua Swamplands

HOK26	2805689	Takutai Conservation Area (4ha)		
HOK27	2805692	Pine Creek Conservation Area (5ha)		
HOK28	2806156	Mahināpua Creek/Tūwharewhare Cons Area(133ha)	ONL26	
HOK29	2805696	Mananui Bush Conservation Area (9ha)		
HOK29	2805695	Mahināpua Store Conservation Area (0.4ha)		
HOK32	2805697	Frosty Creek Conservation Area (26ha)		
HOK31	2805699	Seddon Terrace Conservation Area (35ha)		T73
HOK33	2805698	Butlers Conservation Area(2030ha)		T72
HOK35	2806245	Tarleton Falls Conservation Area (83ha)		
HOK35	2805702	Woolhouse Creek Conservation Area (252ha)		
HOK34	2805700	Camp Creek Conservation Area (141ha)		
HOK34	2805701	Woolhouse Creek Conservation Area (85ha)		C31?
HOK34	3267740	Bennett Creek Conservation Area (47ha)		C31
HOK45	2805509	Mikonui River Mouth Conservation Area (31ha)		C30
HOK46	2805510	Shearers Swamp-Mikonui Conservation Area (33ha)		C30
HOK46	2805511	Waikoriri Creek Conservation Area (130ha)		C30
HOK45	2805514	Waitaha Conservation Area(8ha)		C30

Mikonui Forests

HOK43	2806269	Tōtara-Mikonui Forests Conservation Area (27,788ha)	ONL22	T68+T66
HOK43	2805513	Mcleods Road Conservation Area (6ha)	ONL22	
HOK43	2809720	Mine Creek Conservation Area (0.4ha)	ONL22	
HOK39	2805717	Bond Street-Ross Conservation Area (0.05ha)		
HOK40	2805716	Park Terrace-Ross Conservation Area (0.3ha)		
HOK41	2805719	Mount Greenland Road Conservation Area (1ha)		
HOK42	2805707	Donnelly Creek Conservation Area (4ha)		

Taramakau Valley (Hokitika Place)

(Note: an earlier version of this chapter also appears in the Mawhera Place Landscape Values report. There are improvements and corrections in this version which is also adapted for Hokitika Place)

The Taramakau River system is a defining landscape feature in Hokitika Place.

Taramakau River is used as the boundary between Mawhera Place and Hokitika Place. It is also the boundary between Grey and Westland Districts.

Only the south bank is technically in Hokitika Place but for landscape purposes the whole river system is considered together.

Ōtira River and other tributaries with modified valley floors are included.

Includes braided river bed, river banks, terraces, alluvial flats, modified valley floor and toe slope land.

At discrete locations up the river flood plains are modified for farming and other productive uses.

Soils have been cultivated, natural landforms and natural drainage systems altered.

Wetlands have been drained or significantly modified.

Roads, railway, utilities, bridges, flood protection works, fences and other structures occur throughout.

Modified river flats of the Taramakau Farm Settlement are notable for the absence of forest remnants or other natural character features.

Taramakau River is a Deed of Recognition Area and Statutory Acknowledgement Area.

Taramakau River was, and still is, a significant indigenous fishery and source of manu (birds). The river remains a source of abundant harvests. The area is noted particularly for its tuna (eel) and inaka (whitebait) fisheries.

Parts of the Taramakau River and valley are identified as outstanding natural landscape in schedule 5 of the *draft Te Tai o Poutini plan*:

ONL27 Lower Taramakau River and Kawhaka Forest

ONL28 Taramakau & Otira River Valleys

In the *West Coast Region Natural Character Study (Brown 2013)* five units in the Taramakau Valley area of Hokitika Place are assessed as having high or outstanding natural character. These include:

Unit T87 Upper Taramakau River and Escarpment (outstanding)

Unit T86 Taramakau River Flats (high)

Unit T82 Taramakau River Escarpment (outstanding)

Unit T81 Taramakau and Greenstone River Flats (high)

Unit C34 Taramakau River Mouth (high)

There are seven parcels of stewardship land in this valley:

(some are also considered in Mawhera Place)

- HOK01 Taramakau Riverbed Conservation Area (409ha) 2809263
- HOK01 Kumara Conservation Area(16ha) 2809267
- HOK01 Kumara-Wardens Road Conservation Area (31ha) 2809268
- HOK03 Taramakau River/Ōtira River Conservation Area (3,780ha) 2806316
- HOK25 Ōtira Conservation Area(26ha) 2806322
- HOK25 Ōtira Riverbed Conservation Area(0.3ha) 2806321
- HOK20 Aickens Base Conservation Area(0.1ha) 2806317

Landscape factors for decision-makers to consider:

- HOK01 **Taramakau Riverbed Conservation Area** (409ha) 2809263 in 13 parcels
This conservation area includes the estuary, coastal wetlands, beach, sand dunes and sand bar at the Taramakau River mouth including some land on the south side, as well as braided riverbed. Parcels of Taramakau Marginal Strip and the Taramakau Scenic Reserve are contiguous and complimentary in terms of ecological function and natural character landscape cohesion.

The lowest 10km of Taramakau Riverbed from to Kumara to the river mouth is largely braided river channels, riparian margins, bare gravel and gorse covered islands. It includes some adjacent small patches of cutover forest on river terrace and moraine.

Near the river mouth part of Taramakau Riverbed Conservation Area has been modified by farming activity.

A pā site, urupā and gardens were located in the vicinity of the north side of the Taramakau River mouth which is in Mawhera Place. On the south side, a pā site, mahinga kai and occupation sites are located. The conservation area at the south of the Taramakau River mouth is surrounded by Māori Reserve land in recognition of the historic occupation within this area.

The downstream coastal part of Taramakau Riverbed Conservation Area lies within Brown's coastal high natural character unit *C34 Taramakau River Mouth*. Key attributes/characteristics noted for this unit include:

Massive braided river mouth enclosed by a large sand bar at its entrance.

- Highly dynamic and dramatic interaction / relationship between the river waters, sand bar and the open waters of the Tasman Sea.
- Exposed sand bar / dune landforms and windswept vegetation impart a strong sense of naturalness and wildness.
- Steep escarpment covered in mature coastal forest flanks the southern margins of the river.
- The presence of pasture and farming activities along the river margins and SH6 rail and road bridge does not overly detract from the highly expressive natural processes and elements which are the dominant feature of the unit.

Upstream of the SH6 bridge near Camerons most of the Taramakau Riverbed Conservation Area is included in the **high** natural character unit *T81 Taramakau-Greenstone River Flats*. Key attributes/characteristics noted are:

Large braided river channel, gravel beds, lakes and swampland surrounded by pasture, farming activities, production forestry, and steep escarpments covered in mature indigenous forest.

- Mix of aggregate sizes, their volume and the pronounced river beds give the impression of the rivers force during flood events and a distinct impression of the rivers wildness.
- The modified landscape (power generation facilities, forestry, gravel quarries) adjoining the river does impact upon the sense of seclusion and remoteness, but on balance, does not detract from the integrity of the evident and expressive natural processes of the river bed itself nor the interaction of the river with the surrounding landforms and vegetation patterns.
- Dynamic natural processes associated with the meandering braids and gravel beds, grading of aggregate sizes, downcutting, river terracing, flood events and inundation.
- A wide range of channel typologies (braids, pools, rapids, eddies)

A small part of the downstream end of Taramakau River/Ōtira River Conservation Area also lies within this high natural character unit.

- **HOK01 Kumara-Wardens Road Conservation Area** (31ha) 2809268 in 12 parcels (see also Kumara Goldfields section)
Between Taramakau River/Ōtira River Conservation Area and Taramakau Riverbed Conservation Area, is part of Kumara-Wardens Road Conservation Area which includes the braided riverbed and some lower terrace land extending up to the Kumara township. Vegetation appears to be a mosaic of regenerating forest, shrubland and open areas with at least one pond. Modified by tracking for river access and possibly exotic shrubland.

Riverbed parts of Kumara-Wardens Road Conservation Area would be part of high natural character *Unit T81 Taramakau and Greenstone River Flats (high)*.

- **HOK01 Kumara Conservation Area** (16ha) 2809267 is a wide riparian strip on the sloping south bank of the Taramakau River contiguous with the Taramakau Riverbed Conservation Area along its length. It is connected to the riverbed part of Kumara-Wardens Road Conservation Area at its upstream end and a small piece of Taramakau Marginal Strip. It has woody weed vegetation but appears quite unstable with a number of disturbed areas and small slips feeding gravel into the river, possibly evidence of past sluicing.

Kumara Conservation Area is within high natural character *Unit T81 Taramakau and Greenstone River Flats*.

- **HOK03 Taramakau River/Ōtira River Conservation Area** (3,780ha) 2806316
This riverbed conservation area includes most of the length of Taramakau River from the Kumara-Inchbonnie Road bridge up towards Nōti Taramakau (Harper Pass). Taramakau River/Ōtira River Conservation Area extends up Ōtira Valley to The Otira Highway SH73 bridge above Otira settlement, and some way up Wainihinihi valley.

A small downstream part of the Taramakau River/Ōtira River Conservation Area near Kumara is included in **outstanding natural landscape ONL27 Lower Taramakau River and Kawhaka Forest**. Site Type and values cited are:

Extensive braided river channel and gravel beds flanked by steep escarpments covered in mature native forest that extends across an elevated plateau housing a number reservoirs.

Dramatically eroded landforms clearly express the rivers power and varying flow. Broken vegetation and expansive depositional landforms reinforce these qualities.

Very extensive and homogenous swamp forest. Vegetation directly interacts with the river beds and the open waters of the reservoirs.

High transient values associated with evident bird life on the reservoirs and surrounding indigenous forest.

The Kapitea and Kumara Reservoirs are key landmarks within this unit.

A downstream part of Taramakau River/Ōtira River Conservation Area where there are some spectacular bluffs also occurs within the **outstanding** natural character unit *T82 Taramakau River Escarpment*. Key attributes/characteristics noted include:

Extensive braided river channel and gravel beds flanked by steep vegetated escarpments.

- Dramatically eroded landforms clearly express the rivers power and varying flow. Broken vegetation and expansive depositional landforms reinforce these qualities.
- Evidence of erosion revealing underlying geology, rockfall, stream downcutting and flooding. The river contains a range of aggregate sizes and weathered boulders that are constantly sifted and graded by the varying flows.
- Continuous mature lowland forest.
- Wide range of channel typologies (braids, pools, rapids, eddies).
- Apart for the adjoining pastoral flats to the south the Otira Highway to the west this unit is devoid of development.

Much of the rest of Taramakau River/ Ōtira River Conservation Area is closely aligned with the **high** natural character unit *T86 Taramakau River Flats* identified by Brown in 2013. Key attributes/characteristics defining this unit are:

Very expansive braided river channel and gravel beds surrounded by pasture and farming activities and flanked by imposing mountain ranges.

- Mix of aggregate sizes, their volume and the pronounced river beds give the impression of the rivers force during flood events and a distinct impression of the rivers wildness.
- The modified landscape adjoining the river – including farming activities and pasture, transmission lines, roads, railway, and protection works – does impact upon the sense of seclusion and remoteness, but on balance, does not detract from the integrity of the evident and very expressive natural processes of the river bed itself nor the interaction of the river with the surrounding mountainous landforms and vegetation patterns.
- Dynamic natural processes associated with the meandering braids and gravel beds, grading of aggregate sizes, downcutting, river terracing, flood events and inundation.
- A wide range of channel typologies (braids, pools, rapids, eddies).
- The dramatic enclosure of the river valley by mountain ranges and unmodified sequences of native forest imbue the landscape with a sense of naturalness.
- Includes part of the Otira River which has a similar character.

Outstanding natural landscapes on both sides of the Taramakau River are mapped in *Te Tai o Poutini*, but the river valley itself is not generally included.

However schedule 5 includes *ONL28 Taramakau & Otira River Valleys* as an **Outstanding Natural Landscape**. The stated site types and values suggest that the river valley IS considered ONL even though it does not appear so on the maps. The values are:

Very broad river valley consisting of extensive braided river channels and gravel beds that are dramatically enclosed by mountain ranges and high altitude peaks.

Interplay of mature indigenous forest and vegetative sequence from lowland beech forest through to alpine scrub communities reinforcing topography and pronounced relief.

Very extensive and homogenous swamp forest. Vegetation directly interacts with the river beds and the open waters of the reservoirs

Exposed peaks and ridge tops revealing underlying geology are highly expressive of the landscapes formative and ongoing natural processes. Erosion, scree slopes and depositional landforms clearly express the erosive nature of the mountain landscape and uplifted landforms.

Coherent rhythm and orientation of landforms.

Views from SH73.

Therefore much of Taramakau River/Otira River Conservation Area is likely to be **Outstanding Natural Landscape** included in *ONL 28*.

There are fifteen concessions in this conservation area, mainly non-intensive grazing licences but also a large number of gravel extraction permits.

Along the length of Taramakau River/ Ōtira River Conservation Area numerous marginal strips are contiguous and complimentary in terms of ecological function and natural character landscape cohesion. So too is riparian and valley floor land in Dillmanstown Amenity Area, Hohonu Forest Conservation Area, Ōtira-Kopara Conservation Area, and Arthurs Pass National Park. Consideration could be given to including some of the upstream stewardship land in Taramakau River/Ōtira River Conservation Area into the national park.

Protected conservation lands on the banks and in the beds of these wide braided river systems contribute significantly to maintaining and improving water quality, contributing to the wairua and mauri of the river.

The contrast between modified character of areas of Taramakau valley floor which have been settled for farming and the wild natural character of the braided river bed itself and forested hills enclosing the valley is a defining characteristic.

As the ongoing processes of landscape modification continues the value of any remaining natural character fragments in the on flats along the river will increase for future generations.

- **HOK25 Ōtira Conservation Area** (26ha) 2806322 in 3 parcels
This is a wedge of stewardship land around Goat Creek which has Arthurs Pass National Park land all around it except at the lower boundary along Ōtira Highway SH73. At this lower edge there are two strips of private land with dwellings which front on to the main road as well. The parcel seems to have been excluded from the national park because it contains a water race from Goat Creek, possibly a water supply for Otira. Ecologically and visually it is indistinguishable from the national park land around it and consideration could be given to including it in the park. Should this land be managed differently from the surrounding park there is potential for unsightly and inappropriate boundaries emerging over time on the hills above Ōtira.

Ōtira Conservation Area also includes a small roadside sliver, just south of the main part which is also a strong candidate for addition to the adjacent national park for the same reasons as above.

Ōtira Conservation Area is located in outstanding natural character *Unit T87 Upper Taramakau River and Escarpment*. Key attributes/characteristics cited are:

Extensive braided river valley flanked by high altitude mountain ranges and mature indigenous forest that extends to the rivers edge. Includes the lower river escarpment that flanks the more modified river flats.

- Rugged and raw landforms and their dramatic profile give the river a sense of wildness. Characteristic high rainfall events accentuate the drama and the sense of wildness.

- Dramatically eroded landforms clearly express the rivers power and varying flow. Broken vegetation and expansive depositional landforms reinforce these qualities.
 - Evidence of erosion revealing underlying geology, rockfall, stream downcutting and flooding. The River contains a range of aggregate sizes and weathered boulders that are constantly sifted and graded by the varying flows.
 - Continuous mature beech forest.
 - Wide range of channel typologies (braids, pools, rapids, eddies).
 - Apart for adjoining modified river flats, some walking tracks and huts, this unit is devoid of development.
 - Enclosure by high altitude mountain ranges enhances the sense of remoteness and wildness.
- **HOK25 Ōtira Riverbed Conservation Area (0.3ha) 2806321**
This is a forested square of land located on an area where the Arthurs Pass National Park Boundary and the alignment of SH73 diverge. It possibly includes part of a small waterway at the toe of the slope. The conservation area does not protect the whole area of “no mans land” between the highway and the park, however it has natural character similar to the adjacent park land and “reads” as part of the park.

Ōtira Riverbed Conservation Area is located in outstanding natural character *Unit T87 Upper Taramakau River and Escarpment*.

- **Practically the entire Taramakau braided river system has legal protection ki uta ki tai with these combined conservation areas.**
- **HOK20 Aickens Base Conservation Area (0.1ha) 2806317**
Careful consideration needs to be given to the future status of Aickens Base Conservation Area because of its visually prominent location on scenic SH73 in a valley with a relatively low level of modification in a high natural character setting. Inappropriate development at this site would have a disproportionately negative impact on the landscape character of the whole valley and the also on the experience of people travelling on the highway
- Arthur’s Pass National Park Management Plan 2007 is relatively silent on natural landscape values. It has this to say in an introduction on page 19:

“Arthur’s Pass National Park straddles the Main Divide of the Southern Alps / Ka Tiritiri o te Moana; this ‘western’ and ‘eastern’ separation (more a northern and southern) has a dominating influence on the character of the Park. The rugged terrain, the wide range of altitudes, the relatively severe mountain climate, the swift rivers and the passes also contribute to the nature of the Park in various ways.

The Park landforms are characterised by rugged mountains, glaciated passes and valleys and braided stony greywacke riverbeds. These landforms are the result of high tectonic uplift and erosion rates and past extensive glacial processes. Altitude varies from around 270 to 2400 metres. A feature is the relatively close proximity of the headwaters of two large river systems (Taramakau and Waimakariri) that virtually bisect the South Island from west to east. The Park lies adjacent to a major active plate boundary, the Alpine Fault and is marked by many fault dislocations. The area is subject to earthquakes.”

Park additions policy is “to keep the Park boundaries under continuous review to enable...additions that would assist ecosystem protection, public use or land management”.

“The present Park boundaries generally follow natural features, but some straight line boundaries exist, with little regard for topography. In these cases rationalisation would improve Park management. In other cases additions to the Park would improve protection of natural features or increase public use and enjoyment. Some habitat types which are presently under-represented in the

Park include dry tussock grasslands and wet podocarp rainforest. Change of land status of adjoining conservation land...may lead to additions to the Park in the future”.

None of this appears to preclude additions of stewardship land adjacent to the park.

Ka Tiritiri o te Moana (Main Divide) Hokitika Place

All the mountainous land along the main divide Ka Tiritiri o te Moana.

Includes a significant part of Arthurs Pass National Park west of the main divide.

Linked across Taramakau River with the main divide part of Mawhera Place to the north.

Runs together with the main divide part of Te Wahi Pounamu Place to the south as Waitaha Conservation Area straddles both.

The western edge follows a natural north-south boundary where dissected hill country gives way to more gentle slopes along the alpine fault. Kawhaka Forest Conservation Area is included because of its limited modification.

In the draft *Te Tai o Poutini* plan, schedule 5, most of the Ka Tiritiri o Te Moana (Main Divide) part of Hokitika Place is outstanding natural landscape including:

ONL24 Kea Pass-Arthurs Pass-Amuri Pass

ONL22 Bonar, Rangitoto & Bald Hill Ranges.

ONL25 Lake Kaniere

ONL28 Taramakau & Ōtira River Valleys

In the West Coast Region Natural Character Study (Brown 2013) identified outstanding natural character twelve units along Ka Tiritiri o Te Moana in Hokitika Place. Most do not have stewardship parcels in them. They include:

Unit T67 Upper Waitaha River (outstanding)

Unit T68 Upper Kakapotahi River (part) (outstanding)

Unit T70 Upper Mikonui and Totara Rivers (part) (outstanding)

Unit T75 Hokitika and Whitcombe Rivers (outstanding)

Unit T76 Toaroha and Styx Rivers (outstanding)

Unit T78 Arahura River (outstanding)

Unit T84 Kapatea, Kumara and Okuku Reservoirs (outstanding)

Unit T87 Upper Taramakau River Escarpment (outstanding)

Unit T88 Taipo River (outstanding)

Unit T89 Otehake River (outstanding)

Unit T90 Deception River (outstanding)

Unit T91 Upper Otira & Rolleston Rivers (outstanding)

There are five parcels of stewardship land in this part of Hokitika Place:

HOK19 Wanganui/Ōtira Catchments Conservation Area (90,074ha) 2805713

HOK19 Mathias Pass Road Conservation Area (4ha) 2806159

HOK19 Hokitika River-Bluff Creek Conservation Area (19ha) 2806272

HOK19 Kawhaka Forest Conservation Area (5,123ha) 2805715

HOK52 Waitaha Forest Conservation Area (30,815ha)2805641 (part)

Landscape factors for decision-makers to consider:

- HOK19 **Wanganui/Ōtira Catchments Conservation Area** (90,074ha) in 49 parcels

Wanganui/Ōtira Catchments Conservation Area is comprised of three large mountainous parcels along the main divide which forms the eastern boundary. Contiguous with Arthurs Pass National Park, and Canterbury PCL on the other side of the divide.

The northern-most third is separate and includes Bald Hill Range south of Jacksons, rising to Rangi Taipo 1459m. It also includes all of Taipo River catchment (except two blocks of private land on the valley floor), Rocky and Griffin Creeks and land north of Big Wainihinihi River, all of which flow to the Taramakau. The stewardship land is contiguous with The Avenue Scenic Reserve and Rocky Point/Tauotikirangi Scenic Reserve along the south bank of the Taramakau River. Wainihinihi River Marginal Strip links Wanganui/Ōtira Catchments Conservation Area with Taramakau River/Ōtira River Conservation Area.

The middle section includes Browning, Toaroha, Diedrichs, and Meta Ranges. It also includes the whole Styx River catchment and Kokatahi, Toaroha, Hokitika and Mungo Rivers, upstream of the alpine fault. The middle part is contiguous with southern-most third which includes Whitcombe River valley and Bloomfield Range.

All of Wanganui/Ōtira Catchments Conservation Area is forested with alpine areas above treeline and some high natural character braided river valleys. Except near the edges, there is little modification apart from tracks and huts.

All of Wanganui/Ōtira Catchments Conservation Area is included in the extensive **Outstanding Natural Landscape** *ONL24 Kea Pass-Arthurs Pass-Amuri Pass*. Stated site type and values are:

Extensive landscape consisting of dramatic mountain ranges along the main divide, high altitude peaks, glaciers, and incised valley systems.

Interplay of mature indigenous forest and vegetative sequence from lowland beech forest through to alpine scrub communities reinforcing topography and pronounced relief.

Exposed peaks and ridge tops revealing underlying geology are highly expressive of the landscapes formative and ongoing natural processes. Erosion, scree slopes and depositional landforms clearly express the erosive nature of the mountain landscape and uplifted landforms.

Combination of etched ridge lines, rocky outcrops, expansive permanent ice flows, glacial lakes, vegetation sequences giving way to raw and exposed peaks and ridges are highly natural.

Lake Christabel, Whakarewa/Lake Browning, and Kāurupātaka/Lake Kaurapataka as well as the numerous peaks along the main divide are key/representative landmarks within this landscape. Nōti Taramakau (Harper Pass) was a significant Māori trail across the alps.

Four **outstanding** natural character units are included in the Wanganui/Ōtira Catchments Conservation Area:

Unit T88 Taipo River (outstanding)

Unit T78 Arahura River

Unit T76 Toaroha and Styx Rivers

Unit T75 Hokitika and Whitcombe Rivers

Key attributes/characteristics are similar for all these landscapes. For example for *Unit T76 Toaroha and Styx Rivers* they are listed as:

Steeply sided valley systems comprising extensive braided river channels, series of gorges, water falls, glacial flows, and lakes that are flanked by high altitude mountain ranges.

▪ Rugged and raw landforms and their dramatic profile give the river a sense of wildness. Characteristic high rainfall events accentuate the drama and the sense of wildness.

- Dramatically eroded landforms clearly express the rivers power and varying flow. Broken vegetation and expansive depositional landforms reinforce these qualities.
- Evidence of erosion revealing underlying geology, rockfall, stream downcutting and flooding. The river contains a range of aggregate sizes and weathered boulders that are constantly sifted and graded by the varying flows.
- Continuous mature beech forest.
- Wide range of channel typologies (braids, pools, rapids, eddies).
- Apart for some walking tracks and huts this unit is devoid of development.
- Strongly contained by Diedrichs, Toaroha, Browning and Newton Ranges.

Wanganui/Ōtira Catchments Conservation Area provides important connectivity between the large forests of North and South Westland.

- HOK19 **Mathias Pass Road Conservation Area** (4ha) 2806159 is upstream of the Hokitika Gorge in a grazed valley most of which is not PCL. It is on the edge of Wanganui/Otira Catchments Conservation Area which is contiguous along two boundaries. It includes alluvial terrace with grassland, and modified forest remnant vegetation. Like the neighbouring Wanganui/Ōtira Conservation Area it is not fenced and stock have access to the forest understory. A formed road passes through it, part of the route to Mathias Pass across the main divide. Consideration could be given to including Mathias Road Conservation Area with Wanganui/Ōtira Conservation Area.

Because Mathias Pass Road Conservation Area is on the modified valley floor it is excluded, but the surrounding hills are in Outstanding Natural Landscape *ONL22 Bonar, Rangitoto & Bald Hill Ranges*.

Mathias Road Conservation Area is in **outstanding** natural character *Unit T75 Hokitika and Whitcombe Rivers*. Key attribute/characteristics described for this unit are:

Steeply sided valley system that extends to the main divide, comprising extensive braided river channels, series of gorges, water falls, and glacial flows and lakes flanked by high altitude mountain ranges.

- Rugged and raw landforms and their dramatic profile give the river a sense of wildness. Characteristic high rainfall events accentuate the drama and the sense of wildness.
 - Distinctive steep slopes of Camelback Hill plunging to the river valley give the river a sense of wildness.
 - Dramatically eroded landforms clearly express the rivers power and varying flow. Broken vegetation and expansive depositional landforms reinforce these qualities.
 - Evidence of erosion revealing underlying geology, rockfall, stream downcutting and flooding. The river contains a range of aggregate sizes and weathered boulders that are constantly sifted and graded by the varying flows.
 - Continuous beech / podocarp / lowland forest.
 - Contains a wide range of channel typologies (braids, pools, rapids, eddies). Unconstrained channel alignment and clearly expressed flood plains.
 - Largely devoid of development.
 - Includes a number of adjoining tributaries and ice flows including Wilkinson, Barron and Sale Glaciers and Cropp, Price, Mungo, and Wilkinson Rivers.
- HOK19 **Hokitika River-Bluff Creek Conservation Area** (19ha) 2806272 is upstream of the Hokitika Gorge on a bend in the Hokitika River at the upstream end of the Kokatahi-Hokitika Riverbed Conservation Area. It is situated between the river and Wanganui/Otira Catchments Conservation Area on gently sloping forested land between tributaries Collier Creek and Bluff Creek. There is evidence of recent disturbance along and within the boundary closest to the river, possibly sluicing.

Because this conservation area is on the modified valley floor it is excluded, but the surrounding hills are in Outstanding Natural Landscape *ONL22 Bonar, Rangitoto & Bald Hill Ranges*.

Hokitika River-Bluff Creek Conservation Area is in **outstanding natural character** *Unit T75 Hokitika and Whitcombe Rivers* (as above). Consideration could be given to including this conservation area with Wanganui/Ōtira Conservation Area.

- HOK19 **Kawhaka Forest Conservation Area** (5,123ha) 2805715 in 7 parcels
Kawhaka Forest Conservation Area includes Mt Turiwhate 1373m and surrounding hill slopes with a broad forested valley of Kawhaka Creek (except for two blocks of private land) and north-eastern slopes of next hill, Island Hill/Tumuake.
Several creeks drain slopes to Taramakau River including Grahams Creek which has a broken marginal strip linking with Taramakau River/Ōtira River Conservation Area.
The conservation area boundary does not go right down to the Otira Highway SH 73 as it passes through Wainihinihi and Turiwhate settlements.

A large part of Kawhaka Forest Conservation Area is in **outstanding natural landscape** *ONL25 Lake Kaniere*. Stated site type and values are:

Elongated lake basin dramatically enclosed by an assemblage of broad ranges and hills whose underlying granite geology set them apart visually from the high altitude schist ranges to the east.

Interplay of mature indigenous forest and vegetative sequence from lowland beech forest through to alpine scrub communities reinforcing topography and pronounced relief. Exposed peaks and ridge tops revealing underlying geology are highly expressive of the landscapes formative and ongoing natural processes.

Very extensive and homogenous mature forest around the entire lake fringe that directly interacts with the open waters of the lake. Intact sequences of wetland and swamp species through to canopy native forest.

Lake Kaniere, Mt Upright, & Turiwhati/Turiwhate are key/representative landmarks within this landscape.

Association with Ngāi Tahu – pounamu source and route to east coast.

Northern slopes are included in the *ONL28 Taramakau & Otira River Valleys* **Outstanding Natural Landscape**.

An area around Okuku Reservoir in Kawhaka Forest Conservation Area is identified as having **outstanding** natural character, located in *Unit T84 Kapatea, Kumara and Okuku Reservoirs*.

Slopes of Mt Turiwhate south of Taramakau River and west of Big Wainihinihi River have **outstanding** natural character, part of *Unit T87 Upper Taramakau River Escarpment*.

Also in Kawhaka Forest Conservation Area slopes south of upper Kawhaka Creek, downstream of Kawhaka Pass 317m, are included with **outstanding** natural character *Unit T78 Arahura River*

- HOK52 **Waitaha Forest Conservation Area** (30,815ha)2805641 in 25 parcels (part)
Waitaha Forest Conservation Area includes north of the upper Wanganui River and the upper Waitaha River Catchments. Includes the Smyth Range, Hitchin Range, Bonar Range and Mt Allen 1524m. Part of Lake Ianthe-Matahi Scenic Reserve also covers the end of the Bonar Range and is contiguous with Waitaha Forest Conservation Area.

Waitangi Forest Conservation Area is contiguous in south west, Adams Wilderness Area to the south and Wanganui/Ōtira Catchment Conservation Area to the east. It also shares a boundary with Totara-Mikonui Forest Conservation Area to north west.

The landscape is dissected, steep and forested throughout with semi braided river beds and multiple other waterways. Morgan Gorge and Waitaha Gorge are features on the upper Waitaha River. Alpine environments above treeline and some glaciers at the main divide. Remote with very high natural character.

Waitaha Forest Conservation Area is all included in the extensive main divide **Outstanding Natural Landscape** *ONL24 Kea Pass-Arthurs Pass-Amuri Pass* (see details above).

Waitaha Forest Conservation Area includes the upstream parts of two **outstanding** natural character units:

Unit T68 Upper Kakapotahi River (part, the south side)

Unit T67 Upper Waitaha River

Key attributes/characteristics cited for *Unit T67 Upper Waitaha River* are:

Deeply entrenched river valley and series of gorges comprising, braided river channels, expansive gravel beds, bluffs, lakes, numerous water falls, and is flanked by high altitude mountain ranges.

- Rugged bluff and gorge features and their dramatic profile give the river a sense of wildness.

Characteristic high rainfall events accentuate the drama and the sense of wildness.

- Dramatically eroded landforms clearly express the rivers power and varying flow. Broken vegetation and expansive depositional landforms reinforce these qualities.

- Evidence of erosion revealing underlying geology, rockfall, stream downcutting and flooding. The river contains a range of aggregate sizes and weathered boulders that are constantly sifted and graded by the varying flows.

- Pristine mature beech forest cover.

- Contains a wide range of channel typologies (braids, pools, rapids, eddies).

- Apart from a number of tramping tracks and huts this unit is devoid of development / modification.

(Note: the mature forest is unlikely to be beech forest in this part of South Westland)

Braided Rivers (Hokitika Place)

Braided rivers a recurring landscape feature of Hokitika Place.

Taramakau, Arahura, Hokitika and its tributaries (Kokatahi, Toaroha, Styx), Totara, Mikonui, Kakapotahi and Waitaha all flow ki uta ki tai across this stretch of the west coast in a rhythmic series down the coast, creating flood plains now used to grow food and fibre.

Unlike Mawhera and Inangahua Places further north, where riverbed PCL is fragmented and incomplete, in Hokitika Place conservation areas protect entire river systems, with or without other PCL.

Arahura River is the notable exception. There is very little PCL in this catchment.

The West Coast has 19% of all New Zealand's braided rivers and most are in Hokitika Place and Te Wahi Pounamu Place to the south.

Braided rivers are a threatened environment in Aotearoa New Zealand.

In Schedule 5 of the *draft Te Tai o Poutini* plan parts of several braided rivers are included in Outstanding Natural Landscapes. The relevant ones include:

ONL 20B Wakanui/Wanganui Bluffs to Waitaha River

ONL22 Bonar, Rangitoto & Bald Hill Ranges

ONL25 Lake Kaniere includes Wainihinihi creek

In the *West Coast Region Natural Character Study (Brown 2013)* ten braided rivers in Hokitika Place are assessed as having high or outstanding natural character. These are:

Unit T66 Waitaha and Kakapotahi River Flats (high)

Unit T67 Upper Waitaha River (outstanding)

Unit T68 Upper Kakapotahi River (outstanding)

Unit T69 Lower Mikonui River (high)

Unit T70 Upper Mikonui and Totara Rivers (outstanding)

Unit T71 Lower Totara River (high)

Unit T74 Hokitika and Kokatahi River Flats (high)

Unit T75 Hokitika and Whitcombe Rivers (outstanding)

Unit T76 Toaroha and Styx Rivers (outstanding)

Unit T78 Arahura River (outstanding)

Unit T80 Arahura River Flats (high)

Note: Additional braided river high and outstanding natural character units associated with the Taramakau River are referred to on the Taramakau Valley (Hokitika Place) chapter

There are seventeen parcels of riverbed and riparian stewardship land in Hokitika Place:

HOK48 Waitaha River/Kakapotahi River (33ha) 2805517

HOK50 Waitaha Riverbed Conservation Area (368ha) 2805634

HOK50 Waitaha Riverbed Conservation Area (223ha) 2805643

HOK47 Mikonui River Conservation Area (169ha)2805512

HOK42 Donnelly Creek Conservation Area (4ha) 2805707

HOK38 Donnelly Creek Conservation Area (1ha) 2805705

HOK38 Donnelly Creek Conservation Area (7ha) 2805706

HOK38 Tōtara River Conservation Area (6ha) 2805703

HOK38 Tōtara River Conservation Area (5ha) 2805704

HOK21 Kokatahi/Hokitika Riverbed Conservation Area (2219ha) 2805690

HOK21 Kokatahi River Conservation Area (3ha) 2805720
HOK19 Kokatahi Riverbed Conservation Area (17ha) 2805712
HOK21 Styx River Conservation Area (46ha) 2805710
HOK21 Toaroha Riverbed Conservation Area (149ha) 2805711
HOK24 Wainihinihi Creek Conservation Area (10ha) 2805714
HOK14 Kawhaka Creek Conservation Area (30ha) 2809287
HOK03 Taramakau River/Ōtira River Conservation Area (3,780ha) 2806316

Landscape factors for decision-makers to consider:

- HOK50 **Waitaha Riverbed Conservation Area** (368ha) 2805634 in 2 parcels
This is one of two big riverbed parcels in the Waitaha River. It starts at the “banana bridge” where Harihari Highway SH6 crosses the Waitaha. Waitaha Scenic Reserve and Kakapotahi Conservation Area are contiguous on the south riverbank and Kakapotahi Scenic Reserve on the north bank. Various parcels of Waitaha/Kakapotahi River Bed Conservation Areas protect the riverbed downstream to sea.

The conservation area does not cover the whole width of the braided river for part of its length.

Further upstream the conservation area widens to cover a lot of river terrace land on the north bank, almost reaching across to the road up Waitaha valley. The surrounding land use is intensive dairy farming.

Vegetation comprises sparsely vegetated braided riverbed, improved pasture, and rough pasture, with some grey shrubland, wetland, and drainage channels. However grazing concessions are active on most of these conservation areas and a significant proportion of the conservation land has been developed for intensive dairying and is currently fenced, cultivated and grazed as pasture. Waitaha River Marginal Strips are aligned along the south boundary of this part of the conservation area with more connected to the upstream boundary.

The conservation area does not cover the whole width of the braided river for part of its length.

Most of Waitaha Riverbed Conservation Area is located in high natural character landscape *T66 Waitaha and Kakapotahi River Flats* which extends right up the Waitaha River to where it emerges from the hills. Key attributes/characteristics cited are:

Expansive braided river channels and gravel beds surrounded by pasture, farming activities, and small stands of mature indigenous forest.

- Mix of aggregate sizes, their volume and the pronounced river beds give the impression of the rivers force during flood events and a distinct impression of the rivers wildness.
- The modified pasture adjoining the river does impact upon the sense of seclusion and remoteness, but on balance, does not detract from the integrity of the evident and expressive natural processes of the river bed itself nor the interaction of the river with the surrounding landforms and vegetation patterns.
- Dynamic natural processes associated with the meandering braids and gravel beds, grading of aggregate sizes, downcutting, river terracing, flood events and inundation.
- A wide range of channel typologies (braids, pools, rapids, eddies).

- HOK50 **Waitaha Riverbed Conservation Area** (223ha) 2805643 in 2 parcels is
This conservation area is further upstream from the stewardship land described above. It includes a section of the river bed from the junction of Beta Creek on the south bank, upstream almost to a forested roche moutonee 202m on the north bank. Here a section of Waitaha River Marginal Strip and twin marginal strips associated with Allen Creek tributary connect. Stop banks have been constructed within the conservation area at this upstream end.

The vegetation largely comprises sparsely vegetated braided riverbed, improved pasture, and rough pasture, with some shrubland, wetland, and drainage channels. The surrounding land is modified; fenced, cultivated and grazed. Grazing concessions are active on most of the conservation area, and the modification has encroached into the conservation area in places.

A separate parcel, together with a fully aligned Waitaha River Marginal Strip protect a regenerating forest remnant on the riverbank on the north side.

Unlike other braided river systems to the south and north the Waitaha does not have legal protection ki uta ki tai.

This part of Waitaha Riverbed Conservation Area is also located in high natural character unit *T66 Waitaha and Kakapotahi River Flats* which includes most of the length of Waitaha River. Characteristics as above.

- HOK48 **Waitaha River/Kakapotahi River Conservation Area** (33ha) 2805517 in 8 parcels
A string of separate river bed parcels in riverbeds upstream and downstream of the confluence of the Kakapotahi River (aka Little Waitaha River) with the bigger Waitaha for a length of about 4km. The confluence is just downstream of SH6 “banana bridge”. Two parcels are linked with Lower Waitaha River Marginal Strip on the north bank, and one parcel is linked with Waitaha Scenic Reserve boundary which happens to extend onto the riverbed from the south bank.

The conservation area includes islands, both vegetated and bare, active channels, bare gravels, backwaters, wooded riverbank and terrace land both unmodified and modified. One parcel includes a flat paddock in the Kakapotahi settlement, on the corner of Bold Head and Kakapotahi Roads.

Parts of these stewardship parcels are within **Outstanding Natural Landscape ONL 20B Wakanui/Wanganui Bluffs to Waitaha River** which includes some of the Kakapotahi and Waitaha riverbeds as well as surrounding forested hills. Stated site types and values for ONL20 do not seem relevant to the mapped ONL20B.

Waitaha River/Kakapotahi River Conservation Area is located in high natural character unit *T66 Waitaha and Kakapotahi River Flats* which includes most of the length of Waitaha River. See above.

- HOK47 **Mikonui River Conservation Area** (169ha)2805512 in 2 parcels

Mikonui River Conservation Area includes both forested hill side and braided river bed. It is contiguous with, and partly surrounded by, Fergusons Bush Scenic Reserve and although the forest on the north side of Mitchell Hill 205m appears to have been modified by past logging, it will grow to be indistinguishable ecologically and visually from the surrounding landscape.

The valley floor part of the conservation area includes braided river bed and some modified terrace land. This conservation area is just at the cusp between high natural character inland and more modified plains on the coast and the braided river bed retains relatively high natural character. Mikonui River Marginal strips are linked at the downstream end and include wooded river banks as well as narrow strips of terrace top.

Although grazed, the alluvial terrace on the north bank of Mikonui River Conservation Area has not been cultivated and still has remnant native vegetation and natural patterns. It includes a section of Wilson Creek which runs along the toe of the slope draining a forested gully in the Totara-Mikonui Forest Conservation Area. This stream potentially has high natural freshwater values. The conservation area provides useful connectivity across the Mikonui River between two extensive forested areas.

Forested hillside parts of this conservation area fall within **Outstanding Natural Landscape ONL22 Bonar, Rangitoto & Bald Hill Ranges**. Stated site types and values for this extensive ONL are:

Assemblage of heavily dissected ranges, foothills, and valley systems with broad rounded peaks whose underlying geology set them apart visually from the high altitude ranges to the east.

Interplay of mature indigenous forest and vegetative sequence from lowland beech forest through to alpine scrub communities reinforcing topography and pronounced relief. Exposed peaks and ridgetops revealing underlying geology are highly expressive of the landscapes formative and ongoing natural processes.

Assemblage of ridges, peaks, and mountaintops of similar orientation, attitudes, vegetative cover and appearance. Contiguous mountain range and foothills. Mature beech forest giving way to alpine vegetation at higher attitudes.

The Hokitika Gorge is a well known landmark within this landscape.

Much of Mikonui River Conservation Area is located in high natural character unit *T69 Lower Mikonui River*. Key Attributes/characteristics cited for this unit are:

Braided river channel, gravel beds, escarpment covered in indigenous vegetation fringe, surrounded by pasture and farming activities.

- Mix of aggregate sizes, their volume and the pronounced river beds give the impression of the rivers force during flood events and a distinct impression of the rivers wildness.
- The modified pasture adjoining the river does impact upon the sense of seclusion and remoteness, but on balance, does not detract from the integrity of the evident and expressive natural processes of the river bed itself nor the interaction of the river with the surrounding landforms and vegetation patterns.
- Dynamic natural processes associated with the meandering braids and gravel beds, grading of aggregate sizes, downcutting, river terracing, flood events and inundation.
- Enclosure and proximity to the forest covered Flagstaff Hill enhances the rivers perceived naturalness.
- A wide range of channel typologies (braids, pools, rapids, eddies).

- **HOK42 Donnelly Creek Conservation Area** (4ha) 2805707 in 2 parcels
This is the first of three with this name. It is in the settlement of Ross, includes modified vegetation and tracks and appears to function as part of the adjacent recreation reserve. The stewardship land does not include any of Donnelly Creek itself which is in Totara-Mikonui Forest Conservation Area very close by.

Note: This conservation area is also considered in the Mikonui Forests section.

- **HOK38 Donnelly Creek Conservation Area (7ha) 2805706**
Donnelly Creek has its origins near Mt Greenland in the hills behind Ross in the Totara-Mikonui Forests Conservation Area This is the middle of three Conservation areas with this name. It is a riparian parcel downstream of the SH6 bridge over Donnelly Creek immediately north of Ross. The stewardship parcel includes the semi-braided river bed, wooded river banks and some terrace land, mostly modified for grazing. There appears to be some sort of industrial land use nearby, maybe a wool house?
- **HOK38 Donnelly Creek Conservation Area (1ha) 2805705**
Downstream of the parcel above is the third Donnelly Creek Conservation Area just below the Woolhouse Road ford. It covers a terrace with pasture and wooded riverbank and terrace riser. No braided river bed is included.
- **HOK38 Tōtara River Conservation Area (6ha) 2805703 in 3 parcels**
These three stewardship parcels are in the braided river bed of Totara River from its confluence with Donnelly Creek down to the sea where it is linked with Totara Lagoon Wildlife Management Area. They include active channel, bare gravels, wooded riverbank and terrace. Most of the terrace land is modified for pastoral use.

This conservation area is located in the high natural character unit *T71 Lower Totara River*. Key attributes/characteristics for this landscape are:

Braided river channel and gravel beds flanked by a dramatic near vertical escarpment covered in indigenous vegetation along the northern side of the river.

- Dramatically eroded landforms clearly express the rivers power and varying flow. Expressive river terracing and depositional landforms reinforce these qualities.
- Mix of aggregate sizes, their volume and the pronounced river beds give the impression of the rivers force during flood events and a distinct impression of the rivers wildness.
- The modified pasture adjoining the river does impact upon the sense of seclusion and remoteness, but on balance, does not detract from the integrity of the evident and expressive natural processes of the river bed itself nor the interaction of the river with the surrounding landforms and vegetation patterns.
- Dynamic natural processes associated with the meandering braids and gravel beds, grading of aggregate sizes, downcutting, river terracing, flood events and inundation.
- A wide range of channel typologies (braids, pools, rapids, eddies).

- **HOK38 Tōtara River Conservation Area (5ha) 2805704**
This parcel is just upstream of the Donnelly Creek confluence. It is braided riverbed with channel, bare gravel, vegetated island, wooded riverbank and alluvial terrace. There is a randomly positioned Totara River Marginal Strip parallel with the conservation area. Most of the terrace land is modified for pastoral use.

This conservation area is located in the high natural character unit *T71 Lower Totara River*. (see above for attributes/characteristics)

- **HOK21 Kokatahi/Hokitika Riverbed Conservation Area (2,219ha) 2805690 in 18 parcels**
This large braided riverbed stewardship parcel includes the whole length of the Hokitika river from above the Hokitika Gorge to the sea and most of the Kokatahi River bed from

its confluence with Hokitika River up to where it meets the Kokatahi River Conservation Area (see below).

At the upstream end of the Hokitika River the riverbed stewardship land is contiguous with Totara-Mikonui Forests Conservation area and Hokitika Gorge Scenic Reserve. A branch of the conservation area extends up a braided river tributary called Diedrichs Creek as far as the boundary with Wanganui/Otira Catchments Conservation Area. Downstream the river skirts around Mt Camelback 569m, contiguous with Mt Camelback Scenic Reserve. The riverbed then connects with wetlands of Butlers Conservation Area which is contiguous on the south bank. A little further down the south bank Back Creek Wildlife Management Area on Overlook Hill 169m is more or less contiguous separated only from the riverbed conservation area by a legal road width.

Hokitika River-Wall Road Marginal Strip, Hokitika River-Mt Camelback Marginal Strips and Hokitika River Upper Kowhitirangi Marginal Strips are all connected in some way. Stop banks are included within the riverbed conservation area around Kowhitirangi plains.

The section of Hokitika-Kokatahi Riverbed Conservation Area upstream of Hokitika Gorge has two parcels of Upper Hokitika River Marginal Strip and one of Hokitika River-Hokitika Gorge Marginal Strips aligned alongside, adding to the total width.

The Hokitika River part of the conservation area includes active channel, bare gravels, vegetated and bare islands, backwaters, and alluvial terraces. Upstream of Hokitika Gorge forested terraces and riverbank are included. The vegetation has natural patterns and may retain an indigenous component even though adjacent terraces both PCL and non-PCL are grazed.

Between the gorge and Mt Camelback the riverbed becomes very wide and the conservation area does not include much of the current riverbed. Quite a lot of the former riverbed which is included in the conservation area is now fenced and grazed, some of it cultivated.

At the downstream toe slope of Mt Camelback is a square parcel of Hokitika-Kokatahi Riverbed Conservation Area disconnected from the riverbed which has much more in common with the Mt Camelback Scenic Reserve landscape to which it is linked.

The Hokitika River channel now flows through part of Butler Conservation area and is actively eroding the bank. Vegetation on the large islands and terraces has natural patterning and appears to be mainly native species. Farmland has been developed right up to the rivers edge in some places, particularly below the Kokatahi River confluence.

Close to Kaniere and Hokitika settlements Hokitika River-Lower Kokatahi Marginal Strips, Hokitika River-Kaniere/Woodstock Marginal Strips, Hokitika River Marginal Strip, Hokitika River-Southside Marginal Strip and Fishermans Creek Marginal Strip help to legally protect the river ecosystem as well as two parcels of Hokitika Cricket Ground Local Purpose Reserve which are now in the middle of the riverbed near the dairy factory.

Upstream of the confluence with Hokitika River numerous parcels of Kokatahi Marginal Strip land are connected to the riverbed conservation area. The riverbed includes all the habitats seen in the Hokitika part, including terrace land around the confluence of Murrays Creek. Quite a bit of the current riverbed is not included in the conservation area.

The part of Hokitika-Kokatahi Riverbed Conservation Area from Hokitika Gorge upstream is **Outstanding Natural Landscape** *ONL22 Bonar, Rangitoto & Bald Hill Ranges*. Site type and values are set out above.

Nearly all the length of the Hokitika and Kokatahi Rivers as they cross their flood plain is included in high natural character unit *T74 Hokitika and Kokatahi River Flats*. Key attributes/characteristics for this unit are:

Expansive braided river channels and gravel beds surrounded by pasture, farming activities, and small stands of mature indigenous forest.

- Mix of aggregate sizes, their volume and the pronounced river beds give the impression of the rivers force during flood events and a distinct impression of the rivers wildness.
- The modified pasture adjoining the river does impact upon the sense of seclusion and remoteness, but on balance, does not detract from the integrity of the evident and expressive natural processes of the river bed itself nor the interaction of the river with the surrounding landforms and vegetation patterns.
- Dynamic natural processes associated with the meandering braids and gravel beds, grading of aggregate sizes, downcutting, river terracing, flood events and inundation.
- A wide range of channel typologies (braids, pools, rapids, eddies).

However part of the Hokitika River which passes around the back of Mt Camelback is assessed as having **outstanding** natural character and is included in *T75 Hokitika and Whitcombe Rivers*. Key attributes/characteristics of this extensive unit are:

Steeply sided valley system that extends to the main divide, comprising extensive braided river channels, series of gorges, water falls, and glacial flows and lakes flanked by high altitude mountain ranges.

- Rugged and raw landforms and their dramatic profile give the river a sense of wildness. Characteristic high rainfall events accentuate the drama and the sense of wildness.
- Distinctive steep slopes of Camelback Hill plunging to the river valley give the river a sense of wildness.
- Dramatically eroded landforms clearly express the rivers power and varying flow. Broken vegetation and expansive depositional landforms reinforce these qualities.
- Evidence of erosion revealing underlying geology, rockfall, stream downcutting and flooding. The river contains a range of aggregate sizes and weathered boulders that are constantly sifted and graded by the varying flows.
- Continuous beech / podocarp / lowland forest.
- Contains a wide range of channel typologies (braids, pools, rapids, eddies). Unconstrained channel alignment and clearly expressed flood plains.
- Largely devoid of development.
- Includes a number of adjoining tributaries and ice flows including Wilkinson, Barron and Sale Glaciers and Cropp, Price, Mungo, and Wilkinson Rivers.

- **HOK21 Kokatahi River Conservation Area** (3ha) 2805720 in 2 parcels
This small conservation area is in two parts, both linked to Hokitika-Kokatahi Riverbed Conservation Area near the end of Meharry Road. The smaller parcel is all riverbed (active channel and bare gravel), but about half the area of the larger parcel is modified floodplain. The mainstem of the river swings close to the north bank at this location and is eroding a paddock. River protection works are within the conservation area.

This Kokatahi River Conservation Area is included in high natural character unit *T74 Hokitika and Kokatahi River Flats*. For attributes/characteristics see above.

- **HOK19 Kokatahi Riverbed Conservation Area** (17ha) 2805712 in 2 parcels
Extends from below the Middlebranch Road bridge up the Kokatahi River into the hills of the Wanganui/Otira Catchment Conservation Area. The river is swift at this location and there are no islands, just the channel and bare gravels. The stewardship parcel does not include all the current braided riverbed although the width of it is supplemented by a series of contiguous Upper Kokatahi Marginal Strips. The grazed alluvial terraces either side have natural vegetation patterns and grey shrubland but are not PCL. Forested slopes of the Wanganui/Otira Catchments Conservation Area come right down to the edges of these flat terrace lands.

The upstream section of Kokatahi Riverbed Conservation Area is included in **Outstanding Natural Landscape** *ONL22 Bonar, Rangitoto & Bald Hill Ranges*. See above for details.

- **HOK21 Toaroha Riverbed Conservation Area** (149ha) 2805711 in 2 parcels
Upstream of the Hokitika-Kokatahi Riverbed Conservation Area is the Toaroha River Conservation Area which continues legal protection upstream to where the river emerges from the hills of the Wanganui/Otira Catchments Conservation Area. A long Kokatahi River Marginal strip is contiguous on the south bank up as far as the Lake Arthur/Mt Harry roche moutonee. Closer to the hills Toaroha Marginal Strip is aligned along most of the north bank up to the boundary of Wanganui/Otira Catchments Conservation Area with a couple of other random riverbank parcels on the south side.

Below the Upper Kokatahi Road bridge the river is wide and so is the conservation area. It includes active channel, bare gravels, backwaters and vegetated islands including one large one with forest cover. The CA includes substantial alluvial terrace land but a significant amount of it has been developed and is used for farming including a large area between the Styx and Toaroha Rivers at the confluence, where the Upper Kokatahi Road is aligned along the boundary. Flood protection works have been built within the conservation area to protect this investment from the rivers natural processes.

Upstream of the confluence the conservation area is not particularly well aligned with the river's current course and some of the riverbed is not included in PCL. Vegetation patterns are natural and appear to contain mainly native species including grey shrubland.

Toaroha Riverbed Conservation Area is included in high natural character unit *T74 Hokitika and Kokatahi River Flats*.

- **HOK21 Styx River Conservation Area** (46ha) 2805710 in 4 parcels
This conservation area extends up the Styx River from its confluence with Toaroha up into the hills of Wanganui/Otira Catchments Conservation Area. It is contiguous with forested Lake Kaniere Scenic Reserve on the north bank where the Styx River follows the toe of the slope around Te Taumata o Uekanuku (Mt Upright) 524m, and with Wanganui/Otira Conservation Area on the south bank upstream of the Dorothy Falls Road bridge at base of Samuel Spur. Below the bridge the land on the south bank is modified floodplain.

Vegetation cover in the riverbed itself appears to be largely natural but where the conservation land covers river banks and alluvial terraces these have been fenced and are

grazed, harvested and in some cases cultivated. Flood protection structures have been built within the conservation area to protect some of this developed farmland from the rivers natural processes.

The upstream part of Styx River Conservation Area is within **Outstanding Natural Landscape** *ONL22 Bonar, Rangitoto & Bald Hill Ranges*. See above for details.

Styx River Conservation Area is included in high natural character unit *T74 Hokitika and Kokatahi River Flats*.

- **Practically the entire Hokitika/Kokatahi/Toaroa/Styx braided river system has legal protection ki uta ki tai with these combined conservation areas.**
- **HOK24 Wainihinihi Creek Conservation Area** (10ha) 2805714
Wainihinihi Creek is a tributary of the Arahura River (not to be confused with Wainihinihi River which flows to the Taramakau). This conservation area includes the braided river stretch from Wainihinihi Creek Scenic Reserve up to the footbridge over Macpherson Creek. The stewardship land only loosely aligns with the active braided riverbed, cutting off the river meanders. Alluvial terraces and floodplain either side have low levels of modification but are mostly excluded. This and Kawakawa Creek Conservation Area is the only section of riparian or riverbed protection PCL in the lower catchment of the Arahura River.

Wainihinihi Creek Conservation Area is included in **outstanding natural landscape** *ONL25 Lake Kaniere*. Stated site type and values of this ONL are:

Elongated lake basin dramatically enclosed by an assemblage of broad ranges and hills whose underlying granite geology set them apart visually from the high altitude schist ranges to the east.

Interplay of mature indigenous forest and vegetative sequence from lowland beech forest through to alpine scrub communities reinforcing topography and pronounced relief. Exposed peaks and ridge tops revealing underlying geology are highly expressive of the landscapes formative and ongoing natural processes.

Very extensive and homogenous mature forest around the entire lake fringe that directly interacts with the open waters of the lake. Intact sequences of wetland and swamp species through to canopy native forest.

Lake Kaniere, Mt Upright, & Turiwhati/Turiwhate are key/representative landmarks within this landscape.

Association with Ngāi Tahu – pounamu source and route to east coast.

Wainihinihi Creek Conservation Area is located in **outstanding** natural character area *T78 Arahura River*. Key attributes/characteristics for this landscape unit are:

Steeply sided valley systems comprising extensive braided river channels, series of gorges, water falls, and lakes flanked by high altitude mountain ranges.

- Rugged and raw landforms and their dramatic profile give the river a sense of wildness. Characteristic high rainfall events accentuate the drama and the sense of wildness.
- Dramatically eroded landforms clearly express the rivers power and varying flow. Broken vegetation and expansive depositional landforms reinforce these qualities.
- Evidence of erosion revealing underlying geology, rockfall, stream downcutting and flooding. The river contains a range of aggregate sizes and weathered boulders that are constantly sifted and graded by the varying flows.
- Continuous mature beech forest.
- Wide range of channel typologies (braids, pools, rapids, eddies).

- Apart for some walking tracks and huts this unit is devoid of development. Excludes development/modification at Milltown.
- Strongly contained by Newton and Cambell Ranges.
- Includes Harman River and Lake Browning at the head of the valley.

Note: mature forest is unlikely to be beech south of Taramakau

- HOK14 **Kawhaka Creek Conservation Area** (30ha) 2809287 in 4 parcels
This 3km length of stream is on the Arahura flood plain south of Old Christchurch Road. It includes the river bed, flood plain and some riparian vegetation. It is unconnected to any other PCL. Kawhaka Creek is a tributary of the Arahura River. It has its source in the Kawhaka Forest Conservation Area near Kawhaka Pass. Two parcels of Kawhaka Scenic Reserve, and a couple of tiny scraps of Kawhaka Creek Marginal Strip, are located on the river banks where the stream meanders across the Arahura food plain between Kawhaka Forest Conservation Area and the Kawhaka Creek Conservation Area.

Surrounding floodplain is modified for farming but quite a lot of riparian vegetation has been left intact on non-PCL land along Kawhaka Creek.

- HOK03 **Taramakau River/Ōtira River Conservation Area** (3,780ha) 2806316 in 19 parcels (for more detail about this braided river system see separate Taramakau Valley (Hokitika Place) chapter)
- Braided rivers are a force of nature. The marked contrast between the modified and controlled character of adjacent flood plains and the untameable natural character of the braided river systems is a defining characteristic. Management which retains and enhances the natural character of the rivers helps to strengthen this contrast, benefiting of both landscapes.
- There are numerous concessions in braided river conservation areas, mainly grazing licences but also a number of gravel extraction permits. As the ongoing processes of landscape modification continue on surrounding flood plains the value of remaining natural character braided rivers will increase.
- There are opportunities for the Department of Conservation to work with neighbouring landowners required to fence stock out of riparian and riverbed conservation lands under new rules to make sure new fences follow the legal boundaries of PCL.
- Protected conservation lands on the banks and in the beds of these wide braided river systems contribute significantly to maintaining and improving water quality. They contribute to wairua and mauri of the river and hapua downstream, and to species abundance in the whole integrated system.

Kowhitirangi Doughboys

The expansive modified flood plain of Kakapotahi, Styx, Toaroha, Kakapotahi and Hokitika Rivers is punctuated by several roches moutonees (aka “doughboys”).

A roche moutonee is a rounded mass of rock smoothed and striated by ice that has flowed over it, so-called because they look a bit like sheep (moutonees) resting in a paddock.

Associated braided river bed landscapes are considered in a separate Hokitika Place chapter.

In Schedule 5 of the *draft Te Tai o Poutini* plan Kowhitirangi Doughboys are identified as outstanding natural landscapes in two ONLs:

ONL23 Mt Camelback & Kokiraki/The Doughboy.

ONL22 Bonar, Rangitoto & Bald Hill Ranges

One outstanding natural character unit in the *West Coast Region Natural Character Study* (Brown 2013) is relevant here: *Unit T75 Hokitika and Whitcombe Rivers (outstanding)*.

There are three parcels of stewardship land in this part of Hokitika Place

HOK36 Camelback Conservation Area (89ha) 2805721

HOK37 Lake Arthur Conservation Area (69ha) 2805708

HOK37 Lake Arthur Conservation Area (43ha) 2805709

Landscape factors for decision-makers to consider:

Three distinctive roches moutonees stand out from the Hokitika/Kowhitirangi flood plain. They are Mt Camelback 569m, Kokiraki (aka The Doughboy) 610m and Mt Harry 364m. The diminutive Kowhitirangi Scenic Reserve on Nielson Road appears to be a tiny roche moutonee too.

There are lots of other roches moutonees on the West Coast but in this location they are particularly distinctive because of the contrasting level of modification on the surrounding flood plain, and the wide expanse of flood plain at this location which is related to the convergence of a number of large braided rivers. The doughboys stand out like...

Despite the processes of modification and ongoing intensification on the surrounding plains, all the roches moutonees remain fully forested, in general right to the base. It is the clear-edged contrast between the forested natural character of the doughboys and the open modification of the plains that make them such striking landscape features.

- HOK36 **Camelback Conservation Area** (89ha) 2805721

Mt Camelback 569m is an imposing forested roche moutonee which rises out of the modified Hokitika River floodplain. The wide braided Hokitika River flows around its base. Most of the massif is in Camelback Scenic Reserve, except for the north east corner which is Camelback Conservation Area. The stewardship land is steep and forested except for an open area halfway up the hill which may be wetland.

There are two quarries close together at the base of the hill but these are outside the stewardship parcel. Ecologically and visually the conservation area is indistinguishable from the rest of Mt Camelback. If land use in the conservation area were to change, highly

visible and unnatural boundaries would emerge over time, undermining the mana of the landform. Consideration could be given to including this conservation area in the adjacent scenic reserve.

Mt Camelback Conservation Area is included in **outstanding natural landscape ONL23 *Mt Camelback & Kokiraki/The Doughboy***. Kokiraki is also in this ONL. Site type and values stated for this ONL are:

Two distinct forest clad hill formations that rise dramatically from the flat pastoral landscape which surrounds them.

Interplay/contrast of mature indigenous forest and surrounding pasture reinforces the dramatic topography and pronounced relief.

Striking and highly distinctive landforms that remain visually separate from nearby mountain ranges.

Homogenous mature forest cover.

Mt Camelback and Kokiraki/The Doughboy are themselves landmarks within the wider landscape.

The south faces of Mt Camelback are included in an outlying area of **outstanding natural character Unit T75 Hokitika and Whitcombe Rivers**, together with slopes on the opposite side of the Hokitika braided river bed and a section of the river bed itself. Key attributes/characteristics of this unit, which also includes a large area in the hills upstream of Hokitika Gorge, are cited as:

Steeply sided valley system that extends to the main divide, comprising extensive braided river channels, series of gorges, water falls, and glacial flows and lakes flanked by high altitude mountain ranges.

- Rugged and raw landforms and their dramatic profile give the river a sense of wildness. Characteristic high rainfall events accentuate the drama and the sense of wildness.
- Distinctive steep slopes of Camelback Hill plunging to the river valley give the river a sense of wildness.
- Dramatically eroded landforms clearly express the rivers power and varying flow. Broken vegetation and expansive depositional landforms reinforce these qualities.
- Evidence of erosion revealing underlying geology, rockfall, stream downcutting and flooding. The river contains a range of aggregate sizes and weathered boulders that are constantly sifted and graded by the varying flows.
- Continuous beech / podocarp / lowland forest.
- Contains a wide range of channel typologies (braids, pools, rapids, eddies). Unconstrained channel alignment and clearly expressed flood plains.
- Largely devoid of development.
- Includes a number of adjoining tributaries and ice flows including Wilkinson, Barron and Sale Glaciers and Cropp, Price, Mungo, and Wilkinson Rivers.

- **HOK37 Lake Arthur Conservation Area (43ha) 2805709 in 4 parcels**

Lake Arthur is the largest in a group of several small lakes at the base of Mt Harry 364m. Most of Mt Harry is in the larger of the two parts of Lake Arthur Scenic Reserve. This lake Arthur Conservation Area is wrapped around the lower slopes of the Mt Harry landform on the north and east faces. It is well forested down to the toe of the slope, as is the rest of Mt Harry. Mt Harry Marginal Strips are contiguous, following a small stream around the hill although most of the marginal strip land is cleared and grazed. The Toaroha Riverbed Conservation area and Kokatahi Marginal Strip are nearby to the north east.

Lake Arthur Conservation Area is in **outstanding natural landscape** *ONL22 Bonar, Rangitoto & Bald Hill Ranges* which makes an extension out from the hills to include it.

- HOK37 **Lake Arthur Conservation Area** (69ha) 2805708 in 4 parcels

This conservation area protects some more toe slope land at the base of Mt Harry, and also forested land around the small lakes west of Lake Arthur. Cunningham Creek flows out of Lake Arthur and curves around to flow through forested flood plain in the “V” between Lake Arthur Road and Hackells Mill Road. This area is also in the stewardship parcel. It is contiguous with the smaller second part of Lake Arthur Scenic Reserve. Modified farmland surrounds the PCL. It is unfortunate that the two parts of the Lake Arthur area are separated by a narrow isthmus of modified farmland.

This second Lake Arthur Conservation Area is also in **outstanding natural landscape** *ONL22 Bonar, Rangitoto & Bald Hill Ranges*.

Consideration could be given to combining all the parcels of Lake Arthur Scenic Reserve and Lake Arthur Conservation Area into a single entity, particularly as the current scenic reserve boundary crosses the middle of one of the larger lakes.

Kumara Goldfields

Between Taramakau and Arahura Rivers, from Okuru Reservoir to the Tasman sea.
Includes mining landscapes around Kumara, blended natural and historic landscapes.

Part of the Kumara Goldfields area of Hokitika Place is assessed as outstanding natural landscape in Schedule 5 of the *draft Te Tai o Poutini* plan:

ONL27 Lower Taramakau River and Kawhaka Forest.

In the *West Coast Region Natural Character Study (Brown 2013)* seven units in the Kumara Goldfields part of Hokitika Place are assessed as having high or outstanding natural character. These include:

Unit C32 Arahura River Mouth (high)

Unit C33 Chesterfield Terraces (high)

Unit C34 Taramakau River Mouth (high)

Unit T80 Arahura River Flats (high)

Unit T81 Taramakau & Greenstone River Flats (high)

Unit T84 Kapatea, Kumara & Okuku Reservoirs (outstanding)

Unit T85 Lake Mudgie (high)

There are 27 parcels of stewardship land in this part of Hokitika Place:

HOK02 Kumara Junction Conservation Area (1ha) 2809264

HOK01 Greymouth-Kumara Tramway Conservation Area (3ha) 2809332

HOK01 Kumara Conservation Area (1ha) 2809274

HOK01 Kumara-Cashman Street Conservation Area (1ha) 2809269 in 23 parcels

HOK01 Kumara-Cashman Street Conservation Area (0.3ha) 2809271 in 6 parcels

HOK01 Kumara-Cashman Street Conservation Area (0.1ha) 2809333

HOK01 Kumara-Town Belt North Conservation Area (0.2ha) 2809270 in 3 parcels

HOK01 Kumara-Town Belt North Conservation Area (4ha) 2809272 in 79 parcels

HOK01 Kumara-Town Belt North Conservation Area (30ha) 2809273 in 2 parcels

HOK01 Kumara-Wardens Road Conservation Area (31ha) 2809268 in 12 parcels

HOK05 Kumara Straight Conservation Area (216ha) 2809266 in 5 parcels

HOK05 Kumara Straight Conservation Area (4ha) 2809334

HOK05 Dillmanstown Conservation Area (583ha) 2809275 in 22 parcels

HOK06 German Gully Conservation Area (289ha) 2806209 in 5 parcels

HOK04 Kapitea [sic] Creek Conservation Area (184ha) 2809265 in 21 parcels

HOK04 Kapitea [sic] Creek Conservation Area (0.3ha) 2809292

HOK04 Chesterfield Conservation Area (182ha) 2809278 in 5 parcels

HOK08 Arahura River Mouth Conservation Area (22ha) 2809280 in 2 parcels

HOK11 North Bank Arahura Road Conservation Area (74ha) 2806208 in 2 parcels

HOK07 Stafford Conservation Area (18ha) 2809279

HOK09 Stafford Conservation Area (3ha) 2809281 in 13 parcels

HOK09 Stafford-High Street Conservation Area (0.4ha) 2809331

HOK10 Big Dam Hill Conservation Area (1207ha) 2809285 in 10 parcels

HOK12 Lake Mudgie Conservation Area (501ha) 2809288 in 7 parcels

HOK12 Duffers Creek Conservation Area (56ha) 2809283

HOK13 Shamrock Creek Conservation Area (2ha) 2809353

HOK15 Bells Dam Conservation Area (9ha) 2809284

Note: Kawhaka Forest Conservation Area is considered in the Ka Tiritiri o Te Moana (Main Divide) chapter.

Landscape factors for decision-makers to consider:

- HOK02 **Kumara Junction Conservation Area** (1ha) 2809264
This is a small area of regenerating bush next to the railway line south of the Taramakau River. It is linked with Taramakau Scenic Reserve through a linking reserve: Taramakau River-Road and Railway Local Purpose Reserve. Vegetation is typical of regenerating forest in the area, with prominent tree ferns. A useful ecological buffer for the nearby Scenic Reserve.

Kumara Junction Conservation Area is located in or very near high natural character *Unit C34 Taramakau River Mouth*. Key attributes/characteristics cited for this landscape are: Massive braided river mouth enclosed by a large sand bar at its entrance.

- Highly dynamic and dramatic interaction / relationship between the river waters, sand bar and the open waters of the Tasman Sea.
 - Exposed sand bar/dune landforms and windswept vegetation impart a strong sense of naturalness and wildness.
 - Steep escarpment covered in mature coastal forest flanks the southern margins of the river.
 - The presence of pasture and farming activities along the river margins and SH6 rail and road bridge does not overly detract from the highly expressive natural processes and elements which are the dominant feature of the unit.
- HOK01 **Greymouth-Kumara Tramway Conservation Area** (3ha) 2809332
This conservation area is a rectangular parcel of regenerating forest with cleared line through it located between Otira Highway SH73 and Taramakau River, at the rear of town sections on Kumara's main street. It is one of a number of forested parcels of stewardship land between the Taramakau River and Kumara which contribute to the forested backdrop to Kumara settlement which is an important aspect of the settlement's character.
 - HOK01 **Kumara Conservation Area** (1ha) 2809274 is a tiny triangle of wooded riverbank land under a transmission line which includes part of an access track to the river.
 - HOK01 **Kumara-Cashman Street Conservation Area** (1ha) 2809269 in 23 parcels includes part of the mature forest which backs Kumara settlement.
 - HOK01 **Kumara-Cashman Street Conservation Area** (0.3ha) 2809271 in 6 parcels Includes modified forest cover with abundant tree ferns, part of the forest backdrop to Kumara settlement.
 - HOK01 **Kumara-Cashman Street Conservation Area** (0.1ha) 2809333
A rectangular section of forested land at the rear of town properties, part of the forested backdrop to Kumara. Contiguous with the parcel above.
 - HOK01 **Kumara-Town Belt North Conservation Area** (0.2ha) 2809270 in 3 parcels

Another rectangular section of forested land at the back of Kumara. Contiguous with parcel described above.

- **HOK01 Kumara-Town Belt North Conservation Area** (4ha) 2809272 in 79 parcels
Shows up as four squarish surveyed blocks in a row at the back of properties on the main street of Kumara. They are part of an upper terrace forest remnant which also includes the conservation areas below.
- **HOK01 Kumara-Town Belt North Conservation Area** (30ha) 2809273 in 2 parcels is a forested conservation area on a terrace between Kumara settlement and Taramakau River near the bridge on the Kumara Inchbonnie Road.
- **HOK01 Kumara-Wardens Road Conservation Area** (31ha) 2809268 in 12 parcels
(see also Taramakau Valley section)
This conservation area is on moraine on the township of Kumara and the Taramakau River. It is well vegetated with a mosaic of regenerating forest, shrubland and open areas with at least one pond. Modified by tracking for river access and possibly exotic shrubland. It is part of the forested backdrop to the settlement of Kumara, grouped with other parcels of stewardship land above none of which are actually connected to each other.

Part of Kumara-Wardens Road Conservation Area extends across Taramakau River to the north bank and includes the braided riverbed and some lower terrace land extending upslope to the Kumara settlement.

This part is included in high natural character unit *T81 Taramakau & Greenstone River Flats*. Key attributes/characteristics cited here are:

Large braided river channel, gravel beds, lakes and swampland surrounded by pasture, farming activities, production forestry, and steep escarpments covered in mature indigenous forest.

- Mix of aggregate sizes, their volume and the pronounced river beds give the impression of the river's force during flood events and a distinct impression of the rivers wildness.
 - The modified landscape (power generation facilities, forestry, gravel quarries) adjoining the river does impact upon the sense of seclusion and remoteness, but on balance, does not detract from the integrity of the evident and expressive natural processes of the river bed itself nor the interaction of the river with the surrounding landforms and vegetation patterns.
 - Dynamic natural processes associated with the meandering braids and gravel beds, grading of aggregate sizes, downcutting, river terracing, flood events and inundation.
 - A wide range of channel typologies (braids, pools, rapids, eddies).
- **HOK05 Kumara Straight Conservation Area** (216ha) 2809266 in 5 parcels
These polygonous straight edged parcels are in an area, previously mined, with regenerating forest and wetland on outwash terraces and gentle hill slopes near the Kumara racecourse. Modification is currently obvious but natural character will be restored with time.
 - **HOK05 Kumara Straight Conservation Area** (4ha) 2809334
This aptly named conservation area is a long narrow strip along the straight boundary of one of the parcels above and is contiguous and fully integrated with it. As above.
 - **HOK05 Dillmanstown Conservation Area** (583ha) 2809275 in 22 parcels

Dillmanstown Conservation Area is an amorphous multi-boundaried complex of lands to the south and east of Kumara settlement. It occupies a previously mined area and includes fragments of regenerating forest on outwash terraces and gentle hill slopes, sometimes with production forestry mingled among them. There are large parcels around the settlement of Dillmanstown, either side of Otira Highway SH73. Both are contiguous with Dillmanstown Amenity Area. The northern parcel extends right to Taramakau River and has the Kumara-Inchbonnie road as a boundary, close to Kumara settlement.

In some places the stewardship land is performing a riparian protection function, for example around Kapitia Creek and upper Serpentine Creek. Part is linked with Shamrock Creek Amenity Area by a narrow riparian strip. Two parcels are east of Kapitia Reservoir with Okuku Scenic Reserve on the other side. Parcels near the end of Greenstone Road almost connect with Kumara Straight Conservation Areas (see above).

Despite its crazy layout and historic modification Dillmanstown Conservation Area performs an important ecological and visual connecting function for the many types of PCL around it. It is a blended cultural and natural heritage landscape. As the regenerating vegetation matures natural character will begin to predominate except where vegetation is managed to maintain heritage values.

Part of Dillmanstown Conservation Area is included in **outstanding natural landscape ONL27 Lower Taramakau River and Kawhaka Forest**. The ONL part is just west of an emergent landform, shared by the conservation area and Dillmanstown Amenity Area, which forces a bend in the Taramakau River upstream of Kumara. Site type and values for this ONL are summarised in the general comments above. Site type and values for this ONL are:

Extensive braided river channel and gravel beds flanked by steep escarpments covered in mature native forest that extends across an elevated plateau housing a number reservoirs.

Dramatically eroded landforms clearly express the rivers power and varying flow. Broken vegetation and expansive depositional landforms reinforce these qualities.

Very extensive and homogenous swamp forest. Vegetation directly interacts with the river beds and the open waters of the reservoirs.

High transient values associated with evident bird life on the reservoirs and surrounding indigenous forest. The Kapitea and Kumara Reservoirs are key landmarks within this unit.

- **HOK06 German Gully Conservation Area** (289ha)2806209 in 5 parcels
German Gully Conservation Area is contiguous with Shamrock Creek Amenity Area and is in several unconnected parcels over a previously disturbed landscape in dissected hill country. Vegetation is regenerating with some well-forested gullies protecting tributaries of the main rivers, however numerous slips indicate ongoing instability. Current mining activity and plantation forestry are occurring on land not in PCL around the conservation parcels.

Plantation forestry supports good water quality outcomes on hill country except for the ten or so years around harvest in each cycle. During that period of production water quality and quantity impacts can have significant impacts on freshwater ecology and species survival.

- HOK04 **Kapitea [sic]Creek Conservation Area** (184ha) 2809265 in 21 parcels
This multi parcel conservation area protects the steep slopes of both sides of the Kapitea valley downstream from Dillmanstown Conservation Area, supported by numerous parcels of Kapitea [sic]Creek Marginal Strip. There is plantation forestry on land either side of the conservation area. The conservation area also includes two big blocks inland from the Kumara Junction Highway SH6 with sections of Serpentine Stream, Acre Creek and others flowing through them towards the Tasman Sea. A mosaic of wetland, shrubland and coastal forest covers these areas which is mostly flat apart from the distinctive Chesterfield terrace risers parallel to the main road SH6. Kumara Scenic Reserve is nearby just across the Kumara straight to the North.

The coastal parts of this conservation area are located in high natural character Unit *C33 Chesterfield Terraces*

- HOK04 **Kapitea [sic] Creek Conservation Area** (0.3ha) 2809292 is a very small square parcel at the upstream end of the larger Kapitea area above.
- HOK04 **Chesterfield Conservation Area** (182ha) 2809278 in 5 parcels
This conservation area includes the terraced catchment of Sunday Creek and sites associated with 19th century gold mining. Plantation Forestry surrounds it. Vegetation is a mosaic of wetland, shrubland with some surviving forest associated with the terracing. Wind shorn coastal forest on seaward slopes. Modified farmland to the south.

The seaward part of Chesterfield Conservation Area is in high natural character unit *C33 Chesterfield Terraces*. Key attributes/characteristics of this landscape are cited as:

Exposed coastal escarpment and terrace covered in windswept coastal forest and scrub.

- Coastal landforms with indigenous vegetation reinforcing topography and exposure to coastal processes.
- Natural qualities are clearly evident in the landform, vegetation cover and their relationship with the Tasman Sea contributing to a very endemic landscape.

- HOK07 **Stafford Conservation Area** (18ha) 2809279
Mostly on a level terrace above Waimea Creek, this conservation area contains cutover and historically cleared forest but appears to be regenerating at various stages. Wetland in the south. Lower terrace land within the conservation area has been modified by humping and hollowing. This parcel is isolated from other PCL but much of the land around it retains relatively high natural character making a larger whole to which this stewardship land contributes.
- HOK08 **Arahura River Mouth Conservation Area** (22ha) 2809280 in 2 parcels
Arahura River Mouth Conservation Area is on the coast north of the Arahura River mouth. Both parts are elongated along a hapua/lagoon fed by several small streams. The larger parcel is inland of the lagoon between the awa and Flowery Creek. The smaller is on sand dunes between lagoon and the beach and extends further north. In both parcels the natural character values have largely been lost as most of the land has been developed for farming; fenced, grazed and cultivated. An indigenous component may survive in the shrubby vegetation around the edges, which provides some riparian protection to the lagoon and the streams which flow into it. If no further disturbance occurs the value of this marginalised vegetation will increase with time.

Arahura River Mouth Conservation Area is located in an outstanding natural character landscape unit *C32 Arahura River Mouth*. Key attributes/characteristics for this coastal landscape are:

River mouth and enclosed lagoons flanked by several sand bars at its entrance.

- Highly dynamic and dramatic interaction / relationship between the river waters, lagoons, sand bar and the open waters of the Tasman Sea.
- Exposed dune landforms and windswept vegetation impart a strong sense of naturalness and wildness.
- Enclosed river and lagoon systems are expressive of the formative and ongoing coastal processes.
- The presence of pasture and farming activities near the shoreline does not overly detract from the highly expressive natural processes and elements which are the dominant feature of the unit.

- **HOK11 North Bank Arahura Road Conservation Area** (74ha) 2806208 in 2 parcels
This conservation area is aligned along the Old Christchurch Road and contains level alluvial terrace on the floodplain of the Arahura River. At least two streams which drain to the lagoon north of the Arahura River mouth have their source in this conservation area or pass through it. The blocks are bisected by a road which provides access to production forestry on the north boundary closer to Flowery Creek.

Lowland forest at this site has been logged but the vegetation is recovering, and natural character will be restored with time. Its visual and ecological value will increase as the surrounding flood plain is further modified.

- **HOK09 Stafford Conservation Area** (3ha) 2809281 in 13 parcels
It is likely these parcels were surveyed at the time the 19th century gold mining town of Stafford was laid out, so they have value as historic artefacts, part of the wider Kumara Goldfields historic landscape. On the other side of the Stafford Road a local purpose reserve for the Stafford Church of England has been gazetted, and there is a cemetery on the hills above the town, both of which contribute to understanding the historic landscape here.

The stewardship land is in seven scattered blocks on the north side of Stafford Road. None is fenced and part or all of each parcel is grazed as part of the surrounding property. The largest block includes some modified lowland forest on the flat lower terrace and slopes above. This wooded flat is sheltered and accessible. A small waterway, with its source in the forest on Scandinavian Hill 136m is included and appears to run some way around the toe of the terrace riser.

An opportunity exists at some future time for the stewardship parcels to be fenced and uniformly planted so the historic lots become more visible in the landscape. This would also enhance the surrounding rural landscape by providing ecological and visual links to regenerating forest on the hills behind Stafford.

- **HOK09 Stafford-High Street Conservation Area** (0.4ha) 2809331
This is a tiny triangle of land fronting onto Stafford Road as it passes through the historic settlement of Stafford (aka High Street). It is part of a paddock and completely modified for grazing. It should be considered with the other town lot conservation areas above,
- **HOK10 Big Dam Hill Conservation Area** (1207ha) 2809285 in 10 parcels

This conservation area includes various lowland ridges and gullies between Arahura River and Shamrock Creek Amenity Area, rising to Big Dam Hill 381m. It almost connects with Shamrock Creek Amenity Area near Goldsborough and at a point further up the Stafford Loop Road. The conservation area includes Liverpool Bills Gully, Pretty Womans Gully, and headwaters of Hatters Creek where there is a pond and wetland. The conservation area also includes slopes north of Fox Creek and its tributaries and together with long Fox Creek Marginal Strips helps protect the freshwater values of that Arahura River tributary. At one point there is a link with Lake Mudgie Conservation Area to the east, near the quarries on Duffers Creek Road.

Low vegetation has re-colonised valleys previously turned over by mining, supported by less modified forest on ridges and slopes. Natural character is likely to increase with time except where vegetation is managed to maintain historic values. This is another of the blended natural and cultural heritage landscapes typical of the Kumara Goldfields part of Hokitika Place.

Forested land on both sides of Stafford Loop Road is included, from the lower bridge over Waimea Creek up to Goldsborough (Waimea), where the stewardship land is surrounded by current alluvial mining occurring right up to its boundaries.

Near the lower bridge one parcel provides riparian protection for a length of braided Waimea Creek.

Production forestry is occurring on non-PCL land in amongst the various parts of the Big Dam Hill Conservation Area. Plantation forestry supports good water quality outcomes on hill country except for the ten or so years around harvest in each cycle. During that period of production water quality and quantity impacts can have significant impacts on freshwater ecology and species survival.

- **HOK12 Lake Mudgie Conservation Area** (501ha) 2809288 in 7 parcels
Lake Mudgie Conservation Area contains a vast swampland west of Kapitia and Kumara Reservoirs bounded by Loopline Road, Stafford Loop Road and Duffers Creek Road. Shamrock Creek Amenity Area is on the other side of Stafford Loop Road. The wetland is likely to be a human construct, at least in part. Past attempts to drain the wetland are still visible, and quarries along Duffers Creek Road and a transmission line detract from the natural qualities of the swamp landscape, but the scale is sufficient to overwhelm these modifying influences.

Additional parcels are either side of Duffers Creek Road close to Arahura River. One of these parcels includes hill country catchments of several tributaries to Fox Stream. Fox Stream Marginal Strip is contiguous along the lower boundary. The other contains Lake Mudgie itself and associated wetland and is contiguous with Okuku Scenic Reserve. A generous Lake Mudgie Marginal Strip helps protect the freshwater values of the lake. The boundary of the conservation area skirts non-PCL land with a number of dwellings accessed from Duffers Creek Road and Old Christchurch Road.

The high natural character unit *Unit T85 Lake Mudgie* includes all of Lake Mudgie and surrounds. Key attributes/characteristics cited are:

Small lake situated in shallow basin on the Kawhaka Creek terrace surrounded by swampland and mature forest as well as production forestry, farming activities and several dwellings.

- The modified landscape adjoining the lake area does impact upon the sense of seclusion and remoteness, but on balance, does not detract from the integrity of the evident and expressive natural processes of the river bed itself nor the interaction of the river with the surrounding landforms and vegetation patterns.
- High transient values associated with evident bird life on the lake and surrounding indigenous forest.
- The tranquillity of the lake, its enclosure, unmodified sequences of native forest imbue the landscape with a sense of naturalness.
- Interplay of the water body with vegetation patterns.
- Natural variations of water level and surface appearance.

- **HOK12 Duffers Creek Conservation Area** (56ha) 2809283 is located on flat land near the intersections of Stafford Loop Road, Callagans Road and Loopline Road. Apart from some mining ponds close to the road, the landscape is mostly swampland. This conservation area contains the headwaters of Kapitia Creek. It is contiguous with Lake Mudgie Conservation Area and is visually and ecologically indistinguishable from it.

- **HOK13 Shamrock Creek Conservation Area** (2ha) 2809353
Presumably this conservation area was created to protect historic gold workings in a narrow sliver of land alongside Stafford Loop Road, just across the road from the Shamrock Creek Amenity Area which has numerous other relics and workings. However the known archaeological site is thought to be outside the boundary. Current mining activity on adjacent land appears to be impacting on the conservation area. If historic mining evidence exists in this conservation area it would be logical to include it with the Shamrock Creek Amenity Area across the road.

- **HOK15 Bells Dam Conservation Area** (9ha) 2809284

Bells Dam Conservation Area covers an impounded water body (created by the damming of Bells Creek) and surrounding wetland encircled by Okuku Scenic Reserve. It is an artefact of gold mining history, linked with the Onuku Water Race. As the lake fills the area of standing water will decrease and the ephemeral wetland area will increase, until there is no lake, unless it is managed to maintain the heritage values. If left undisturbed the surrounding forest will eventually recolonise.

Kaniere and Blue Spur

South of the Arahura River and north of the Hokitika River
From Wanganui/Ōtira Catchments Conservation Area down to Tasman Sea
Does not include braided rivers which are considered in a separate chapter.

In Schedule 5 of the *draft Te Tai o Poutini* plan one outstanding natural landscapes is identified the Kaniere and Blue Spur area: *ONL25 Lake Kaniere*

In the *West Coast Region Natural Character Study (Brown 2013)* two units in the Lake Kaniere and Blue Spur area of Hokitika Place are assessed as having high or outstanding natural character. They are:

Unit T77 Lake Kaniere (outstanding)

Unit T78 Arahura River (outstanding) (part)

There are eight parcels of stewardship land in this part of Hokitika Place:

HOK18 Kaniere Forest Conservation Area (776ha) 2805691 in 17 parcels
HOK18 Blue Spur Range Conservation Area (578ha) 2806246 in 4 parcels
HOK18 Blue Spur Road Conservation Area (169ha) 2805688 in 4 parcels
HOK17 Blue Spur Road Conservation Area (150ha) 2809286 in 2 parcels
HOK17 Blue Spur Conservation Area (65ha) 2809289 in 2 parcels
HOK22 Kaniere Farm Conservation Area (52ha) 2805693 in 8 parcels
HOK22 Kaniere Farm Conservation Area (1377ha) 2805694 in 21 parcels
HOK23 Hans Bay-Lake Kaniere Conservation Area (0.1ha) 2805718

Landscape factors for decision makers to consider:

- HOK18 **Kaniere Forest Conservation Area** (776ha) 2805691 in 17 parcels

This conservation area is long with complicated boundaries, aligned along Lake Kaniere Road and the Kaniere River. The easternmost part lies between Lake Kaniere Scenic Reserve and Kaniere Ecological Area. It is aligned with the historic Kaniere water race and walkway. Blue Spur Range Conservation Area is contiguous to the north.

At the western end hill country gives way to flat land with wetland complexes. Plantation forestry occupies land interwoven with the conservation area. Vegetation is nearly all modified but is regenerating to lowland forest. Active opencast mining is occurring within the conservation area.

Outstanding Natural Landscape *ONL25 Lake Kaniere* includes part of Kaniere Forest Conservation Area, the elongated extension with the water race. For site type and values see Kaniere Farm Conservation Area below.

- HOK18 **Blue Spur Road Conservation Area** (169ha) 2805688 in 4 parcels

This conservation area protects forested hill slopes south of the Arahura floodplain which drain via a series of parallel streams to the Arahura River. It runs along the escarpment from Blue Spur Road to Palmer Creek. A smaller parcel of Blue Spur Range Conservation Area is contiguous to the south, and Palmer Creek Quarry Local Purpose Reserve and a

small outlier of Blue Spur Range Conservation Area are connected to the north. The forest is variable but regenerating. There is a wetland at the Blue Spur Road end. Plantation forestry is growing on the better drained land all around. The conservation area provides riparian protection on the north side of Foley Creek, a tributary of Houhou Creek.

- HOK18 **Blue Spur Range Conservation Area** (578ha) 2806246 in 4 parcels

Steeply dissected hills and valleys with regenerating lowland forest and some wetland on the upland part near Tunnel Hill. Stewardship land parcels are surrounding or surrounded by plantation forestry.

- HOK17 **Blue Spur Conservation Area** (65ha) 2809289 in 2 parcels

This parcel continues riparian protection on the north side of Foley Creek, a tributary of Houhou Creek, with well developed remnant forest on the terrace riser above the stream. Part of Houhou Creek, Brennans Creek and Clarkes Creek Marginal Strip contributes, providing some riparian protection from neighbouring farm land to the south. Wetlands on the plateau above drain to both Houhou and Little Houhou Creeks.

- HOK17 **Blue Spur Road Conservation Area** (150ha) 2809286 in 2 parcels

This parcel is near the settlement of Little Ruddock. It is similar in landform and cover to the other conservation areas in this Blue Spur group but more isolated, connected only by marginal strips along Clarke Creek to the Blue Spur Road Conservation Area above. Like the others, this parcel also includes forest and wetland on outwash and river terraces.

- HOK22 **Kaniere Farm Conservation Area** (1377ha) 2805694 in 21 parcels

This larger parcel includes the steep forested escarpment of Blue Bottle Terrace which rises nearly vertical 200 metres from the modified Kokatahi flood plain. Farm land is developed right up to the boundary at the toe of the slope. Gold mining remains in this area add historic landscape value.

It also includes much of the catchment of Blue Bottle Creek, where it links two parcels of Lake Kaniere Scenic Reserve. To the north it includes swamps at the headwaters of Wiley and Tamenelli Creeks (tributaries of Kaniere River), extending in a meandering riverbed strip all the way to Kaniere-Kowhitirangi Road, accompanied by a pair of Tamenelli Creek Marginal Strips. However most is modified for intensive farming right up to the riverbanks, including humping and hollowing, undermining the riparian protection and conservation purpose of the combined PCL.

The conservation area also includes part of a landform next to Lake Kaniere Road wrapping around Kaniere Forks Scenic Reserve to legally protect the whole hill, and linking with Kaniere Forest Conservation Area across Kaniere River and Road. A number of Kaniere River Marginal Strips extend its riparian protection function on the south side of Kaniere River. There is developed farmland against the boundaries at many locations around this end of the conservation area.

A length of water race is included in the conservation area but the adjacent catchment of an unnamed stream feeding the power station has not been included in any PCL, and regenerating vegetation appears to have been sprayed in preparation for removal. Another power station downstream has also been excluded from the conservation area.

All parts of this conservation area have a mosaic of wetland, shrubland and forest at various stages including pockets of relatively unmodified forest. With time scars from earlier attempts to drain or access parts of the conservation land will slowly disappear from the landscape.

Much of Kaniere Farm Conservation Area is included in **outstanding natural landscape ONL25 Lake Kaniere**. The ONL includes the Blue Bottle Terrace escarpment. Stated site type and values of this ONL are:

Elongated lake basin dramatically enclosed by an assemblage of broad ranges and hills whose underlying granite geology set them apart visually from the high altitude schist ranges to the east.

Interplay of mature indigenous forest and vegetative sequence from lowland beech forest through to alpine scrub communities reinforcing topography and pronounced relief. Exposed peaks and ridge tops revealing underlying geology are highly expressive of the landscapes formative and ongoing natural processes.

Very extensive and homogenous mature forest around the entire lake fringe that directly interacts with the open waters of the lake. Intact sequences of wetland and swamp species through to canopy native forest.

Lake Kaniere, Mt Upright, and Turiwhati/Turiwhate are key/representative landmarks within this landscape.

Association with Ngāi Tahu – pounamu source and route to east coast.

- **HOK22 Kaniere Farm Conservation Area** (52ha) 2805693 in 8 parcels

This smaller parcel is separate from the complex of PCL further up the Kaniere River, but still contributes to the healthy functioning of the freshwater ecosystem by protecting swamp and regenerating forest which drains into the river via two or more unnamed streams. It also occupies part of the northern riverbank where it also includes a section of the riverbed. Kaniere River Marginal Strips are connected alongside and up and down stream, and twin Kaniere River-Kaniere Marginal strips are also intended to protect a smaller stream draining to Kaniere-Kowhitirangi Road although they are not particularly well aligned.

This parcel of Kaniere Farm Conservation Area is not included in outstanding natural landscape *ONL25 Lake Kaniere*

- **HOK23 Hans Bay-Lake Kaniere Conservation Area** (0.1ha) 2805718

This conservation area is a sliver of stewardship land on the inland side of Arahutika Road. It is part of the modified foreshore amenity area at Hans Bay which includes a camping ground within Lake Kaniere Scenic Reserve. It is contiguous with Lake Kaniere Scenic Reserve and is undifferentiated in landscape terms, at this location. Consideration could be given to adding it to the scenic reserve.

ONL25 Lake Kaniere omits the modified Hans Bay area from the outstanding natural landscape around Lake Kaniere.

Lake Kaniere and surrounding visual catchment are assessed as having outstanding natural character and are included in *Unit T77 Lake Kaniere*. Hans Bay-Lake Kaniere Conservation Area is not included within this unit, which is shaped to exclude the more modified landscapes at the north end of the lake.

Mahināpua Swamplands

Land and waters around Lake Mahināpua and along the coast from Hokitika River south to Waitaha River mouth.

Lake Mahināpua is identified as an outstanding natural landscape in Schedule 5 of the draft *Te Tai o Poutini* plan; *ONL26 Lake Mahināpua*. Stated site type and values are:

Low lying lake basin that is strongly defined by surrounding mature indigenous forest.

Very extensive and homogenous mature swamp forest around the entire lake fringe that directly interacts with the open waters of the lake. Intact sequences of wetland and swamp species through to canopy native forest.

High transient values associated with evident bird life on the lake and surrounding indigenous forest.

The tranquillity of the lake, unmodified sequences of native forest amplify the natural qualities of this landscape.

Due to its intimate scale this landscape as a whole is a landmark.

The ONL is quite limited in scope and no conservation areas are included in it except a small part of Mahināpua Creek/Tūwharewhare Conservation Area.

In the *West Coast Region Natural Character Study (Brown 2013)* five units in the Mahināpua Swamplands area of Hokitika Place are assessed as having high or outstanding natural character.

They are:

Unit C30 Waitaha River-Mikonui River (high)

Unit C31 Totara River Mouth (high)

Unit T72 Groves Swamp (outstanding)

Unit T73 Lower Hokitika River escarpment (outstanding)

Unit T79 Lake Mahināpua (outstanding)

There are seventeen parcels of stewardship land in this part of Hokitika Place:

HOK26 Takutai Conservation Area (4ha) 2805689

HOK27 Pine Creek Conservation Area (5ha) 2805692

HOK28 Mahināpua Creek/Tūwharewhare Conservation Area (133ha) 2806156

HOK29 Mananui Bush Conservation Area (9ha) 2805696

HOK29 Mahināpua Store Conservation Area (0.4ha) 2805695

HOK32 Frosty Creek Conservation Area (26ha) 2805697 in 5 parcels

HOK31 Seddon Terrace Conservation Area (35ha) 2805699

HOK33 Butlers Conservation Area(2030ha) 2805698in 42 parcels

HOK35 Tarleton Falls Conservation Area (83ha) 2806245

HOK35 Woolhouse Creek Conservation Area (252ha) 2805702 in 6 parcels

HOK34 Camp Creek Conservation Area (141ha) 2805700 in 16 parcels

HOK34 Woolhouse Creek Conservation Area (85ha) 2805701 in 3 parcels

HOK34 Bennett Creek Conservation Area (47ha) 3267740 in 3 parcels

HOK45 Mikonui River Mouth Conservation Area (31ha) 2805509 in 4 parcels

HOK46 Shearers Swamp-Mikonui Conservation Area (33ha) 2805510

HOK46 Waikoriri Creek Conservation Area (130ha) 2805511

HOK45 Waitaha Conservation Area(8ha) 2805514 in 3 parcels

Landscape factors for decision-makers to consider:

- HOK26 **Takutai Conservation Area** (4ha) 2805689
Takutai Conservation Area is located on the seaward side of lower Tūwharewhare/Mahināpua Creek and hapua south of the Hokitka River mouth. Southside

Recreation Reserve occupies a similar situation just north and the two share a boundary. Despite the ecologically and visually sensitive foreshore location both PCL parcels are used for haymaking and may be fenced, grazed and possibly cultivated as well. Storage of baleage in the conservation area also affects natural character. A vehicle track runs through the conservation area along the top of sand dunes. Some natural character vegetation remains closer to the lagoon.

Even though this conservation area is significantly modified at present there is potential for restoration of the natural character of this significant coastal landscape at some time in the future.

- **HOK27 Pine Creek Conservation Area** (5ha) 2805692
Pine Creek Conservation Area is in an area of regenerating forest and wetland on a high terrace south of the Hokitika braided river. It is contiguous with Hokitika Southside Scenic Reserve (24ha) and is very similar. While both are modified the vegetation is recovering and natural character is being restored with time. This conservation area is in the catchment of Pine Creek a tributary of Fishermans Creek which flows to the hapua at the mouth of the Hokitika River. All are important whitebait habitat.
- **HOK28 Mahināpua Creek/Tūwharewhare Conservation Area** (133ha) 2806156
This conservation area is located at Mananui on the inland side of Tūwharewhare (aka Mahināpua Creek). It contains wetlands associated with Cowan Creek, Sandstone Creek and Tern Creek, and regenerating forest. Historic Mananui tramline, now a walking track, passes through it from Mananui on Ruatapu Road SH6 to the Woodstock-Rimu Road on the other side of Lake Mahināpua. Although modified by historic land uses the conservation area still has a high degree of naturalness. Natural character is likely to increase with time if no further modification occurs. This site is ecologically and functionally integrated with other conservation lands nearby. At a landscape level, the area has high ecological integrity.

A small part of Mahināpua Creek/Tūwharewhare Conservation Area at the southern end may fall within the boundary of the **outstanding natural landscape** [ONL26 Lake Mahināpua](#). Site type and values are listed in the overview above.

- **HOK29 Mahināpua Store Conservation Area** (0.4ha) 2805695
Located in a production forestry setting on the Woodstock-Rimu Road this conservation area has low natural character especially as the trees and scrub are almost entirely exotic. It was the site of a former DOC depot, not a historic shop.
- **HOK29 Mananui Bush Conservation Area** (9ha) 2805696
This is a strictly rectangular parcel of wind shorn coastal forest on level land between Ruatapu Road SH6 and the sandy beach at Mananui. It contains a car park and walking track to the dunes and beach. Vegetation is kept low under a transmission line which passes through parallel to the road. Intensively modified farmland adjacent on either side.

Despite all the modifying factors this conservation area contributes as an island of natural character in a modified setting and provides visual evidence of the surrounding

landscape's past. Although the large forested areas around Mahināpua are just inland across the road the two are not well connected not only because of the differences in their forest type and ecology but also because of a tidy strip of roadside pasture between them.

- **HOK32 Frosty Creek Conservation Area** (26ha) 2805697 in 5 parcels
Frosty Creek Conservation Area is in two blocks, one each side of the Woodstock-Rimu Road near Lake Mahināpua. The larger lake side parcel is rectangular surrounded by Mahināpua Scenic Reserve with the highway along the fourth boundary. Meandering Frosty Creek forms the south boundary. This area seems to have been logged much more recently than surrounding forest but it is recovering and to future generations will eventually seem indistinguishable from the magnificent forest around it, if no further disturbance occurs.

The second parcel across the road is a narrow rectangle containing old growth podocarp forest aligned along the road, in an arrangement similar to scenic reserves in other places in South Westland, which creates an illusion for travellers of limitless old growth native forests. Similar supporting vegetation currently continues onto non-PCL land behind this screen but production forestry appears to be expanding around about and the adjacent native vegetation may not always be there. This could leave tall podocarps in the roadside strip vulnerable to wind throw.

Consideration could be given to including both parcels in the Lake Mahināpua Scenic Reserve as they have much in common with that landscape.

- **HOK31 Seddon Terrace Conservation Area** (35ha) 2805699
Seddon Terrace is a moraine wall which rises sharply from the flood plain of the Hokitika River to 169m. Seddon Terrace Conservation Area covers part of this. The small Pleasant Point Scenic Reserve which includes high point A9RK 167m is contiguous. There is a wetland at the toe of the slope, part of Black Creek Swamp Wildlife Management Area, which is also contiguous to the south. Modified flood plain, with humping and hollowing, is adjacent to both in the north.

The forest cover is variable and patterning suggests the slopes may have been sluiced in the past. However forest is regenerating and the stewardship land provides a buffer between the wildlife reserve wetland and production forestry on top of the terrace.

Seddon Terrace Conservation Area appears to be within, or very close to, outstanding natural character unit *Unit T73 Lower Hokitika River escarpment*. Key attributes/characteristics for this unit are listed as:

Steeply sloping river escarpment (Overlook Hill 169asl) covered in mature forest including a number of small waterbodies along its crest, located at the confluence of the Hokitika and Kokatahi Rivers.

- Very extensive and homogenous mature forest cover.
- Dramatic and distinctive steep slopes plunging to the river valley give the river a sense of wildness. Characteristic high rainfall events accentuate the drama and the sense of wildness.
- Unmodified water body margins flanked by mature forest impart a strong sense of naturalness.
- Intact sequences of wetland and swamp species through to canopy native forest.
- Enclosing landforms and their dramatic profile give the landscape a sense of wildness.

- High transient values associated with evident bird life on the waterbodies and surrounding indigenous forest.
 - Apart from the pastoral valley to the east this landscape is entirely devoid of development.
- **HOK33 Butlers Conservation Area**(2030ha) 2805698in 42 parcels
This significant area of complex natural character landscape links the Hokitika braided river with the southern edge of Mahināpua and the coastal escarpment behind the sawmill at Ruatapu. Parts of the conservation area are aligned along both sides of the Ross Highway SH6 and the Woodstock-Rimu Road.

At this rather fragmented coastal end Butlers Conservation Area includes parts of Bittern Creek, Ogilvie Lagoon and Creek, Mirror Creek and Harmans Swamp.

The more cohesive inland part contains the vast Groves Swamp with Pukaki Lagoon and Tukes Lagoon as features. Monts Creek meanders across the wetland eventually draining into the Hokitika River. A tributary, Shooting Creek, has its source in the hills south of the Hokitika River. This is quite a pathway for migrating fish. There has been some modification of natural drainage patterns, so that part of Groves Swamp now drains towards the coast via Harmans Swamp and Mirror Creek.

There appear to be some hydrological complexities where Groves Swamp and the Hokitika braided river system meet. The power of the river is actively eroding the swamp in places. Landscape change in the dynamic area where Monts Creek meets Hokitika River possibly explain the number of separate parcels of stewardship land in this location.

Vegetation patterns are as complicated as the hydrology in this conservation area which includes various wetlands, fern fields, shrublands, and swamp forest at different seral stages. There are clues to past modification but in general the character is overwhelmingly natural.

There is plantation forestry with humping and hollowing on land adjacent to the conservation area north-east of Groves Swamp and modification for intensive farming on the boundary to the south. Production forestry is also occurring on land adjacent to the conservation area south of Ruatapu, between Butlers Conservation Area and Camp Creek Conservation Area.

Plantation forestry supports good water quality outcomes, except for the ten or so years around harvest in each cycle. During that period water quality and quantity impacts can have significant impacts on hydrology in adjacent lands, freshwater ecology and species survival.

Much of Butlers Conservation Area is included in **outstanding** natural character *Unit T72 Groves Swamp*. Key attributes/characteristics for this landscape are described as:
Large swamp plain adjoining the Hokitika River comprising meandering river channels, open water lagoons flanked by mature lowland forest.

- Very extensive and homogenous mature forest cover that directly interacts with the open waters of the lagoons.
- Unmodified lagoon and river margins flanked by tall swamp forest impart a strong sense of naturalness.
- Intact sequences of wetland and swamp species through to canopy native forest.

- Enclosing landforms and their dramatic profile give the landscape a sense of wildness.
- High transient values associated with evident bird life on the lagoon, patches of open water, and surrounding indigenous forest.
- The tranquillity of the swamp forest and lagoons, vast unmodified sequences of native forest accentuate this landscape's wild and remote character.
- Apart from some adjoining production forestry this landscape is entirely devoid of development.
- Includes Ogilvie, Tukes, and Pukaki Lagoons.

This complex landscape would benefit from being managed as a whole.

- **HOK35 Tarleton Falls Conservation Area** (83ha) 2806245
Tarleton Falls Conservation Area occupies lower slopes and alluvial plains at the base of Constitution Hill 669m. It stretches from the Hokitika River to HM Line Road. The ecology is typical of slow draining sites in this part of Hokitika Place, with a continuum from wetland to swamp forest. Vegetation patterns reflect historical and current variations in drainage. Adjacent land to the south is still relatively natural in character, but farm development with humps and hollows abuts the conservation area to the north, together with some patches of native vegetation which have been retained to date.

Tarleton Falls are not in the conservation area. They are located on Falls Creek a little way round the hill to the south east. Shooting Creek passes through the conservation area and flows on to Groves Swamp in the Butlers Conservation Area, protected by twin Shooting Creek Marginal Strips for the whole distance.

The value of this parcel lies not only in its intrinsic natural landscape value, but also in how it supports the sustainable functioning of the Groves Swamp complex.

- **HOK35 Woolhouse Creek Conservation Area** (252ha) 2805702 in 6 parcels
The source of Woolhouse Creek is on Constitution Hill in Doctor Hill Ecological Area (near Pigeon Peak), and it ends at Totara Lagoon. This Woolhouse Creek Conservation Area protects a mid section, mainly the south side. The upstream part includes toe slopes of Constitution Hill and is contiguous with Totara-Mikonui Forest Conservation Area. Downstream of Jon Olsen Road the conservation area ends before reaching Ruatapu-Ross Road SH6. It includes a number of terrace escarpments.

Vegetation is mainly logged forest which is in various stages of regeneration and some wetland. Woolhouse Creek Marginal Strip is contiguous along the stream at the north boundary. Neighbouring land to the north and south is developed for farming at various stages of intensification.

- **HOK34 Camp Creek Conservation Area** (141ha) 2805700 in 16 parcels
Camp Creek Conservation Area runs along the coastal escarpment and former railway line between the end of Paiere Road in the north almost to Tui Island in the south. Rocky Creek and Camp Creek cross the conservation area passing through the railway embankment to reach the elongated Totara Lagoon.

The skinny north part of the conservation area has modified coastal forest and shrubland, probably with quite a high exotic component. Remaining native vegetation is being cleared from neighbouring land inland.

The chunkier part to the south has a wetland and the forest looks to be in better condition especially along Camp Creek itself. Land inland has been cleared for farming and looks likely to be intensified with time. Camp Creek has been fenced from stock. Vegetation clearance is occurring also on neighbouring land adjacent to the railway embankment to the south of Camp Creek Conservation Area.

The shape and location of this conservation area makes it vulnerable to edge effects. Its main value is as a natural character buffer (or potentially a visual screen and/or shelter belt) for people using the elevated cycleway and track.

- **HOK34 Woolhouse Creek Conservation Area** (85ha) 2805701 in 3 parcels
Like Camp Creek above, Woolhouse Creek Conservation Area is next to the railway embankment which now has a cycleway and walking track on it. This is the middle of three similar but separate conservation areas along this line. Woolhouse Creek is a rectangular parcel.

It has a mosaic of modified vegetation; wetland, shrubland and seral coastal forest at various stages. Woolhouse Creek which has its source near Pigeon Hill 300m south of Mt Camelback, meanders through it forking to pass through the embankment in two places, reaching Totara Lagoon near Frenchies Island. Neighbouring land to the north and east is being cleared probably for farming although some forest has been left along the waterways. Neighbouring land to the south, between this conservation area and Bennetts Creek Conservation Area still has mostly native vegetation on it at present.

Woolhouse Creek Conservation Area is on the edge of high natural character *Unit C31 Totara River Mouth* which includes most of Bennett Creek below.

- **HOK34 Bennett Creek Conservation Area** (47ha) 3267740 in 3 parcels
This is the third in this series along the old railway line. Gows Creek and another unnamed creek flow through this conservation area to reach Bennetts Creek which is on the seaward side of the embankment and not actually in the conservation area. Bennett Creek Conservation Area has low wetland and patches of regenerating coastal forest. The vegetation is similar to coastal vegetation on the other side of the railway embankment near the Totara River mouth.

Apart from some modification to the east where the processes of land clearance have begun, vegetation on land around this conservation area is still quite natural.

Bennetts Creek Conservation Area is in high natural character *Unit C31 Totara River Mouth*. Key attributes/characteristics for this coastal landscape are:

Broad sweeping exposed beach flanked by extensive dune fields, enclosed lagoons and islands, while the mouth of the Totara River is surrounded by a mixture of low lying mature coastal forest interspersed with patches of pasture.

- Highly dynamic and dramatic interaction / relationship between the Totara River mouth, sandbars and the open waters of the Tasman Sea.
- Exposed dune landforms and windswept vegetation impart a strong sense of naturalness and wildness.
- Enclosed river and lagoon system is expressive of the formative and ongoing coastal processes.

- The presence of pasture and farming activities near the shoreline does not overly detract from the highly expressive natural processes and elements which are the dominant feature of the unit.

- **HOK45 Mikonui River Mouth Conservation Area** (31ha) 2805509 in 4 parcels
This elongated coastal conservation area runs from the Mikonui River mouth south parallel to Bold Head Road. It ends at the mouth of Granite Creek where the road bends inland. It is linked at that point with Kakapotahi Ecological Area which includes the Bold Head 151m landform. The stewardship land includes beach, dunes and coastal vegetation as well as the long lagoon of Granite Creek. The northern parcel also includes some of the Mikonui Riverbed at the river mouth. A significant proportion of this northern parcel has been modified for farming; fenced grazed and possibly cultivated. On the other side of Bold Head Road is a grouping of PCL protecting large wetland and another long lagoon running parallel to the beach (see below).

Mikonui River Mouth Conservation Area is in the high natural character *Unit C30 Waitaha River-Mikonui River*. Key attributes/characteristics for this length of the coast are:

Broad sweeping exposed beach, coastal bluffs and escarpments, low lying mature coastal forest, river mouths, dune fields, and wetlands.

- Highly dynamic and dramatic interaction/relationship between the river mouth, gravel bars and the open waters of the Tasman Sea.
 - Exposed dune landforms and windswept vegetation impart a strong sense of naturalness.
 - Sheer cliffs and exposed coastal scarps at Bold Head plunge dramatically to the shoreline creating a striking interface with the Tasman Sea.
 - Enclosed river and lagoon systems including Shearer Swamp are expressive of the formative and ongoing coastal processes.
 - The presence of pasture and farming activities near the shoreline does not overly detract from the highly expressive natural processes and elements which are the dominant feature of the unit.
 - Backed by Kakapotahi Forest and the foothills of the Rangitoto Range.
- **HOK46 Shearers Swamp-Mikonui Conservation Area** (33ha) 2805510
This conservation area includes swampland between Fergusons Bush Scenic Reserve and the coast. It is also contiguous with Shearers Swamp Wildlife Management Reserve which is connected in turn to Waikoriri Conservation Area and Pearn Brook Ecological Area further south again. Standing water or a pond is included at the north end, part of which is over the boundary in Fergusons Bush Scenic Reserve. A stream or long lagoon which runs along the seaward side of this group of PCL is just outside the boundary but is protected by a suite of Shearer Swamp Marginal Strips. Unfortunately this water body is separated from the dunes and beach by a strip of farmland disrupting the natural swamp-hapua-dune-beach continuum. Some interesting natural drainage patterns are evident in the pasture. The natural character of the area is also adversely influenced by the presence of the Bold Head Road and a transmission line which runs along this length of coast.

Each of these five or six PCL areas contributes to the natural character, ecological functioning and visual cohesion of a whole and they are best managed uniformly, as a unit.

Shearers Swamp Conservation Area is also in the high natural character *Unit C30 Waitaha River-Mikonui River*. Key attributes/characteristics as above.

- HOK46 **Waikoriri Creek Conservation Area** (130ha) 2805511
This conservation area also includes swampland between Fergusons Bush Scenic Reserve and the coast. Is contiguous with Shearers Swamp Conservation Area above. All are a similar landscape. Pearn Brook Ecological Area is contiguous along the south boundary separated only by Waikoriri Marginal Strip. Some parts of Shearer Swamp Marginal Strip, which is on both sides of the road, are contiguous with Waikoriri Conservation Area as well.

Waikoriri Conservation Area is also in the high natural character *Unit C30 Waitaha River-Mikonui River*. Key attributes/characteristics as above.

- HOK45 **Waitaha Conservation Area** (8ha) in 3 parcels
These parcels are on the beach north of the Waitaha River Mouth at the end of Beach Road near Kakapotahi settlement. The smallest and southernmost covers part of a lagoon right at the road end. Along the beach the two larger parcels include beach, dunes, ocean and modified farmland between the dunes and a long lagoon. The boundaries of these parcels do not appear to relate to any natural boundaries. All are isolated although they are not far from Kakapotahi Ecological Area.

These Waitaha Conservation Area parcels may also be in the high natural character *Unit C30 Waitaha River-Mikonui River* but it is hard to tell from the map.

Mikonui Forests

Forested hill country extending almost to the coast at Mikonui.
Distanced from intense alpine influences along Ka Tiritiri o Te Moana (Main Divide).
Includes Ross settlement.

In Schedule 5 of the *draft Te Tai o Poutini* plan most of the Mikonui Forests area, and hill country right through to the Hokitika River are included in Outstanding Natural Landscapes *ONL22 Bonar, Rangitoto & Bald Hill Ranges*.

In the *West Coast Region Natural Character Study (Brown 2013)* three units in the Mikonui Forests area of Hokitika Place are assessed as having high or outstanding natural character. These include:

Unit T68 Upper Kakapotahi River (outstanding)

Unit T70 Upper Mikonui & Totara Rivers (outstanding)

Unit T66 Waitaha and Kakapotahi River Flats (high) (part only)

There are seven parcels of stewardship land in this part of Hokitika Place

HOK43 Tōtara-Mikonui Forests Conservation Area (27,788ha) 2806269 in 59 parcels

HOK47 Mikonui River Conservation Area (169ha)2805512 in 2 parcels

HOK43 Mcleods Road Conservation Area (6ha) 2805513 in 3 parcels

HOK43 Mine Creek Conservation Area (0.4ha) 2809720

HOK39 Bond Street-Ross Conservation Area (0.05ha) 2805717

HOK40 Park Terrace-Ross Conservation Area (0.3ha) 2805716

HOK41 Mount Greenland Road Conservation Area (1ha) 2805719 in 2 parcels

HOK42 Donnelly Creek Conservation Area (4ha) 2805707 in 2 parcels

Landscape factors for decision makers to consider:

- **HOK43 Tōtara-Mikonui Forests Conservation Area** (27,788ha) 2806269 in 59 parcels
Tōtara-Mikonui Forests Conservation Area Includes full altitudinal sequences from lowlands to mountaintops. Largely forested but also includes subalpine shrublands, alpine tussock land, wetlands, and numerous streams and rivers. Includes tarns and wetlands between Supply Creek and Knob Creek, nearer Hokitika River.

Contiguous with multiple other PCL lands including Wanganui/Otira Catchments Conservation Area along the main divide, Waitaha Forest Conservation Area to the south, completely encircles Upper Totara Ecological Area in the centre and surrounds Doctor Hill Ecological Area on the north boundary. Contiguous with Fergusons Bush Scenic Reserve and contiguous Mikonui River Conservation Area closer to the coast. Includes the headwaters of Kakapotahi (Little Waitaha) River and linked with Little Waitaha River Conservation Area where the river emerges from the hill country.

Also contiguous with Historic Reserve (located near Donoghues Road, Ross-West Coast) and Donnelly Conservation Area in Ross. Totara-Mikonui Forests Conservation Area includes some historic values associated with mining near Ross.

It is separated by only a legal road width from Woolhouse Creek Conservation Area on north side. It is contiguous with Hokitika Scenic Reserve and the Kokatahi/Hokitika Riverbed Conservation Area.

Most of Tōtara-Mikonui Forests Conservation Area is in **Outstanding Natural Landscape ONL22 Bonar, Rangitoto & Bald Hill Ranges**. Site type and values stated for this ONL are: Assemblage of heavily dissected ranges, foothills, and valley systems with broad rounded peaks whose underlying geology set them apart visually from the high altitude ranges to the east. Interplay of mature indigenous forest and vegetative sequence from lowland beech forest through to alpine scrub communities reinforcing topography and pronounced relief. Exposed peaks and ridge tops revealing underlying geology are highly expressive of the landscapes formative and ongoing natural processes. Assemblage of ridges, peaks, and mountaintops of similar orientation, attitudes, vegetative cover and appearance. Contiguous mountain range and foothills. Mature beech forest giving way to alpine vegetation at higher attitudes. The Hokitika Gorge is a well known landmark within this landscape.

Tōtara-Mikonui Forests Conservation Area includes two **outstanding** natural character *Units T68 Upper Kakapotahi River* and *Unit T70 Upper Mikonui & Totara Rivers*. Key attributes/characteristics of these units are very similar. For *Unit T70 Upper Mikonui & Totara Rivers* they are listed as:

Rugged and very steep to shallow river valley's comprising, braided river channels, gravel beds, gorges, water falls, swampland, and flanked by mountain ranges.

- Dramatically eroded landforms clearly express the rivers power and varying flow. Broken vegetation and expansive depositional landforms reinforce these qualities.
- Evidence of erosion revealing underlying geology, rockfall, stream downcutting and flooding. The river contains a range of aggregate sizes and weathered boulders that are constantly sifted and graded by the varying flows.
- Continuous beech / podocarp / lowland forest.
- Unconstrained channel alignment and clearly expressed flood plains. Characteristic high rainfall events accentuate the drama and the sense of wildness.
- Contains a wide range of channel typologies (braids, pools, rapids, eddies).
- Apart from a some patches of pasture adjoining the river bed, Totara Valley Road, and a historic homestead, this unit is largely devoid of development / modification.
- Highly expressive natural environment.
- Bounded by the Rangitoto and Bald Hill Range's and Mt Greenlane.
- Includes the Tule and Dickson Rivers.

For *Unit T68 Upper Kakapotahi River* remoteness and the presence of huts and tracks is also mentioned.

Tōtara-Mikonui Forests Conservation Area also includes the Kakapotahi valley floor part of *Unit T66 Waitaha and Kakapotahi River Flats* which is assessed as having high natural character.

Given that landscapes are the expression of many interconnected natural and cultural processes there is no good landscape-based reason to split Tōtara-Mikonui Forests Conservation Area into smaller components. In fact it makes sense to add other parcels to a large parcel where they share similar characteristics. This strengthens the character of both and makes the whole more sustainable and resilient to change.

- HOK47 **Mikonui River Conservation Area** (169ha)2805512 in 2 parcels (part)

Mikonui River Conservation Area includes both forested hill side and braided river bed. It is contiguous with, and partly surrounded by, Fergusons Bush Scenic Reserve and although the forest on the north side of Mitchell Hill 205m appears to have been modified by past logging, it will grow to be indistinguishable ecologically and visually from the surrounding scenic reserve. While part of this conservation area includes braided riverbed and is included in the braided rivers chapter for that reason, the part of this conservation area on the north face of Mitchell Hill has more in common with Tōtara-Mikonui Forests Conservation Area.

Part of this area, together with neighbouring Fergusons Bush Scenic Reserve are in **outstanding natural landscape** *ONL22 Bonar, Rangitoto & Bald Hill Ranges* as described above.

- HOK43 **Mcleods Road Conservation Area** (6ha) 2805513 in 3 parcels alongside an open cast mine near Mikonui River. Mikonui River Marginal Strips are contiguous with Mcleods Road Conservation Area.
- HOK43 **Mine Creek Conservation Area** (0.4ha) 2809720
Mine Creek is a small rectangular conservation area in the Mine Creek catchment which is much modified by sluicing. Mine Creek is accessed from Happy Valley Road. It is possibly an actual mine shaft. It is unconnected to any other PCL although the Mine Creek catchment is a non-PCL enclave in Totara-Mikonui Forest Conservation Area.

Mine Creek Conservation Area is within **outstanding natural landscape** *ONL22 Bonar, Rangitoto & Bald Hill Ranges* (see above)

- HOK39 **Bond Street-Ross Conservation Area** (0.05ha) 2805717
This is a rectangular town section in Ross. It has a building and a yard on it and some forest to the rear of the section which may or may not be indigenous. Ross Goldfields Historic Reserve is across the road.
- HOK40 **Park Terrace-Ross Conservation Area** (0.3ha) 2805716
This square parcel is right next to Ross Cemetery on the hill overlooking Ross settlement. They share a boundary. Ross Historic Walk track passes through both and then on to the main historic reserve in Ross which has the very full name of Historic Reserve (Located Near Donoghues Road, Ross-West Coast). Only a legal road width separates them.

Both the conservation area and the historic reserve are forested and although the forest has been modified by historic activity it is recovering and is reasonably mature. They are ecologically and visually indistinguishable from each other and from the Totara-Mikonui Forests Conservation Area which surrounds the historic reserve. Consideration could be given to adding this Park Terrace parcel to the historic reserve.

Totara-Mikonui Forests Conservation Area includes some historic values associated with mining near Ross.

- HOK41 **Mount Greenland Road Conservation Area** (1ha) 2805719 in 2 parcels

Mount Greenland Road Conservation Area is an anomaly. It is in the settlement of Ross, close to Ross Goldfields Historic Reserve but most of it is now in an artificial lake at the bottom of a big hole in the ground left behind by open cast mining operations. The only part which is on land has rough grass and scattered shrubs. The land around the pond is now used as a recreation reserve with walking tracks and a cycleway. The conservation area is completely modified and currently has little natural or historic landscape value.

- **HOK42 Donnelly Creek Conservation Area** (4ha) 2805707 in 2 parcels
This piece of stewardship land is in Ross, in the same recreation area as Mt Greenland Road Conservation Area above. It is aligned with the edge of Totara-Mikonui Forests Conservation Area which protects the riverbed of Donnelly Creek for a short distance once it emerges from the hills. The two are separated by slightly more than a legal road width.

This Donnelly Creek Conservation Area could serve a greater riparian function if existing native vegetation was enhanced. Although modified there is long term potential to use this conservation area to extend the natural character of the forested hills around Ross down onto the adjacent recreation area, closer to the town. This would add to the amenity value of the area around the former mine which is currently quite bleak.

Consideration could be given to including these parcels with Totara-Mikonui Forests Conservation Area which is itself modified at this location by the presence of the lime works, quarry and access road on the other side of Donnelly Creek.

Note: This parcel is one of several conservation areas along Donnelly Creek and is also referred to in the Braided Rivers (Hokitika Place) section

References

Brown NZ Ltd. 2013. (1) **West Coast Region Natural Character Study: Coastal + Inland Outstanding and High Natural Character Areas Schedule**. Prepared for West Coast Regional Council Planning and Environmental Department.

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Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee. 2022. **Te Tai o Poutini Exposure Draft**. A new combined district plan covering the whole of the West Coast.

Note: The maps currently used in the draft Plan were produced in 2013 and recently digitised for the draft Plan. People have drawn attention to mapping errors in relation to the High Natural Character areas in particular. The Outstanding Natural Landscape and High/Outstanding Coastal Natural Character boundaries are currently being reviewed through an updated field assessment from the landscape architect.