

## SCHEd8 - Schedule of Outstanding Natural Landscapes

A landscape is considered outstanding if it is 'conspicuous, eminent, remarkable or iconic' within the context of Waitaki District.

<b>Natural Science Values</b>	Natural Science	The rarity or degree of naturalness of geological strata, geopreservation sites, landforms, ecology, flora and fauna, rivers and their beds, groundwater processes, soil profiles and processes, sites of natural significance and conservation or national parks and reserves.
	Legibility	How expressive the landforms may be of their formative processes; uplift mountains, hills forms, erosional processes, coastlines, rivers, limestone or other outcrops, caves etc.
<b>Aesthetic Values</b>	Memorability	How memorable a place or landscape may remain in a viewer's mind after leaving it. A highly memorable landscape evokes a strong re
	Naturalness	The perception that natural features or landscapes appear largely uncompromised by human modifications. A landscape with a high degree of aesthetic naturalness may have quite modified natural systems, while another of high ecological naturalness may not appear particularly natural, visually.
	Vividness	How strongly a place or landscape may impact on one's feelings when in it, e.g. grandeur, intimacy, tranquillity, exhilaration. Vividness applies to the immediate experience while in the landscape, compared to memorability after leaving it.
	Coherence	How well the patterns of land cover and land use of an area are in harmony with the underlying natural landforms and processes, and are lacking in discordant elements. How well the visual and natural elements may reinforce or detract from each other.
	Transience	How marked are the seasonal, weather, sky, cloud, migrational and seasonal patterns that change with time, and the ephemeral presence of wildlife
<b>Cultural Values</b>	Mana Whenua	What sites, areas, names or meanings exist that are of meaning or historical value to Māori, such as settlements, pa or battle sites, food sources, rock art sites, caves, urupa, mountains, lakes or rivers, expressing Māori cosmology or occupation of an area.
	Historic	The degree to which an area continues to reflect its cultural development in built patterns, land use, structures, roads, historic sites or populations.
	Shared & Recognised	The degree to which popular and expert opinions agree about the values of an area in folklore, art, poetry, song, history or national or local identity.

The above values were ranked on a seven-stage continuum, ranging from 'very high' to 'very low':

- Very high
- High
- Medium - high
- Medium
- Medium – low
- Low
- Very low

If a natural landscape or feature has at least one value in the 'very high' range, it is categorised as 'outstanding' and protected under section.6 of the RMA.

Please use the ID reference to search for the location of a site on the [Draft District Plan webmaps](#) – eg ONL-01.

ONL-01 LAKE ŌHAU & HOPKINS VALLEY			
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<i>This large ONL contains Lake Ōhau and its western surrounds, the Ōhau and Barrier Ranges to the west, the delta and flats of the Hopkins River above Lake Ōhau, and the long alpine valleys of the Hopkins and Huxley Rivers, which terminate on the Main Divide at the Richardson Glacier and Mt Hopkins, 4kms south of the Mt Cook National Park boundary. The vast majority of the area is within the Ruataniwha Conservation Park but traditional high country grazing continues at Lake Ōhau and Huxley Gorge Stations. The boundary with Mackenzie District follows the east shoreline of Lake Ōhau, and thence the course of the Hopkins River to its source. The Dobson Valley and true left bank of the Hopkins are not within Waitaki District.</i>		
Identified Values	Description of Values	Assessment	Comment: Threats to Values
Natural Science	<p><b>Natural Science:</b> The area is highly natural, including the unaltered lake, surrounding mountains and the entire Hopkins Valley. This refers to the landforms, water bodies, soils, groundwater processes, rivers and vegetation. Small areas of pastoral improvement exist around the Lake Ōhau and Huxley Gorge Station home paddocks and wider areas of forested former pasture in the Lake Middleton to Ōhau Lodge area. There is particularly attractive native vegetation around the lake shore, notably kowhai and active native scrub regeneration north of Freehold Creek.</p> <p><b>Legibility:</b> The formative processes of mountain uplift, glaciation, moraine barrier and impounded lake, plus alpine river valley processes in the Hopkins and side valleys are clearly discernible and unaltered.</p>	<b>Very High</b>	<p>The pristine and highly natural landscape is particularly valuable and sensitive to further development. ONL values would be threatened by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm expansion or intensification;</li> <li>• Road upgrades or extensions that increase numbers or degree of penetration of recreation into the valleys;</li> <li>• Overuse of lake for boating, houseboats and noisy jet skis;</li> <li>• Overt development of slipways, jetties or shoreline;</li> <li>• Spread of residential or rural residential developments beyond currently proposed Rural Scenic area;</li> <li>• Exotic afforestation, wildings</li> </ul>
Aesthetic	<p><b>Memorability:</b> The lake and alpine valley/mountain setting is highly memorable.</p> <p><b>Naturalness:</b> Except for the Ōhau Village surrounds, the entire ONL area appears highly natural. Unfortunate and very visible earthworks scarring remains from multiple attempts to establish the Ōhau Skifield Road;</p> <p><b>Vividness:</b> The clarity of atmosphere and containment of lake, rivers, valleys and mountains are highly interesting, beautiful and complete. The skies and night time star-scape also. Although largely unseen, the upper reaches of the Hopkins, with its glaciers and permanent snow-pack, also are spectacular. The silence engenders vivid feelings of remoteness;</p> <p><b>Coherence:</b> Very high unity of landforms, vegetation and (minimal) development, with little discord;</p>	<b>Very High</b>	<p>As above. Also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise (e.g. helicopters, boating) will diminish the peaceful atmosphere;</li> <li>• Further scarring from roads, utilities, platforms, quarries and earthworks will diminish the sense of naturalness in the landforms. Reinstatement should be of high standards;</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Transience:</b> Highly variable and interesting skies, light patterns and skylines with variable weather patterns (nor-west rain, fog, clear). Seasonal interest from mountain snow on mountains. Variable lake surface with calm, ruffled or stormy, morning and afternoon reflections, cloudy gloom.</p>		
Cultural	<p><b>Shared &amp; Recognised:</b> Little disagreement as to the recreation assets and beauty of Lake Ōhau, its alpine setting and Ōhau Skifield.</p>	<b>Very High</b>	
	<p><b>Historic:</b> Heritage homestead at Lake Ōhau Station, and high country ethos in these highest runs of the Mackenzie/Waitaki Basin western fringes.</p>	<b>High</b>	
	<p><b>Mana Whenua:</b> Ōhou (Lake Ōhau) and Te Awa Aruhe (Hopkins River) are of great significance to mana whenua. Ōhou is important in the traditions of the famous explorer and tupuna Rākaihautū, who dug the lakes of Te Waipounamu. The area is important as a nohoaka, kāika mahika kai, renowned for its quality of resources and pure waters. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.</p>	<b>Very High</b>	
<b>Overall Assessment</b>		<b>Very High</b>	<b>The Lake Ōhau and Hopkins ONL is confirmed, from its 'Very High' Natural Science, Legibility, Memorability, Naturalness, Vividness, Coherence, Transience and Shared &amp; Recognised values.</b>

ONL-02 AHURIRI BASIN			
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p><i>A long (50km) discrete, largely undeveloped outwash basin between the fore-ranges, leading almost to the Main Divide. No through roads. Formerly grazed, the upper 40kms now comprise the Ahuriri Conservation park, only the lowermost 10kms of basin floor and lowest slopes now grazed. The unaltered Ahuriri River has classic braids, wetlands and terraces with renowned fishing reaches. Grasslands and wetlands on basin floor, lightly improved where farmed and reverting to native scrub within the Park. Beech forest on mid-slopes within the Park and open high tops above 1000 – 1200m, snow-covered in winter. SH8 traverses the lowermost part of this Assessment Area, along the Ahuriri River, above which a short gorge leads to the basin proper.</i></p>		
Identified Values	Description of Values	Assessment	Comment: Threats to Values
Natural Science	<p><b>Natural Science:</b> Unique, discrete, unmodified or reverting catchment in conservation management, except for lowermost parts. Continuous natural montaine or basin floor vegetation and landforms leading to small glaciers and snowpack areas close to the Main Divide. Uniquely natural water regimes with wetlands, braided riverbed and well-formed terraced.</p> <p><b>Legibility:</b> Exceptional clarity of landforms and river forms</p>	<b>Very High</b>	<p>The unique ONL values would be threatened by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual or legal subdivision into smaller land use or ownership units;</li> <li>• Erosion of conservation areas or management;</li> <li>• River and river terrace modification;</li> <li>• Pastoral intensification or expansion, particularly onto hillsides;</li> <li>• Cessation of grazing maintenance or changes of land use;</li> <li>• Afforestation, shelterbelts, plantings and wildings;</li> <li>• Earthworks, roading, tracks and quarries, particularly on visible hillsides;</li> <li>• Further buildings, structures, roadside gates, entrances and signage;</li> <li>• Recreational overuse and resultant traffic.</li> </ul>
Aesthetic	<p><b>Memorability:</b> Mountain and valley landscape and river and their naturalness remain in the memory.</p> <p><b>Naturalness:</b> Exceptionally high in degree and extent. A unique unaltered catchment except for hillside earthworks around lower valley and gorge, and intensified pastures and shelter planting with wilding spread on the Ahuriri East Branch/Ribbonwood Fan. A recent building opposite the Ahuriri East Branch confluence also lessens naturalness. Active bird and fish life.</p> <p><b>Vividness:</b> Impressive river views and large-scale mountain vistas, particularly under winter snow. A unified valley scene within surrounding mountains;</p> <p><b>Coherence:</b> Except for discordance in the lowest section as above, landscape well-unified between – vegetation, development and setting;</p>	<b>Very High</b>	<b>See above</b>
	<p><b>Transience:</b> Variable sky and cloud patterns under westerly clouds over the mountains, rain and mist. Winter snows and bright summer and night skies. Vegetation shows little seasonal change but are distinct wildlife patterns.</p>	<b>High</b>	

Cultural	<b>Shared &amp; Recognised:</b> A widely-valued area for its natural landscape and ethos, and hunting, tramping, fishing although some farm-oriented public may demure.	<b>Very High</b>	<b>See above</b>
	<b>Historic:</b> General ethos of high country grazing, recreation, mountains, fishing and conservation	<b>Medium-High</b>	
	<b>Mana Whenua:</b> Ahuriri is of great significance to mana whenua. The variety of freshwater habitats and riparian scrub leading to forest provided an abundance of seasonal foods and the valley was regarded as an important kāika mahika kai (food gathering place) that was visited annually to collect weka, tuna, raupō and other important resources. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.	<b>Very High</b>	
<b>Overall Assessment</b>		<b>Very High</b>	<b>The Ahuriri Basin is confirmed as an ONL in its entirety, for its natural, aesthetic and cultural values.</b>

ONL-03 ŌHAU MORAINES			
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>An area of rare, distinctive and hummocky terminal moraines and outwash alluvium, mostly under continuous undeveloped grasslands along the south side of Lake Ōhau. A part is ONL under the Operative Plan but a much wider area of 15 x 7kms, extending from the foot of the Ōhau Range to Table Hill, is now proposed. Apart from developed farmlands at Shelton Downs in the west, and Table Hill in the north-east, the land is continuously open and agriculturally little developed. The south-west margin is within the Ahuriri Conservation Area, and an extensive area of Ōhau Downs Station, north and south of Lake Ōhau Road has also recently been purchased by to Crown as reserve. Chapter 9 has further descriptions of the component areas and boundaries.</p>		
Identified Values	Description of Values	Assessment	Comment: Threats to Values
Natural Science	<p><b>Natural Science:</b> Moraine landforms are rare and intact, with unmodified soils and water regimes, ephemeral seasonal tarns and except for scrub near Lake Ōhau, continuous open grassland. Wilding issues along Ōhau River.</p> <p><b>Legibility:</b> The glacial depositional hummocky landforms are obvious and distinctive, particularly so in the continuously open and undeveloped state.</p>	<b>Very High</b>	<p>The ONL values would be threatened by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm or grassland development (spread, intensification, cultivation);</li> <li>• Farm or legal subdivision, fencing, farm or other tracks;</li> <li>• Trees, afforestation, shelterbelts;</li> <li>• Changes of land use;</li> <li>• Buildings, structures, utilities;</li> <li>• Earthworks, tracks, trails, roads, platforms, quarries, or alteration of the natural landforms.</li> </ul> <p>This is a rare unmolested landscape and should be kept rigorously free of human developments.</p>
Aesthetic	<p><b>Memorability:</b> Strong impressions of the vast and characterful hummocky grassland views remain in the memory, particularly south-west to the Quail Burn, west to the Ōhau Rangel and north to the peak Te Rua Taniwha/Ben Ōhau. Additionally, impressive views north over Lake Ōhau to the distant Naumann Range/Hopkins Valley, from near the lake.</p> <p><b>Naturalness:</b> The entire area appears highly natural and 'pure' except for wilding threat in north-east and north-west, and localised scarring by the Lake Ōhau Track near the lake outlet.</p> <p><b>Vividness:</b> The undulating grassland landscape with occasional tarns is interesting and distinctive, enhanced by the vast scale and mountain and lake views. Lake Ōhau outlet weir/vortex interesting</p> <p><b>Coherence:</b> The continuous grassland vegetation allows clear interpretation of the underlying moraine and fluvio-glacial outwash landforms.</p> <p><b>Transience:</b> An exhilarating, changeable scene of distant weather, skies and cloud, wind, sunlight, starlight, and seasonal snow, dry or flush vegetation, wet or dry tarns. A bracing landscape.</p>	<b>Very High</b>	As above
Cultural	<p><b>Historic:</b> European-era high country ethos continues, with old station names, traditional grassland landscape, 'old world' character of lake</p>	<b>Very High</b>	As above

	<p>Ōhau Road, and drama of Lake Ōhau as a traditional, little-developed lakeside landscape. All other Mackenzie/Waitaki lakes are changed by modern developments. Traces of the 'Spade Line', demarcating the former Otago-Canterbury boundary, exist near Lake Ōhau Road.</p> <p><b>Shared &amp; Recognised:</b> Popular area for mountain, lakeside and active (mountain bike) recreation, A2O cycle trail, and holiday-making, based on the natural landscape, exhilarating atmosphere and lake and mountain views. Probably less consensus as to natural values among some farm interests.</p>		
	<p><b>Mana Whenua:</b> Ōhou (Lake Ōhau) is of great significance to mana whenua and is important in the traditions of the famous explorer and tupuna Rākaihautū, who dug the lakes of Te Waipounamu. The moraines represent the power of Rākaihautū and his kō (digging implement) Tūwhakarōria. The area is important as a nohoaka, kāika mahika kai, renowned for its quality of resources and pure waters. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.</p>	<b>Very High</b>	
<b>Overall Assessment</b>		<b>Very High</b>	<b>The ONL values of this extended area are confirmed, with a rare 'full house' of 'Very High' values.</b>

#### ONL-04 HENBURN – QUAILBURN

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<i>The ONL comprises, in the west, the mountains of the Diadem and Ōhau Peak Ranges (eastern sides), above 800m variably; and in the east, the lower Cloud Hill Range (western sides) between Lake Ōhau Road and the Ahuriri River at Clay Cliffs. It also includes the Ahuriri and Quailburn Conservation Areas on the flats along Wairepo Creek, and south of Quailburn Road, the Bendhu Scientific Reserve. The Bendhu Conservation and parts of the Ribbonwood Conservation Area and Ahuriri Conservation Park are within the ONL on the western mountains. The hills and mountains are lightly developed and widely visible as the surrounds to the Henburn – Quailburn Flats (see 8B). The three conservation and scientific reserves on the flats are areas of wetland or ecosystem values identified by DOC and set aside from the surrounding farmlands. The Clay Cliffs, facing the Ahuriri River, are a prominent geological and tourist formation.</i>		
<b>Identified Values</b>	<b>Description of Values</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Comment/Threats to Values</b>
Natural Science	<p><b>Natural Science:</b> Hill and mountain flanks are substantially natural in landforms, water and soil processes and vegetation. The values of the scientific reserves are accepted from DOC assessment, delineation and management. The Clay Cliffs are within the Cloud Hill ONL but are a geomorphologically distinctive feature in their own right.</p>	<b>Very High</b>	<p>ONL values would be threatened by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastoral spread or farm intensification &amp; fencing on hill areas within ONL;</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Legibility:</b> Structure of flanking uplift mountains, outwash flats and active mountain stream processes (e.g. East Diadem Creek, Quail Burn) strongly marked.</p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pastoral spread or intensification, afforestation, shelterbelts or wildings, buildings, structures or earthworks in Rural Scenic close to ONL on flats;</li> <li>• Wilding spread within or close to ONL areas;</li> <li>• Roads, tracks, earthworks, quarries within ONL;</li> <li>• Structures, buildings, subdivision or change of use within or close to ONL</li> </ul>
Aesthetic	<p><b>Naturalness:</b> The mountains and scientific areas have the appearance of strongly natural areas.</p> <p><b>Vividness:</b> The mountains create striking and prominent visual enclosure to the settled areas, particularly with winter snow on the tops. The Clay Cliffs are visually striking, as are the skies on clear nights.</p> <p><b>Coherence:</b> The mountain ONL/valley Rural Scenic (see 8B below) show strong relationship of development to underlying formative processes. Scientific reserves on the flats less so, appearing as discrete legally-defined natural areas within the farmed valleys.</p>	<p><b>Very High</b></p>	As above
	<p><b>Memorability:</b> An image of the mountains and Clay Cliffs generally remain in the mind.</p> <p><b>Transience:</b> ONL areas vary with seasonal snow and dryness effects and interesting weather-related cloud/mist/nor-west skies.</p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	
Cultural	<p><b>Historic:</b> Traditional European-era tenure, road, land use, names and social patterns remain intact, with added recent scientific and wilding-control focus. Of general continuity but not overtly historic values.</p> <p><b>Shared &amp; Recognised:</b> Probably general but not marked agreement as to values except Clay Cliffs, which are widely valued.</p>	<p><b>Medium-High</b></p>	As above
	<p><b>Mana Whenua:</b> This dominant range of this area is known as Tāpapatanga-o-Pātuki to mana whenua. The area was a valued kāika mahika kai (food-gathering place) where weka, tuna (eel), kiore (rat), kueo, and papaī (speargrass) were gathered. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.</p>	<p><b>Very High</b></p>	
Overall Assessment		<p><b>Very High</b></p>	<p>The existing ONL areas plus additions, the total area as delineated in Map 7, are confirmed as ONL for their ‘Very High’ Natural Science, Naturalness, Vividness and coherence values.</p>



ONL-05 BENMORE RANGE			
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p><i>The visually and locationally prominent upfaulted block of greywackes and argillites forming the Benmore Range, which stands up to 1500m above surrounding basin flats. Eroded sides and valleys lead down to footslopes and outwash plains which generally are developed for farming, and form the Rural Scenic Areas on the west, north and east of the Range, outside this ONL. To the south-east and south, the Ranges drop sharply into the east and west Lake Benmore but northwards and westwards these lead to the farmed footslopes of the Falston and Ben Omar Roads (areas 9C and 6B). Along the west side, the ONL is bounded by the outwash flats of the Omarama – Twizel corridor Rural Scenic area (Area 7A), the ONL boundary being variably about the 5 – 600m contour. Along the north side of the Benmore Range is the McAughtries Road Rural Scenic area, a narrow outwash area of developed farmlands between the Range and Ōhau River (Waitaki District Boundary), here significantly modified by the Ōhau B and C Power Stations and lower Ōhau Canal.</i></p>		
Identified Values	Description of Values	Assessment	Comment: Threats to Values
Natural Science	<p><b>Natural Science:</b> Distinctive free-standing upfaulted &amp; erosional landform with traces of Otago Peneplain surfaces on northern tops. Consistently natural vegetation with tops now in conservation management and mid/lower-slopes and internal valleys in range grazing. Wilding infestations affect the shoreline of the eastern arm, originating from hydro-era amenity plantings.</p> <p><b>Legibility:</b> Highly-evident uplift and erosional landforms.</p>	<b>Very High</b>	<p>Developments on the slopes of Benmore Range would be widely visible and would significantly reduce the sense of naturalness. ONL values would be lessened by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural &amp; forestry development, wilding spread on slopes or tops;</li> <li>• Earthworks, roads &amp; tracks, quarries or other site formation works on slopes or tops;</li> <li>• Structures, buildings and services infrastructure;</li> <li>• Legal or farm subdivision and changes of use away from grazing management;</li> <li>• Lifestyle developments.</li> </ul>
Aesthetic	<p><b>Memorability:</b> very memorable as a distinctive landmark upstanding in the Mackenzie/Waitaki Basins. A turning point between the Waitaki Valley and Mackenzie/Waitaki Basins.</p> <p><b>Naturalness:</b> Appears highly natural in landforms, vegetation and skylines.</p> <p><b>Vividness:</b> A striking landmark that closes the large-scale views throughout much of the Mackenzie/Waitaki Basins, from the west (Omarama Flats, Ōhau Flats, Omarama – Twizel corridor), south (Ben Omar – Otamatapaio), east (Lake Waitaki/Black Forest), and north (for 45kms along Lake Pukaki). The steep, shaded south faces particularly dominant along SH83 and Lake Benmore Ahuriri Arm. The east sides highly beautiful seen over Lake Benmore (East Arm)</p> <p><b>Coherence:</b> Close correlation between vegetative state and geomorphic forms, natural on Ranges, developed/farmed on footslopes &amp; surrounds.</p>	<b>Very High</b>	As above

	<b>Transience:</b> Strong seasonal patterns of winter snow and summer dry. Variable daily, weather, skyline, atmospheric and sky patterns. Vivid skies away from lighting.	<b>High</b>	
Cultural	<b>Historic:</b> Continuity of European high country management, mountain and conservation ethos and patterns. Prominence of Benmore name. Important setting for Benmore Dam and lake. <b>Shared &amp; Recognised:</b> Widely recognised as a landmark and Benmore name.	<b>High</b>	As above.
	<b>Mana Whenua:</b> This range is known to mana whenua as Tōtara Kaimaka, who was an ancestor on the Ārai-te-uru waka, which capsized near Matakaea (Shag Point) on the Otago coastline. After the capsizing, many of the passengers went ashore to explore the land. However, they needed to be back at the waka before daylight. Many did not make it, including Tōtara Kaimaka, and instead transformed into many of the well-known geographical features of Te Waipounamu. Tōtara Kaimaka was regarded as a kāika mahika kai (food-gathering place) where weka, tuna (eels), whio (blue duck), and purau ('Māori onion') were gathered. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.	<b>Very High</b>	
<b>Overall Assessment</b>		<b>Very High</b>	<b>The Benmore Range is confirmed as an ONL for its 'Very High' Natural Science, Legibility, Memorability, Naturalness, Vividness And Coherence values.</b>
<b>ONL-05 LAKE BENMORE (EAST ARM)</b>			
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<i>Comprises solely the water area and islets of the east arm of the man-made lake, from the Benmore Dam to the Ōhau/Tekapo River inlets, where they are within Waitaki District. The district boundary meanders above the former course of the now-drowned Waitaki River, once within a spectacular remote gorge, making little apparent sense on today's lake surface. South of Whanau Island, Waitaki District borders Waimate District to the east, and north of that island, Mackenzie District.</i>		
<b>Identified Values</b>	<b>Description of Values</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Comment: Threats to Values</b>
Natural Science	<b>Legibility:</b> The stark shoreline of the lake, interlaced with the enclosing hills, valleys, inlets and islands reflects the geomorphic landforms with great intricacy. The horizontal sheet of the water surface likewise interplays between the man-made and natural formative processes in particularly legible ways.	<b>Very High</b>	The landscape of the Lake Benmore ONL is serene and natural. Its values would be compromised by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deterioration of water quality through agricultural inflows resulting from intensification;</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Natural Science:</b> As a man-made feature, the lake cannot be said to exhibit 'Very High' natural values, and also because of wilding infestations, originating from hydro era amenity plantings, on shoreline and islands. However the water quality, bird and fish wildlife are of high value.</p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compromise of fishing from above;</li> <li>• Further spread of wilding trees (those existing should be removed);</li> <li>• Afforestation of the catchments;</li> <li>• Recreational overuse, particularly water craft and houseboats;</li> <li>• Lifestyle, recreational of agricultural developments around the shoreline;</li> </ul>
<p>Aesthetic</p>	<p><b>Memorability:</b> The lake has created a highly memorable landscape, contrasting the water plane with the stark, dry hills. Water activities on and alongside the lake also are highly memorable.</p> <p><b>Naturalness:</b> Although man-made, the lake appears highly natural in its rugged setting.</p> <p><b>Vividness:</b> A highly beautiful and dramatic landscape under various lighting and seasonal conditions, with its water/mountain contrast and stark, almost desert-like setting. At the north end there are other-worldly long (90 km) views of Aoraki/Mt Cook. Vivid night skies.</p> <p><b>Coherence:</b> the mountains enclose and contrast with the lake and shoreline in a highly synergetic way.</p> <p><b>Transience:</b> a variable visual scene, from daily and weather sky, hillside and water patterns and seasonal change of snow and autumn colours.</p>	<p><b>Very High</b></p>	<p>As above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lakeside development would lessen the currently special aesthetic attributes;</li> <li>• Too much powerboat activity, particularly noisy jetskis, would lessen the calmness of the scene.</li> </ul>
<p>Cultural</p>	<p><b>Historic:</b> The lake reflects the hydro-era vision of European society and the old Benmore name.</p> <p><b>Shared &amp; Recognised:</b> The lake is widely accepted as of value for its beauty, boating, fishing and recreation resources and hydro resources.</p>	<p><b>Very High</b></p>	<p>As above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old Station/homestead patterns and names would be lost with subdivision, changes of use (e.g. afforestation, lifestyle developments);</li> <li>• It would be good to celebrate the Māori past, e.g. by featuring mokihi.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Mana Whenua:</b> Te Ao Marama/Lake Benmore is a Statutory Acknowledgement Area under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act, and is of great significance to mana whenua. Te Ao Mārama, was one of numerous kāika mahika kai (food-gathering places) located throughout the Upper Waitaki and Te Manahuna (the Mackenzie Basin). In the winter of 1877, the visionary religious leader Hipa Te Maiharoa from Arowhenua led over 100 followers along the Waitaki River by foot, by horse and by cart. The party camped on a prominent runholder's lease at Ōmārama to reaffirm the Ngāi Tahu claim to the interior of the South Island. Over the following two years, Ōmārama became a major focal point for Ngāi Tahu, with Crown dignitaries and Ngāi Tahu leaders visiting the settlement. Over this time, the settlement grew to include a large hall, and huts constructed out of mānuka and thatched with raupō and tussock. Following the eviction of the Ōmārama settlement by an armed constabulary in 1879, Te</p>	<p><b>Very High</b></p>	

	Maiharoa and his followers moved to the ancient kāika of Te Korotuaheka at the mouth of the Waitaki River. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.		
<b>Overall Assessment</b>		<b>Very High</b>	Lake Benmore within Waitaki District is accepted as an ONL for its 'Very High' Legibility, memorability, Naturalness, Vividness, Coherence, Transience, Historic and Shared and Recognised values, and probably Mana Whenua values (to be confirmed.). This correlates with ONL designations in the Waimate and Mackenzie District Plans and is accepted by the Environment Court in those jurisdictions.

ONL-06 OMARAMA FLATS			
DESCRIPTION	<p>The proposed ONL covers agriculturally undeveloped dry grasslands on the alluvial flats south of the Ahuriri River, for about 7kms length south of SH8 and 12 kms north of SH8. It also includes the Ahuriri River bed and margins for a length of about 25kms from the Ahuriri Gorge opposite the Longslip Creek to the Chain Hills. The river bed is relatively natural (e.g. see photo, front cover) and the river regime highly natural. The Omarama Flats within the proposed ONL comprise lightly developed dry grasslands, widely visible along SH8. Areas of developed and irrigated farmland nearer Omarama along SH8, in Cattle Valley, and on Broken Hut Road are included in the Omarama Flats Rural Scenic area (see 6B).</p>		
Identified Values	Description of Values	Assessment	Comment: Threats to Values
Natural Science	<p><b>Natural Science:</b> Fluvioglacial outwash terraces and flood plains bisected in the north-west by the distinct scarps of the Ostler Fault zone. Sweeping fans at base of Benmore Range (Ben Omar) and intact landforms of Chain Hills. `Soil/groundwater regimes in natural state. Distinctive meandering river forms and natural flow regimes. Fish and bird life. Continuous dry grassland vegetation maintains Mackenzie/Waitaki Basin character. Clay Cliffs geological area included in Henburn/Quailburn Assessment Area (8A). Conservation areas exist on the Ahuriri River downstream of the SH8 bridge, Ben Omar Wetland and Tara Hills Scientific Reserve.</p> <p><b>Legibility:</b> Clear evidence of outwash depositional landform processes, recent river processes and distinctive scarp of Ostler Fault.</p>	Very High	<p>The ONL values would be lessened by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In particular, agricultural development, irrigation and subdivision into paddocks;</li> <li>• Land (legal) subdivision and fragmentation of ownership;</li> <li>• Afforestation and/or shelter planting, wilding spread;</li> <li>• Buildings, structures, roads, earthworks, quarries, gravel extraction;</li> <li>• Disturbance of riverbed nesting sites;</li> <li>• River entrainment.</li> </ul>
Aesthetic	<p><b>Naturalness:</b> Open undeveloped flats create strong impression of naturalness in views from SH8 and Shortcut Road.</p> <p><b>Coherence:</b> Continuity of vegetation and land surface create strongly coherent landscape in views from SH8.</p>	Very High	<p>As above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Importance of views from SH8, a prime section of the South Island's central tourist route approaching/departing Lindis Pass.</li> <li>• Overuse of riverbed and margins, particularly too many random 4WD tracks and outings;</li> <li>• Gravel extraction from river bed.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Vividness:</b> Dry, open flats, vegetation and river views create striking basin floor character.</p>	High	
	<p><b>Memorability:</b> Long open stony flats, river and grassland along SH8 leave a lesser impression than mountain surrounds</p> <p><b>Transience:</b> Relatively unchanging landscape beyond weather and seasonal effects of mountain surrounds and sky backdrop.</p>	Medium-High	
Cultural	<p><b>Historic:</b> High country grazing ethos, station names and dryness continue to be reflected in the landscape; Government dryland farming research at Tara Hills Research Station 1948 – 2005; transit routes to Lindis Pass and Omarama Saddle; importance of open character to view from SH8;</p>	High	<p>As above. Historic values would be threatened by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developments not in accord with Kai Tahu ki Otago Resource Management Plan 2005 regarding the Ahuriri;</li> <li>• Changes of land use away from traditional pastoral farming;</li> <li>• Loss of old farm, homestead and property names and ownership units;</li> </ul>

	<b>Shared &amp; Recognised:</b> Probably only general value of the dry plains in the public eye but high agreement on fishing values	<b>Medium-High</b>	
	<b>Mana Whenua:</b> Ōmārama, also known as Te Ao Mārama, was one of numerous kāika mahika kai (food-gathering places) located throughout the Upper Waitaki and Te Manahuna (the Mackenzie Basin). In the winter of 1877, the visionary religious leader Hipa Te Maiharoa from Arowhenua led over 100 followers along the Waitaki River by foot, by horse and by cart. The party camped on a prominent runholder’s lease at Ōmārama to reaffirm the Ngāi Tahu claim to the interior of the South Island. Over the following two years, Ōmārama became a major focal point for Ngāi Tahu, with Crown dignitaries and Ngāi Tahu leaders visiting the settlement. Over this time, the settlement grew to include a large hall, and huts constructed out of mānuka and thatched with raupō and tussock. Following the eviction of the Ōmārama settlement by an armed constabulary in 1879, Te Maiharoa and his followers moved to the ancient kāika of Te Korotuaheka at the mouth of the Waitaki River. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.	<b>Very High</b>	
<b>Overall Assessment</b>		<b>Very High</b>	<b>Undeveloped areas of the western flats as defined (paras 202 – 208) comprise an ONL for their ‘Very High’ Natural Science, Legibility, Naturalness and Coherence values</b>

ONL-07 LINDIS (LONGSLIP) VALLEY				
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<i>In its lower parts, comprises the confined linear valley of the Longslip Creek with narrow floodplain, steep sides and high grassland tops, traversed by SH8 approaching the Lindis Pass. There is a substantial, equally confined side valley at Dalrachney Station. The upper part is an enclosed semi-alpine grassland basin leading to the Lindis Pass, where SH8 enters Central Otago. The Pass is part of the Lindis Pass Scenic Reserve and the hills west of the basin are included in the Lindis Conservation Area. The upper area is nationally iconic for its grassland, mountain and scenic qualities.</i>			
Identified Values	Description of Values	Assessment	Comment/Threats to Values	
Natural Science	<b>Natural Science:</b> Unmodified tussock and water/soil systems in upper basin and surrounding tops with designated Lindis Conservation Area. Lower valley modified on floodplain and side valley but a small proportion compared to the side slopes and tops.	<b>Very High</b>	ONL values would be lessened by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pastoral intensification along the valley or extension onto hillsides;</li> <li>• Undue highway upgrades or insensitive maintenance;</li> <li>• Further scarring and trackage on visible hillsides and tops;</li> <li>• Shelter tree plantings, afforestation or wildings;</li> <li>• Subdivision, tourist or lifestyle developments, tourist overuse buildings, structure or entrances off highway;</li> <li>• Cessation of grazing as a means of grassland/tussock maintenance.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Legibility:</b> Erosional landforms modified by highway and transmission lines including significant pylon access tracks.	<b>High</b>		
Aesthetic	<b>Memorability:</b> Upper basin a nationally iconic ‘calendar’ landscape for tussock colour, continuity naturalness and public visibility from SH8. <b>Naturalness:</b> Upper basin appears highly natural despite road and transmission lines. Lower valley modified near highway but mountains appear natural. <b>Vividness:</b> A striking visual scene, the basin for its colour, tussock character, landforms, continuity seeming naturalness, the pass to central Otago and tension of snow closure in winter, the lower valley for its sense of confinement and sense of expectation as approach to the pass. Vivid beauty recognised in designated Lindis Pass Scenic Reserve, one of first tussock reserves in New Zealand. A favourite photo stop. <b>Coherence:</b> Despite modified areas, a generally continuous tussock vegetation cover and distinctive colour clothe the rounded landforms of the slopes, tops and upper basin.	<b>Very High</b>		As above
	<b>Transience:</b> Within unchanging tussock colour are changeable sky, cloud, weather and seasonal atmospheric patterns, seasonal snow, and variable storm, mist or brightness weather patterns.	<b>High</b>		
Cultural	<b>Shared &amp; Recognised:</b> Close correlation between public and expert opinions. A nationally-recognised iconic landscape.	<b>Very High</b>	As above	
	<b>Historic:</b> Long known as the main pass between Waitaki/Mackenzie and Central Otago. Mystique of the Lindis name.	<b>High</b>		

	<p><b>Mana Whenua:</b> The Lindis Pass is known as Ōmako to mana whenua. It was an important ara tāwhito (travel route) connecting Te Manahuna to Hāwea and beyond. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.</p>	Very High	
Overall Assessment		Very High	The Lindis Assessment Area is assessed an ONL in its entirety, noting tension between the need to maintain the grasslands through grazing but not spread or intensify farming in inappropriate visible or natural places.

#### ONL-08 ST CUTHBERT RANGE & WETHER RANGES

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<i>The ONL encompasses the upper mountain slopes and tops dividing the Otamatapaio Valley from Central Otago, a continuation of those described in 1A. That on the Hawkdun Range is proposed ONL, that on the St Cuthbert Range is existing ONL under the Operative District Plan. On the Hawkdun Range, the indicative lower boundary follows the 800m contour but on the St Cuthbert Range it follows the foot slopes. The land is highly natural in its landforms, vegetation and natural systems, and the tops widely visible. See 2B for the Lake Benmore part of this Assessment Area.</i>		
<b>Identified Values</b>	<b>Description of Values</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Comment/Threats to Values</b>
Natural Science	<p><b>Natural Science:</b> Values arise from the geological form of uplifted greywacke and argillite rock mass, part of the north-west-to-south-east 'Alps to Ocean' trend along the south side of the Waitaki. Values also derive from the Uninterrupted extent of undeveloped dry grassland and scrub vegetation, characterised by their lack of human development and the natural state of landforms, vegetation and landscape processes (soils, groundwater, runoff) and fauna. Much of the ONL is within the Oteake Conservation Park.</p> <p><b>Legibility:</b> The unaltered state of the uplift and erosional landforms, unobscured in their grassland covering, give a clear impression of the formative processes.</p>	Very High	<p>Natural Science values would be devalued by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• land or pastoral subdivision or development;</li> <li>• earthworks, quarrying, road improvements and/or unmanaged public access;</li> <li>• afforestation, tree planting or wilding spread;</li> <li>• Hill fires.</li> </ul> <p>Even small amounts of such activities would eliminate the rare, pristine, isolated character of the ONL areas. The conservation management of much of the proposed ONL is acknowledged.</p>
Aesthetic	<p><b>Coherence:</b> The visual patterns of the upper hills and skylines are continuous and unified.</p> <p><b>Vividness:</b> The Hawkdun tops are distant and not strongly prominent to public view but the projecting St Cuthbert mountains are visually prominent and striking.</p> <p><b>Naturalness:</b> The upper mountains have a highly natural appearance</p>	Very High	Aesthetic values would be lessened by the same activities as above.



	<p><b>Memorability:</b> The mountains leave a general rather than strong impression in the memory.</p> <p><b>Transience:</b> The seasonal round and weather variations create attractive skies, winter snow, and changing colours.</p>	High	
Cultural	<p><b>Mana Whenua:</b> Te Poho-o-Rakitāmau (Mount St Cuthbert) stands in the Cuthbert Range west of Te Ao Mārama (Lake Benmore). Te Poho-o-Rakitāmau was an ancestor on the Ārai-te-uru waka that capsized near Matakaea (Shag Point) on the Otago coastline. After the capsizing, many of the passengers went ashore to explore the land. However, they needed to be back at the waka before daylight. Many did not make it, including Te Poho-o-Rakitāmau, and transformed instead into many of the well-known geographical features of Te Waipounamu. Te Makatipua is the traditional Māori name for the Otamatapaio River, which rises in the Hawkdun Range and flows north-eastward into Te Ao Mārama (Lake Benmore). Te Makatipua was recorded as a kāika mahika kai (food-gathering place) where weka, tuna, pora (‘Māori turnip’), and tutu were gathered. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.</p> <p><b>Historic:</b> Generally a part of the European high country sheep and cattle culture.</p> <p><b>Shared &amp; Recognised:</b> Probably of general value to the public, high to the owners.</p>	Very High	
Overall Assessment		Very High	The Hawkdun/St Cuthbert Ranges qualify as an ONL for their Natural Science and Aesthetic values.

### ONL-08 ST CUTHBERT (WEST), EWE & WETHER RANGES

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<i>The ONL encompasses the mountain slopes and tops dividing the Omarama Flats from Central Otago and the St Bathans Range, at the Omarama Saddle. They are a continuation of the mountains described in 1A and 2A, and their northward-projecting fore-ranges. The land is highly natural in landforms, vegetation and natural systems, and the tops widely visible, particularly the St Cuthbert and Wether sections.</i>		
<b>Identified Values</b>	<b>Description of Values</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Comment: Threats to Values</b>
Natural Science	<p><b>Natural Science:</b> The grasslands above the lower slopes are lightly developed and spare in this low rainfall area. The landforms, soil and water regimes also remain unaltered. Hills around the Omarama Saddle and southern Ewe Range are part of the Oteake Conservation</p>	Very High	<p>ONL values would be threatened by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• earthworks, roads, tracks and quarries;</li> <li>• afforestation or wilding spread;</li> <li>• buildings, structures, towers, reservoirs, subdivision</li> </ul>

	Park, and in the north-east Wether Range by the Killermont Conservation Area.		
	<b>Legibility:</b> The formative uplift and erosion cycles are a clear element of the landscape.	<b>High</b>	
Aesthetic	<b>Coherence:</b> The continuous nature of the grassland cover fits well with the landforms and altitude gradations	<b>Very High</b>	As above
	<b>Naturalness:</b> Hillsides and tops appear continuously natural <b>Vividness:</b> Hills and tops create a striking visual impression, and particularly the continuous vegetation cover.	<b>High</b>	
	<b>Transience:</b> Moderate winter snow/summer dry contrasts, and weather/cloud/sky variations.	<b>Medium-High</b>	
	<b>Memorability:</b> The landscape leaves a general impression in the memory.	<b>Medium</b>	
Cultural	<b>Mana Whenua:</b> Te Poho-o-Rakitāmau (Mount St Cuthbert) stands in the Cuthbert Range west of Te Ao Mārama (Lake Benmore). Te Poho-o-Rakitāmau was an ancestor on the Ārai-te-uru waka that capsized near Matakāea (Shag Point) on the Otago coastline. After the capsizing, many of the passengers went ashore to explore the land. However, they needed to be back at the waka before daylight. Many did not make it, including Te Poho-o-Rakitāmau, and transformed instead into many of the well-known geographical features of Te Waipounamu. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.	<b>Very High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heritage atmosphere would be lessened by undue intensification, subdivision, or change of farming pattern.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historic:</b> European heritage of high country tenure and grazing. Tara Hills dryland research station.	<b>Medium-High</b>	
	<b>Shared &amp; Recognised:</b> General but not marked agreement as to values.	<b>Medium</b>	
<b>Overall Assessment</b>		<b>Very High</b>	<b>The St Cuthbert (west), Ewe and Wether Range Assessment Area qualifies as an ONL in its entirety for its 'Very High' Natural Science and Coherence values.</b>

ONL-08 LAKE BENMORE (AHURIRI ARM)			
DESCRIPTION	<i>The ONL includes the western (Ahuriri) arm of Lake Benmore, from Turnagain Point to the Ahuriri River inlet. This is an artificial but well-established hydro lake with strong landscape values.</i>		
Identified Values	Description of Values	Assessment	Comment: Threats to Values
Natural Science	<b>Legibility:</b> While artificial, the formative process of filling Lake Benmore is clear and evident.	<b>Very High</b>	
	<b>Natural Science:</b> As artificially formed, the lake cannot be regarded as 'pristine' although its water qualities, bird and fish life are of high value	<b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality could decline from agricultural runoff.</li> <li>• Shoreline wildings.</li> </ul>
Aesthetic	<b>Memorability:</b> The lake is highly memorable. <b>Naturalness:</b> The lake appears highly natural, from its shoreline, surrounds, wildlife and water qualities. <b>Vividness:</b> This is a highly interesting visual scene, the water surface intermingling with steep slopes and meandering shoreline. <b>Coherence:</b> The lake sits attractively in its valley setting.	<b>Very High</b>	The visual clarity and naturalness of lake and settling are special but would be devalued by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shoreline development, buildings, structures, roads, subdivision, additional harbours or marinas;</li> <li>• Tethered floating structures, buoys and markers;</li> <li>• Overuse by powered craft;</li> <li>• Blocking of lake views by spread of surrounding trees;</li> <li>• Accidental pollution from craft, boating rubbish or farm runoff;</li> </ul>
	<b>Transience:</b> Generally, but not notably variable through the seasons or weather.	<b>Moderate-High</b>	
Cultural	<b>Mana Whenua:</b> Te Ao Marama/Lake Benmore is a Statutory Acknowledgement Area under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act, and is of great significance to mana whenua. Te Ao Mārama, was one of numerous kāika mahika kai (food-gathering places) located throughout the Upper Waitaki and Te Manahuna (the Mackenzie Basin). In the winter of 1877, the visionary religious leader Hipa Te Maiharoa from Arowhenua led over 100 followers along the Waitaki River by foot, by horse and by cart. The party camped on a prominent runholder's lease at Ōmārama to reaffirm the Ngāi Tahu claim to the interior of the South Island. Over the following two years, Ōmārama became a major focal point for Ngāi Tahu, with Crown dignitaries and Ngāi Tahu leaders visiting the settlement. Over this time, the settlement grew to include a large hall, and huts constructed out of mānuka and thatched with raupō and tussock. Following the eviction of the Ōmārama settlement by an armed constabulary in 1879, Te Maiharoa and his followers moved to the ancient kāika of Te Korotuaheka at the mouth of the Waitaki River. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is	<b>Very High</b>	Mana whenua should be consulted on further values or issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational overuse of lake or margins;</li> <li>• Undue development of Sailors Cutting harbour, camp grounds, accommodation or holiday cribs..</li> </ul>

	<p>significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.</p> <p><b>Shared &amp; Recognised:</b> General agreement as to recreation, boating, fishing values of the lake.</p>		
	<p><b>Historic:</b> General aura of high country era and filling of the hydro lake</p>	<p><b>Moderate-High</b></p>	
<p><b>Overall Assessment</b></p>		<p><b>Very High</b></p>	<p><b>The west (Ahuriri) arm of Lake Benmore qualifies as an ONL.</b></p>

ONL-09 ST MARYS-IDA RANGE			
DESCRIPTION	<i>The Proposed ONL covers the upper, lightly-improved, parts of the mountain chain that defines the south side of the Waitaki Valley between Danseys Pass and Otematata, and separates it from Central Otago. A prominent series of geological uplift block of schists, greywackes and argillites of regional significance in its north-west-to-south-east extension from the Main Divide to the Pacific Ocean at Shag Point. The mountains are widely visible.</i>		
Identified Values	Description of Values	Assessment	Threats to Landscape Values
Natural Science	<b>Natural Science:</b> Values are derived from the geological form of uplifted rock mas, and its schist outcrops, typical of semi-arid Central Otago but which occur only in these south-west areas of the Canterbury Region. Values also derive from the Uninterrupted nature of the undeveloped dry grassland and scrub vegetation. These areas are characterised by their lack of human development and the natural state of vegetation, landforms, landscape processes (soils, groundwater, runoff) and fauna;	Very High	While recognising the conservation status of much of this land, Natural Science values would be devalued by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• land or pastoral subdivision or development;</li> <li>• earthworks, quarrying, road improvements and/or unmanaged public access;</li> <li>• afforestation, tree planting or wilding spread;</li> <li>• fire.</li> </ul> Even small amounts of such activities would eliminate the rare, pristine, isolated character of the ONL areas.
	<b>Legibility:</b> Values area derived from the pattern of mountain uplift and erosion processes, which give a good impression of the landscape formation, emphasised by the openness of the continuous grassland covering.	High.	
Aesthetic	<b>Memorability:</b> values arise from the brown, dry character or snow-clad state of the skylines, as viewed from SH83, which are particularly memorable in contrast to the turquoise colour of Lake Aviemore. They also arise from the openness and extensiveness of the views to and from the upland areas from a wide range of places, characteristic of the Mackenzie Basin and Waitaki Valley generally.	Very High.	The aesthetic values of this ONL would be devalued by the same activities as noted above.
	<b>Naturalness:</b> Aesthetically, a sense of naturalness derives from the strong impression of continuous undeveloped state	Very High	
	<b>Vividness:</b> Values are derived from: The grand scale of long views to mountain tops; the complex variability of interlocking views in differing directions; the clarity of light in good weather; the dynamic cloud and sky patterns; the atmospheric energy at windy times; the surreal sense of calm on still days; the harshness of plant and animal environment in semi-arid alpine conditions; the spectacular contrast between the snow-clad tops and turquoise lakes in winter;	Very High	
	<b>Transience:</b> Values arise from the marked extremes between snow-clad tops in winter and dry-brown landscapes in summer; he atmospheric contrasts between calm stillness and ferociously rough winds; The seasonal cycle of bird and animal life	Very High	

ONL-09 ST MARYS-IDA RANGE			
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<i>The Proposed ONL covers the upper, lightly-improved, parts of the mountain chain that defines the south side of the Waitaki Valley between Danseys Pass and Otematata, and separates it from Central Otago. A prominent series of geological uplift block of schists, greywackes and argillites of regional significance in its north-west-to-south-east extension from the Main Divide to the Pacific Ocean at Shag Point. The mountains are widely visible.</i>		
Identified Values	Description of Values	Assessment	Threats to Landscape Values
	<b>Coherence:</b> Visual coherence values derive from the continuity of unbroken lightly-developed hills, tops and skylines; the self-sustaining extensive grazing and conservation regimes in the hillslopes and tops.	High	
Cultural	<b>Mana Whenua:</b> This area includes the ancestral mountain Te Kohurau. Te Kohurau was an ancestor on the Ārai-te-uru waka that capsized near Matakaea (Shag Point) on the Otago coastline. After the capsize, many of the passengers went ashore to explore the land. However, they needed to be back at the waka before daylight. Many did not make it, including Te Kohurau, and transformed into many of the geographical features of Te Waipounamu. Te Kohurau-nui was the name for the Kurow River. Te Kohurau was recorded as a kāika mahika kai (food-gathering place) where weka and tuna (eels) were gathered. The area also includes the headwaters of the Ōtamatakou (Otematata), Ōtekaieke, Ōteake and Maerewhenua Rivers. The Maerewhenua forms an important route to the Mānīatoto Plains, now known as the Danseys Pass. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.	Very High	Mana Whenua should be consulted on the status of these or other values.
	<b>Historic:</b> European-era historic values are derived from: the Goldfield remnants at Mt Buster; the Danseys Pass route that served the gold field and subsequent rural communities; the origins, operations and ethos of Aviemore, Rugged Ridges and Otematata Stations; the Awakino Skifield.	High	
	<b>Shared &amp; Recognised:</b> values of the Ranges in popular culture are demonstrated by the folklore of drovers, waggoneers, settlers and stations of the early times, and gold traffic on Danseys Pass; the modern-day musters in the Otematata back country;	High	

ONL-09 ST MARYS-IDA RANGE			
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<i>The Proposed ONL covers the upper, lightly-improved, parts of the mountain chain that defines the south side of the Waitaki Valley between Danseys Pass and Otematata, and separates it from Central Otago. A prominent series of geological uplift block of schists, greywackes and argillites of regional significance in its north-west-to-south-east extension from the Main Divide to the Pacific Ocean at Shag Point. The mountains are widely visible.</i>		
<b>Identified Values</b>	<b>Description of Values</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Threats to Landscape Values</b>
<b>Overall Assessment</b>		<b>Very High</b>	<b>The St Marys &amp; Ida Ranges qualify as ONL for their Natural Science, Memorability, Naturalness, Vividness and Transience values;</b>

ONL-10 KAKANUI RANGES			
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<i>The proposed ONL encompasses the tops of the Kakanui Ranges. Under the Operative District Plan its zoning is Rural Scenic but this Review now proposes it be upgraded to ONL. The land is highly natural in landforms, vegetation and natural systems, and widely visible from the upper Kakanui and Awamoko Valleys. The core of the proposed ONL is the existing Kakanui Conservation Area but extends beyond that Area in the north and south and in the headwaters of the Kakanui River North Branch, between Mounts Evelyn and Pisgah. Contiguous land on the south side of the Range, within the Palmerston Sub-Area, also is proposed to be part of this ONL (see paras 2.57-2.62, pp. 32-3).</i>		
<b>Identified Values</b>	<b>Description of Values</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Comment: Threats to Values</b>
Natural Science	<p><b>Natural Science:</b> The grasslands along the summits are lightly developed and pristine, parts being incorporated in the Kakanui Conservation Area by DOC., but other parts equally pristine. The landforms, soil and water regimes also remain unaltered.</p> <p><b>Legibility:</b> The uplift mountains and erosion processes are clearly evident in the landscape, comprising the primary defining landform of the Waitaki Valley and intermeshing steep ridges and valleys.</p>	<b>Very High</b>	ONL values would be threatened by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• earthworks, roads, tracks and quarries;</li> <li>• afforestation or wilding spread;</li> <li>• buildings, structures, towers, reservoirs, subdivision;</li> <li>• cessation of conservation management</li> <li>• recreational overuse.</li> </ul>
Aesthetic	<p><b>Coherence:</b> Continuous tussock grassland cover blends attractively with landforms and altitude gradations</p> <p><b>Naturalness:</b> Hillsides and tops appear highly natural.</p>	<b>Very High</b>	
	<p><b>Vividness:</b> Hills and tops create a striking visual impression, both with snow cover a summer tussock tossing in the wind.</p> <p><b>Transience:</b> Winter snow/summer dry contrasts, and weather/cloud/sky variations and morning/afternoon light.</p> <p><b>Memorability:</b> The skyline leaves a strong impression in the memory.</p>	<b>High</b>	

Cultural	<b>Mana Whenua:</b> This area is of great significance to mana whenua as the source of the Kākaunui River. Kākaunui is the correct spelling for the Kakanui River, a Statutory Acknowledgement Area under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act, which flows in an easterly direction reaching the Otago coastline south of Ōamaru. Kākaunui is recorded as a kāika mahika kai (food-gathering place) where weka, tuna (eels), tutu, and kōareare (the edible root or rhizome of raupō/bulrush) were gathered. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.	Very High	
	<b>Shared &amp; Recognised:</b> Likely strong agreement as to pristine state, backdrop values, and recreational value for hunting.	High	
	<b>Historic:</b> Heritage of European high country tenure and grazing.	Medium-High	
<b>Overall Assessment</b>		Very High	<b>The proposed ONL section of the Kakanui Range Sub-Area qualifies as an ONL for its ‘Very High’ Natural Science, Legibility, Coherence and Naturalness values.</b>

## ONL-11 TAIERI RIDGE

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<i>Comprises those parts of the ridge within Waitaki District, between Highlay Hill in the north and Middlemarch in the south. The boundary with Dunedin City zig-zags about, and while parts of the west side descending almost to Hyde are within Waitaki, at other places the boundary follows or is near the ridgeline. The land comprises rugged, dry, undeveloped tor landscapes on west-facing areas and the ridge, and developed farmlands on east-facing areas. On the east side, the current Rural Scenic boundary is at the limit of improved farmlands, variably 5-600m. All areas of the summit and west side are zoned Rural Scenic and all adjacent areas within Dunedin City are ONL. In the north, the ridge abuts the west side of the extensive Macraes Gold Mine workings, which recently have extended over the ridge and into Dunedin City.</i>		
<b>Identified Values</b>	<b>Description of Values</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Comment: Threats to Values</b>
Natural Science	<b>Natural Science:</b> Geologically distinctive area of upfaulted tor-strewn schists, with gold-bearing quartz lodes near Macraes. East faces have been developed for farming but above 500m approximately, and along the ridge and west faces, the vegetation comprises dry tussock among large tors. In the Macraes Mine Zone (excluded from this Review) very-large-scale workings have crossed the ridge and extend into Dunedin City.	Very High	<p><u>The ‘Very High’ landscape values within the ONL would be lessened by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pastoral intensification, cultivation and ‘greening’ of tussock areas;</li> <li>• Subdivision of the tussock areas by fencing or intensified management, which would break up the visually- extensive expanses of natural landscape;</li> <li>• Earthworks for tracks, quarries or construction;</li> </ul>



	<p><b>Legibility:</b> The schist terrain, its uplift and erosion are clearly seen in the tors, while the dry tussock clearly demonstrates the exposure to the dry westerly winds off the Rock and Pillar Range.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of remaining tors and rocks;</li> <li>• Construction of buildings, services, reservoirs, masts or towers, particularly on skylines and on flat surfaces;</li> <li>• Forestry or shelter trees in any form, which would break up the continuous and open character;</li> <li>• Legal subdivision or leases leading to changes in land use, particularly lifestyle housing;</li> </ul>
Aesthetic	<p><b>Vividness:</b> The ridge is visually striking and of strong character for its skyline, tors, dry vegetation and rugged character, particularly the west side.</p> <p><b>Memorability:</b> Leaves a very strong impression in the memory.</p> <p><b>Naturalness:</b> West side appears highly natural in landforms and vegetation despite small semi-modified areas.</p> <p><b>Coherence:</b> Highly coherent, with continuity of tussock vegetation effectively showing underlying landform patterns and tors.</p> <p><b>Transience:</b> Relatively unchanging appearance between summer dry and winter cold although wind enlivens the vegetation and the famous ‘Taieri Pet’ nor’ west cloud formation is rare and dramatic.</p>	Very High	
Cultural	<p><b>Historic:</b> Macraes and the rugged areas over the ridge to the Taieri have a romance from the harsh days of pioneer farming, schist buildings and 19<sup>th</sup> Century gold mining.</p> <p><b>Shared &amp; Recognised:</b> Probably High public consensus as to the romance of the dry, tor-laden ridge and west side.</p>	High	
	<p><b>Mana Whenua:</b> Taiari is the correct spelling for the Taieri River located in Otago. From its source, the Taieri River flows almost entirely around Pātearoa (the Rock &amp; Pillar Range) before discharging into Te Tai-o-Āraiteuru (the Otago coastline). The wider Taiari area is a major mahika kai resource with the coastal area, inland waterways and surrounding hills providing an abundance and variety of kai. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.</p>	Very High	
<b>Overall Assessment</b>		<b>Very High</b>	<b>The existing Rural Scenic area is reassessed as an Outstanding Natural Landscape for its ‘Very High’ Natural Science and Aesthetic values.</b>

ONL-012 BILLYS RIDGE			
DESCRIPTION	An upfaulted schist ridge, lower than and subsidiary to, the Macraes Ridge. Its northern end is long-established farmlands but the south is lightly-developed or undeveloped tor country. Currently zoned Rural General in the Operative Plan.		
Identified Values	Description of Values	Assessment	Comment: Threats to Values
Natural Science	<p><b>Natural Science:</b> The schist terrain and tors are lightly developed in the south, but northwards, farm development has reduced tors to isolated landmarks within farmland. Vegetation in the south-east is unimproved tussock with native scrub on steep east faces, and is, in combination with the torlands, of 'Very High' values. Also as habitat of native skink. The west sides and north of the ridge are of 'High' values as schist lands, lessened by their state as developed farmlands.</p> <p><b>Legibility:</b> The upfaulted and eroded ridge has a rugged and undeveloped character in the south, which demonstrates the schist-upfault-erosive cycle.</p>	Very High	<p><u>The 'Very High' landscape values of the ONL would be lessened by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pastoral intensification, cultivation and 'greening' of tussock areas;</li> <li>• Subdivision of the tussock areas by fencing or intensified management, which would break up the visually- extensive expanses of natural landscape;</li> <li>• Earthworks for tracks, quarries or construction;</li> <li>• Removal of any remaining tors and rocks;</li> <li>• Construction of buildings, services, reservoirs, masts or towers, particularly on skylines and on flat surfaces;</li> <li>• Forestry or shelter trees in any form, which would break up the continuous and open character;</li> <li>• Legal subdivision or leases leading to changes in land use, particularly lifestyle housing;</li> </ul> <p><u>The 'High' values of the Rural Scenic areas would be lessened by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansion of or increased farm intensification;</li> <li>• Removal of tors or remaining schist feature;</li> <li>• Earthworks that damage schist features;</li> <li>• Structures, services, reservoirs, poles on or close to tors</li> <li>• Forestry within the Rural Scenic area.</li> <li>• Legal subdivision leading to rural lifestyle housing</li> </ul>
Aesthetic	<p><b>Vividness:</b> Billys Ridge in the south-east is a visually-dramatic landscape of rugged tors and unmodified vegetation, rising as a clear contrast above developed farmlands in alluvial valleys to the east (Deighton Creek). In the west and north the contrast is less strong and of 'Medium-High' Vividness.</p> <p><b>Memorability:</b> A clear picture of the rugged naturalness and tors of the south remains in the memory. North less so.</p> <p><b>Coherence:</b> Undeveloped parts have a clear unity of landform, geology and undeveloped tussock. An attractive wild character emerges. Fragmented to the north,</p> <p><b>Naturalness:</b> The sense of naturalness is very strong in undeveloped areas, enhanced by wind and sky patterns.</p>	Very High	
	<p><b>Transience:</b> Not notably different between seasons other than wildlife cycles, but dynamic in (frequent) winds. Notable sky and cloud patterns</p>	High	
Cultural	<p><b>Historic:</b> Part of the Macraes-Moonlight cultural traditions of upland schist dry farming. Many characterful schist-built houses and farm buildings.</p>	High	
	<p><b>Shared &amp; Recognised:</b> Probably moderate recognition of the above values amongst public and the locals.</p>	Medium	
	<p><b>Mana Whenua:</b> This area covers part of the source of the Waikouaiti River. The Waikouaiti flows from the mountains of North Otago into a</p>	Very High	

	<p>large extended estuary on Te Tai-o-Ārai-te-uru (the Otago coastline). The interface between the marine water and freshwater creates a rich habitat for fish, shellfish, and waterfowl — an important mahika kai (food-gathering site). The area is also renowned for inaka (whitebait), tuna (eels), and pātiki (flounders); as well as shellfish such as tuaki (cockles), and pipi. In 2016 the Waikouaiti River was granted mātaimai status under the Fisheries (South Island Customary Fishing) Regulations 1999. This provides the local Kāti Huirapa ki Puketeraki Rūnanga with greater capacity to enhance the fishery of the river. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.</p>		
<p><b>Overall Assessment</b></p>		<p><b>Very High</b></p>	<p>The south of Billys Ridge is assessed as an Outstanding Natural Landscape for its 'Very High' Natural Science and Aesthetic values (Map 3). The north and west are assessed as a Rural Scenic area, for their 'High' schist character and Historic values.</p>