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<b>Significant Natural Area Assessment</b>			
Project No:  <i>11001/031</i>	Property Name: <i>Waitiri Station</i>  Site Name: <i>Kawarau Faces SNA A (Muddy Crk to Nevis Bluff)</i>	Ecologist: <i>Glenn Davis</i>  Date: <i>28 March 2012</i>	
Survey Undertaken By: <i>Glenn Davis and Ralph Henderson</i>		Waypoint No (mid-point of survey area): <i>See attached plan for location.</i>	
LENZ Unit: <i>N4.1d</i>  Ecological District: <i>Pisa Ecological District</i>		Photo No.(s): <i>See attached.</i>	
Topography: <i>Lower hill slopes.</i>	Slope: <i>Steep</i>	Altitude: <i>approx. 300 to 680 masl</i>	Aspect: <i>South</i>
Threatened Environment Status:  <i>Chronically threatened</i>		Area Size (ha): <i>367.62</i>	
Representativeness: LENZ unit N4.1d is understood to have originally supported shrubland communities. The indigenous plant assemblage found on the site is representative of the environment albeit the area does have a significant woody weed component including briar and sycamore.			
Are there threatened species expected/identified in the survey area? If so, list species and threat status.			
Threatened Species		Threat Status	
<i>Falco novaezealandiae</i> "eastern" (eastern NZ Falcon)		At Risk - Recovering	
Provide onsite description of vegetation:  Vegetation type: Shrubland heavily dominated by matagouri and sweet briar but also includes <i>Coprosma propinqua</i> and to a lesser degree <i>Olearia odorata</i> .  Degree of Modification: The area is modified particularly given the populations of briar present but the native cover particularly of matagouri and mingmingi is just as significant and the dominant cover in some areas.			
Provide onsite description of fauna habitat: The shrubland will provide significant habitat for a variety of passerines which support the eastern falcon. The shrubland is also expected to support common species of lizards and will also attract a range of indigenous invertebrates given the presence of <i>Olearia</i> species.			

<p>Threats to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices):</p> <p>Changes to land management and/or accidental fire are the greatest threats to the vegetation. Wilding pines are also a potential issue.</p>
<p>Rarity:</p> <p>The threatened environment classification identifies the N4.1d environment to have 18.6% indigenous vegetation cover remaining, with 2.3% protected. Notwithstanding this point the area is largely dominated by briar.</p>
<p>Area Size and Shape (degree to which the area may be or is becoming self-sustaining):</p> <p>The area is self-sustaining although some areas could be assisted with the control of sycamore.</p>
<p>Diversity and Pattern (is there a notable range of species and habitats, aspects, sequences?):</p>
<p>Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. &amp; landform features, distribution limits?):</p> <p>The vegetation is a good example of indigenous shrubland communities situated adjacent to the Kowarau River and is an extension of the Kowarau River Faces within the DOC administered Pisa Conservation Area. Much of the vegetation on the lower slopes of the Kowarau Gorge is now dominated by briar or thyme, therefore indigenous cover within this area is quite locally distinctive.</p>
<p>Connectivity (how is the site connected to surrounding communities/areas?):</p> <p>Directly connected to the Pisa Conservation Area.</p>
<p>Sustainability (does the site possess the resilience to maintain its ecological integrity and processes?):</p> <p>The vegetation has developed along these slopes following past clearing events. This clearly shows the vegetation has the ability continue to regenerate and is sustainable.</p>
<p>Recommendation (Accept/Decline):</p> <p>Given the above information, we recommend the area should be considered for designation as a Significant Indigenous Vegetation and Fauna Habitat.</p>

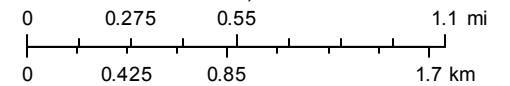
Figure 1: The area of potential significance - Kawarau Faces SNA A - F31A.



October 5, 2014

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- Proposed Significant Natural Area
- Parcels
- Proposed Significant Natural Area



Please note the area shown is indicative and only for discussion purposes.



**Figure 2:** Photo of vegetation opposite the Nevis Bluff.