

21.23.3 West of Hāwea River RCL

General Description of the Area

The West of Hāwea River PA takes in the river terraces on the true right (i.e. west) of the Hāwea River, extending from approximately Horseshoe Bend in the south to Hāwea settlement in the north. SH6 Lake Hāwea Albert Town Road forms the western boundary except-at the northern end, where the PA extends westwards from the road to encompass the low-lying land along the toe of the south-eastern flanks of Mount Maude.

Physical Attributes and Values

Geology and Geomorphology • Topography and Landforms • Climate and Soils • Hydrology • Vegetation • Ecology • Settlement • Development and Land Use • Archaeology and Heritage • Tāngata whenua

Important landforms and land types:

1. The flat glacial outwash plain of the historic Hāwea Glacier, modified by the fluvial erosion and sedimentation of the Hāwea River that characterises the general area.
2. Maungawera Hill, roughly in the centre of the PA, separates the area into a northern and southern terrace. The hill itself comprises a terminal moraine of the Hāwea Glacier and extends broadly south-westwards from the south end of Mount Maude.
3. The patterning of shallow scarps and paleochannels throughout the northern terrace.

Important hydrological features:

4. The ephemeral water courses from the mountains to the northwest, which flow only after prolonged or intense rainfall, that are artificially channelled in places and discharge to the Hāwea River.

Important ecological features and vegetation types:

5. Particularly noteworthy indigenous vegetation features include:
 - a. Swathes and patches of regenerating kanuka, manuka, grey shrubland and bracken fernland across the lower slopes of Mount Maude.
 - b. Localised patches of kanuka and grey shrubland along with wilding conifers occupy the river terraces and escarpments bordering the Hāwea River.
 - c. Localised stands of kanuka and patches of short tussock grassland and matagouri shrubland occur on the expansive terraces between SH6 and the Hāwea River.
 - d. SNAs near edge of river terrace at end of Te Awa Road encompass small kanuka stands and patches of short tussock grassland and matagouri shrubland.
6. Other distinctive vegetation types include:
 - a. Grazed and cropped pasture with conifer and poplar shelterbelts. The latter are predominantly aligned west to east, perpendicular to the prevailing winds, and can be very long.
 - b. Forestry blocks throughout the sloping land in the centre of the PA, on the lower-lying gravel soils on the southern terrace adjacent the river and at the toe of Mount Maude.
 - c. Amenity plantings around rural and rural living dwellings and farm buildings.

- d. Wilding conifers in places, particularly throughout areas of regenerating scrub.

Important land use patterns and features:

7. Low-density rural living, and hobby farming dominate land use throughout the PA. Rural living/hobby farming lots are generally between 4 and 20ha in size, with a few larger lots greater than 50ha.
8. Throughout the northern terrace, dwellings are set back from SH6, exploiting the integrating benefits of the low terrace riser extending throughout the area or configured along the true right bank of the river. Many of the consented building platforms in this area are yet to be built on. There is a relatively consistent patterning of rural living lots adjacent the river; and throughout which there has been extensive use of shelterbelt and specimen tree plantings to achieve visual integration and privacy. While this area is not visible from the highway, it forms a contrasting and more finely grained character to the more open and pastoral land to the west.
9. Built development throughout the gentle slopes flanking Mount Maude and the central moraine area are generally well integrated by the hummocky topography and/or existing vegetation; comprise a distinctly working rural character; and/or are not prominent in views from the road. The area of elevated moraine on the eastern side of SH6 is predominantly in pastoral and forestry use.
10. Across the southern terrace, a more working rural landscape prevails, with pastoral, cropping, and forestry evident. Rural lifestyle lots are clustered towards the north-eastern edge of the terrace adjacent the river (accessed via Camp Hill Road) and throughout the south-western quadrant (accessed via Kennels Lane). Many of the consented building platforms in this area are yet to be built on.
11. The Maungawera Rural Visitor Zone throughout the elevated central area of moraine on the east side of SH6. This provides for carefully located and visually discreet pods of visitor focussed development including hot tubs, motorhome sites and cycle trails. Future plans include other developments such as hospitality venues.
12. The Hāwea Flat Whitewater Park (The Wave) is a popular surfing, kayaking, swimming, and picnicking spot adjacent the PA and accessed via the PA (Camp Hill Road).
13. The margins of the Hāwea River along the eastern edge of the PA which are identified as a Marginal Strip.
14. The Hāwea River track on the opposite (true left) side of the river.
15. The Hāwea River ONL notation that applies to the stretch of the river adjoining the southern part of the PA.
16. SH6 which passes through the western side of the PA.
17. Other neighbouring land uses which have an influence on the landscape character of the area due to their scale, character, and/or proximity include:
 - a. The generally open and flat expanse of the intensively farmed Hāwea Flats on the eastern side of the Hāwea River.
 - b. The reasonably close proximity of Hāwea settlement to the northern end of the PA.

Mana whenua features and their locations:

18. 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.
19. The RCL overlaps the mapped wāhi tūpuna Hāwea River (including Camp Hill). overlay which applies to the Hāwea River and its margins.

Associative Attributes and Values

Mana whenua creation and origin traditions • Mana whenua associations and experience • Mana whenua metaphysical aspects such as mauri and wairua • Historic values • Shared and recognised values • Recreation and scenic values •

Mana whenua associations and experiences:

20. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas
21. The Hāwea was part of a traditional mahika kai network.
22. The mana whenua values associated with this area include, but may not be limited to, awa, nohoaka and ara tawhito.

Important historic attributes and values:

23. The historical and contextual association of the river as a landscape feature, which shaped the development of early local infrastructure and acted as a natural boundary.

Important shared and recognised attributes and values:

24. The identity of the area as 'breathing space' or a somewhat untamed 'green belt' between Albert Town and Hāwea settlement.
25. The popularity of the Hāwea River Track, The (Hāwea River) Wave, and SH6.

Perceptual (Sensory) Attributes and Values

Legibility and Expressiveness • Views to the area • Views from the area • Naturalness • Memorability • Transient values • Remoteness / Wildness • Aesthetic qualities and values •

Legibility and expressiveness attributes and values:

26. The flat expanse of the outwash plain and river terraces, along with the hummocky moraine, are expressive of the interaction of the glacial and fluvial processes that have shaped the Upper Clutha valley.

Particularly important views to and from the area:

27. The sequence of attractive and varied 'rural' views from SH6 across the PA. In places (and particularly towards the southern end of the PA), the seemingly untamed or rough appearance of vegetation throughout the area contributes the impression of a spacious and relatively undeveloped rural landscape. Elsewhere (and towards the northern end of the PA), the more open pastoral character of the PA enables views westwards to the proximate lower flanks of Mount Maude and the peaks beyond (ONL), and eastwards across the open expanse of the PA and Hāwea Flats beyond, to the Grandview Range (ONL), including Breast Hill and Corner Peak. However, such views are intermittent due to the screening effect of the frequent shelterbelts across the terraces along the eastern side of the highway. The shelterbelts and pastoral land of the PA contributes a strong 'working farm' rural character, with most built development displaying a distinctly working rural character or obscured by vegetation in views from public places. The localised openness of the rural landscape to the east of the highway confers a memorable sense of a 'big sky' landscape.

- 28. Views to the PA from the Hāwea River track along its eastern edge (noting that the river corridor adjoining the southern end of the PA is ONL).

Naturalness attributes and values:

- 29. Perceptions of naturalness and of working rural character are largely maintained for people visiting the landscape, although this is undermined to some extent by the number of partially visible houses.
- 30. Overall, there is a moderate level of naturalness with a predominance of natural, rather than built, elements; but human intervention as managed farmland and rural living is evident.

Memorability attributes and values:

- 31. Memorable to residents and locals as a ‘green belt’ between Albert Town and Hāwea settlement.

Transient attributes and values:

- 32. Autumn leaf colour and seasonal loss of leaves associated with the exotic vegetation.
- 33. Seasonal pasture colours.
- 34. The changing shadow patterns from shelter belts and the presence of stock and wildlife such as hawks.

Remoteness/wildness attributes and values:

- 35. Impressions of rural tranquillity and quietness are localised to parts of Camp Hill Road and environs away from rural living uses.

A dark night sky impression contributes to feelings of wildness.

Aesthetic qualities and values:

- 36. The attractive and distinctly rural views to the (ONL) mountain ranges surrounding the Upper Clutha Basin. The dominance of natural elements in the form of pasture and tree, and subservience of built elements, play an important role in shaping the quality of these views.
- 37. Visual connection with the Hāwea River corridor along the eastern side of the PA.
- 38. Juxtaposition between the tamed rural land, the rougher rural character in places and the urban grain of Hāwea settlement (and the golf course) and Albert Town further afield.

Summary of Landscape Values

Physical • Perceptual (Sensory) • Associative

Rating scale: seven-point scale ranging from **Very Low** to **Very High**.

very low	low	low-mod	moderate	mod-high	high	very high
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The combined physical, associative, and perceptual attributes and values described above for PA RCL West of Hāwea River can be summarised as follows:

- 39. **Moderate physical values** relating to the glacially formed outwash plain/alluvial fans of the valley floor, being continually reworked by the Hāwea River, the strong patterns of rural land use and the man awhenua features of the area.

40. **Moderate associative values** relating the mana whenua associations of the area, and the shared and recognised values of the area for residents and locals as a spacious 'green belt' between Albert Town and Lake Hāwea settlement.
41. **Moderate perceptual values** relating to the expressiveness of the moraine, river terraces (including both their treads and risers), the coherent rural character, the scenic rural views across pasture to the surrounding mountain context, and the moderate level of naturalness, with built development remaining subservient to natural landscape elements and patterns.

Landscape Capacity

The landscape capacity of the PA RCL West of Hāwea River for a range of activities is set out below.

- i. **Commercial recreational activities – very limited** capacity for small-scale and low-key activities that: integrate with and complement/enhance existing recreation features; are located to optimise the screening and/or filtering benefit of natural landscape elements; designed to be of a modest scale; have a 'low-key' rural character; integrate landscape restoration and enhancement (where appropriate); enhance public access (where appropriate); and maintain or enhance the landscape values of the PA.
- ii. **Visitor accommodation and tourism related activities – limited** landscape capacity for activities that are located to optimise the screening and/or filtering benefit of natural landscape elements; designed to be of a modest scale; have a 'low-key' rural character; integrate landscape restoration and enhancement (where appropriate); enhance public access (where appropriate); and maintain or enhance the landscape values of the PA. **No** landscape capacity for tourism related activities.
- iii. **Urban expansions – no** landscape capacity.
- iv. **Intensive agriculture – some** landscape capacity where soils and available water allocation support the activity, and where the quality of views and aesthetic attributes and values are maintained or enhanced.
- v. **Earthworks – limited** landscape capacity to absorb earthworks associated with farming and rural living/visitor accommodation activities that maintain naturalness and expressiveness values and integrate with existing natural landform patterns.
- vi. **Farm buildings – some** landscape capacity for modestly scaled buildings that reinforce the existing rural character.
- vii. **Mineral extraction – very limited** landscape capacity.
- viii. **Transport infrastructure – very limited** landscape capacity to absorb additional infrastructure that is of a modest scale and low-key rural character.
- ix. **Utilities and regionally significant infrastructure – limited** landscape capacity for additional district-scale infrastructure that is buried or located such that they are screened from external view. In the case of utilities such as overhead lines or cell phone towers which cannot be screened, these should be designed and located so that they are not visually prominent. **Very limited** capacity for larger-scale regionally significant infrastructure.
- x. **Renewable energy generation – some** landscape capacity for small-scale wind or solar generation located where topography ensures it is not highly visible from public places. **Very limited** landscape capacity for larger-scale commercial renewable energy generation.
- xi. **Production forestry – limited** landscape capacity for scattered woodlots of up to 2 hectares in area.

- xii. **Rural living – very limited** landscape capacity to absorb additional rural living without cumulative adverse effects on associative and perceptual values. The rural character of the PA is vulnerable to fragmentation and ‘domestication’ through rural living development. Any additional rural living should be set well back from roads and public tracks; co-located with existing development; located to optimise the screening and/or filtering benefit of natural landscape elements; designed to be of a modest scale; have a ‘low-key’ rural character; integrate landscape restoration and enhancement (where appropriate); enhance public access (where appropriate); and should maintain the impression of expansive rural views from public vantage points.