

# 21.22.10 Mount Barker ONF

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## General Description of the Area

Mount Barker PA ONF comprises the summit and slopes of the hill located between Mount Barker, Boundary and Maxwell Roads, near the toe of the Criffel Range.

## Physical Attributes and Values

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

## Important landforms and land types:

1. Roche moutonnée landform of schist bedrock that has been over-ridden and sculpted by glacial action. Moraine remnants are present on the south-eastern side of the summit, possibly from the Lindis glacial advance. The conical hill rises to 596m and has rock outcrops and bluffs on the western faces and an easier gradient on the south-eastern side. It is joined to the base of the Criffel Range by a low saddle.

## Important ecological features and vegetation types:

2. Mount Barker is predominantly covered with a mixture of bracken, hawthorn, broom and other exotic weeds such as sweet briar and woolly mullein, with scattered regenerating kānuka. There are patches of mature radiata pine and eucalypt, with some wilding pine spread and an open grassed summit. A semi-mature Douglas fir plantation on the saddle between Mount Barker and the Criffel Range extends part way up the southern slopes within the PA. Rough pasture covers the higher southern slopes of the hill and around the lower toe slopes.
3. Potential for ongoing enhancement through removal of exotic trees and weeds, and regeneration of kānuka woodland.
4. The mixed pattern of indigenous and exotic vegetation combined with the rocky areas on the northern and western side of the hill provide suitable feeding habitat for New Zealand falcon and Australian harrier. The rocky terrain and adjacent rough pasture (exotic grassland) may provide suitable habitat for skinks.
5. Animal pest species include rabbits, stoats, possums, rats and mice.

## Land use patterns and features:

6. Mount Barker has been used in the past for low intensity grazing but is currently retired from productive use other than plantation forestry on the southern slopes. The PA forms part of two private lots - the northern lot contains the Akitu vineyard. A vehicle access track winds up the south-eastern slopes from Mt Barker to the summit.

## Important archaeological and heritage features and their locations:

7. No historic features, heritage protection orders, heritage overlays or archaeological sites have been identified/recorded to date within the ONF.

## Mana whenua features and their locations:

8. 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.

## 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 experience:

9. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.

### Important historic attributes and values:

10. Mount Barker has some contextual significance as a key reference point within the early survey of the area. It was named after Charles Barker, an early European landholder in the area.

### Important shared and recognised values:

11. Important values as part of the identity and sense of place of the Upper Clutha Basin – a widely visible landmark from many parts of the southern basin, including Wānaka township, Albert Town and the Wānaka - Luggate Highway (SH6).

### Important recreation attributes and values:

12. No current public access.

## Perceptual (Sensory) Attributes and Values

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

### Legibility and expressiveness attributes and values

13. Prominent and distinctive landform with a high degree of legibility and a strong visual contrast with the surrounding undulating moraine dominated landscape.

### Particularly important views to and from the area include:

14. A prominent and distinctive component of views from surrounding areas of the Upper Clutha Basin, including Wānaka township, Albert Town and Wānaka - Luggate Highway. The steep slopes, with their rough pasture or vegetation cover contrast with the more manicured and smooth character of the surrounding rolling moraine. From some vantage points (eg. Ballantyne Road to the north), Mount Barker is viewed against the backdrop of the Criffel Range and is perceived as an extension of the mountain slopes.

### Naturalness attributes and values:

15. Moderate level of naturalness due to the largely unmodified landform and continuous vegetation cover with some indigenous regeneration. The presence of forestry plantations, wilding tree spread and exotic weeds reduce perceptions of naturalness, but control of wildings is in progress and there is potential for ongoing enhancement of naturalness values if exotic vegetation is replaced by indigenous vegetation.

### Memorability attributes and values:

16. Highly memorable landform because of its visual coherence, distinctive conical shape, and the contrast of the roughly textured steep-sided hill with the smooth green of the surrounding undulating farmland.

## Aesthetic attributes and values:

17. Moderate-high aesthetic attributes due to the visual prominence of the landform, its memorability and high degree of contrast with surrounding areas.

### Summary of Landscape Values

Physical • Associative • Perceptual (Sensory)

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 physical, associative and perceptual attributes and values described above for the PA ONF Mount Barker can be summarised as follows:

- (a) **Moderate-high physical values** relating to the prominent unmodified roche moutonnée landform, the regenerating indigenous vegetation, with high potential for enhancement of ecological values, and the mana whenua features associated with the area.
- (b) **Moderate associative values** relating to the mana whenua associations of the area, the shared and recognised attributes as part of the local sense of place and identity.
- (c) **Moderate-high perceptual values** relating to the legibility, visual prominence and memorability of the hill, and its contrast with surrounding rural farmland.

### Landscape Capacity

The landscape capacity of the PA ONF Mount Barker for a range of activities is set out below.

- i. **commercial recreational activities – very limited** landscape capacity for small scale commercial recreational activities that do not require additional built infrastructure and protect the area's ONF values.
- ii. **visitor accommodation and tourism related activities – no** landscape capacity.
- iii. **urban expansions – no** landscape capacity.
- iv. **intensive agriculture – no** landscape capacity.
- v. **earthworks – very limited** landscape capacity for earthworks that protect naturalness and expressiveness attributes and values, and are sympathetically designed to integrate with existing natural landform patterns.
- vi. **farm buildings – very limited** landscape capacity for modestly scaled buildings that are integrated by landform and/or existing vegetation and are reasonably difficult to see from external viewpoints.
- vii. **mineral extraction – no** landscape capacity.
- viii. **transport infrastructure – no** landscape capacity.
- ix. **utilities and regionally significant infrastructure – no** landscape capacity.
- x. **renewable energy generation – no** landscape capacity.
- xi. **production forestry – no** landscape capacity.

xii. **rural living** – no landscape capacity.