

# 21.23.17 Quartz Creek and Maungawera: Schedule of Landscape Values

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## General Description of the Area

The Quartz Creek and Maungawera area comprises rural land approximately 8km north of the centre of urban Wānaka adjoining the Mount Maude/Mount Gold/Mount Burke ONL to the north, the West of Hāwea River PA (RCL) and SH6 (Lake Hāwea Albert Town Road) to the east, Maungawera Valley PA (RCL) and Dublin Bay PA (ONL) to the south, and Lake Wānaka (ONL) to the west.

The area takes in the lower slopes framing the north side of the Maungawera Valley extending towards Mount Maude/Mount Gold/Mount Burke ONL, the lower reaches of Quartz Creek and the Maungawera alluvial fan.

## 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

## Landforms and land types

1. The surficial geology of the area includes glacial outwash deposits and moraine from the Hāwea Glacial Advance and the Albert Town Glacial Advance that have been eroded subsequently by river action forming a range of alluvial landforms.
2. The sequence of landforms includes:
  - a. The undulating moraine, terraces, and alluvial fans along the south side of Mount Maude/Mount Gold/Mount Burke (ONL) throughout the northern portion of the area; and
  - b. The distinctive Maungawera fan at the western end of the area, adjacent Waiariki (Stevensons Arm).
3. The relatively free-draining pallic soils with reasonable fertility reflected in pastoral farming and cropping under irrigation.

## Hydrological features

4. Quartz Creek draining from the mountains to the north to Waiariki (Stevensons Arm). Wide braided delta at the mouth (which is outside the area in Lake Wānaka ONL).
5. Rod's Creek at the southern toe of Mount Brown.
6. Ephemeral water courses from the northern mountains that are artificially channelled across the valley floor and join to form Wai-utu-utu (Speargrass Creek) at the eastern end of the valley, flowing to the Hāwea River.
7. Two constructed irrigation ponds.

## Ecological features and vegetation types

8. Particularly noteworthy indigenous vegetation features include:
  - a. Swathes and patches of regenerating kānuka and bracken across toe slopes of Mount Maude and along margins of Quartz Creek and Rods Creek and across the portion of the Maungawera fan near Quartz Creek.

9. Other distinctive vegetation types include:
  - a. Grazed and cropped pasture with conifer and poplar shelterbelts. The latter are generally oriented north-south across the valley to mitigate the localised wind tunnel effect created by Waiariki (Stevensons Arm) and the enclosing landforms.
  - b. Small scale forestry blocks and wilding old man pines occur throughout the sloping land adjacent SH6, along the base of Mount Maude and sparsely scattered across the lake terrace.
  - c. Indigenous and exotic amenity plantings around rural dwellings and farm buildings.
  - d. Wilding conifers in places, particularly throughout areas of regenerating kānuka scrub and shrubland.
10. Areas of improved pasture and areas used for cropping that are favourable seasonal feeding grounds for paradise shelduck, South Island oystercatcher, black-billed gull and spur-winged plover.
11. Rank exotic grassland and bracken along road margins and stream margins may be utilised by skinks.

### **Land use patterns and features**

12. Distinctive and coherent pattern of cropping and pastoral farming, with large landholdings, shelterbelts, farm infrastructure such as tracks, pivot irrigation systems and a few sporadic farm buildings, and dwellings/homestead clusters.
13. SH6 along the eastern edge of the area, which is a popular scenic route between Wānaka and Lake Hāwea.
14. Some low-density rural living on the moraine ridge adjoining SH6 and two consented but unbuilt rural living platforms at the eastern end of the area. Successfully integrated development is located to optimise the screening and filtering influence of landform and established vegetation patterns and is of a modest scale and visually recessive appearance.
15. Neighbouring land uses which have an influence on the landscape character of the area due to their scale, character, and/or proximity include:
  - a. Lake Wānaka (ONL) and Dublin Bay PA (ONL) to the southwest and west. Much of this interface comprises the waters of Waiariki (Stevensons Arm) where there is little to no built modification along the lake edge. The landward component of Dublin Bay PA (ONL) is characterised by pastoral farming with areas of regenerating kānuka and kōhūhū dominant shrubland and bracken and very little built development and contains areas that are visible from Lake Wānaka, Mount Iron PA (ONF) and public places on the Upper Clutha Basin floor.
  - b. The Mount Maude/Mount Gold/Mount Burke ONL to the north. This comprises a dramatic mountain landscape with an open and undeveloped character.
  - c. Pastoral farming, forestry and a small amount of rural living in the West of Hāwea River PA (RCL) to the east, where rural living development is largely set back from the highway and/or screened by vegetation.
  - d. The mixed rural and rural living character of Maungawera Valley PA (RCL) in which built development is generally well integrated by the hummocky topography or by existing vegetation and is not visually prominent from the road network.

### **Archaeological and heritage features and their locations**

16. McPherson House, Hawea-Albert Town Road (Ref. 532).
17. Possible mana whenua oven site to the north of Maungawera Valley Road (archaeological site F40/12).

## Mana whenua features and their locations

18. The entire area is ancestral land to many whānau within the iwi of 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 area abuts and slightly overlaps the mapped wāhi tūpuna Wānaka (Lake Wānaka).
20. Lake Wānaka is highly significant to Kāi Tahu and is a Statutory Acknowledgement under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

## 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

21. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.
22. Wānaka is one of the lakes referred to in the tradition of “Ngā Puna Wai Karikari o Rākaihautū” which tells how the principal lakes of Te Wai Pounamu were dug by the rakatira (chief) Rākaihautū. Through these pūrakau (stories), this area holds a deep spiritual significance both traditionally and for Kāi Tahu today.
23. Identified Kāi Tahu values in this area may include, but are not limited to, wāhi taoka, mahika kai, , nohoaka.

## Historic attributes and values

24. There is known to have been early Māori occupation in the vicinity of the area. Buried archaeological remains may be present that are representative of the area’s mana whenua history.
25. The agricultural history and development of the area follows a similar trajectory to other locales in the Upper Clutha, with low-intensity pastoralism transitioning to more intensive farming and settlement over time. However, the lower reaches of Quartz Creek within the area encompasses an area that has endured as a pastoral lease from the 1850s through till today.

## Shared and recognised attributes and values

26. The low population density and relatively low level of ‘through traffic’ (noting that Maungawera Valley Road is a ‘dead end’ road), means that the valley is not a significant component of the shared and recognised landscape values of the Upper Clutha. However, it is valued by local residents as part of their ‘sense of place’.
27. The local popularity of the informal access to Waiariki (Stevensons Arm) via private land at the western end of Maungawera Valley Road.

## **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**

28. The more gently rolling landform of the moraine, flat terraces and smooth fans are expressive of the interaction of the glacial and fluvial processes that have shaped the Upper Clutha Basin. The Maungawera Fan is thought to be the best and most legible example of an alluvial fan in the district.

### **Particularly important views to and from the area**

29. The sequence of attractive short range 'rural' views from SH6 to the moraine slopes at the eastern end of the area. Dense conifer woodlot, shelter and scrub plantings across the slopes limit the visibility of buildings across the eastern slopes of the area and, in combination with the vegetated slopes of West of Hāwea River PA (RCL) on the eastern side of the highway, create the impression of an enclosed and wooded stretch of highway.
30. Attractive short and mid-range views from Maungawera Valley Road across the pastoral terrace and fans, seen backdropped by the moraine at the eastern end of the area, and the mountain ONL context. The patterning of regenerating vegetation adds to the appeal and impression of naturalness of the outlook. The farmed and managed terraces and fans contrast with the unmodified upper slopes of Mount Brown and surrounding mountains in these views. Overall, there is a strong 'working farm' character, with the very little built development evident displaying a distinctly working rural character or obscured by vegetation.

### **Naturalness attributes and values**

31. 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 (albeit very limited) is evident. The variable but coherent patterns of rougher pasture and regenerating kānuka on the steeper moraine slopes and throughout gullies contribute to perceptions of naturalness.

### **Memorability attributes and values**

32. Memorable to residents and locals as an enclosed valley with a strong rural character and as an informal access point to Waiariki (Stevensons Arm).

### **Transient attributes and values**

33. Seasonal foliage, pasture or crop 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. The lack of through traffic and easy access to the lake, together with a low population density, give the area a very strong sense of rural tranquillity, quietness and remoteness.

### **Aesthetic attributes and values**

36. The experience of all of the values identified above from public and private viewpoints.

37. More specifically, this includes:

- a. the highly attractive rural views across open pastoral/cropping land to the dramatic and sublime landforms of the Mount Maude/Mount Gold/Mount Burke range and to the elongated form of Mount Brown, with its regenerating kānuka cover;
- b. the coherent patterns of open farmland interspersed with regenerating steep slopes and gullies;
- c. the spacious and tranquil 'working farm' rural character;
- d. the low occurrence of domestication;
- e. the effective integration of buildings by landform or vegetation.

## 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 physical, associative, and perceptual attributes and values described above for the Quartz Creek-Maungawera area can be summarised as follows:

38. **Moderate – high physical values** relating to the glacially formed outwash terraces, alluvial fans and moraine, the distinctive Maungawera fan, the productive soils (with irrigation) and the strong patterns of rural land use, and the mana whenua features associated with the area.
39. **Moderate associative values** relating to the mana whenua associations of the area, the historic heritage of European pastoral farming, and the shared and recognised values of the area for residents and locals.
40. **Moderate-high perceptual values** relating to the expressiveness of the terrace, escarpment and downland landforms, the coherence of vegetation and land use patterns, the strong rural character, the scenic views across open pasture, the low-key rural tranquillity and quietness, and the moderate level of naturalness, with very limited built development remaining subordinate to rural patterns.

## Landscape Capacity

The landscape capacity of the Quartz Creek - Maungawera area for a range of activities is set out below.

- i. **Commercial recreational activities – very limited** landscape capacity for small-scale and low-key activities that: are located to optimise the screening and/or filtering benefit of natural landscape elements; are designed to be of a small scale and 'low-key' rural character; integrate landscape restoration and enhancement (where appropriate); and enhance public access (where appropriate).
- ii. **Visitor accommodation and tourism related activities – limited** landscape capacity for activities that are: co-located with existing development; located to optimise the screening and/or filtering benefit of natural landscape elements; are designed to be of a small scale and 'low-key' rural character; integrate landscape restoration and enhancement (where appropriate); and enhance public access (where appropriate). **Extremely limited or no** landscape capacity for tourism related activities that are: visually recessive; designed to be small scale and have a low key 'rural' character; and integrate landscape restoration.
- iii. **Urban expansions – extremely limited or no** landscape capacity.

- iv. **Intensive agriculture – some** landscape capacity where the quality of views and aesthetic attributes and values are maintained or enhanced.
- v. **Earthworks – limited** landscape capacity to absorb earthworks associated with trails, 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 for farm-scale quarries that maintain or enhance the quality of views, naturalness values and aesthetic values.
- 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. In the case of the National Grid, **limited** landscape capacity in circumstances where there is a functional or operational need for its location and structures are designed and located to limit their visual prominence, including associated earthworks. **Very limited** capacity for other larger-scale regionally significant infrastructure.
- x. **Renewable energy generation – some** landscape capacity for small-scale wind or solar generation located where topography or mature vegetation ensures it is not highly visible from public places. **Limited** landscape capacity for larger-scale commercial renewable energy generation.
- xi. **Forestry – limited** landscape capacity for scattered small scale 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 area is vulnerable to fragmentation and 'domestication' through rural living development. In a similar vein, development across the northern side of the valley near the adjacent ONL runs the risk of detracting from the naturalness and aesthetic values of the neighbouring ONL. Any additional rural living should be set well back from ONL edges, roads and public tracks; co-located with existing development; integrated by existing landform and/or existing vegetation; 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 public views across open land to surrounding landforms.

## Plant and Animal Pests

- A. Plant pest species include wilding conifers, hawthorn, broom, sweet briar, crack willow and lupin.
- B. Animal pest species include rabbits, stoats, feral cats, possums, hedgehogs, rats, and mice.