

5.2.2 Landscape

- identifying, protecting and rehabilitating landscapes and landscape values

Current Situation

Landscapes can be interpreted as expressions of the evolving relationships between land and people, and as expressions of the values, beliefs and visions of the cultures who inhabit them.

The Department's role in landscape management focuses on the natural and historical aspects of landscape. The main features and characteristics of Canterbury's landscapes are outlined in 2.4 (Canterbury Context).

Background

The landscapes of Canterbury's high country, foothills and Banks Peninsula are distinctive and often fragile. The effects of changing tenure and land use (such as pastoral lease tenure review and forestry) and related social processes can have significant impacts on landscape values.

The Canterbury plains, home to the bulk of the region's population, are highly modified. Further modification may occur to braided rivers through water extraction and protection works. There are few indigenous plant habitats, and these are seldom protected. Restoration and rehabilitation programmes can enhance the landscape values of the plains.

The fragile and dynamic coastal environment is vulnerable to changes in coastal processes.

Natural and historic values are beginning to be represented in policy documents and considered in development plans. Landscape values have often been inadequately considered in urban development. Individuals often modify parts of a landscape without considering the effects on the wider landscape. Many such changes, over time, can disrupt existing processes and fragment values. Ecologists increasingly talk of ecology at a 'landscape' level to recognise that individual species and communities are an integral part of larger ecosystems existing at a landscape scale.

Landscape management aims to maintain or enhance an area's landscape character. Where change is proposed, landscape management seeks to ensure the proposed change is integrated with appropriate regard to the effects the change will have on the landscape's broader character.

The objectives of landscape management should ensure the effects of change are accounted for beyond the immediate site and across time. The effects of change on the landscape are directly related to the effects of change on resources generally. They also exist within a broader set of values and concerns. Such values and concerns seek to ensure that the resources we sustain not only satisfy our physical needs, but also sustain the quality of our relationships within the landscape.

The Department of Conservation has as a function the protection, of landscape values. In carrying out this function the Department would seek to protect and enhance landscapes it considers of significant value. It would also seek to protect and enhance those natural and historic values that still remain as important components within 'cultural' or larger landscapes. On land not managed by the Department, landscape protection can be promoted through providing information and working with communities, as well as through statutory Resource Management Act instruments (for example, district plans).

Outstanding Landscapes

A number of Canterbury's landscapes are recognised for their distinctive character and processes; their significance and value to Māori, other New Zealanders, and international visitors; and their contribution to the overall landscape character of Canterbury.

The Canterbury Regional Council commissioned the *Canterbury Regional Landscape Study* (Boffa Miskell Limited and Lucas Associates 1993) to help meet its obligations under the Resource Management Act. The study identified a number of regionally outstanding natural features and landscapes. These are summarised on Map 15. Most notable amongst these are:

- the Southern Alps/Kā Tiritiri o te Moana
- the Waitaki Basin and other intermontane basins of the Southern Alps/Kā Tiritiri o te Moana, Ashburton Lakes (Ō Tū Wārekai), Waimakariri and Lake Sumner (Hoka Kura).
- braided rivers such as the Rakaia and Waimakariri (internationally significant examples of fluvial landforms)
- Banks Peninsula (as a whole it exhibits a distinct volcanically derived form)
- the limestone landscapes of the Castle Hill basin and Weka Pass (of cultural and scientific value)
- the Canterbury foothills (particularly Mounts Thomas and Oxford, and the Torlesse, Sefton and Puketeraki ranges)

The study is the most comprehensive assessment of Canterbury landscape to date, although Canterbury Regional Council and district councils are proposing or actioning additional landscape assessments for their areas. In the interim the Department will value the 1993 study as a basis for its work at national, regional and local levels.

Other landscape values may be important to retain even if they are not classified as a regionally 'outstanding landscape'. The Department will encourage the retention of these.

Current Management

As part of its efforts to conserve landscape values, the Conservancy seeks to identify, protect and interpret important landscape values on lands managed by the Department. In this it incorporates indigenous biodiversity, and Maori and European cultures to explain natural and cultural features, their value and significance. Existing commitments to landscape are to:

- address visitor needs and management requirements to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the environment in an upgrade of Aoraki/Mount Cook Village
- provide advice on landscape values as part of the Department's involvement in the tenure review process (see 5.5.2 Statutory Land Management)
- assist in providing advice for regional and district plans, to encourage landscape and landscape values protection and enhancement.

Statutory Framework

Section 6 of the Conservation Act enables the Department to manage landscapes on land managed by the Department, and to advocate for landscape protection on other land. Landscape is defined in the Act as a 'natural resource'.

Section 3 of the Reserves Act 1977 enables the protection of landscapes. Such landscape may be protected for its natural or cultural values; in some instances both.

Under section 6(b) of the Resource Management Act, regional and district councils must recognise and provide for the protection of outstanding landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, to promote sustainable management.

Specific aspects of the landscape are included in other acts the Department administers, such as the National Parks Act. The Department also supports international organisations whose objectives are to promote and protect landscapes. These include the IUCN World Heritage Committee and ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites).

Objectives

- To assist in identifying Canterbury's landscapes and landscape values, assessing the threat they are under and seeking to protect and enhance the character, integrity and values of them in co-operation with other agencies, landholders, and communities.
- To manage operations on land managed by the Conservancy to conserve landscape integrity and conform to high standards of environmental design.

Implementation

The Conservancy will:

1. Ensure that regard is had to landscapes and landscape values throughout all aspects of the Conservancy's programmes and in particular by integration within the development of strategies for such as biodiversity and visitor services.
2. Maintain a GIS-based landscape database to provide an up-to-date inventory, based on the *Canterbury Regional Landscape Study* (1993) and other council assessments.
3. Give priority to landscape conservation where adverse change can be prevented and where the integration of well-planned and well-designed development is most critical to maintaining or enhancing existing quality and integrity.
4. Promote a greater understanding of and responsibility for landscape protection and management within the Conservancy through staff training.
5. Recognise the fundamental role of landscape in evaluating land for protection, classification and management.
6. Ensure, as far as possible, that all development, maintenance and restoration of lands managed by the Conservancy conform to high standards of environmental planning and design by:
 - the formulation and use of development procedures
 - improved techniques in EIA auditing for landscape

7. Complete and implement an approved village section of the *Mount Cook National Park: management plan* (1989). The plan is due for a full review by 1998.
8. Use landscape as a unifying theme for the Department's involvement in the tenure review process.
9. Liaise with key organisations and the community in issue resolution (e.g. wilding pines), resource information collection and decision-making relating to landscape conservation.
10. Advocate with landholders, communities, district and regional councils to adopt appropriate methods to:
 - protect, maintain and enhance landscape values in urban and rural landscapes. (The primary role for landscape advocacy off lands managed by the Department is seen to lie with communities and councils.
 - recognise and provide for natural character (including that of the coastal environment, wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins)
11. Assist in increasing public awareness of and guardianship for landscapes and landscape values through interpretation and advocacy.

Priorities

Primary

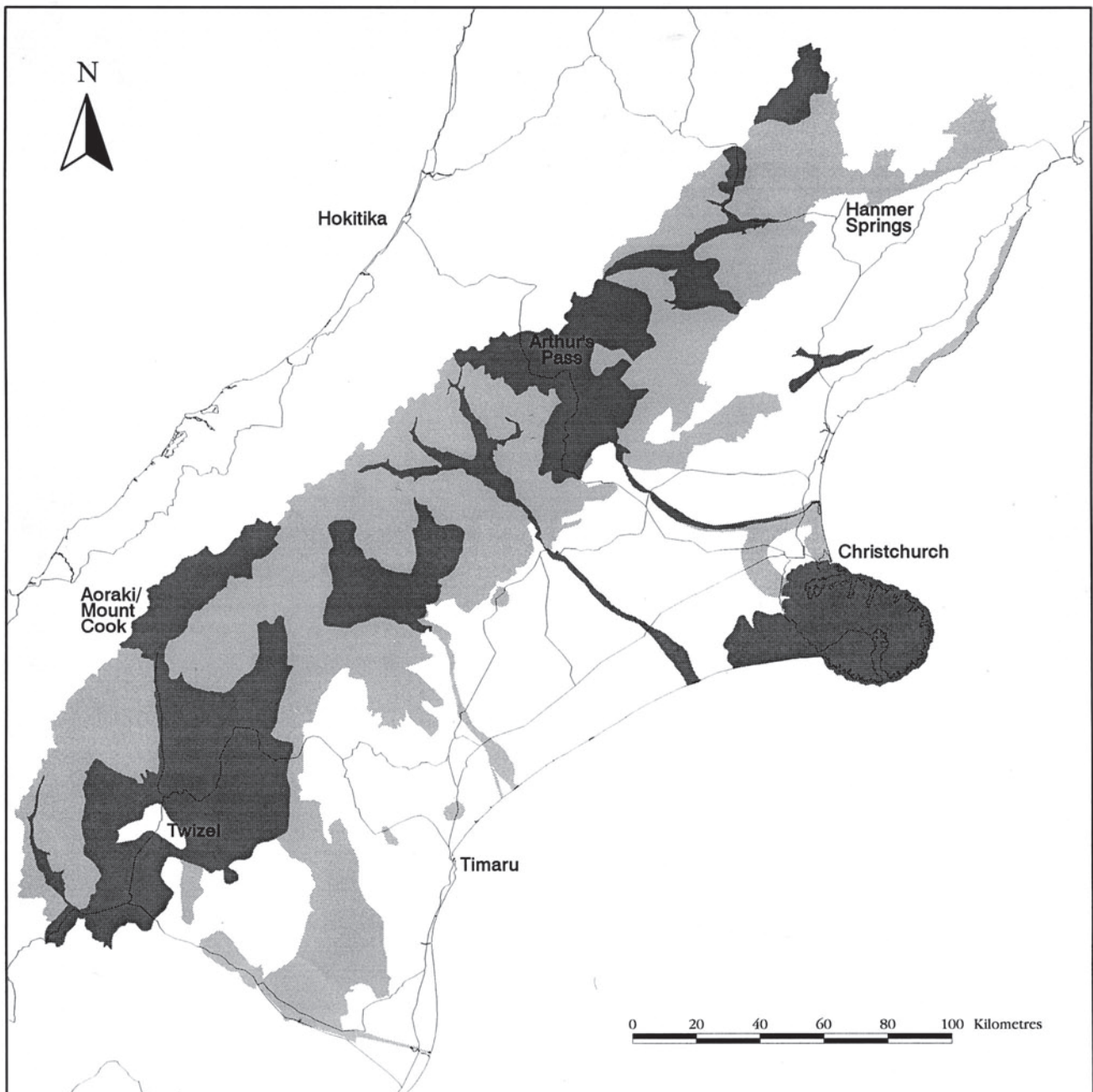
1. Maintain a GIS-based landscape inventory.
2. To ensure that ongoing regard is had to landscapes and landscape values protection. Table 17 sets out the key landscape priorities within place units.

Less Achievable Tasks

Tasks that may not be undertaken or completed include:

- landscape planning for small-scale developments with low impacts
- staff training on all aspects of landscape evaluation
- individual Resource Management Act consent screening to assess landscape implications
- local landscape awareness programmes
- regular liaison with land developers (Liaison will occur mainly for projects that have wide site or management implications.)

Map 15 Natural Features and Landscapes



- Regionally outstanding
- Regionally significant
- State highway

Source: Boffa Miskell Limited
and Lucas Associates, 1993

Table 17: Key Landscape Priorities

| Theme | Issue | Method | Results Sought | Place |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|-----------------|
| Banks Peninsula Landscape | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subdivision 2. Forestry | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community awareness 2. Liaison 3. Advocacy | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintenance and protection of landscapes and landscape integrity 2. Maintenance of natural character of the coastal environment | Banks Peninsula |
| Lowry Landscape | Threats to coast, gorges and limestone features | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community awareness 2. Liaison 3. Advocacy | Maintenance and protection of landscapes and landscape integrity | Lowry |
| Waimakariri Landscape | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Waimakariri Basin landscape changes 2. Lakes and river landscape changes 3. SH73 corridor 4. Exotic tree control | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community awareness 2. Liaison 3. Advocacy | Maintenance and protection of landscapes and landscape integrity | Waimakariri |
| Waitaki Landscape | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wilding trees 2. Forestry 3. Tourist facility development | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community awareness 2. Liaison 3. Aoraki/Mount Cook Village planning 4. Tenure review 5. Advocacy | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintenance and protection of landscapes and landscape integrity (e.g. Lindis-Ahuriri) 2. Aoraki/Mount Cook Village redevelopment | Waitaki |
| Rangitata Landscape | Incremental agricultural intensification | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community awareness 2. Liaison 3. Tenure review 4. Advocacy | Maintenance and protection of landscapes and landscape integrity | Rangitata |
| Landscape Protection | Prevention of adverse effects on landscape | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservancy regard to landscape and landscape values 2. Tenure review 3. Community awareness 4. Liaison 5. Advocacy | Maintenance and protection of landscapes and landscape integrity | All places |