



Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Waitaha me Aoraki

Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre, CHRISTCHURCH 8140
Tel: 027-5416663
Email: canterburyaorakiboard@doc.govt.nz

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Nicole Kunzmann
Reclassification Manager, Department of Conservation
CHRISTCHURCH
nkunzmann@doc.govt.nz

Kia ora koutou

WSI Stewardship Land Review Comments on four land parcels by the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board

1. Background

It been brought to the attention of the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board that four land parcels in the Otira Valley (as outlined below) are within the boundaries of the Aoraki Conservation Board. The Conservation Board rohe includes all of Arthurs Pass National Park and as a result the boundary has been drawn to include all the Otira Valley down to the confluence with the Taramakau River. The Board's comments on the National Panel recommendations and the Mana Whenua recommendations follow.

CMS Place	Report name	Protected Area Name	NaPALIS id	GIS Area (ha)	National Panel Rec	Mana Whenua Rec	Conservation Value Report Public URL	Rec Report Public URL
Hokitika	HOK_03	Conservation Area - Taramakau River / Ōtira River	2806316	3779.9403	Tarahanga e Toru Historic Reserve	Tarahanga e Toru Historic Reserve	Otira Riverbed CV Report	Otira River
Hokitika	HOK_20	Ōtira River Conservation Area	2806321	0.3413	National Park (Arthurs Pass)	Stewardship	Otira River Parcel CV Report	Otira River Parcel
Hokitika	HOK_25	Conservation Area - Aickens Base	2806317	0.1198	Recreation Reserve	Recreation Reserve	Aickens CV Report	Aickens
Hokitika	HOK_25	Otira Conservation Area	2806322	26.139	Local Purpose (Water Supply) Reserve	Neutral	Water supply CV Report	Water Supply

2. 2806316. Conservation Area - Taramakau River / Ōtira River

This area of Ōtira riverbed and river flats is part of a wider reviewed unit that includes most of the Taramakau River. Apart from a few private land enclaves, the state highway and railway line, it covers most of the area between the western and eastern portions of the Arthur's National Park down to the confluence with the Taramakau. It is a mixture of braided riverbed and grassy flats with broom and other weeds, with some regenerating areas. Parts of it are grazed with cattle.

Disposal of the area would be undesirable as it is in an active floodplain. Its current values do not encourage amalgamation with the Arthur's National Park (even though it is in effect an enclave in the park). The mixture of exotic grassland with high weed prevalence and a history of grazing means it does not meet the usual criteria for National Park. The Mana Whenua panel does not support any national park additions through the Stewardship Land Review process. The reasons are outlined in the 'Mana Whenua Panel Justification for Recommendation' to be found in Recommendation Reports.

Both the National Panel and the Mana Whenua Panel Recommendation is that the area be included in the proposed 'Tarahanga e Toru Historic Reserve'. The justifications are provided in the recommendation report for the wider area which includes all land proposed to be added to a new Historic Reserve that recognises strong Ngāi Tahu historical and cultural links to the area. While the assessment does not specifically mention Arthur's Pass as a Ngāi Tahu route in the justification, it is certainly a known historical route that was used by pre-European travellers.

This central region of the West Coast is the heart of Poutini Ngāi Tahu legends, customs and traditions centred around pounamu. The Tarahanga e Toru Historic Reserve acknowledges the ara tawhito (old trails), the passes used to link east and west coasts, the mahinga kai resources that supported pā, seasonal nohoanga and travellers, and the legends and battles associated with this taonga. Historical and contemporary associations with pounamu are integral to Poutini Ngāi Tahu identity and this is recognised through the creation of a historic reserve.

The Board supports the recommendation that the area be added to the 'Tarahanga e Toru Historic Reserve.'

3. 2806321 Ōtira River Conservation Area

This is a 0.34ha piece of largely native forest that adjoins the Main Highway and is surrounded on three sides by National Park. This is the National Panel recommendation and its justification.

The Western South Island National Panel recommends:

- The Conservation Area 'Ōtira River' (NaPALIS #2806321) is declared to be held for conservation purposes, pursuant to section 7(1) of the Conservation Act 1987, and that a recommendation is sought from the New Zealand Conservation Authority for this area to be added to the adjacent Arthur's Pass National Park following the process set out in section 8(1) of the National Parks Act 1980.

This very small conservation area adjoins Arthur's Pass National Park on three sides (with a road being on the other boundary), and is largely native forest. As it has landscape values congruent with Arthur's Pass, it is considered that classifying it as a national park rationalises the boundary and supports continuity of landscape across the wider area. It is to be noted that the Otira Conservation Area (NaPALIS #2806322) has been separately recommended to be classified as a local purpose (water supply) reserve.

This is the Mana Whenua Panel's recommendation

The Mana Whenua Panel does not support the investigation of adding the Conservation Area 'Ōtira River' (NaPALIS #2806321) to the adjacent National Park pursuant to section 8(1) of the National Parks Act 1980.

The Mana Whenua Panel recommends:

- The Conservation Area 'Ōtira River' (NaPALIS #2806321) be held as Stewardship Land.

This is an excerpt from the Mana Whenua Panel's justification for its recommendation

The Mana Whenua Panel does not support the investigation of adding the Conservation Area 'Ōtira River' (NaPALIS #2806321) to the adjacent national park. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu opposes all additions to national parks within the Ngāi Tahu takiwā and this position is supported by the Mana Whenua Panel. The fundamental basis for this position is that the addition of land to national parks will not give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (as required by section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987) as it alienates Ngāi Tahu from our ancestral lands.

National parks are subject to more stringent preservation and protection imperatives than other protected area classifications. This obstructs Ngāi Tahu from maintaining ancestral relationships with the whenua, obstructs kaitiaki rights and responsibilities, limits the meaningful involvement of Ngāi Tahu in decision-making processes, and is less enabling of customary practices that are fundamental to sustaining tribal identity and mana.

The National Panel recommendation is based upon the area containing similar values to the contiguous National Park. The Mana Whenua Panel recommendation is based on a consistent position applied to all land in the WSI Stewardship Land Review, that the addition of any land to national parks in the Ngāi Tahu takiwā will not give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

The Board recommends that this land parcel be added to Arthurs Pass National Park, once Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu no longer opposes additions of land to national parks in the Ngāi Tahu takiwā

4. 2806317 Conservation Area - Aickens Base

The National Panel recommendation and justification is agreed to by the Mana Whenua Panel. The recommendation justification is:

This very small conservation area is the carpark for access across Otira River and on to the Taramakau Valley. It is largely exotic grasses and gravel with a few planted native trees used to screen the carpark from SH73. No native ecosystems or plant communities are present. There are extensive areas of conservation land nearby, including Taramakau River, Otira-Kopara Forest and the Arthur's Pass National Park, which attract backcountry trampers. Classifying this conservation area as a recreation reserve is considered to provide for the existing recreation use, allowing the public freedom of entry and access.

The Board supports the recommendation that the area is classified as a recreation reserve.

5. 2806322 Otira Conservation Area

This is a 26ha area that is like the surrounding national park. It contains the Otira Water supply intake and associated infrastructure and will be subject to ongoing maintenance. The National Panel recommends that the area be classified as local purpose (water supply) reserve rather than be added to the adjacent national park. The Mana whenua Panel does not make a recommendation and does not support or oppose the National Panel recommendation. The National Panel justification is as follows:

This assessment area is largely covered in tall native scrub and forest. The small, cleared areas appear to be associated with infrastructure development for the collection and provision of freshwater from Goat Creek to Otira settlement. Goat Creek has high water quality and its naturalness is compromised by the water supply pipeline and modifications to the river channel. There are no nationally threatened ecosystems in the area, nor have there been any terrestrial threatened species recorded from the site. There is an easement concession for the accessing of water. It is considered that classification as a local purpose (water supply) reserve will rationalise the current use and support community need. It is to be noted that the Ōtira River Conservation Area has been separately recommended as a national park area.

The Board supports the recommendation that the area is classified as a local purpose (water supply) reserve.

Ngā mihi nui



Eila Gendig, Chair

Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board

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