

SCHED14 — SCHEDULE OF ATTRIBUTES/QUALITIES OF COASTAL HIGH NATURAL CHARACTER AREAS

Location	Attributes/quality
Rangitata river mouth	• River mouth identified as one of the best examples in the region (Geopreservation site). • Important hapua lagoon on north bank (Ashburton) with predominantly freshwater habitat. The hapua is habitat for a diverse range of native fish, such as eels, īnanga, bullies, smelt, torrentfish, lamprey and black flounder. • The intrinsic values of the river are protected by a Water Conservation Order. • A regionally-significant habitat for native water birds, it supports a diverse range of protected native bird species, including coromorants, waders, waterfowl, gulls, terns, threatened wrybill, banded dotterel and black-fronted tern. • Vegetation on river bank and around the river mouth contains weeds and few areas of native vegetation communities. • The riverbed itself is frequently cleared by floods and contains large areas of bare gravel. • Visually impressive and serves as an important place for salmon, trout and whitebait fishing • Recreational opportunities for bird watchers and fishermen • Immediately south of the river, the land is intensively farmed containing numerous shelterbelts, irrigated pasture and local roads. • The Rangitata River has special importance for Ngāi Tahu. This has been recognised by the Crown in the Ngāi Tahu Deed of Settlement and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.
Coastal strip between Rangitata Mouth and Waitarakao/Washdyke Lagoon, including Ōrāri and Ōpihi River mouths	• Variety of coastal processes and features such as flood plain meanders, coastal lagoons (Hapua lagoons at the mouths of the Ōpihi and Ōrāri Rivers, Milford Lagoon, two small lagoon areas at Browns Beach and Waitarakao/Washdyke Lagoon) and tidal river estuaries with saltmarshes. • Ōpihi and Ōrāri lagoons are dynamic in terms of size and form, as they are influenced by changing river flows, and coastal-wave energy and direction. • Two small coastal lagoons and lowland meanders at Browns Beach are of significant natural value. • Construction of Timaru harbour and the breakwater has stopped the movement of sediment up the coast and accelerated erosion of the coastline north of Waitarakao/Washdyke Lagoon to around half a metre each year. • Strong inter-relationship between coast and hinterland with wetland vegetation extending along tidal channels of streams for about 1km inland. • Ōpihi River mouth and lagoon is a wetland of national importance and represents important habitat for spawning and rearing of fish including trout and salmon and contains remnant areas of indigenous vegetation. • The Ōrāri River mouth is also a nationally significant habitat for native birds and an important area in the life cycle of migratory fish. • Spider Lagoon a brackish, non-tidal coastal lagoon north-east of Browns Beach supports native vegetation of Caldwells clubrush reedland and raupō reedland as well as exotic willow forest and tall fescue grassland. It is also a regionally significant habitat for wetland and coastal birds such as bittern, marsh crake, black-fronted dotterel and white-winged black tern. • The Seaforth Coast between Waitarakao/Washdyke Lagoon and the Ōpihi

	River mouth contains a sequence of coastal wetland habitats that have been reduced in extent due to drainage and pasture development, but the area continues to provide important habitat for birds and native fish species including banded kokopu. • The Ōpihi and Ōrāri mouths and associated oxbows/ meanders are geopreservation sites. • The Timaru Fossil Forest is a geopreservation site (located between Aorangi and Beach Road) and is a good example of a late Quaternary fossil forest formed when tree stumps fell in peat and were preserved. • Several coastal wetlands are nationally significant habitat for wetland and coastal birds. • Outside of the rivers, the rural area has an extensive history of pastoral farming and today is largely used for intensive pastoral farming and cropping, with scattered shelterbelts and small-scale forest plantations. • Trout and salmon fishing occur at the Ōrāri and Ōpihi mouths as well as whitebaiting, and duck and goose shooting. • This part of the coastline has a remote feel and is not frequently accessed, apart from some of the river mouths. • The rugged coast strewn with driftwood provides an impressive wild scenery. • Many of the lagoons and wetlands are mahinga kai sites for mana whenua and archaeological finds have revealed a number of ovens confirming early Māori occupation of these areas. • The Ōrakipaoa wetland has been identified as a Ngāi Tahu statutory acknowledgement area.
Coastal strip including Ōtipua/Saltwater Creek, Jack's Point, Normanby Lagoon and Pureora/Pareora River mouth	• Te Motumotu/Mutu Mutu Point and Tuhawaiki/Jack's Point are some of the only rocky reefs in South Canterbury. • Low alluvial depressions are separated by the higher rolling country and continual shingle ridges separate the shoreline from the coastal hinterland. • Sweeping shingle beaches and ridges contrast sharply with the adjoining sea cliffs. • The construction of the railway line has modified the environment by stabilising the inland side of the dunes and have raised and stabilised the beach barrier at Normanby Lagoon where the occasional artificial opening of the outlet influences the water depth. • Te Wharetawhiti/Pig Hunting Creek is a smaller brackish coastal lagoon with saltmarsh vegetation on the margin that is also artificially opened to the sea on occasions. • Ōtipua Wetland is mostly freshwater wetland, but the small coastal lagoon north of the Ōtipua/Saltwater Creek mouth is brackish. The main vegetation communities are flaxland, reedland and saltmarsh vegetation, including oioi and areas of exotic species. Artificial opening of the outlet and weirs modify the water table in the remaining wetland. Vegetation restoration efforts have transformed the wetland into an important habitat for birds and lizards including waders, breeding waterfowl, gulls and cormorants, and marsh crake. • South of Tuhawaiki Point a small dune slack wetland contains native Caldwells clubrush reedland, glasswort herbfield and three-square reedland where a small stream extends towards the coast. • Normanby Lagoon is a shallow slightly brackish coastal lagoon that provides moderate habitat for small numbers of typical waterfowl, waders and pukeko. The main vegetation communities around the margins of the lagoon are native saltmarsh herbfields (with bachelors button, native musk, <i>Lilaeopsis novae-zelandiae</i> and glasswort) and Caldwells clubrush reedland.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Areas of glasswort herbfield in the lower parts of some of the smaller streams along the Pareora coast, including Te Wharetawhiti/Pig Hunting Creek.• Pureora/Pareora river mouth line and lagoon provide regionally important habitat for wetland bird species, including bittern, marsh crake and grey teal.• Land use within this narrow coastal area is dominated by mixed use farming operations on the rolling downlands and low-lying depressions, including dairy, sheep and beef farming as well as cropping.• Recreational opportunities include surfing and fishing, as well as walking and cycle ways along the coast and wetlands.• Game birds are hunted adjacent to the Ōtipua Wetland on freehold land.• This coastal area also has a number of historical sites of significance, including the lighthouse at Jack's Point.• At Tuhawaiki/Jack's Point, Te Motumotu/Mutu Mutu Point, Te Wharetawhiti/Pig Hunting Creek and Normanby Lagoon, there are a number of archaeological sites including pre-European occupation sites, moa bones and ovens. |
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