

SCHED8 — SCHEDULE OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL LANDSCAPES

Unique identifier	Site identifier	Landscape values and characteristics
ONL-1	Upper Rangitata Catchment	<p>Biophysical — Very High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legible series of benches are a geomorphic feature of the moraine lands within this landscape which are clearly evident on the Butler and Brabazon Downs in particular. Ice sculptured valley walls and moraine deposits in the major river valley of the Rangitata and Havelock. Extensive fans from tributaries that cut out steep sided valleys following the gradual retreat of the glaciers, which clearly show the landscape's formative processes. The Rangitata River is protected by a National Water Conservation Order (2006). The extensive river terraces in the river valleys are highly legible features, representative of the powerful erosive processes of the rivers which flow through them including the Rangitata Gorge. Rangitata ice-margin features located on the valley side slope north of Forest Creek, provide a record of ice levels during glaciation and deglaciation intervals in the Rangitata and these features are listed as a Geopreservation Site of national importance. The beech gap in the upper Rakaia/ Rangitata area is a notable characteristic of central Canterbury, which means that a higher diversity of vegetation is generally found. Generally, very low weed infestation of the upper catchment and higher-lying slopes. These areas are mostly covered in cohesive tall snow-tussock grasslands which create a distinctive open landscape. Te Kahui Kaupeka Conservation Park provides habitat for the locally endemic Dobson's speargrass/taramea (<i>Aciphylla dobsonii</i>) and <i>Hebe buchananii</i>. The invertebrate fauna of the valleys and surrounding mountain ranges reflects the mosaic of habitat types present in the area. Notable birds include black stilt/kakī, blue duck/whio (in the tributaries of the upper Rangitata River), New Zealand falcon/karearea, rock wren/ pīwauwau, wrybill/ngutu pare and kea. There are eight species of grasshoppers/Mawhitiwhiti in the Two Thumbs Range, including New Zealand's largest grasshopper, the rare <i>Sigaus villosus</i>. <p>Sensory — Very High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mountainous headwaters of the Rangitata River have a special wilderness character, an expansive and vast valley setting and landscape features that are of a high degree of naturalness. The Upper Rangitata is an exceptional example of a braided river system. Its sinuous patterning is both highly expressive and attractive. The Rangitata Gorge is a particularly impressive landscape feature near the eastern extent of the ONL where the river cuts through the foothill ranges. Exceptional panoramic views of both the surrounding mountains and river outwash plains are experienced within the Upper Rangitata valley.

		<p>These views are an integral and widely celebrated image of the Canterbury High Country Landscape making it extremely memorable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The openness allows for long views across the landscape where the consistency between the valley floor and mountain sides provides for coherent appearance without unnatural lines and man-made structures.• In the winter months, these dry hills are often snow-covered. This creates an interesting contrast with the smooth basins below. <p>Associative — High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The area provides multiple opportunities for recreation, primarily in a mountain setting providing front-country, backcountry and remote experiences. Recreational activities include ski-touring, climbing, tramping, hunting, mountain biking and fishing.• The Rangitata Gorge provides for a unique and challenging rafting and kayaking experience within Canterbury.• The intermontane ranges, vast river valleys and basins form one of the quintessential landscapes of Canterbury.• These high-country landscapes have inspired numerous artists and writers for generations to express their impressions in paint, poetry and prose.• Rangitata River is a Statutory Acknowledgement Area under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act.• The area is habitat to a significant number of taonga species, which Ngāi Tahu has a special association with. The values contributing to the landscape, including areas of remnant habitat, support populations of species that are taonga to Ngāi Tahu.• The river is used as a mahika kai source and a travel and trade route, which gives it special importance in supporting Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua. Travel up to the Upper Rangitata Valley occurred on a seasonal basis to harvest resources, including fish, birds, and plants based on their intimate knowledge of resources. For example, in the Upper Rangitata this included large number of Weka and other forest birds.• As a major trail, there are a number of Tauranga waka along the river.• Several of the mauka/mountains that sit on the edges of the ONL are physical manifestations of tīpuna/ancestors.• The intrinsic value of the river as a whole, including its mauri, and the linkage from Ka Tiritiri o Te Moana to the sea is of significance, even though these values are degraded in places.• The name of the Rangitata River refers to the significance of the river's landforms, referring to the steps (terraces) to the sky or heaven.• Large, early high-country runs were established in this area. One of the runs, 'Mesopotamia', was first occupied by Samuel Butler, author of Erewhon. Butler built his original hut at the confluence of Forest and Butler creeks before moving to the site of the present Mesopotamia Station.• A historic cemetery on Mesopotamia Station holds the last resting place of Dr Andrew Sinclair, Colonial Secretary to the New Zealand Government. Sinclair drowned crossing the Rangitata and is buried on the Rangitata Flats.
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ONL-2	<p>Mt Peel Forest and Four Peaks Range¹</p>	<p>Biophysical — Very High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peel Forest has a range of vegetation from mature low-land forest to exposed tussock and herb-field communities. Significant areas of indigenous podocarp, broadleaf rain forest and hardwood forest can be found on the slopes of Tarahaoa/Mt Peel due to its diversity and size. Dennistoun Bush contains 40 hectares of magnificent ancient forest with huge kahikatea, lowland totara and matai and expresses a very high level of naturalness. The Scotsburn and Kowhai Stream catchments on the southern flanks of Tarahaoa/Mt Peel, as well as Peel Forest itself provides native forests of particularly high quality. The peaks, ridgelines and spurs of the Four Peaks Range form a coherent mountain landscape with rock, some scree, tussocks, alpine shrublands, and herbfield vegetation cover prevalent. Low producing grassland dominates on the lower spurs with native vegetation in the gullies. More extensive areas can be found in the Station Stream/ Mc Lead Stream catchment, along the Waihī River north bank and in the Hae Hae Te Moana River catchment. The Ōrāri Gorge is a distinctive feature within the wider ONL which has particularly high biophysical <u>and biodiversity</u>² values with native vegetation along the steep banks and high legibility of the incised landform traversing the foothills. Numerous species of ferns are found within Peel Forest. At least ten species of native bird occur in Peel Forest <u>and Ōrāri Gorge</u>³ including bellbird/korimako, silvereye/tauhou, tomtit/miromiro, rifleman/tītitipounamu, grey warbler/riroriro, native wood pigeon/kererū, fantail/ pīwakawaka, shining cuckoo/ pipiwharauroa and longtailed cuckoo/koekoea. The Ōrāri River and tributaries provide habitat for the blue duck/whio. The New Zealand falcon/karearea and the New Zealand pipit/pīhoihoi occur in the surrounding area. Four of the five extant lizard species in the District are present in this ONL. Mt Peel edelweiss <i>Leucogenes tarahaoa</i> is endemic to the higher region of Middle/Big Mt Peel. The Orari Gorge is a stronghold for the rare stem-clasping hebe <i>Veronica amplexicaulis</i> which is endemic to South Canterbury. Other threatened species in the Gorge and the catchment are three native broom species (the Canterbury pink broom <i>Carmichaelia torulosa</i>, the scrambling broom <i>C. kirkii</i>, the coral broom <i>C. crassicaule</i>) as well as at least seven other At Risk plant species.⁴ <p>Sensory — High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peel Forest Scenic Reserve is a highly valued recreation area with numerous tracks where the mature forest can be experienced by a wide range of visitors.
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¹ Forest and Bird [156.183]² Frank, H [90.18]³ Frank, H [90.18]⁴ Frank, H [90.18]

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Ōrāri Gorge is a highly legible landscape feature with high aesthetic and recreational value. Its steep sides and the high naturalness of the Ōrāri River distinguish it from some of the other smaller gorges in the range, such as the Waihi Gorge.• A number of waterfalls are found within Peel Forest above Blandswood that provide very high sensory values.• The Four Peaks Range is an important landmark of the southern part of the region, where the front ranges meet the Eastern Mackenzie District.• The views enjoyed from Huatekerekere/ Little Mt Peel across the expanse of the Canterbury Plains and the braids of the Rangitata River are particularly impressive.• The Four Peaks and Tarahaoa/Mt Peel form the Front Ranges that are the backdrop to views from South Canterbury and the Timaru Plains.• <u>The Ōrāri River has high water quality and is popular for swimming.</u>⁵ <p>Associative — High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peel Forest and the Four Peaks Range with its river gorges are accessible recreation areas boasting of recreational opportunities for hiking and camping.• The Mt Peel area is home to taonga species, which have intrinsic values to mana whenua.• The Ōrāri River, which forms the south-western boundary of the ONL, is a valued mahinga kai resource, forming part of the network of mahinga kai trails and resources. Kokopu was one of the kai species gathered in the area.• There are several archaeological sites adjacent to the ONL that link to historic use of the area.• According to Māori legends, Tarahaoa, Huatekerekere and their children who were passengers on the capsized Arai-te-uru waka, were transformed into many of the well-known geographical features of Te Waipounamu. Tarahaoa and Huatekerekere transformed into Mt Peel and Little Mt Peel (below); their tamariki (children) are the mighty totara of Peel Forest and their mokopuna (grandchildren) are the Four Peaks (sourced from Peel Forest DOC brochure & Ngā Tahu atlas).• Tarahaoa and Huatekerekere (Mt Peel and Little Mt Peel respectively) link mana whenua to the land, and the mountains are physical representations of tīpuna. Therefore, these mountains are a metaphysical link to the past.• Several of the totara trees located within the forest are significant as they are additional links to tīpuna.• Several historic saw pits dating back to the 1840s, are located within or near Peel Forest.
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⁵ Frank, H [90.18]