



Significant Natural Area Assessment									
Project No: <i>11001/023</i>	Property Name: <i>Closeburn Station</i> Site Name: <i>Closeburn SNA A</i>	Ecologist: <i>D. Palmer</i> Date: <i>23 June 2011</i>							
Survey Undertaken By: <i>Dawn Palmer, Ralph Henderson and Neill Simpson.</i>		Waypoint No (mid-point of survey area): <i>1248900E 5001255N</i>							
LENZ Units: <i>Q2.2a</i> Ecological District: <i>Shotover District.</i>		Photo No.(s) <i>No photos.</i>							
Topography: <i>Strongly rolling slopes</i>	Slope: <i>16-20°</i> <i>Strongly rolling</i>	Altitude: <i>515 m asl</i>	Aspect: <i>East to South-East</i>						
Threatened Environment Status: <i>Critically Underprotected</i>		Area Size (ha): <i>32.45</i>							
<p><b>Representativeness:</b> Historically, the montane areas of the Shotover Ecological District were dominated by mixed beech forest. Pockets of mountain, red, and silver beech remain in the nearby Mount Creighton Scenic Reserve and lake facing reserves, elsewhere beech forest remains as isolated fragments.</p> <p>The large area of shrubland on the south western slopes above Lake Dispute is dominated by manuka and Coprosma, a common seral stage shrubland community where beech forest has been cleared.</p> <p>The regenerating shrubland provides a representative example of seral stage succession from shrubland to beech forest vegetation.</p>									
<p><b>Are there threatened species expected/ identified in the survey area?</b> If so, list species and threat status.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Threatened Species</th> <th>Threat Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Falco novaezealandiae</i> "eastern" (eastern NZ Falcon) (not seen)</td> <td>At Risk - Recovering</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Threatened Species	Threat Status	<i>Falco novaezealandiae</i> "eastern" (eastern NZ Falcon) (not seen)	At Risk - Recovering		
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<i>Falco novaezealandiae</i> "eastern" (eastern NZ Falcon) (not seen)	At Risk - Recovering								
<p><b>Provide onsite description of vegetation:</b> The large area of shrubland on the south western slopes above Lake Dispute is dominated by manuka and <i>Coprosma propinqua</i>.</p> <p><b>Degree of Modification:</b> The area of Manuka-Coprosma shrubland on the slopes southwest of the lake is adjacent to an area of residential development and is contiguous with the Manuka shrubland extending into the Mount Creighton Scenic Reserve.</p> <p>The catchment was retired from grazing following tenure review, and has not been grazed for 4 years.</p>									

**Overall Health:**

While modified by land clearance and pastoral use, the vegetation within the Lake Dispute catchment is regenerating.

**Provide onsite description of fauna habitat:**

The shrubland communities are likely to provide habitat and host plants for a range of indigenous invertebrates. Invertebrates also provide food for indigenous and exotic passerines which are in turn the prey of the New Zealand falcon thought to hold a territory in the surrounding hill country. The vegetation within the catchments of Lake Dispute, Mount Creighton and Moke Lake to the north of the SNA provide for the needs of the falcon with the shrubland considered here making a relatively minor contribution.

The potential habitat of herpetofauna was not investigated during the June survey.

**Threats/Risks to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices):**

The shrubland on the rolling hillside south west of Lake Dispute are classified as Q2.2a, a critically under protected environment (>30% left and <10% protected 39.92 % indigenous cover remaining 5.07% protected).

The Manuka-Coprosma dominated shrubland on the slopes south and west of Lake Dispute straddle the boundary of Closeburn Station (south) and public conservation land.

Where they are on private land they may be vulnerable to progressive clearance as fire breaks are fortified by removal of "fuel" and the replacement of Manuka with lawn or grassland.

**Rarity:**

No rare species are known to occur within the area of shrubland identified for assessment.

**Area Size and Shape (degree to which the area may be or is becoming self-sustaining):**

The shrubland is contiguous with the adjacent regenerating shrubland, which fringe beech forest in the Mount Creighton Scenic Reserve.

**Diversity and Pattern (is there a notable range of species and habitats, aspects, sequences?):**

The Manuka-Coprosma shrubland provides structural and species diversity associated with the processes of natural regeneration, and as previously noted, is contiguous with the shrubland within the adjacent scenic reserve.

**Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. & landform features, distribution limits?):**

The shrubland did not contain any known distinctive ecological characteristics other than being on the fringe of a large area of regenerating beech forest protected within the adjacent reserve.

**Connectivity** (how is the site connected to surrounding communities/areas?):

Within the catchment of Lake Dispute habitats range from lake margin through regenerating shrubland into tussock grassland on the open tops of Mount Hanley. Indigenous vegetation is discontinuous around the lake and throughout the valley however, the shrubland on the hill slope south-west of Lake Dispute straddles the boundary and is contiguous with the adjacent regenerating shrubland fringing the beech forest in the Mount Creighton Scenic Reserve to the west.

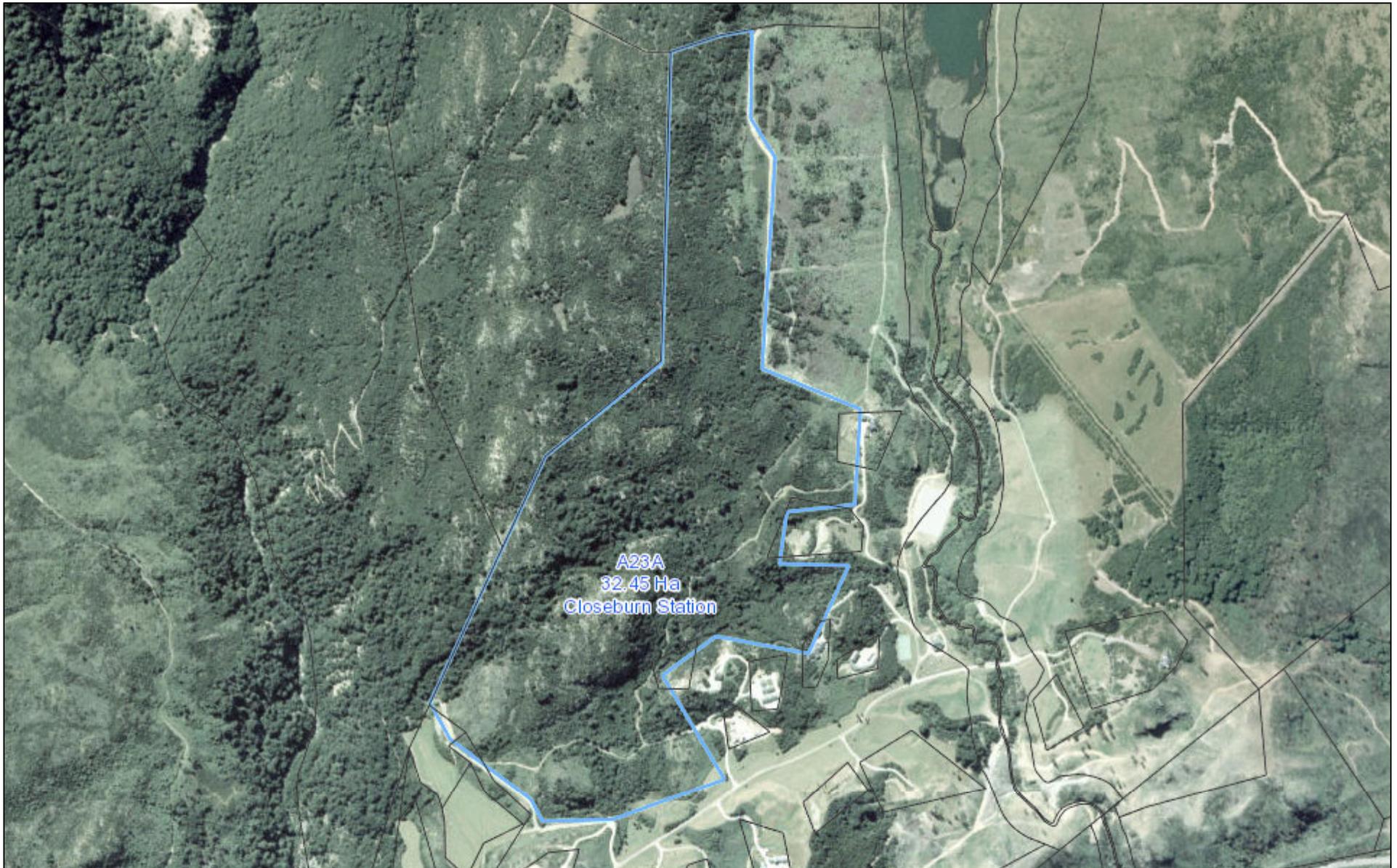
**Sustainability** (does the site possess the resilience to maintain its ecological integrity and processes?):

The shrubland vegetation is continuous with a large tract of regenerating manuka dominated shrubland which grades into mature beech forest on public conservation land to the west within the Twelve Mile Creek catchment. In the absence of fire or additional clearance, it poses sufficient integrity to maintain its condition and continue to support the processes of natural regeneration.

**Recommendation (Accept/Decline):**

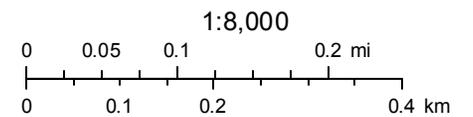
Accept the shrubland area within the Closeburn Station as an SNA given its contiguous nature with regenerating shrubland and beech forest communities in the adjacent reserve.

Figure 1: The area of potential significance - Closeburn SNA A - A23A.



October 3, 2014

- Proposed Significant Natural Area
- Parcels
- Proposed Significant Natural Area



Please note the area shown is indicative and only for discussion purposes.