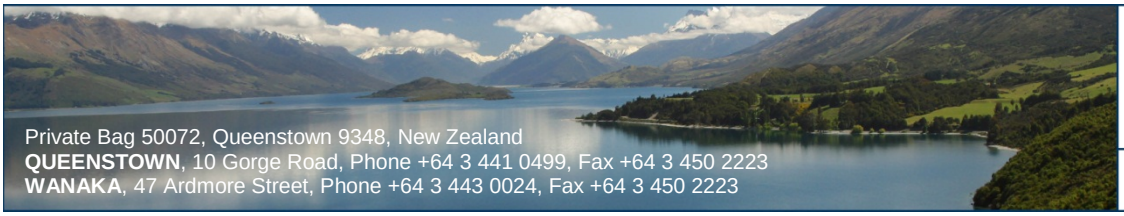

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QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Significant Natural Area Assessment

Project No: *11001/044*	Property Name: *Te Awa Road* Site Name: *Te Awa Road SNA A*	Ecologist: *Neill Simpson & Rebecca Lawrence.* Date: *18 February 2015*

Survey Undertaken By: *Neill Simpson & Rebecca Lawrence.*	Waypoint No (midpoint of survey area): *See attached plan for location.*
LENZ Unit: *N5.1c* Ecological District: *Lindis Ecological District*	Photo No.(s): *See attached.*

Topography: *River terraces.*	Slope: *Flat*	Altitude: *328 masl.*	Aspect: *South-east.*
Threatened Environment Status: *Acutely Threatened*		Area Size (ha): 2.38	

Representativeness:
Pre-European settlement vegetation within the potential area of interest is understood to have consisted of kanuka, kowhai and Hall's totara woodlands (Walker *et al*., 2003). The vegetation on the site lacks the diversity of the original vegetation, but provides a good representation of native grasslands with some remaining woodland species, and with native vegetation being the dominant cover.

Are there threatened species expected/identified in the survey area? If so, list species and threat status.

Threatened Species	Threat Status
None observed	

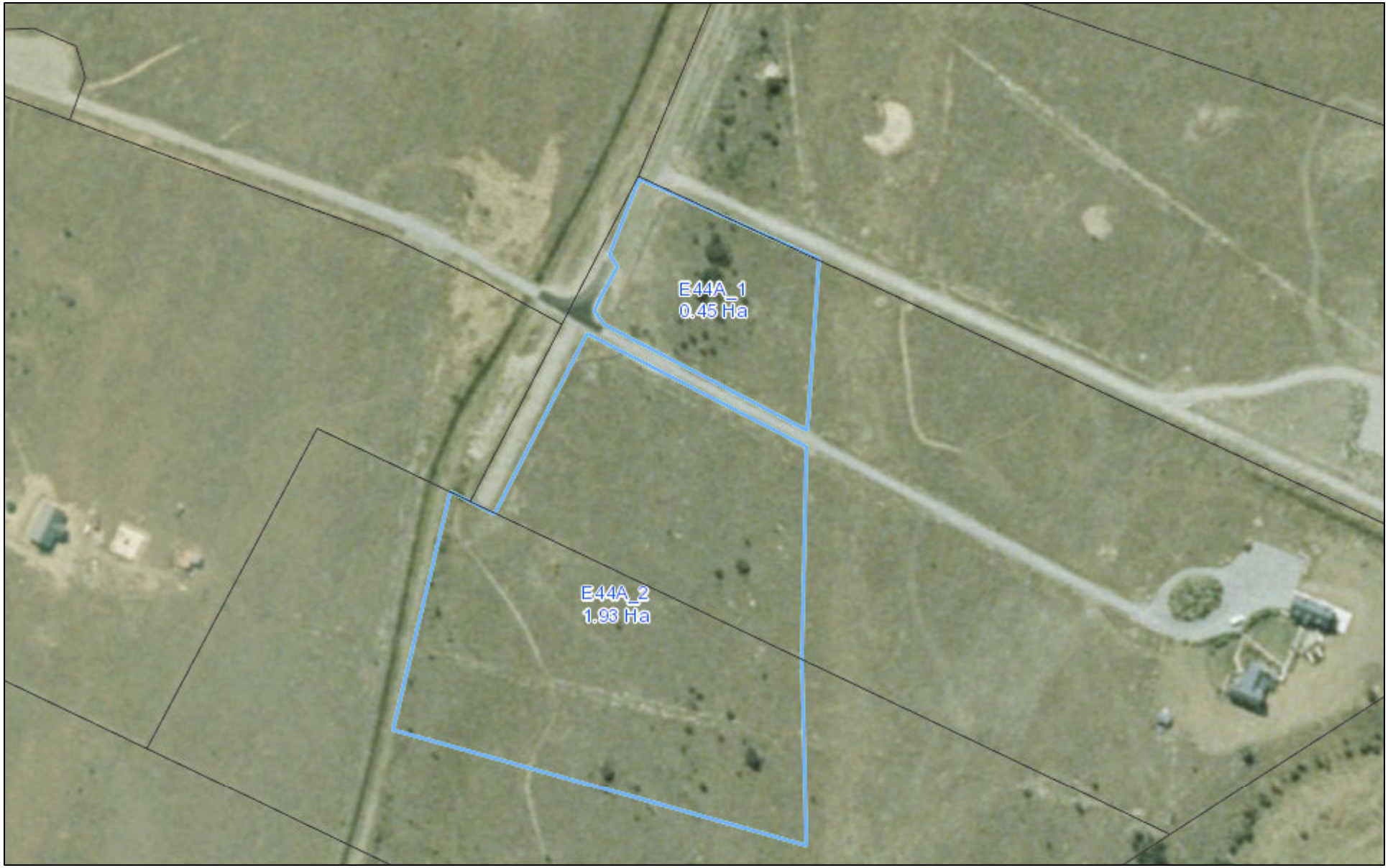
Provide onsite description of vegetation:
Vegetation type: Hard tussock (*Festuca novae-zelandiae*) grassland with shrubland species, including *Kunzea ericoides*s (kanuka), *Ozothamnus leptophyllus* and *Discaria toumatou* (matagouri). Native species occurring within the tussock include *Rytidosperma pumilum, Luzula ulophylla, Raoulia parkii*, *Carex breviculmis, Leucopogon fraseri, Muehlenbeckia complexa* var*. complexa, Pimelea oreophila* subsp*. oreophila, Coprosma propinqua, C. petriei*, *Stackhousia minima* and lichen species. Some exotic species are present, however, the native vegetation coverage is dominant. The exotic species include: *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Rumex acetosella,* Hieracium species, *Agrostis capillaris, Rosa rubiginosa* and *Pinus contorta*.

Degree of Modification: The lack of native woodland species indicates the site has experienced multiple disturbance events. However, the surviving grassland and shrub species do provide a good remaining representation, and cover, of native species.

Overall Health: Despite recent and historical disturbances, the vegetation on the river terrace remains a good representative example of a native grassland community with some woodland species, and the vegetation cover is dominated by native species.

Provide onsite description of fauna habitat: The grassland and shrubland species will likely provide habitat for indigenous invertebrates, lizards and bird species.
Threats to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices): Key threats include housing developments and wilding pines; wilding pine control has occurred on site.
Rarity: The threatened environment classification identifies the N5.1c environment to have 2.7 % indigenous vegetation cover remaining, with 0.8 % formally protected.
Area Size and Shape (degree to which the area may be or is becoming self-sustaining): The area of interest is of a moderate size and matagouri and *Ozothamnus leptophyllus* are naturally regenerating on site.
Diversity and Pattern (is there a notable range of species and habitats, aspects, sequences?): The continued disturbance is shown in the lack of diversity of plant species, but the dominance of native vegetation cover in comparison to exotic, shows that the area of interest has the potential to sustain an ecologically important community.
Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. & landform features, distribution limits?): This area of grassland habitat is one of the few remaining remnants within the Upper Clutha, and distinctive in that the native vegetation is dominant, with only a minor exotic component.
Connectivity (how is the site connected to surrounding communities/areas?): The area of interest is connected to the surrounding kanuka woodland and cushion/herb fields along the river terrace on the opposite side of the Hawea River.
Sustainability (does the site possess the resilience to maintain its ecological integrity and processes?): The grassland has maintained a moderate degree of ecological integrity with good vegetation cover of *Rytidosperma pumilum, Festuca novae-zelandiae* and *Ozothamnus leptophyllus*. However, wilding pines pose a long term risk to the site, and control needs to continue. The natural regeneration of matagouri and *Ozothamnus leptophyllus* provides evidence of the sites' sustainability.
Recommendation (Accept/Decline): While the area lacks the diversity of the original vegetation cover along the Hawea River, given the dominant native vegetation cover and natural regeneration occurring on site, the area provides a sustainable area of indigenous vegetation that is acutely threatened. Based on the above considerations we recommend the area should be taken forward for further consideration as Significant Indigenous Vegetation and Fauna Habitat.

Figure 1: The area of potential significance - ‘Te Awa Road SNA A’ - E44A_1-2.



June 22, 2015

1:2,000

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0 0.0275 0.055 0.11 km

Proposed Significant Natural Area

Parcels

Proposed Significant Natural Area

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

Figure 2: A representative photograph of the grassland, with shrub species on *Te Awa Road SNA A*.

Figure 3: Matagouri regeneration on *Te Awa Road SNA A*.