

21.23.5 Maungawera Valley RCL

General Description of the Area

The Maungawera Valley PA is a rural valley about 6km north of urban Wānaka enclosed by Mount Brown to the south and Mount Maude to the north. The PA includes the northern flanks of Mount Brown and most of the valley floor extending towards Mount Maude/Mount Gold/Mount Burke ONL to the north, the hummocky moraine and Rods Creek catchment to the west, and the protruding moraine of Maungawera Hill to the east. The strip of land between Mount Brown and the Lake Hāwea - Albert Town Road (SH6) is also included.

There are two sub areas within the PA:

- The northern flanks of Mount Brown;
- The floor of the valley.

Physical Attributes and Values

Geology and Geomorphology • Topography and Landforms • Climate and Soils • Hydrology • Vegetation • Ecology • Settlement • Development and Land Use • Archaeology and Heritage • Mana whenua

Important landforms and land types:

1. Mount Brown: an elongated roche moutonnée landform that has been overridden by valley glaciers and smoothed by a veneer of glacial till deposits from successive glaciations. On the moderate to gently sloping northern flanks, the underlying schist bedrock has been overlain with till deposits from successive glaciations and eroded by subsequent fluvial action.
2. The valley floor: originally formed by a glacial tongue and overlain with glacial outwash gravels and more recent alluvial fan materials from the mountains to the north.
3. The relatively free-draining soils of the valley floor, making the area suitable for pastoral farming and cropping under irrigation.

Important hydrological features:

4. Ephemeral water courses from the northern mountains that are artificially channelled across the valley floor and join to form Wai-utu-utu (Speargrass Creek) at the eastern end of the valley, flowing to the Hāwea River.

Important ecological features and vegetation types:

5. Scattered regenerating kānuka forest on the northern flanks of Mount Brown, particularly on the steeper slopes, amongst rough and semi-improved pasture and pine woodlots.
6. Conifer and poplar shelter belts, generally oriented north-south across the valley to mitigate the wind tunnel effect created by Waiairiki (Stevensons Arm) and the enclosing landforms.
7. A few small (1-4ha) forestry woodlots on the lower flanks of Mount Brown.

Land use patterns and features:

8. Distinctive and coherent pattern of cropping and pastoral farming on the valley floor, with large landholdings, regular but widely spaced shelterbelts, farm infrastructure such as tracks, irrigation systems and a few sporadic farm buildings, and dwellings/homestead clusters (some of which provide visitor accommodation and event facilities).

9. Low density rural living and hobby farming on the lower flanks or toe of Mount Brown and adjacent to Lake Hawea - Albert Town Road. Mt Maude vineyard is also located on the lower Mount Brown slopes. Rural living/hobby farming lots are generally between 2ha and 9ha in size, with a few larger lots greater than 50ha. Dwellings are set back from Maungawera Valley Road, are generally well integrated by the hummocky topography of the mountain flanks or by existing vegetation and are not visually prominent from the road.

10. The land use context of the PA includes:
 - a. RCL open working farmland or kānuka-lined stream courses to the west as far as Waiariki (Stevensons Arm), including the distinctive Maungawera fan.
 - b. RCL open pastoral farming on foothills and terraces/alluvial fans at the base of the Mount Maude/Mount Gold/Mount Burke ONL to the north.
 - c. Pastoral farming, forestry and a small amount of rural living in the Maungawera Hill RCL to the north-east, and the PA RCL West of Hawea River to the east across SH6, where rural living development is largely set back from the highway and/or screened by vegetation.
 - d. The Dublin Bay ONL extending to the ridge of Mount Brown, and RCL on the eastern part of Mount Brown to the south. These areas have open working farmland with a very low density of built development and contain sensitive ridgelines that are visible from Lake Wānaka, Mount Iron and public places on the Upper Clutha Basin floor.

Important archaeological and heritage features and their locations:

11. Fork Farm Homestead at 100-152 Maungawera Valley Road constructed in 1910, with a surrounding garden designed by Alfred Buxton in 1937.
12. Māori occupation or use of the area (for example, archaeological sites F40/12 and F40/13).

Mana whenua features and their locations:

13. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori.

Associative Attributes and Values

Mana whenua creation and origin traditions • Mana whenua associations and experience • Mana whenua metaphysical aspects such as mauri and wairua • Historic values • Shared and recognised values • Recreation and scenic values •

Mana whenua associations and experience:

14. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.

Important historic attributes and values:

15. Associations of the area with early European settlement and farming, including Fork Farm (formerly part of Wanaka Station and later the Forks Run).

Important shared and recognised attributes and values:

16. The low population density and infrequent through traffic mean that the valley is not a significant component of the shared and recognised landscape values of the Upper Clutha. However, it is valued by local residents as part of their sense of place.

Perceptual (Sensory) Attributes and Values

Legibility and Expressiveness • Coherence • Views to the area • Views from the area • Naturalness • Memorability • Transient values • Remoteness / Wildness • Aesthetic qualities and values •

Legibility and expressiveness attributes and values:

18. The open flat expanse of the valley floor and the elongated and hummocky flanks of Mount Brown are expressive of the interaction of the glacial and fluvial processes that have shaped the valley.

Particularly important views to and from the area

19. Highly scenic views from Maungawera Valley Road across open farmland to the northern mountainous ONL and to the southern flank of Mount Brown, which is somewhat foreshortened as a result of the proximity of the road to the mountain toe. Views have a strong 'working farm' rural character, with most rural living activity obscured by topography or vegetation.
20. The highly coherent pattern of large open paddocks alternating with north-south shelterbelts across the valley floor contributes strongly to the scenic values of the valley and allows unobstructed sequential views to the surrounding ONL and RCL landscapes.
21. Views from Lake Hāwea - Albert Town Road to the alluvially truncated escarpments at the eastern end of Mount Brown and to the eastern mouth of the Maungawera Valley at the road intersection. The farmed and managed flats contrast with the unmodified slopes of Mount Brown and more distant mountains in these views and the scattered patterns of regenerating kanuka on the escarpment contribute to perceptions of naturalness. Highly visible dwellings, domestication and earth mounding between the road and Mount Brown somewhat compromise the pleasantness, coherence and rural character of the views.

Naturalness attributes and values

22. There is a moderate level of naturalness with a predominance of natural rather than built elements, but human intervention as managed farmland and rural living is evident. The variable but coherent patterns of rougher pasture and regenerating kānuka on the upper slopes of Mount Brown contribute to perceptions of naturalness.

Memorability attributes and values

23. Memorable to residents and locals as an enclosed valley with a strong rural character.

Transient attributes and values

24. Transient attributes of the landscape include seasonal foliage and pasture or crop colours, the changing shadow patterns from shelter belts and the presence of stock and wildlife such as hawks.

Remoteness/wildness attributes and values

25. The lack of through traffic and easy access to the lake, together with a low population density, give the valley a very strong sense of rural tranquillity, quietness and remoteness.

Aesthetic attributes and values

26. Strong aesthetic attributes as a result of:
 - a. the highly attractive rural views across open pastoral/cropping land to the dramatic and sublime landforms of the Mount Maude/Mount Gold/Mount Burke range and to the elongated form of Mount Brown, with its regenerating kānuka cover;

- b. the coherent patterns of open farmland and shelterbelts;
- c. the spacious and tranquil 'working farm' rural character;
- d. the low density of domestication, particularly on the valley floor;
- e. the effective integration of dwellings by landform or vegetation.

Summary of Landscape Values

Physical • Perceptual (Sensory) • Associative

Rating scale: seven-point scale ranging from **Very Low** to **Very High**.

very low	low	low-mod	moderate	mod-high	high	very high
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The physical, associative and perceptual attributes and values described above for Maungawera Valley PA can be summarised as follows:

- (a) **Moderate physical values** relating to the agricultural and horticultural land uses, the roche moutonnée landform of Mount Brown, the glacially formed outwash plain/alluvial fans of the valley floor, the strong patterns of rural land use, and the mana whenua features associated with the area.
- (b) **Low-moderate associative values** relating to the mana whenua associations of the area, the historic heritage of European pastoral farming, and the shared and recognised values of the area for residents and locals.
- (c) **Moderate-high perceptual values** relating to the expressiveness of the terrace, escarpment and downland landforms, the coherence of vegetation and land use patterns, the strong rural character, the scenic views across open pasture, the low-key rural tranquillity and quietness, and the moderate level of naturalness, with rural living remaining subordinate to pasture/cropping and vegetation.

Landscape Capacity

The landscape capacity of the PA RCL Maungawera Valley for a range of activities is set out below.

- i. **commercial recreational activities – very limited** landscape capacity for small scale and low-key activities based on the rural land resource that are: visually recessive; of a modest scale; have a low key 'rural' character; and that maintain or enhance the PA's landscape character and visual amenity values.
- ii. **visitor accommodation and tourism related activities – limited** landscape capacity for visitor accommodation activities that are: co-located with existing development; located to optimise the screening and/or camouflaging benefit of natural landscape elements; designed to be of a sympathetic scale, appearance, and character; integrate landscape restoration and enhancement; have a low key 'rural' character; and that maintain or enhance the PA's landscape character and visual amenity values. **No** landscape capacity for tourism related activities.
- iii. **urban expansions – no** landscape capacity.
- iv. **intensive agriculture – some** landscape capacity where soils and available water allocation support the activity, and where expressiveness and aesthetic attributes and values are maintained or enhanced.
- v. **earthworks – limited** landscape capacity to absorb earthworks associated with farming and rural living/visitor accommodation activities that maintain naturalness and expressiveness attributes and values and integrate with existing natural landform patterns.

- vi. **farm buildings – some** landscape capacity for modestly scaled buildings that reinforce the existing rural character.
- vii. **mineral extraction – very limited** landscape capacity for farm-scale quarries that maintain or enhance the PA's landscape character and visual amenity values.
- viii. **transport infrastructure – very limited** landscape capacity to absorb additional infrastructure that is of a modest scale and low-key rural character.
- ix. **utilities and regionally significant infrastructure – limited** landscape capacity for additional district scale infrastructure that is co-located with roads and has an appearance consistent with the rural character of the PA. **Very limited** landscape capacity for larger scale regionally significant infrastructure.
- x. **renewable energy generation – some** landscape capacity for discreetly located and small-scale renewable energy generation. **Limited** landscape capacity for larger scale commercial renewable energy generation.
- xi. **production forestry – limited** landscape capacity for scattered small woodlots of up to 2 hectares in area.
- xii. **rural living – very limited** landscape capacity to absorb additional rural living without cumulative adverse effects on naturalness, aesthetic, remoteness and rural character values. The rural character of the PA is vulnerable to fragmentation and domestication through rural living development. Any additional rural living should be set well back from roads; integrated by landform and/or existing vegetation; designed to be of a modest scale; have a 'low-key' rural character; integrate landscape restoration and enhancement (where appropriate); enhance public access (where appropriate); and should maintain public views across open land to surrounding landforms.