

# Ecological effects assessment for a proposed subdivision at Homestead Bay, Queenstown

---

Contract Report No. 7255

Providing outstanding ecological  
services to sustain and improve  
our environments



# Ecological effects assessment for a proposed subdivision at Homestead Bay, Queenstown

## Contract Report No. 7255

March 2025

### Project Team:

Erin Gallagher – Field survey and report author

Olly Ball – Report author

Kelvin Lloyd - Report review

### Prepared for:

RCL Homestead Bay Limited

Level 1, 13 Camp Street

Queenstown 9300

Reviewed and approved for release by:

Kelvin Lloyd  
Senior Principal Ecologist  
Wildland Consultants Ltd  
14/03/2025

---

Cite this report as follows:

Wildland Consultants (2025). *Ecological effects assessment for a proposed subdivision at Homestead Bay, Queenstown*. Wildland Consultants Contract Report No. 7255. Prepared for RCL Homestead Bay Limited. 46pp.

---

### Dunedin Office

764 Cumberland Street, Dunedin, Ph 03-477-2096

### Head Office

99 Sala Street, PO Box 7137, Te Ngae, Rotorua Ph 07-343-9017 Fax 07-343-9018 Email: [rotorua@wildlands.co.nz](mailto:rotorua@wildlands.co.nz)

[www.wildlands.co.nz](http://www.wildlands.co.nz)



# Contents

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Vegetation and habitat survey	5
2.2	Fauna survey	5
2.3	Evaluation of ecological effects	6
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Ecological Context</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1	Remarkables Ecological District	6
3.2	Site description	7
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Vegetation and Habitats</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1	Overview	7
4.2	Terrestrial habitats	7
4.3	Freshwater and wetland habitats	12
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Flora</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Fauna</b>	<b>16</b>
6.1	Avifauna	16
6.2	Herpetofauna	16
6.3	Terrestrial invertebrates	19
6.4	Aquatic fauna	20
6.5	Pest animals	20
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Ecological Values</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Overview of Proposed Subdivision</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Potential Ecological Effects</b>	<b>24</b>
9.1	Overview	24
9.2	Clearance of vegetation	24
9.3	Damage and loss of wetlands	25
9.4	Indigenous lizards	25
9.5	Indigenous avifauna	27
9.6	Indigenous invertebrates	27
9.7	Effects of residential dwellings	28
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Mitigation of Potential Ecological Effects</b>	<b>28</b>
10.1	Overview	28
10.2	Enhance indigenous vegetation	29
10.3	Enhance and monitor ephemeral wetland	29
10.4	Avoid, minimise, and remedy potential effects on lizards	29
10.5	Avoid and minimise potential effects on avifauna	30
10.6	Foster environmental protection by residents	30
10.7	Summary	31
<b>11.0</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>32</b>



<b>Acknowledgments</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Appendix 1</b>	<b>37</b>
Proposed draft plan of the subdivision development	37
<b>Appendix 2</b>	<b>38</b>
Plant species list	38
<b>Appendix 3</b>	<b>42</b>
Avifauna species list	42
<b>Appendix 4</b>	<b>44</b>
Site photographs	44

© Wildland Consultants Ltd 2025

This report has been produced by Wildland Consultants Ltd for RCL Homestead Bay Limited. All copyright in this report is the property of Wildland Consultants Ltd and any unauthorised publication, reproduction, or adaptation of this report, including entry into generative artificial intelligence, is a breach of that copyright.





## 1.0 Introduction

Remarkable Planning, on behalf of RCL Homestead Bay Limited, is preparing a Fast Track resource consent application for a residential subdivision on approximately 200 hectares of rural land at Homestead Bay, just south of Jacks Point in Queenstown. The subdivision plan will involve the development of residential units, commercial land, schools, roading infrastructure, recreational parks, and indigenous plantings.

Recently, Wildland Consultants (Wildlands) have undertaken a wetland assessment on the property and have identified six natural inland wetlands (Wildland Consultants 2025a). Alongside this survey, Wildlands has also undertaken a lizard survey and are currently preparing a Lizard Management Plan (LMP) for this site (Wildland Consultants 2025b).

RCL Homestead Bay Limited have advised that they cannot avoid five of the natural inland wetlands for their proposed subdivision. Remarkable Planning behalf of RCL Homestead Bay Limited has commissioned Wildland Consultants Ltd (Wildlands) to prepare an Ecological Impact Assessment and provide a description of the management measures required to avoid, minimise, remedy, and offset potential adverse effects associated with the development.

## 2.0 Methods

### 2.1 Vegetation and habitat survey

The site was surveyed on 4 March 2025, during which time all vegetation and habitat types on site were described and mapped. Vegetation types were classified using the Atkinson system (Atkinson 1985), and wetlands were classified using the Johnson and Gerbeaux (2004) framework. The current ecological values of these vegetation and habitat types were also assessed. All vascular plant species observed were recorded and are presented in Appendix 2. Vegetation and habitat types were digitised onto aerial imagery using ArcGIS. Desktop reviews of the relevant flora databases were undertaken, including iNaturalist, and DOC Bioweb Threatened Plant database (accessed March 2025).

### 2.2 Fauna survey

Targeted fauna surveys were beyond the scope of this report, however the suitability of the vegetation at the site to provide habitat for key indigenous fauna species was assessed and all fauna species observed at the site were recorded. Desktop review of the relevant fauna databases including iNaturalist, and eBird database maintained by Cornell University (accessed March 2025) for the surrounding landscape was reviewed and species collated. A desktop assessment of avifauna within a two-kilometre radius of the sites were conducted by searching the online database eBird. Assessment of habitats included identification of resources within vegetation types that are (or are likely to be) occupied and used by specific taxa that may be present within that area/region. Assessments were informed by professional opinion and expertise, including liaison with subject matter experts as required.

Lizard information was taken from a recent survey undertaken by Wildlands (Wildland Consultants 2025). Freshwater fauna information was taken from a report completed by Water Ways Consultants (Alibone 2023).



The terrestrial invertebrate desktop survey involved searching the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF.org 2025<sup>1</sup>) for species records. Amateur and expert observations alike are stored in GBIF, and though some data standards are applied, a desktop survey is no substitute for a field survey by a qualified entomologist. To filter the data, a polygon was drawn encompassing the site plus the area surrounding the site within five kilometres from the site perimeter. The Scientific Name filter was also applied, using the terms Arachnida, Athoracophoridae, Rhytididae, Insecta, and Onychophora to represent spiders, leaf-veined slugs, indigenous giant land snails, insects, and velvet worms respectively. From the records retrieved by the GBIF search, freshwater invertebrates were removed. This dataset was used to characterise the fauna based on the most commonly-represented orders. Observations that were not identified further than order, or were marked as doubtful, were then deleted. All remaining records were scanned for notable species<sup>2</sup>. These were compared with vegetation and habitat on-site to judge the likelihood of each notable species occurring within the project area.

## 2.3 Evaluation of ecological effects

The ecological significance of the ecological values present on the property was assessed based on ecological significance criteria in the Appendix 1 of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB) (Ministry for the Environment 2023) and the ecological significance criteria within Appendix 5 of the Queenstown Lakes District Plan (Queenstown Lakes District Council 2024).

The Quality Planning guidelines for undertaking assessments of ecological effects have been referred to when preparing this report (Quality Planning 2023). The ecological values of affected vegetation and habitats, and the magnitude and extent of the potential adverse ecological effects associated with the proposed subdivision have been evaluated using the methods described in the Quality Planning guidelines.

## 3.0 Ecological Context

### 3.1 Remarkables Ecological District

The proposed subdivision development at Homestead Bay is located within the Remarkables Ecological District and the following description is adapted from McEwen (1987).

This district contains the extremely steep, rugged, and strongly glaciated, Remarkables, and Hector Mountains (500-2,300 metres a.s.l.) as well as the southern part of Lake Wakatipu. The geology is mainly Paleozoic Haast Schist with small areas of Pleistocene outwash gravels and Holocene alluvium in valleys. This district is cool, dry, and is affected by rainshadow of the Main Divide. Rainfall is between 750-1,500 millimetres per year. The northwest winds prevail with occasional strong gales. Snow may lie for weeks in winter, above 1,000 metres.

The soils are mainly stony steepland soils from schist and related slope deposits passing to alpine soils with extensive areas of bare rock and scree at higher altitudes. Deeper soils on easier slopes where variable cover of loess overlies gravelly alluvium, till and schist. Soils mainly strongly leached but those at lower altitudes weakly to moderately leached and droughty in summer.

---

<sup>1</sup> GBIF.org (12 March 2025) GBIF Occurrence Download <https://doi.org/10.15468/dl.dp8p2m>

<sup>2</sup> Notable species are locally endemic, known or suspected to be declining, particularly sensitive to habitat loss or predation by introduced mammals, or listed as Threatened or At Risk.



A few small patches of montane tawhairauriki/mountain beech forest (*Fuscospora cliffortioides*) are present in narrow valleys occasionally with tawairauhui/red beech (*Fuscospora fusca*) and tōtara kōtukutuku/Hall's tōtara (*Podocarpus laetus*). Elsewhere this ecological district contains scrub, fernland, tussockland and alpine cushionfield.

Notable indigenous fauna are present within the Remarkables Ecological District. However, there are few forest birds in this ecological district due to the little forest remains. Miromiro/tomtit (*Petroica macrocephala*) and korimako/bellbird (*Anthornis melanura*) are present in some forest remnants. Kārearea/falcon (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) widespread and relatively common. Tōrea/South Island pied oystercatcher (*Haematopus finschi*) and pohowera/banded dotterel (*Charadrius bicinctus*) breed in low numbers on top of ranges. Moko pāpā/common gecko (*Woodworthia maculatus*) persist on the Remarkables Range. Invertebrates on the Remarkables Range include four endemic moths, grasshoppers (*Sigaus campstris*, *S. australis* and *Alpinacris tumidicauda*), chafer beetle (*Scythrodus squalidus*), leaf beetle (*Allocharis subsulcatus*), speargrass weevil (*Lyperobius spedeni*), carabid beetles (*Holcaspus ovatella* and *H. oregialis*), big striped weevils (*Lyperobius huttonii* and *L. spedeni*) (amongst *Anisotome* and *Aciphylla*), a large Byrrhid ground beetle (under stones, 1,524-1,828 metres). On the Hector Range is a flightless furry chafer (*Prodontria pinguis*). Alpine cicadas (*Maoricicada nigra frigida* and *M. otagensis otagensis*) most likely occur on both ranges.

Today, the mountains are grazed (extensive sheep and cattle), apart from some retired areas on the upper slopes.

## 3.2 Site description

The site is located at the bottom of The Remarkables Mountains, and is located in between the Jacks Point subdivision and Oraka residential area. The site is currently used as a productive farm for sheep and cattle, with a smaller area designated to a commercial business, NZONE. The topography consists of terraces, gentle undulations and two gullies. Exotic pasture grassland dominates the site. Exotic tree shelterbelts are planted along paddock fence edges and there is an exotic conifer woodlot within the northern gully. Small patches of indigenous shrublands are occasionally present on terrace slopes.

# 4.0 Vegetation and Habitats

## 4.1 Overview

Nineteen vegetation and habitat types were identified within the property and are mapped in Figure 1, with descriptions provided below.

## 4.2 Terrestrial habitats

### 1. Mountain beech treeland (planted)

This treeland is at the northern end of the property and has been planted with several tawhairauhiki/mountain beech.

### 2. Mountain beech-tī kōuka-kāpuka-mānatu-*Prunus* sp. treeland (planted amenity garden)

This area is an amenity garden that has been planted with predominantly indigenous trees and shrubs around the NZONE skydive buildings.





### 3. Blue gum/(mikimiki-sweet briar) treeland

This treeland abundant with large blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) is located at the lower end of the southern gully (Plate A4-1). Various shrubs including mikimiki (*Coprosma propinqua*), sweet briar (*Rosa rubiginosa*), Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and tūmatakuru/matagouri (*Discaria toumatou*) are scattered within the treeland. The ground cover is a mix of exotic grasses, mosses, bare soils and leaf litter.

### 4. Tūmatakuru-(mikimiki-sweet briar) scrub

The tūmatakuru-(mikimiki-sweet briar) scrub is a regenerated indigenous scrub on the lower terrace slope above the lake margin (Plate 1). Tūmatakuru/matagouri and mikimiki range from 0.5-3.0 metres tall throughout. Kōhuhu is emergent near the southern end of the scrub. Rare and emergent exotic tree elder (*Sambucus nigra*) is present along with the occasional radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*) saplings. Exotic shrubs scattered within the scrub include sweet briar (more common) and occasionally Scotch broom. The hemiparasite pirita/green mistletoe (*Ileostylus micranthus*) is present on mikimiki, tūmatakuru/matagouri and sometimes Scotch broom. The understorey of the scrub ranges from bare soils to areas of exotic grasses. Some species in the understorey species include male fern, necklace fern (*Asplenium flabellifolium*) and porcupine shrub (*Melicactus alpinus*) near the scrub edges.



**Plate 1** - Tūmatakuru-(mikimiki-sweet briar) scrub on the terrace slope and (common mat daisy) mossfield on the terrace.









## 5. Blackwood/elder-mikimiki-puka scrub

The mid-section of the southern gully is dense with mikimiki, elder, puka/large-leaved muehlenbeckia (*Muehlenbeckia australis*) and blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) on the upper gully margins (Plate 2).



**Plate 2** - Blackwood/elder-mikimiki-puka scrub in the mid-section of the southern gully.

## 6. [Kōhuhu]/mikimiki-sweet briar shrubland

This shrubland is on the slopes at the lower end of the southern gully (Plate 3). Large blue gum trees are present at the lower end of the gully slopes. Mikimiki and sweet briar area scattered across the slopes at various densities. Where mikimiki is denser, there are occasional emergent kōhuhu (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*) and climbing puka/large-leaved muehlenbeckia. The gully slopes are a mix of exotic grass species, unvegetated gravel slips and eroding cliff edges. Other shrubs occasionally present within the exotic grass areas include tūmatakuru/matagouri, Scotch broom and buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*). Clusters of male fern (*Dryopteris filix-max*) feature on the south-facing slope).

## 7. Tūmatakuru shrubland

Several patches of tūmatakuru/matagouri are present within the productive farmland paddocks. The density of tūmatakuru/matagouri varies between each shrubland and heights of shrubs range from 0.5-2.5 metres (Plate A4-2 and A4-3). Sweet briar and occasionally mikimiki and porcupine shrub are dispersed in between the tūmatakuru/matagouri. Inter-shrub space is mostly exotic herbs and grasses including sweet vernal (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), barley grass (*Hordeum murinum*), Californian thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and burdock (*Arctium lappa*).





**Plate 3** – [Kōhuhu]/mikimiki-sweet briar shrubland on the lower slopes below the cliffs in the southern gully. Stonefield/ephemeral stream on the flat gently sloping gully bottom.

#### 8. (Elder-sweet briar-tūmatakuru) shrubland

This shrubland covers the north end of the southern gully and includes eroded terrace edges and an ephemeral stream.

#### 9. (Common mat daisy) mossfield

The terrace above the lake margin and in between the tūmatakuru-(mikimiki-sweet briar) scrub is a mossfield containing a mosaic of common mat daisy (*Raoulia australis*), mosses (*Polytrichum juniperinum* and possibly *Ceratodon purperellus*) and an unidentified grass (likely exotic) (Plate 1). Other less common species within the mossfield include pātōtara (*Styphelia nesophila*), moth mullein (*Verbascum virgatum*), St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), *Colobanthus strictus*, *Hydrocotyle novae-zeelandiae*, mouse-ear hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) and *Raoulia beauverdii*. Sweet briar and porcupine shrub are infrequent within the mossfield.

#### 10. Radiata pine forest (plantation)

A radiata pine forest/plantation is present on the lower section of the northern gully. The plantation covers the ephemeral stream and contains a canopy gap in the middle. A dense area of elder and puka is located in a canopy gap. A small section of the ephemeral stream was flowing and pooling at the time of the survey. The forest understorey sometimes contains shrubs such as mikimiki, tūmatakuru/matagouri and sweet briar. The forest groundcover is mostly leaf litter and bare soils.

Many recreational motorbike tracks run through the plantation forest and ephemeral stream.



#### 11. Lombardy poplar-Lawson's cypress-argle apple treeland (shelterbelt)

Exotic shelterbelts are present along some of the fencelines within the farmland paddocks. The shelterbelt treelands are either dominated by Lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra*), Lawson's cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) and/or argle apple (*Eucalyptus cinerea*), or is a combination of two of the species.

#### 12. *Eucalyptus* spp.-pin oak-Lombardy poplar treeland (planted)

This area consists of a small linear paddock dominated by exotic grass species and has been planted with a variety of exotic and indigenous trees. A few of the exotic trees include blue gum, Lombardy poplar, alder (*Alnus* sp.), and pin oak. Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), and rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) are also present but may have naturalised into this area. Indigenous trees present include tī kōuka/cabbage tree (*Cordyline australis*) and mountain beech/tawhairauhiki.

#### 13. Ryegrass-(browntop-cocksfoot-sweet vernal) grassland (exotic pasture grassland)

This exotic dominated grassland contains various grasses at various abundances with ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) being the most common in the main paddocks. This grassland is mostly grazed by sheep and/or cattle, except for the areas that are fenced off to exclude stock. Exotic herbs such as white clover are common in the grassland. One paddock is used for crops.

#### 14. Cocksfoot-sweet vernal stonefield

The stonefield is located at the bottom of the southern gully and also contains one of the ephemeral streams (Plate 3). The stonefield of the stream bed is a mix of exotic grass dominated areas with shrubs such as sweet briar or tūmatakuru/matagouri or bare rocks with a few exotic herbs and grasses in between the rocks and pebbles.

### 4.3 Freshwater and wetland habitats

#### 15. Soft rush-browntop-sharp spike sedge rushland marsh

Clusters of soft rush are spread throughout a mosaic of browntop, sharp spike sedge (*Eleocharis acuta*) and Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*). Other species occasionally present include white clover, wīwī/leafless rush and jointed rush (*Juncus articulatus*). A sedge species is also present in very low abundance. The sedge did not have an inflorescence to confirm identification but is likely Sinclair's sedge (*Carex sinclairii*), due to its leaf characteristics<sup>1</sup> and habitat match. This vegetation description was taken from the wetland assessment report (Wildland Consultants 2025).

#### 16. Soft rush-floating sweet grass-Yorkshire fog grassland swamp

This swamp wetland lays in a channel that sits below the pond in Wet Area 1 (Plate 2). The swamp wetland contains a mosaic of soft rush, Yorkshire fog, floating sweetgrass (*Glyceria fluitans*), curled dock (*Rumex crispus*) and jointed rush. The wetland contains the occasional clusters of water fern (*Azolla rubra*) sitting on the water surface. This vegetation description was taken from the wetland assessment report (Wildland Consultants 2025).

<sup>1</sup> Double folded leaf, leaf width of 4-4.5 millimetres, leaf length of c. 40 centimetres and light yellow-green leaf colouration.





## 17. Ephemeral wetland

Four ephemeral wetlands are present. Ephemeral wetlands are typically in closed depressions and contain low stature plant species that are often arranged in a zonation pattern. This type of wetland has unique hydrology characteristics by being typically inundated in winter and spring and gradually lowering in summer (Johnson and Rogers 2003). Vegetation descriptions are adapted and taken from the wetland assessment report (Wildland Consultants 2025). One ephemeral wetland is on the north side of the northern gully and is a concave hollow that is lined with soft rush (*Juncus effusus*) and leafless/wīwī rush. The ephemeral wetland contains abundant kneed foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*) with common patches of the indigenous herb *Lobelia perpusilla*. The next ephemeral wetland is just east and is within an oval depression and is mostly unvegetated. A few exotic species scattered near the edges and include: marsh plantain (*Plantago australis*), ryegrass, nettle (*Urtica urens*), and clammy goosefoot (*Dysphania pumilio*).

One ephemeral wetland is located in between the gullies and is a mostly unvegetated oval depression (Plate 4). Scattered exotic species located near the edges of the wetland include floating sweetgrass (*Glyceria fluitans*), browntop (*Agrostis capillaris*), clammy goosefoot, white clover (*Trifolium repens*), and black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*).



**Plate 4** – Ephemeral wetland on the upper terrace near the southern end of the property.

Another unvegetated ephemeral wetland is present nearby one of the shelterbelt treelines. This wetland may be a recently developed wetland, as suggested by the ‘uncertain’ soil result in the guidelines (Fraser *et al.* 2018). The ephemeral wetland is at the lowest point (paler soil) of a compacted open soil patch.

Ephemeral wetlands are listed as a historically rare ecosystem (Williams *et al.* 2007) and a critically endangered naturally uncommon ecosystem (Holdaway *et al.* 2012).



## 18. Pond

One natural and two man-made ponds are present. The natural pond is located in between the swamp and marsh wetlands at the northern end of the property. Soft rush, sharp spike sedge, browntop, jointed rush, Yorkshire fog and floating sweet grass line the margin of the natural pond.

One of the man-made ponds is a large hole that has steep sides and contains an island in the middle (Plate A4-4). This area may have historically been a wetland but was modified by the landowner. The bottom on the hole contains a herbfield of marsh bedstraw (*Galium palustre* subsp. *palustre*), sharp spike sedge, kneed foxtail, waoriki (*Ranunculus glabrifolius*) and Shepard's purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*). As identified by the wetland assessment, this area is considered a wetland under the Resource Management Act (Wildland Consultants 2025). However, this wetland is excluded from the 'natural wetland' definition because it has been formed in a constructed excavation and was likely intended to be a pond (currently dry).

The other man-made pond is present near the middle of the property. Exotic grasses and herbs line the margin on this pond, with exotic trees planted around the west edge. This pond has an artificial input of water that supplies the water to the pond (Alibone 2023). The duck decoys in the pond suggest that this pond is used for recreational duck shooting (Alibone 2023).

## 19. Ephemeral stream

Several ephemeral streams are present within the gullies and near the northern end of the property (Plate 3). These streams are likely dry most of the year and only flow during and after high rainfall. The stream within the radiata pine forest contained water at the time of survey and likely flows more regularly or permanently as hydrophytic plants such as soft rush were present along the margin. One of the ephemeral streams runs through the stonefield and contains some deeper channels and scours from past high flow events.

# 5.0 Flora

Forty-nine indigenous and 87 exotic vascular plant species were recorded during the field survey. Four of the indigenous species have a National At Risk or Threatened status. National threat status has been taken from de Lange *et al.* 2024, and the regional threat status has been taken from Jarvie *et al.* 2024.

### Threatened, At Risk and Rare plant species

Cypress hebe (*Veronica cupressoides*) has a Threatened-Nationally Endangered status and has been planted within the amenity garden (mountain beech-tī kōuka-kāpuka-mānatu-*Prunus* sp. treeland) near the NZONE building. Cypress hebe has been planted in many new residential areas within Tāhuna/Queenstown and Wānaka.

- Cypress hebe (*Veronica cupressoides*); Threatened-Nationally Endangered
- Desert broom (*Carmichaelia petriei*); At Risk-Declining
- Common mat daisy (*Raoulia australis*); At Risk-Declining
- *Raoulia beauverdii*; At Risk-Declining
- *Colobanthus strictus*; Not Threatened





One desert broom<sup>1</sup> (*Carmichaelia petriei*) plant is located on the scrub edge of the blackwood/elder-mikimiki-puka scrub in the southern gully. Desert broom is Nationally At Risk-Declining and also At Risk-Declining within the Otago Region. Only one plant was found, although there are likely more plants within the scrub. Common mat daisy and *Raoulia beauverdii* are both Nationally At Risk-Declining and are located on the terrace flat and ridges within the mossfield. *Raoulia beauverdii* has a Threatened-Regionally Vulnerable threat status in Otago. *Colobanthus strictus* is Nationally Not Threatened but is At Risk-Regionally Declining in Otago. A few plants are present in the (common mat daisy) mossfield. Browse was noted on many of the plants.

### Environmental weeds and pest plant species

Nineteen ecological pest plants were recorded during the field survey (Table 1). Five of these species are listed in the Otago Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP; Otago Regional Council 2019). The remaining species are classified as Organism of Interest (Environment Southland 2024); and/or environmental weed in the latest national list published by the Department of Conservation (McAlpine and Howell 2024). Ecological pest plants have a different level of threat to ecosystems. A suggested priority for control of these ecological pest plants is listed in Table 1.

**Table 1** – Ecological pest plant species recorded at Homestead Bay during the field survey and their control programme in the Otago Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP; Otago Regional Council 2019), and other status such as Organism of Interest (Otago Regional Council 2025), or Environmental Weed (McAlpine and Howell 2024). Priority for ecological pest plant species control is also suggested.

Species	Common Name	Weed Status	Priority for Control
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver wattle	Environmental weed	Medium
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood	Environmental weed	Medium
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	Otago RPMP (Primary Programme - Site led) and environmental weed	Very High
<i>Alnus</i> sp.*	Alder	Environmental weed	High
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Buddleia	Otago organism of interest and environmental weed	High
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Californian thistle	Environmental weed	Low
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Scotch thistle	Environmental weed	Low
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampas grass	Environmental weed	High
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch broom	Otago RPMP (Primary Programme - Sustained control) and environmental weed	High
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male fern	Environmental weed	Medium
<i>Lupinus arboreus</i>	Tree lupin	Otago organism of interest and environmental weed	Medium
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Radiata pine	Otago RPMP (Progressive Containment) and environmental weed	High
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas fir	Otago RPMP (Progressive Containment) and environmental weed	Very High
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	Gooseberry	Environmental weed	High
<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>		Otago organism of interest and environmental weed	High
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	Environmental weed	High

<sup>1</sup> GPS location E1265745 N4997699



Species	Common Name	Weed Status	Priority for Control
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Stonecrop	Environmental weed	Low
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	Otago organism of interest and environmental weed	Very High
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	Otago RPMP (Primary Programme - Sustained control) and environmental weed	High

## 6.0 Fauna

### 6.1 Avifauna

Six indigenous and three exotic bird species were recorded incidentally during the field survey (Appendix 3). The eBird desktop survey identified a further 24 bird species within a two-kilometre radius of the Homestead Bay property between 10 December 2023 and 17 February 2025. Of these eBird records, three species are classified as Threatened (Robertson *et al.* 2021), including two Nationally Endangered (kārearea/eastern falcon, *Falco novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae*; tarapirohe/black-fronted tern, *Chlidonias albobristatus*) and one Nationally Vulnerable (pūteketeke/Australasian crested grebe, *Podiceps cristatus australis*, Table 2). Of these Threatened bird species, only the kārearea/eastern falcon was observed onsite, would utilise this property often to hunt for food.

Three species are classified as At Risk, including one Declining (pīhoihoi/New Zealand pipit; *Anthus novaeseelandiae*), one Naturally Uncommon (Australian coot, *Fulica atra australis*), and one Relict (kawau paka/little shag, *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris*). There is a possibility that the pūteketeke/Australasian crested grebe and Australian coot would visit the ponds. However, this is unlikely due to the mostly unvegetated, small size and degraded state of the ponds. They have plenty of high-quality habitat nearby (Lake Whakatipu). Although not identified in the eBird search, tōrea/South Island pied oystercatcher (*Haematopus finschi*, At Risk - Declining is highly likely to visit the open exotic pasture grasslands to forage and could potentially breed onsite. The full list of confirmed records retrieved from eBird and the field survey are in Appendix 3.

The kārearea/eastern falcon, utilises the exotic pasture grassland and exotic forests and treelands for foraging habitat. There is a possibility that they may also breed in the exotic forest and treelands, but they would more likely use the higher quality habitat nearby, the rock ledges on The Remarkables mountain slopes. The pīhoihoi/New Zealand pipit also utilises the exotic pasture grassland on the farm.

Many of the indigenous and introduced bird species identified in the field survey and desktop survey will utilise the grassland, shrubland, scrub, treeland and forest habitats within the property, at least on an occasional basis.

### 6.2 Herpetofauna

Information for lizards has been taken from a recent survey and report completed by Wildlands (Wildland Consultants 2025b). McCann's skinks (*Oligosoma maccannii*) were confirmed during site surveys. McCann's skinks are often found in modified dry, open environments where there is a complex of rocky outcrops, tussock, and scrub. This species is considered to be highly abundant throughout Central Otago.

It is possible that tussock skink (*Oligosoma chionocloescens*) may be present within the site, at low densities in damper areas. However, in these areas on site, mice were observed at high densities during the site survey and can predate on skinks.



**Table 2** – Threatened and At Risk avifauna species recorded within two kilometres of the Homestead Bay property from eBird and during the field survey. Habitat preferences and likelihood of occurrence at the site described for Threatened and At Risk species based on their known habitat preferences and distribution in the area and surrounds. Threat classifications are from Robertson *et al.* (2021).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Threat Classification	Preferred Habitat	Likelihood Present
<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae</i>	Pīhoihoi, New Zealand pipit	At Risk - Declining	Beaches, riverbeds, high-country riverflats, gravel roads and verges, rough pasture, tussockland, cleared areas of exotic forests.	Presence confirmed
<i>Chlidonias albotriatus</i>	Tarapirohe, Black-fronted tern	Threatened - Nationally Endangered	Riverbeds, waterways, riverflats and farmlands by rivers during breeding. More coastal habitats, including coastal pasture, during autumn and winter.	Unlikely
<i>Falco novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae</i> <sup>1</sup>	Kārearea, eastern falcon	Threatened - Nationally Endangered	Hilly dry tussockland, farmland, open country, indigenous and exotic forest edges	Presence confirmed
<i>Fulica atra australis</i>	Australian coot	At Risk - Naturally Uncommon	Shallow, sheltered bays in freshwater fringed with submerged vegetation, reeds and raupō beds.	Unlikely
<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris</i>	Kawau paka, little shag, little pied shag	At Risk - Relict	Breed in sheltered coastal waters, estuaries, harbours, rivers, dams, and lakes up to the subalpine zone. Commonly in willows or silver poplars overhanging fresh water or estuaries, but sometimes on maimai or river gorge ledges or sea cliffs.	Highly unlikely
<i>Podiceps cristatus australis</i>	Pūteketeke, southern crested grebe	Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable	Clear shallow freshwater lakes and ponds with mud, clay, or sandy bottoms with emergent vegetation. Breed on lowland lakes west of Southern Alps, subalpine and alpine lakes within and east of main divide. Wintering sites include coastal lakes and estuaries.	Unlikely

<sup>1</sup> Robertson *et al.* (2021) differentiates *Falco novaeseelandiae*/New Zealand falcon into three forms, whereas New Zealand Bird Atlas does not. The form(s) that could be present are southern falcon (*Falco novaeseelandiae* "southern"; Threatened-Nationally Endangered) and/or eastern falcon (*Falco novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae*; Threatened-Nationally Vulnerable). All three New Zealand falcon forms are listed as Threatened in Robertson *et al.* (2021). Targeted surveys would be required to identify which form(s) could be present given the distributional limits of both 'forms' within this region are uncertain.



**Table 3** - Results of the Department of Conservation Bioweb herpetofauna database search, within a 20-kilometre radius of the site, and an assessment of the likelihood of the presence of these species at the site. Conservation status as per Hitchmough *et al.* 2021 and Jarvie *et al.* 2023. The likelihood of occurrence at the project site has been assessed for each species based on their known habitat preferences and distribution in the area and surrounds.

Species	Common Name	Conservation Status	Regional Status	Record Distance (km)	Preferred Habitats	Likelihood of Occurrence
<i>Oligosoma maccanni</i>	McCann's skink	Not Threatened	Regionally Not Threatened	1.3	Open habitats - dry rocky environments such as rock outcrops, and montane grassland	Presence confirmed during site surveys
<i>Woodworthia</i> "south-western"	Mountain beech gecko	At Risk-Declining	At Risk- Regionally Declining	3.0	Mature indigenous forests, rocky scrub/grasslands, boulderfields and scree	Possible
<i>Woodworthia</i> 'southern mini'	Short-toed gecko	At Risk-Declining	At Risk- Regionally Declining	3.2	Alpine and subalpine areas (600 - 1,700m). Scree boulderfield, creviced rock outcrops. Occasionally rocky scrubland or pasture.	Highly unlikely
<i>Oligosoma inconspicuum</i>	Cryptic skink	At Risk-Declining	At Risk- Regionally Declining	6.4	Prefers tussock grasslands, wetlands and rocky areas such as rocky screes.	Unlikely
<i>Mokopirirakau</i> "Roys Peak"	Orange spotted gecko	At Risk-Declining	At Risk- Regionally Declining	10.4	High-altitude (1,100-1,800m) alpine and subalpine creviced rock outcrops, rocky shrubland, boulderfield, talus, scree and rocky tussockland	Highly unlikely
<i>Oligosoma chionocloescens</i>	Tussock skink	At Risk-Declining	At Risk- Regionally Declining	14.3	Range of habitats including coastal dunes, wetlands, grassland, shrublands, rocky shrubland/herbfield, screes, tussock, stony river beds and even cities	Possible
<i>Woodworthia</i> 'Cromwell'	Kawarau gecko	At Risk-Declining	At Risk- Regionally Declining	15.8	Rocky scrubland, talus, and creviced rock outcrops (from lowland to alpine areas, <1,300m).	Highly unlikely
<i>Oligosoma</i> aff. <i>chloronoton</i> "West Otago"	Lakes skink	Threatened-Nationally Vulnerable	Regionally Vulnerable	18.0	Grassland, scrubland, tussockland, rocky areas, scree, herbfield, fellfield, stony riverbeds, terraces and lake edges (from montane to alpine areas).	Highly unlikely



Mountain beech gecko (*Woodworthia* “south-western”) could possibly inhabit rocky scrubland present on site, particularly in the southeastern gully. However, due to the very small and fragmented rocky habitat available, and apparent high mouse densities, are unlikely to be detectable. There are several records indicating remnant mountain beech gecko populations nearby, but all are in areas with different rocky habitats (torr, scree, or boulder field) habitat available.

Cryptic skinks (*Oligosoma inconspicuum*) and short-toed geckos (*Woodworthia* ‘Southern mini’) have both been recorded nearby (6.4 and 3.2 kilometres, respectively). These nearby recordings were all in the sub-alpine and alpine rocky slopes of the nearby Remarkables. The Homestead Bay site lacks the high quality rocky or tussock habitats likely needed to support populations of cryptic skinks, and the subalpine habitat required by short-toed geckos. It is highly unlikely that any other species of indigenous lizard typically found in the region are present within the site, due their habitat requirements (orange spotted gecko; *Mokopirirakau* “Roys Peak”; alpine specialist), slow life history characteristics (Lakes skink; *Oligosoma* aff. *chloronoton* “West Otago”) and the geographic separation between the site and location the species was recorded (Kawarau gecko; *Woodworthia* ‘Cromwell’).

Small rock piles were present in paddocks throughout the site, though these did not provide adequate cover for lizards due to their small size and very heavy grazing by stock and damage from rabbits.

Small patches of tūmatakuru/matagouri shrubland were found on terrace risers close to the western and northern boundaries of the site. Most of these provided relatively patchy, moderate-quality habitat, due to very heavy grazing and damage from rabbits. Populations of lizards were detected in some areas where exotic pasture grass or dense lower cover from shrubs provided better cover for lizards.

The northern gully currently includes a radiata pine forest/plantation on the lower reaches with [kōhuhu]/mikimiki-sweet briar shrubland on the upper section of the gully. Low-quality lizard habitat in the radiata pine forest/plantation was observed during surveys, and no traps were placed due to high risk of mouse predation in traps in this area. While the shrubland area is moderate-quality habitat for McCann’s skinks, and some lizards were found in this area (relatively low in the gully), it’s expected that the population of lizards here will be small due to this relatively recent disturbance (approximately 30,000 m<sup>3</sup> of clean fill in 2018 was put into the northern gully).

The larger southern gully had habitat ranging from patches of high-quality open stonefield substrate at the upper and lower reaches, to large areas of moderate-quality exotic pasture grass, mixed [kōhuhu]/mikimiki-sweet briar shrubland and taller exotic woody vegetation. It’s not expected that the taller vegetation in this area would provide habitat for arboreal lizard species, due to historic disturbance, recent revegetation with exotic species, high mouse abundance and a lack of habitat connectivity. A middle section of the gully close to paddock gates is characterised by exposed soil, heavily grazed pasture grass and has no rocks or indigenous shrubs to provide any suitable habitat for indigenous lizards.

Some exotic treeland/shelterbelts provided suitable moderate-quality lizard habitat with small areas of exotic pasture grass, including those where trees had recently been removed, leaving behind stumps and woody debris that provided good cover for lizards. Other shelterbelts had no grass or other vegetation close to the ground and were not considered suitable lizard habitat.

## 6.3 Terrestrial invertebrates

The GBIF search retrieved 305 records of terrestrial invertebrates that met the search terms. The invertebrate fauna was characterised mainly by moths, butterflies and beetles, though true bugs, spiders and bees/wasps also regularly featured. Two-hundred and fifty records encompassing 124 species had been identified to a level at which they could be assessed. These were dominated by



indigenous species. There were no records for athoracophorid or rhytid molluscs, or onychophorans (velvet worms). Notable species are presented in Table 4. Five of these are classified as At Risk, including the New Zealand praying mantis (*Orthodera novaezealandiae*; At Risk-Declining), which is highly likely to be present at the site. It is also possible that the broom looper moth (*Samana acutata*; At Risk-Relict) and the mistletoe carpet moth (*Tatosoma agrionata*; At Risk-Declining) are also present. It is considered unlikely that the large ground beetle (*Mecodema rex*; At Risk-Naturally Uncommon) and the chafer beetle (*Prodontria pinguis*; At Risk-Naturally Uncommon) are present.

## 6.4 Aquatic fauna

Information for aquatic fauna has been taken from the Homestead Bay Aquatic Ecology Assessment (Alibone 2023). The artificial pond cannot be colonised by fish due to no tributaries an outflow connection to other water bodies. Diving beetles, backswimmers (*Anisops*) and water boatmen (*Sigara*) were the only macroinvertebrates seen by Alibone in the pond. The natural pond in between the swamp and marsh wetland was not discussed by Alibone, nor was the larger currently dry artificial pond. Similar conclusions can be made for these ponds as they are not connected to any other water bodies.

Wet tolerant invertebrates may temporarily utilise the wet section of the ephemeral stream in the northern gully (Allibone 2023) and utilise the ephemeral wetlands when they are seasonally inundated. This wet section is insufficient to support fish as there is no fish passage between this wet section and Lake Wakatipu to allow fish to migrate upstream (Allibone 2023). The ephemeral streams do not support any fish, nor any stream macroinvertebrates (Allibone 2023).

## 6.5 Pest animals

European rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), are frequent across the property. The rabbits were often seen and their burrows observed on terrace slopes and shrublands (Plate A4-5). Mice were notably abundant during the lizard survey (Wildland Consultants 2025b).

The typical suite of small introduced pest mammals are likely to be present at the property including possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), rodents (*Rattus* spp.), and mustelids (*Mustela* spp.), feral cats (*Felis catus*), brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*), and hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*). These pest animals have a range of significant threats to indigenous plants and fauna, through predation of indigenous animals, competition and disturbance, and herbivory of indigenous plants (leaves, bark, and fruits).

# 7.0 Ecological Values

The ecological values of the site are low to moderate, except for the ephemeral wetlands having high ecological value in regards to them being a rare/uncommon ecosystem. Most of the values are present in the longer grass areas and denser indigenous scrub and shrublands.

The blackwood/elder-mikimiki-puka scrub in the southern gully supports the At Risk-Declining desert broom. The (common mat daisy) mossfield supports the At Risk-Declining common mat daisy and *Raoulia beauverdii*. The mossfield also support the At Risk-Regionally Declining *Colobanthus strictus*. The Threatened-Nationally Endangered planted cypress hebe is within the amenity garden (mountain beech-tī kōuka-kāpuka-mānatu-*Prunus* sp. treeland) near the NZONE building.





**Table 4** - Noteworthy species of invertebrate recorded within five kilometres of the Homestead Bay property from GBIF. Conservation status as per Leschen *et al.* 2012 (beetles), Buckley *et al.* 2012 (praying mantis), Hoare *et al.* 2017 (moths and butterflies) and Trewick *et al.* 2022 (grasshoppers). Habitat preferences and likelihood of occurrence at the site are based on their known habitat preferences and distribution in the area and surrounds.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Threat Classification	Notability	Preferred Habitat	Likelihood Present
<i>Anagotus helmsi</i>	Helms's beech weevil	Not assessed	Large species, vulnerable to predation from introduced mammals.	Beech forest, exotic pine forest	Possible
<i>Lyperobius cupiendus</i>	Speargrass weevil	Not assessed	Large species, vulnerable to land use change, habitat degradation and predation from introduced mammals. Restricted to Central Otago and Otago lakes areas.	Subalpine to alpine zones, associated with alpine host plants (mainly <i>Aciphylla</i> spp.)	Highly unlikely
<i>Lyperobius hudsoni</i>	Speargrass weevil	Not assessed	Large species, vulnerable to land use change, habitat degradation and predation from introduced mammals.	Subalpine to alpine zones, associated with alpine host plants (mainly <i>Aciphylla</i> spp.)	Highly unlikely
<i>Lyperobius spedenii</i>	Speargrass weevil	Not assessed	Large species, vulnerable to land use change, habitat degradation and predation from introduced mammals.	Subalpine to alpine zones, associated with alpine host plants (mainly <i>Aciphylla</i> spp.)	Highly unlikely
<i>Mecodema lucidum</i>	Ground beetle	Not assessed	Large species, vulnerable to land use change, habitat degradation and predation from introduced mammals.	Lowland to montane (including subalpine to alpine), tussock grasslands, fellfields, herbfields and screes	Possible
<i>Mecodema rex</i>	Ground beetle	At Risk - Naturally Uncommon	Large species, vulnerable to land use change, habitat degradation and predation from introduced mammals.	Subalpine and alpine zones, tussock grasslands and shrublands, alpine meadows, wet beech forests.	Unlikely
<i>Notoreas paradelpha</i>	Looper moth	Not assessed	Likely vulnerable to land use change, habitat degradation and predation from introduced species.	High alpine habitat, found amongst grass and in herbfields. The host plants include species in the genera <i>Kelleria</i> and <i>Pimelea</i> including <i>Pimelia oreophila</i> .	Highly unlikely
<i>Orthodera novaezealandiae</i>	New Zealand praying mantis	At Risk - Declining	Vulnerable to parasitic wasps, pesticide use, interactions with the introduced mantis ( <i>Miomantis caffra</i> ).	Open scrubby or shrubby habitats.	Highly likely
<i>Prodontria pinguis</i>	Chafer beetle	At Risk - Naturally Uncommon	Range restricted.	Subalpine grasslands	Highly unlikely



Scientific Name	Common Name	Threat Classification	Notability	Preferred Habitat	Likelihood Present
<i>Samana acutata</i>	Broom looper moth	At Risk - Relict	Vulnerable to habitat modification, in particular the loss of host species due to farming and urban development. It is also at risk from weed invasion from plants such as sea spurge.	Scrubby areas containing host plants (e.g. indigenous broom species), and dune ecosystems.	Possible
<i>Sigaüs australis</i>	Alpine grasshopper	Not Threatened	Genus endemic to South Island. Although fairly widespread, current distribution is more fragmented than in the past and likely to decline further due to effects of climate change.	Tussock grasslands	Unlikely
<i>Tatosoma agrionata</i>	Mistletoe carpet moth	At Risk - Declining	Declining populations, related to declining host plants (mistletoe species).	Forest habitat up to an elevation of 900 metres	Possible
<i>Vanessa gonerilla gonerilla</i>	Red admiral	Not assessed	Anecdotal evidence for population decline, likely vulnerable to land use change, habitat degradation, removal of host plants (nettles etc), and predation from parasitic wasps.	Most habitats (forest, scrub, shrubland, gardens) where the host plants are found.	Possible



Small marsh, swamp and ephemeral wetlands are present within the exotic pasture grasslands. The marsh and swamp wetlands are dominated by exotic species, with soft rush being the most common species present. The ephemeral wetlands are mostly dominated by exotic plant species, nonetheless still contain typical characteristics of their ecosystem type (Wildland Consultants 2025a). Ephemeral wetlands are a unique and uncommon habitat and has been listed as a critically endangered natural uncommon ecosystem, as well as a historically rare ecosystem. All wetland present are important on a national scale as New Zealand has lost 90% of its pre-human wetland extent, making wetlands the most nationally threatened ecosystem type (Aussiel *et al.* 2008). Ephemeral wetlands threatened by many factors including infilling, sedimentation, nutrient enrichment, pollutants, trampling impacts from mammals, weed invasions and introduced fish (Johnson and Rogers 2003).

McCann's skink (Not Threatened) are present in shrubland and stonefield habitats of the northern and southern gully. They are also present in ungrazed longer exotic pasture grass areas that are within the treelands and ungrazed areas.

The Threatened-Nationally Endangered or Vulnerable, kārearea/eastern falcon and At Risk-Declining pīhoihoi/New Zealand pipit and tōrea/South Island pied oystercatcher utilise the exotic pasture grasslands.

Much of the habitat (exotic pasture grassland) is of low ecological value to invertebrates. The gullies with shrubland, scrub or forest habitat is of low-moderate value to invertebrates. The tūmatakura- (mikimiki-sweet briar) scrub is likely to provide habitat for the At Risk-Declining mistletoe carpet moth, where its host plant (green mistletoe) is present. The At Risk-Relict broom looper moth may utilise the blackwood/elder-mikimiki-puka scrub where the desert broom is present. The radiata pine forest/plantation may support the unassessed Helm's beech weevil. All shrubland and scrub habitats adjacent to areas of longer, ungrazed exotic pasture grass, may support the At Risk-Declining New Zealand praying mantis. The unassessed red admiral may utilise the shrubland and exotic pasture grasslands where the exotic nettle (*Urtica urens*) is present.

The ephemeral streams, artificial and natural ponds have very little to no aquatic ecological values. The lack of any wetted connections to any other water body prevents fish colonisation. Only a few winged insect species occupy the artificial pond (Allibone 2023).

## 8.0 Overview of Proposed Subdivision

Major earthworks will be completed across the development area, including large-scale topography altering earthworks across the site. This includes the creation of screening bunds along the highway. Existing shelterbelts and vegetation within the works areas will be permanently removed during the development of lots and associated services, roads, and reserves.

Landscape plans by STR Landscapes includes a planting plan that will include 19.02 hectares of indigenous plantings and an additional 7.6 hectares of indigenous plantings that will infill and enhance present indigenous shrublands. The planting plan will consist of indigenous riparian, shrubland, and tawhairauhiki/mountain beech forests and will include lizard friendly species as recommended by the Lizard Management Plan (Wildland Consultants 2025b).



## 9.0 Potential Ecological Effects

### 9.1 Overview

Potential effects are set out below for the range of ecological features present within and adjacent to the proposed subdivision. Potential adverse impacts on indigenous vegetation, fauna, and their habitats are likely to primarily occur during initial construction of the residential development.

Potential adverse effects associated with the development include:

- Removal of vegetation.
- Damage and loss of ephemeral wetlands.
- Removal of habitat for indigenous fauna.
- Disturbance to and/or mortality of indigenous birds and lizards.
- Increase in predation from domestic pets and mammalian pests.
- Increase in weed introductions from residential gardens.

Each of these potential effects is described in detail below.

### 9.2 Clearance of vegetation

Most of the proposed development footprint is likely to have **less than minor** adverse ecological effects. This is because most of the area to be cleared is dominated by exotic species (Figure 2). Approximately 0.9 hectares of indigenous vegetation will be removed. Most of the vegetation affected will be the lower quality tūmatakuru/matagouri shrubland.

**Table 4** – Total area and the affected areas of the vegetation and habitat types present at Homestead Bay, Otago.

Vegetation and Habitat Type	Area Size (ha)	Area Affected by Development (ha)	Percentage Effected (%)
<b>Indigenous</b>			
1. Mountain beech treeland (planted)	0.145	-	0%
2. Mountain beech-tī kōuka-kāpuka-mānatu- <i>Prunus</i> sp. treeland (planted)	0.213	0.213	100%
3. Blue gum/(mikimiki-sweet briar) treeland	0.269	-	0%
4. Tūmatakura-mikimiki-(sweet briar) scrub and shrubland	2.442	-	0%
5. Blackwood/elder-mikimiki-puka scrub	2.891	0.332	11%
6. [Kōhuhu]/mikimiki-sweet briar shrubland	3.905	0.269	8%
7. Tūmatakura shrubland	2.09	0.308	15%
8. (Elder-sweet briar-tūmatakura) shrubland	0.713	0.04	6%
9. (Common mat daisy) mossfield	0.625	-	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.293</b>	<b>1.189</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Exotic</b>			
10. Radiata pine forest (plantation)	1.324	1.324	100%
11. Lombardy poplar-Lawson's cypress-argle apple treeland (shelterbelt)	2.198	2.198	100%



Vegetation and Habitat Type	Area Size (ha)	Area Affected by Development (ha)	Percentage Effected (%)
12. Eucalyptus spp.-pin oak-Lombardy poplar treeland (planted)	1.145	1.139	99%
13. Ryegrass-(browntop-cocksfoot-sweet vernal) grassland (productive farmland)	185.851	134.899	73%
14. Cocksfoot-sweet vernal stonefield	1.222	0.02	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>191.74</b>	<b>139.58</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Freshwater</b>			
15. Soft rush-browntop-sharp spike sedge rushland marsh	0.041	0.041	100%
16. Soft rush-floating sweet grass-Yorkshire fog grassland swamp	0.009	0.009	100%
17. Ephemeral wetland	0.08	0.045	56%
18. Pond	0.327	0.314	96%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.457</b>	<b>0.409</b>	<b>89%</b>

### 9.3 Damage and loss of wetlands

The proposed subdivision development will require the removal of one marsh wetland (0.041 hectares), one swamp wetland (0.009 hectares), and three ephemeral wetlands (0.045 hectares). The total area of wetlands affected is 0.095 hectares. The swamp and marsh wetland are dominated by exotic species and are of low-moderate ecological value. This is mainly due to their very small size. The ephemeral wetlands are also exotic plant dominated at present and small in size and are of moderate-high ecological value. This is mainly due to this type of wetland being rare, unique and threatened habitat type in New Zealand. Under a long inundation scenario these wetlands might have indigenous plants in them. The loss of ephemeral wetland habitat is a major **adverse effect**.

Ephemeral wetlands are sensitive to infilling, soil compaction from humans, cattle, and vehicles. During the construction phase of the development the ephemeral wetland is at risk of being driven across by a contractor or infilled. The remaining ephemeral wetland could be fenced or marked out before construction begins to ensure no further damage.

### 9.4 Indigenous lizards

The proposed works will result in the permanent displacement, injury, and death of individual lizards within the construction footprint. This effect is likely to be **more than minor** without mitigation.

Disturbance during construction to lizards includes dust, vibration, and noise. This disturbance is likely to disrupt normal behaviour, including social dynamics in lizard populations adjacent to the construction footprint as a result of construction activity. Across the site, this effect is likely to be **less than minor** without mitigation.

Lizards and their habitat were found throughout the site and loss of some poorer quality habitats cannot be avoided. This will result in permanent habitat loss for indigenous lizards at this site. Due to the low-moderate density of lizards present, this effect is likely to be **minor** without mitigation.

The proposed subdivision and associated earthworks may lead to temporary effects on behaviour of lizards and/or social interactions, such as increased stress, leading to reduced population functionality, such as poor breeding and low population recruitment. This effect is likely to be **minor** without mitigation.









The proposed subdivision will increase domestic cat abundance, as well as attract rodents, which may have an impact on lizard populations adjacent to the impact site. Due to the already high abundance of invasive predators including mice and hedgehogs, the effect is likely to be **minor** without mitigation.

## 9.5 Indigenous avifauna

Habitats at the site are of low value for indigenous avifauna. Avifauna habitat is found throughout the property and partial loss of habitats cannot be avoided. This habitat loss will likely have little effect on the wider population of avifauna in the area. The proposed development will remove c.95 hectares of mostly open exotic pasture grassland habitat, as well as the smaller areas listed above in Section 10.2. Indigenous bird species that may utilise existing open exotic grassland habitats present on site, such as kāhu/swamp harrier (*Circus approximans*), spur-winged plover (*Vanellus miles novaehollandiae*), pīhoihoi/New Zealand pipits and kārearea/eastern falcon will be able to disperse and utilise surrounding and nearby habitats. However, vegetation removal will reduce the habitat size; therefore, this effect is likely to be **minor** without mitigation. As amenity vegetation develops, indigenous and exotic birds will be present and possibly provide a food source for raptors.

Dust, vibration and noise caused by proposed subdivision construction may disturb present avifauna. Given the relatively large ranges and high mobility of avifauna, there is the possibility of encountering birds outside of their usually preferred habitat. Nevertheless, avifauna mobility allows birds (outside of the breeding season) the ability to avoid adverse effects from construction activity. Across the affected area on the property, this effect is likely to be less than **minor** without mitigation.

Overall, the ecological effects of the proposed development on local indigenous bird populations, will be **minor**.

## 9.6 Indigenous invertebrates

Most of the site comprises habitats likely to be of low value for indigenous terrestrial invertebrates. Moderate value scrub, shrubland and treeland habitats containing indigenous woody vegetation that may support populations of more noteworthy species is also present. However, most of these latter areas are expected to be retained and enhanced through a planting programme. The potential effects on terrestrial invertebrates resulting from the proposed development are presented below.

Vegetation clearance will likely cause the death, injury and displacement of some New Zealand praying mantis (At Risk — Declining) individuals as well as many common species of invertebrate. However, most of the areas that are likely to support the highest numbers of New Zealand praying mantis as well as other potentially notable species will be retained.

Invertebrate habitat is found throughout the site and the permanent loss of some of these habitats cannot be avoided but will be exchanged for amenity vegetation as it develops. This will result in habitat loss for indigenous invertebrates at this site. However, most of the areas potentially subject to future earthworks contain low-value habitats for terrestrial invertebrates. Most of the areas comprising higher value scrub, shrubland and treeland already represent fragmented islands of habitat at the site, and these will be retained and enhanced. The effects of habitat loss and fragmentation are therefore expected to be minor without mitigation.

Ongoing dust and vibrations may impact insect communication and may cause injury and illness due to blocked respiratory apparatus. Dust is likely to be detrimental to all invertebrates, but particularly diurnal insects and herbivores. Invertebrate biodiversity in disturbed areas is likely to be reduced. Vehicle collisions are also likely to cause mortality. However, few if any notable species are likely to be present in the immediate vicinity of the works due to the suboptimal nature of the impacted habitats.



Individuals that happen to be impacted may be able to disperse and utilise the higher value habitats on site. The effects of ongoing disturbance are therefore expected to be minor without mitigation.

The proposed subdivision will likely lead to increases in the abundance of domestic cats as well as rodents. Increases in introduced predators could remove large-bodied species from the ecosystem, which may affect invertebrate assemblages. Large-bodied invertebrates and those with limited defensive mechanisms are at greater risk of predation. However, due to the suboptimal nature of (most of) the habitats impacted by the development, and the likely absence of large-bodied and otherwise notable invertebrates (with the possible exception of the New Zealand praying mantis), the effects of increased risk of predation are expected to be minor without mitigation.

Overall, the ecological effects of the proposed development on local indigenous invertebrate populations, will likely be **minor** without mitigation.

## 9.7 Effects of residential dwellings

Following completion of the development, increased use of the site by people (residents and visitors) could lead to increased disturbance of fauna and effects on the reserve areas.

There is considerable potential for invasive plant species to be intentionally planted in gardens and then escape or be dumped (as garden waste) into the surrounding natural areas. Gardens are a key source of exotic plants that spread into indigenous habitats (Sullivan *et al.* 2005). Dumping of garden waste can also lead to the establishment of weeds in natural areas and reserves.

Amenity gardens, that plant indigenous plant species such as harakeke (*Phormium tenax*), kōwhai (*Sophora microphylla*), and tī kōuka/cabbage tree (*Cordyline australis*) will benefit indigenous forest bird species that are currently missing from this property. Tūī (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*) are often observed in the neighbouring residential area, Jacks Point. Jacks Point contains a diverse range of indigenous trees, shrubs and tussocks in reserves, along street margins and in private gardens. The current planting plan for the Homestead subdivision has indigenous plantings allocated in fragments on the outer edges of the development.

A typical complement of small introduced pest mammals will already be present within the site and adjoining reserves. The abundance of pest animals could increase following development of the proposed subdivision because pests such as rodents and hedgehogs, often thrive around human habitation. Any increase in the abundance of pest animals will place a greater threat on the indigenous plants and animals in the surrounding natural areas.

Domestic dogs and cats will likely be brought to the subdivision as pets of the residents. Uncontrolled pets can threaten (disturb or kill) indigenous wildlife. However, domestic dogs and feral cats will already be present throughout the landscape, and existing domestic cats will also range across large areas from existing houses.

## 10.0 Mitigation of Potential Ecological Effects

### 10.1 Overview

The following opportunities to avoid, minimise, remedy, offset or compensate potential adverse ecological effects of the proposed subdivision development are addressed below:

- Minimise potential adverse effects of removing potential lizard habitat.
- Minimise potential adverse effects of removing indigenous avifauna habitat.



- Remedy indigenous vegetation through restoration actions including plants that avifauna and invertebrates value.
- Remedy remaining ephemeral wetland through restoration actions.
- Compensate for wetland loss by creating more wetlands on site or contribute funding support for restoration enhancement to a regionally significant wetland within the Queenstown Lakes District.

## 10.2 Enhance indigenous vegetation

To mitigate the indigenous vegetation loss, indigenous revegetation is recommended. Revegetation can be implemented by two methods: 1) indigenous plantings of tūmatakuru and mikimiki within the property, ideally along the shrubland and scrub margins in clusters to increase the overall extent of that shrubland/scrub and 2) undertake weed control of 'very high' and 'high' priority ecological pest plants listed in Table 1, Section 5.0.

The proposed subdivision development already has plans to plant 19.02 hectares within indigenous shrubland, beech forest and riparian plants. It is important that these plantings include important food sources and shelter for indigenous birds and invertebrates. Such as plants like kōwhai, fuchsia (*Fuchsia excortica*), mānuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*), *Olearia* spp. and harakeke. They also plan to infill the remaining indigenous shrublands and scrub with appropriate species to fill in the gaps and increase the diversity of each remaining fragment. Extending and enhancing indigenous vegetation onsite will improve the potential habitat for indigenous lizards, birds, and invertebrates.

The indigenous vegetation will need ongoing monitoring and management of ecological pest plants species. Ecological pest plant species should be checked and controlled every 2-3 years.

## 10.3 Enhance and monitor ephemeral wetland

The ephemeral wetland could be enhanced through several restoration actions. The first and most beneficial action will be to remove stock from grazing the ephemeral wetland. This will reduce soil pugging created from stock. Planting appropriate low-stature indigenous plants such as *Juncus edgariae*, *Juncus distegus*, *Carex flaviformis*, and bog rush (*Schoenus pauciflorus*) around the wetland will help buffer the wetland from pollutants.

Ceasing grazing will see grasses grow tall and limit the space for indigenous species found in ephemeral wetlands. This effect could be reduced by putting extra water in winter and spring. This will kill any exotic herbs and grasses and provide space for indigenous creeping plants to thrive.

The remaining ephemeral wetland needs to be fenced or marked out before construction begins to ensure physical damage is avoided. Consider placing permanent large rocks around the wetland to limit vehicles from crossing the wetland.

Information and experience of ephemeral wetlands is limited in New Zealand. The restoration of this wetland should be undertaken with the advice from a wetland specialist/ecologist. An ecological management plan that includes restoration actions and monitoring could be developed to ensure the long-term survival of the ephemeral wetland.

## 10.4 Avoid, minimise, and remedy potential effects on lizards

Most of the high-quality lizard habitat within the Homestead Bay subdivision can be avoided due to minimal disturbance to the gullies and steep terrace risers present on site. Existing areas of tūmatakuru/matagouri and other indigenous shrublands/scrub will be retained where possible in stormwater services and reserve lots. Disturbance to areas of high-quality rocky habitat and indigenous shrubs in the southeastern gully floor will be avoided during construction.



Mitigation for the effects to McCann's skink can be largely achieved through habitat enhancement and gaining the Wildlife Act approval, implementing the Lizard Management Plan that will be satisfactory by the Department of Conservation.

To minimise lizard harm and death during construction of the habitats that cannot be avoided, a salvage of lizards and release will need to be undertaken. Salvages will be staged in concurrently with the staging of works for each area. Earthworks will proceed into salvaged lizard habitats within a maximum of two weeks after the salvage has been completed. This means the expanded or enhanced lizard habitats must be available before any salvaged lizards are caught. The Project Herpetologist will be notified once the works commence. The Department of Conservation's lizard mitigation guidelines (Department of Conservation 2019) recommend monitoring to evaluate the success of the salvage operation, post release. More details on these management measures are outlined in the LMP (Wildland Consultants 2025b).

## 10.5 Avoid and minimise potential effects on avifauna

Potential adverse effects on indigenous birds will be minimised if the tree-felling works are undertaken outside of the breeding season (August to February) and vegetation management actions outlined above are implemented. If works are required during the breeding season, an experienced and suitably qualified ecologist should undertake a survey for nesting indigenous birds within the proposed trees to be felled. A survey should be undertaken no earlier than eight days prior to works commencing during the breeding season. Or if works stop for more than eight days during the breeding season and when a new area is to be worked on (staged works). If breeding birds are identified, a setback of 50 metres (100 metres for open pasture grassland areas) between the active nest and works will be required until the chicks have fledged. The pīhoihoi/New Zealand pipit and tōrea/South Island pied oystercatcher may potentially breed in the open pasture grassland habitat. Pīhoihoi/New Zealand pipit will not breed in intensively grazed paddock areas, so these areas should continue to be intensively grazed until earthworks begin (if starting in the breeding season). If works are to be undertaken during breeding season (August to February) in these areas, then an Incidental Discovery Protocol should be prepared for the earthworks contractors before they begin work. The Incidental Discovery Protocol will need to be followed and will be similar to the management above.

## 10.6 Foster environmental protection by residents

To enhance the natural character of the gullies and other proposed reserves, future landowners and residents should avoid planting any plant species that may be invasive. This includes species that are listed in the Otago Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029 (Otago Regional Council 2019) and the National Pest Plant Accord (Ministry for Primary Industries 2020). Dumping of garden waste should also be prevented through strong advocacy.

A list of suitable indigenous plant species for planting in amenity and residential gardens at this site could also be provided to future residents, to encourage the planting of ecologically-appropriate species (Table 5). All plant species listed in Table 5 provide an important resource for indigenous bird species and or lizards.



**Table 5** – List of indigenous plant species suitable for planting in amenity and residential gardens at Homestead Bay, Otago.

Species	Common Name	Plant type
<i>Carmichaelia petriei</i>	Desert broom	Shrub
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	Piripiriwhata, marbleleaf	Tree
<i>Coprosma acerosa</i>		Small shrub (low-lying)
<i>Coprosma crassifolia</i>		Shrub
<i>Coprosma dumosa</i>		Shrub and/or small tree
<i>Coprosma intertexta</i>		Shrub
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	Karamu	Shrub and/or small tree
<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>	Mikimiki	Shrub and/or small tree
<i>Coprosma rugosa</i>		Shrub
<i>Coprosma virescens</i>		Shrub and/or small tree
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	Ti kōuka, cabbage tree	Big tree
<i>Corokia cotoneaster</i>	Korokio	Shrub
<i>Discaria toumatou</i>	Tūmatakuru, matagouri	Shrub and/or small tree
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>	Kōtukutuku, tree fuchsia	Tree
<i>Fuscospora cliffortioides</i>	Tawhairauriki, mountain beech	Big tree
<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>	Kāpuka	Tree
<i>Hoheria glabrata</i>	Houhere, lacebark	Tree
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	Mānuka	Tree
<i>Melicytus alpinus</i>		Small shrub
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	Māpou	Tree
<i>Myrsine divaricata</i>	Weeping māpou	Small tree
<i>Olearia avicenniifolia</i>	Akeake	Tree
<i>Olearia fimbriata</i>		Shrub and/or small tree
<i>Olearia lineata</i>		Shrub and/or small tree
<i>Olearia odorata</i>	Scented tree daisy	Shrub and/or small shrub
<i>Phormium tenax</i>	Harakeke, flax	Shrub
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	Kōhūhū	Tree
<i>Podocarpus nivalis</i>	Tauhinu, snow tōtara,	Small shrub
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	Horoeka, lancewood	Tree
<i>Pseudopanax ferox</i>	Fierce lancewood	Tree
<i>Sophora microphylla</i>	Kōwhai	Big tree
<i>Veronica salicifolia</i>	Koromiko	Shrub

## 10.7 Summary

Table 6 provides a summary of the level of potential effects that will remain if all the above mitigation actions are carried out in full.



## 11.0 Conclusion

A subdivision is proposed for c.200 hectares of gently rolling, rural land at Homestead Bay, Otago. The development will mainly consist of residential property but will also have small reserves, commercial land, and a school within it. The development already has plans to plant a significant area with indigenous plant species.

Most of the exotic vegetation, part of the tūmatakuru/matagouri shrubland, swamp and marsh wetland, pond, and three ephemeral wetlands will be cleared to facilitate the proposed development. McCann's skink is present in low numbers within the exotic pasture grasslands and tūmatakuru/matagouri shrublands. The Threatened – Nationally Endangered kārearea/eastern falcon and At Risk – Declining pīhoihoi/New Zealand pipit occasionally utilise the exotic pasture grassland habitat. Aquatic habitats and wetlands present are dominated with exotic vegetation (except for one ephemeral wetland). Aside, from the exotic dominance, wetlands are still moderately ecological valuable due to them being significantly reduced nationwide. The ephemeral wetlands are particularly valuable due to their unique habitat.

The proposed development will result in the loss of 1.2 hectares indigenous vegetation, 0.95 hectares wetland habitat and 7.5 hectares lizard habitat but will gain 19.0 hectares of indigenous vegetation and habitat. Approximately, 12.1 hectares of current indigenous vegetation will benefit from restoration actions such as plantings, and weed control. The largest remaining, ephemeral wetland will benefit from the development and implementation of a restoration management plan and ongoing management actions and monitoring.

Mitigation measures to manage effects include:

- Increasing extent and diversity of present indigenous vegetation and habitats through restoration actions such as planting, and ecological weed control.
- Developing and implementing an ephemeral wetland restoration plan.
- Avoid tree-felling in the avifauna breeding season. If earthworks need to be undertaken in the avifauna breeding season, an Incidental Discovery Plan will need to be developed before works begin in the exotic pasture grassland areas.
- Continue grazing exotic pasture grasslands until construction works begin.
- Preparation and implementation of a lizard management plan for the site.



**Table 6** – Summary of adverse effects following mitigation/compensation actions.

Potential Effect	Ecological Feature Affected	Ecological Value	Timescale of Effect	Specific Effect	Initial Level of Effect	Measure to Address Effect	Final Level of Effect
Removal of vegetation	Tūmatakuru/matagouri shrubland	Low	Permanent	Removal of vegetation	Minor	Extend and enhance remaining shrublands by planting appropriate indigenous species and removing ecological weeds.	Less than minor
Loss and/or damage of wetlands	Swamp and marsh wetland	Low to moderate	Permanent	Removal of wetland habitat	Major	Enhance surrounding terrestrial habitats.	More than minor
	Ephemeral wetlands	Moderate to high	Permanent	Removal of wetland habitat	Major	Enhance the remaining ephemeral wetland.	Significant
	Ephemeral wetland	High	Temporary	Soil compaction	More than minor	Mark out boundary of wetland with fence or boulders. Restoration plan, implementation, and monitoring.	Less than minor
Disturbance to and/or mortality of indigenous birds	Threatened, At Risk, and protected bird species	Low	Permanent	Removal of habitat, accidental injury/death/displacement, disturbance during earthworks	More than minor	Create more habitat and enhance current habitat. Avoid removing trees during breeding season.	Less than minor
Disturbance to and/or mortality of indigenous lizards	McCann's skink (protected species)	Moderate	Permanent	Accidental injury/death/displacement, disturbance during earthworks, habitat loss and fragmentation, and breeding failure/behavioural effects	More than minor	Continue grazing land. Develop a LMP and undertake a lizard salvage before works begin.	Minor
Disturbance to and/or mortality of indigenous invertebrates	At Risk and unassessed invertebrates	Low	Temporary to permanent	Accidental injury/death/displacement, disturbance during earthworks, habitat loss and fragmentation	Minor	Enhance and increase shrubland habitat.	Less than minor



Potential Effect	Ecological Feature Affected	Ecological Value	Timescale of Effect	Specific Effect	Initial Level of Effect	Measure to Address Effect	Final Level of Effect
Increased predation pressure from domestic pets and pest animals	Indigenous birds, lizards, and invertebrates (At Risk and Threatened)	Moderate	Permanent	Increased predation	More than minor	Enhance and increase shrubland and scrub habitat for refuge.	Less than minor

\* In absence of mitigation measures.



## Acknowledgments

Amanda Leith (Planner/Director of Remarkables Planning) is thanked for providing useful information and site access. Farm Managers Dave Atkin and Matt Little are thanked for allowing access to the active farm areas.

## References

- Alibone, R. (2023): *Homestead Bay Aquatic Ecology Assessment*. Water Ways Consulting Contract Report 127-23. 11 pp.
- Ausseil A-G., Gerbeaux P., Chadderton L., Stephens T., Brown D. and Leathwick J. (2008): *Wetland ecosystems of national importance for biodiversity: Criteria, methods and candidate list of nationally important inland wetlands*. Prepared for Department of Conservation. Landcare Research Contract Report: LC0708/158. 172 pp
- Atkinson I.E. (1985): *Derivation of vegetation mapping units for an ecological survey of Tongariro National Park, North Island, New Zealand*. New Zealand Journal of Botany 23: 361-378.
- Beale, S. (2023): *Terrestrial Ecology Assessment*. Beale Consultants Ltd. Reference JEA04. Prepared for RCL Henley Downs Limited. 13 pp.
- Buckley T.R., Palma R.L., Johns P.M., Gleeson D.M., Heath A.C.G., Hitchmough R.A., Stringer I.A.N. (2012): *The conservation status of small or less well known groups of New Zealand terrestrial invertebrates*. New Zealand Entomologist 35(2): 137–143.
- de Lange, P.J., Gosden, J., Courtney, S.P., Fergus, A.J., Barkla, J.W., Beadel, S.M., Champion, P.D., Hindmarsh-Walls, R., Makan, T. and Michel, P. (2024): *Conservation status of vascular plants in Aotearoa New Zealand, 2023*. New Zealand Threat Classification Series 43. Department of Conservation, Wellington. 105 pp.
- Department of Conservation 2019: Key Principles for lizard salvage and transfer in New Zealand. Lizard Technical Advisory Group. Department of Conservation, Wellington. Available online: [https://www.doc.govt.nz/contentassets/02b1a908bcb34ff1a37652\\_ad357d3e2c/lizard-salvage-and-transfer-nz.pdf](https://www.doc.govt.nz/contentassets/02b1a908bcb34ff1a37652_ad357d3e2c/lizard-salvage-and-transfer-nz.pdf)
- Fraser S., Singleton P., and Clarkson B. (2018): *Hydric soils – field identification guide*. Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research contract report prepared for Tasman District Council. 75 pp.
- Holdaway R.J., Wiser S.K. and Williams P.A. (2012): *Status Assessment of New Zealand's Naturally Uncommon Ecosystems*. Society for Conservation Biology. Conservation Biology, Volume 26, No. 4, 619-629. 10 pp.
- Jarvie S., Barkla J., Rance B., Rogers G., Ewans R., and Thorson M. (2024): *Regional Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago*. Otago Regional Council, Otago Threat Classification Series 3, 2024/3. 138 pp.
- Johnson P.N. and Gerbeaux P. (2004): *Wetland types in New Zealand*. Department of Conservation, Wellington. 184 pp.
- Johnson P. and Rogers G. (2003): *Ephemeral wetlands and their turfs in New Zealand*. Science for Conservation 230. Department of Conservation, Wellington. 88pp.
- Leschen, R. A. B.; Marris, J. W. M.; Emberson, R. M.; Nunn, J.; Hitchmough, R. A.; Stringer, I. A. N. (2012): *The conservation status of New Zealand Coleoptera*. New Zealand Entomologist 35(2): 91–98.



Ministry for the Environment (2020): *National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020*. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment. 70 pp.

Ministry for the Environment (2020): *Resource Management (National Standards for Freshwater) Regulations*. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment. 62 pp.

Ministry for the Environment (2021): *Defining 'natural wetlands' and 'natural inland wetlands'*. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment. 25 pp.

Otago Regional Council (2025). *Otago Organisms of Interest (OOIs)*. Otago Regional Council, Dunedin. <https://www.orc.govt.nz/environment/biosecurity-and-pests/pest-management/organism-of-interest-ooi/>. Accessed March 2025.

Otago Regional Council (2019). *Otago Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2019*. Otago Regional Council, Dunedin. 101 pp.

Quality Planning (2023): *Determining the extent of adverse effects*. Quality Planning website is maintained by the Ministry for the Environment. Determining the Extent of Adverse Effects | Quality Planning. Accessed: March 2025.

Robertson H.A., Baird K., Elliott G.P., Hitchmough R.A., McArthur N.J., Makan T., Miskelly C.M., O'Donnell C.J., Sagar P.M., Scofield R.P., Taylor G.A., and Michel P. (2021): *Conservation status of New Zealand birds, 2021*. New Zealand Threat Classification Series 36. Department of Conservation, Wellington. 43 pp.

Trewick S., Hegg D., Morgan-Richards M., Murray T., Watts C., Johns P., and Michel P. (2022): *Conservation status of Orthoptera (wētā, crickets and grasshoppers) in Aotearoa New Zealand, 2022*. New Zealand Threat Classification Series 39. Department of Conservation, Wellington.

Wildland Consultants (2025a): Wetland assessment at Homestead Bay, Queenstown. Wildland Consultants Contract Report No. 7483a. Prepared for RCL Homestead Bay Limited. 54 pp.

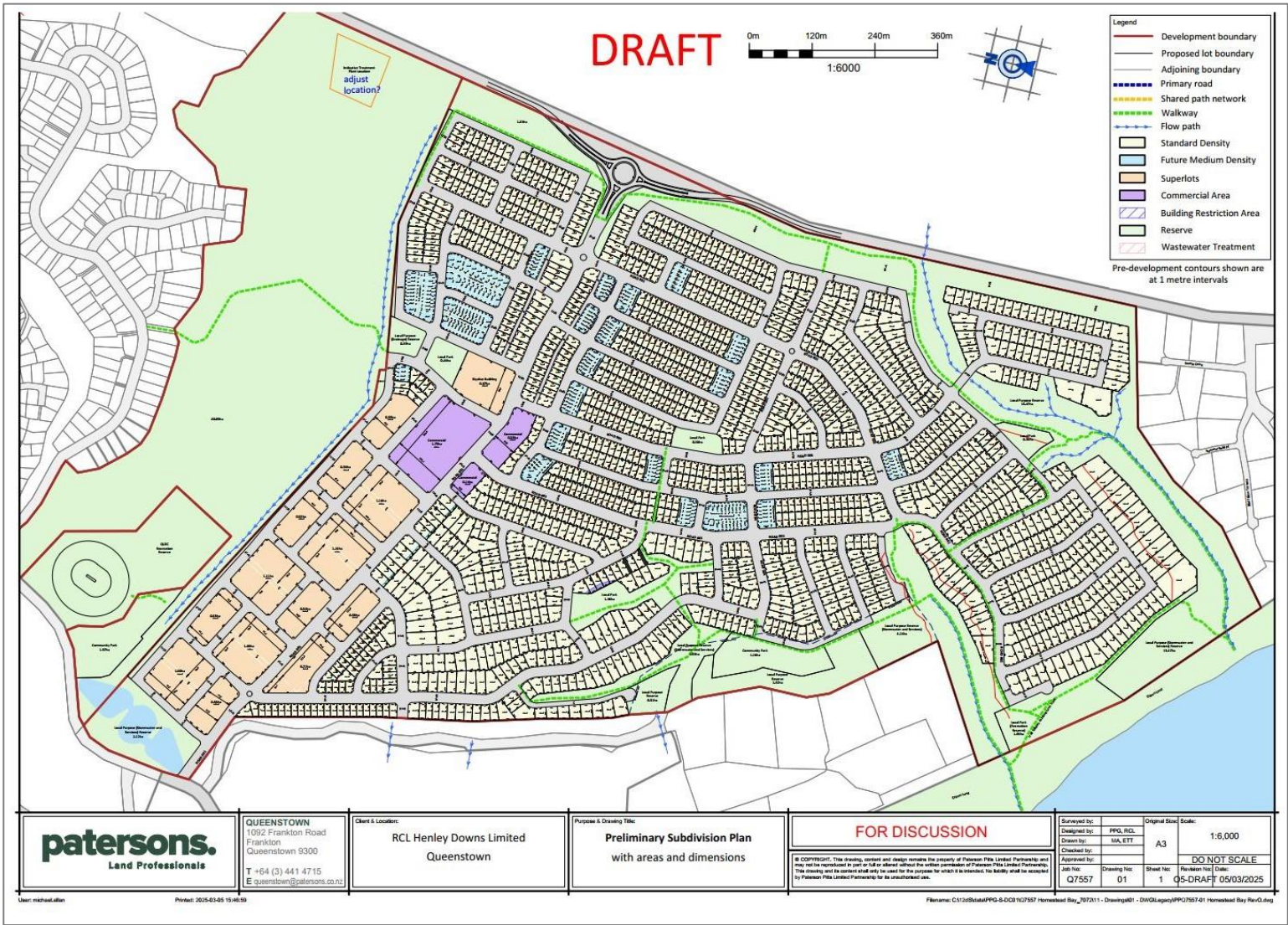
Wildland Consultants (2025b): Lizard Management Plan for Homestead Bay, Queenstown. Wildland Consultants Contract Report No. 7483b DRAFT. Prepared for RCL Homestead Bay Limited.

Queenstown Lakes District Council (2024): *Operative District Council Plan 2024*. Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC), Queenstown.



# Appendix 1

## Proposed draft plan of the subdivision development







## Appendix 2

### Plant species list

Species	Common Name	Plant Type	Status	National Threat Status
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver wattle	Tree	Exotic	-
<i>Acaena agnipila</i>	Australian sheep's bur	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood	Tree	Exotic	-
<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i> *	Bidibidi	Forb	Indigenous Non-Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	Tree	Exotic	-
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Browntop	Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Aira caryophyllea</i>	Silvery hair grass	Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Alnus</i> sp.*	Alder	Woody mixed	Exotic	-
<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>	Kneed foxtail	Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet vernal	Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Anthosachne solandri</i>	Pātiti taranui	Graminoid	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Arctium lappa</i>	Burdock	Sub shrub	Exotic	-
<i>Asplenium appendiculatum</i>	Ground spleenwort	Fern	Indigenous Non-Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i>	Necklace fern	Fern	Indigenous Non-Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Azolla rubra</i>		Fern	Indigenous Non-Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Ripgut brome	Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft brome	Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Buddleia	Shrub	Exotic	-
<i>Callitriche petriei</i>		Forb	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherds purse	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Carex</i> sp.		Graminoid	Indigenous Non-Endemic	-
<i>Carex</i> sp.		Graminoid	Indigenous Non-Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Carmichaelia petriei</i>		Shrub	Indigenous Endemic	At Risk-Declining
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Mouse-ear chickweed	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	Lawson cypress	Tree	Exotic	-
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fathen	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Chionochloa rubra</i> subsp. <i>cuprea</i> *	Copper tussock	Graminoid	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Chionochloa rigida</i> subsp. <i>rigida</i>	Narrow-leaved snow tussock	Graminoid	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Californian thistle	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Scotch thistle	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Colobanthus strictus</i>		Forb	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock	Forb	Exotic	-



Species	Common Name	Plant Type	Status	National Threat Status
<i>Coprosma petriei</i>	Turfy coprosma	Shrub	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>	Mikimiki	Tree	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Coprosma</i> sp.*		Woody mixed	Indigenous Non-Endemic	-
<i>Coprosma rugosa</i> *		Shrub	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	Ti kōuka, cabbage tree	Grass tree	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampas grass	Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested dogstail	Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom	Shrub	Exotic	-
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot	Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Discaria toumatou</i>	Tūmatakuru, matagouri	Tree	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male fern	Fern	Exotic	-
<i>Dysphania pumilio</i>	Clammy goosefoot	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>	Spike sedge	Graminoid	Indigenous Non-Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Storksbill	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Erythranthe moschata</i>		Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Eucalyptus cinerea</i> *	Argyle apple, silver dollar tree	Tree	Exotic	-
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> *	Blue gum	Tree	Exotic	-
<i>Festuca novae-zelandiae</i>	Hard tussock	Graminoid	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red fescue	Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Fuscospora cliffortioides</i>	Mountain beech	Tree	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Galium palustre</i>	Marsh bedstraw;	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Gaultheria antipoda</i>	Tāwiniwini, bush snowberry	Shrub	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dovesfoot cranesbill	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	Floating sweetgrass	Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>	Kāpuka	Tree	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Helichrysum filicaule</i>	Slender everlasting daisy	SubShrub	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Hieracium lepidulum</i>	Tussock hawkweed	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog	Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Barley grass	Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Hydrocotyle novae-zeelandiae</i>		Forb	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Hypericum humifusum</i>	Trailing Saint John's wort;	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	St Johns wort	Sub Shrub	Exotic	-
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Catsear	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Ileostylus micranthus</i>	Pirita, green mistletoe	Mistletoe	Indigenous Non-Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Isolepis</i> sp.		Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed rush	Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Juncus australis</i>	Wīwī	Graminoid	Indigenous Non-Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	Toad rush	Graminoid	Exotic	-





Species	Common Name	Plant Type	Status	National Threat Status
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft rush	Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Juncus tenuis</i> subsp. <i>dichotomus</i>		Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>		Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>	Pātōtara	Shrub	Indigenous Non-Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Lobelia perpusilla</i>		Forb	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Lolium arundinaceum</i>	Tall fescue	Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Ryegrass	Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Lupinus arboreus</i>	Tree lupin	Shrub	Exotic	-
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Dwarf mallow	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Malus</i> sp.	Crabapple	Tree	Exotic	-
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Horehound	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Melicytus alpinus</i>		Shrub	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	Puka	Vine	Indigenous Non-Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Muehlenbeckia axillaris</i>	Pōhuehue	Vine	Indigenous Non-Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i>	Pōhuehue	Vine	Indigenous Non-Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	Wall lettuce	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Myosotis laxa</i>	Water forget-me-not	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Pentapogon crinitus</i>				-
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear hawkweed	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Radiata pine	Tree	Exotic	-
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	Kōhūhū	Tree	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Plagianthus regius</i> *	Mānatu, lowland ribbonwood	Tree	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Plantago australis</i>	Swamp plantain	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual poa	Graminoid	Exotic	-
<i>Poa cita</i> *		Graminoid	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Poa colensoi</i>	Blue tussock	Graminoid	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Polystichum vestitum</i>	Pūniu, prickly shield fern	Fern	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Populus nigra</i> *	Lombardy poplar	Tree	Exotic	-
<i>Prunus</i> sp.*	Ornamental cherry	Woody mixed	Exotic	-
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas fir	Tree	Exotic	-
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Rārahu, bracken	Fern	Indigenous Non-Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Pyrus pyrifolia</i> *	Nashi pear	Tree	Exotic	-
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin oak	Tree	Exotic	-
<i>Ranunculus glabrifolius</i>	Kawariki	Forb	Indigenous Non-Endemic	-
<i>Raoulia australis</i>	Common mat daisy	Sub shrub	Indigenous Endemic	At Risk-Declining
<i>Raoulia beauverdii</i>		Sub shrub	Indigenous Endemic	At Risk-Declining
<i>Raoulia subsericea</i>	Turf mat daisy	Sub shrub	Indigenous Endemic	-
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	Gooseberry	Shrub	Exotic	-



Species	Common Name	Plant Type	Status	National Threat Status
<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>		Shrub	Exotic	-
<i>Rubus schmidelioides</i>		Vine	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's sorrel	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled dock	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved dock	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Pearlwort	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	Shrub	Exotic	-
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Stonecrop	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black nightshade	Sub shrub	Exotic	-
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly puha	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Sophora microphylla</i>	Kōwhai	Tree	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	Tree	Exotic	-
<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	Spurrey	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Stellaria alsine</i>	Bog stitchwort	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Haresfoot trefoil	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	Shrub	Exotic	-
<i>Urtica urens</i>	Nettle	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Veronica cupressoides</i> <sup>1</sup>	Cypress hebe	Shrub	Indigenous Endemic	Threatened-Nationally Endangered
<i>Veronica</i> sp.		Mixed	Indigenous	Not Threatened
<i>Veronica salicifolia</i>	Koromiko	Shrub	Indigenous Non-Endemic	Not Threatened
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Woolly mullein	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Verbascum virgatum</i>	Moth mullein	Forb	Exotic	-
<i>Wahlenbergia albomarginata</i>	New Zealand harebel	Forb	Indigenous Endemic	Not Threatened

<sup>1</sup> Planted species



## Appendix 3

### Avifauna species list

Scientific Name	Common Name	Threat Classification	Record Source	Likelihood Present
<b>Indigenous</b>				
<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae</i>	Pīhoihoi, New Zealand pipit	At Risk - Declining	Field survey eBird	Present
<i>Anas gracilis</i>	Tētē-moroiti, grey teal	Not Threatened	Field survey	Present
<i>Anas rhynchos variegata</i>	Kuruwhengi, Australasian shoveler	Not Threatened	eBird	Unlikely
<i>Aythya novaeseelandiae</i>	Pāpango, New Zealand scaup	Not Threatened	eBird	Unlikely
<i>Chlidonias albostratus</i>	Black-fronted tern	Threatened - Nationally Endangered	eBird	Unlikely
<i>Circus approximans</i>	Kāhu, swamp harrier, Australasian harrier	Not Threatened	Field survey and eBird	Likely
<i>Cygnus atratus</i>	Kakīānau, black swan	Not Threatened	eBird	
<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>	Mataku, white-faced heron	Not Threatened	eBird	Unlikely
<i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i>	Kārearea, bush hawk, bush falcon, southern falcon, eastern falcon	Threatened - Nationally Endangered	Field survey eBird	Present
<i>Fulica atra australis</i>	Australian coot	At Risk - Naturally Uncommon	eBird	Unlikely
<i>Gerygone igata</i>	Riroriro, grey warbler	Not Threatened	eBird	Likely
<i>Heamatopus finschi</i>	Tōrea, South Island pied oystercatcher	At Risk – Declining	eBird	Likely
<i>Hirundo neoxena neoxena</i>	Warou, welcome swallow	Not Threatened	eBird	
<i>Larus dominicanus dominicanus</i>	Karoro, southern black-backed gull	Not Threatened	Field survey eBird	Present
<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris</i>	Kawau paka, little shag, little pied shag	At Risk - Relict	eBird	Unlikely
<i>Podiceps cristatus australis</i>	Pūteketeki, southern crested grebe	Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable	eBird	Unlikely
<i>Porphyrio melanotus melanotus</i>	Pūkeko	Not Threatened	eBird	Unlikely
<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa fuliginosa</i>	Pīwakawaka, South Island fantail	Not Threatened	Field survey	Present
<i>Tadorna variegata</i>	Pūtangitangi, paradise shelduck	Not Threatened	Field survey eBird	Present
<i>Vanellus miles novaehollandiae</i>	Spur-winged plover, masked lapwing	Not Threatened	eBird	Likely
<i>Zosterops lateralis lateralis</i>	Tauhou, silvereye, wax-eye, white-eye	Not Threatened	eBird	Likely
<b>Introduced</b>				
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Eurasian skylark	Introduced and Naturalised	eBird	Likely
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	Introduced and Naturalised	eBird	
<i>Callipepla californica bunnescens</i>	California quail	Introduced and Naturalised	Field survey eBird	Present



Scientific Name	Common Name	Threat Classification	Record Source	Likelihood Present
<i>Carduelis carduelis britannica</i>	European goldfinch	Introduced and Naturalised	eBird	Likely
<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	European greenfinch	Introduced and Naturalised	Field survey eBird	Present
<i>Carduelis flammea cabaret</i>	Common redpoll	Introduced and Naturalised	eBird	Likely
<i>Emberiza citrinella caliginosa</i>	Yellowhammer	Introduced and Naturalised	Field survey eBird	Present
<i>Fringilla coelebs gengleri</i>	Chaffinch	Introduced and Naturalised	eBird	Likely
<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	Australian magpie	Introduced and Naturalised	eBird	Likely
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House sparrow	Introduced and Naturalised	eBird	Likely
<i>Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris</i>	Common starling	Introduced and Naturalised	eBird	Likely
<i>Turdus merula merula</i>	Eurasian blackbird	Introduced and Naturalised	eBird	Likely
<i>Turdus philomelos clarkei</i>	Song thrush	Introduced and Naturalised	eBird	Likely
<i>Emberiza citrinella caliginosa</i>	Yellowhammer	Introduced and Naturalised	Field survey eBird	Present





## Appendix 4

### Site photographs



**Plate A4-1** – Blue gum/(mikumiki-sweet briar) treeland in the southern gully.



**Plate A4-2** – Dense tūmatakuru shrubland on lower hills slope at the northern end of the property.





**Plate A4-3** – Less dense tūmatakuru shrubland on a terrace near the mid-section of the property.



**Plate A4-4** – Pūtangitangi/paradise ducks within the currently dry modified pond near northern end of the property.





**Plate A4-5** – European rabbit burrow under the tūmatakura-(mikimiki-sweet briar) scrub.

**Call Free** 0508 WILDNZ  
**Ph** +64 7 343 9017  
**Fax** +64 7 349018  
[ecology@wildlands.co.nz](mailto:ecology@wildlands.co.nz)

99 Sala Street  
PO Box 7137, Te Ngae  
Rotorua 3042, New Zealand

Regional Offices located in Auckland; Christchurch;  
Dunedin; Hamilton; Invercargill; Queenstown; Tauranga;  
Wānaka; Wellington; Whangārei.