

Appendix B – Detailed assessment CMS

An assessment of statutory planning documents and associated policies in relation to the wildlife approval sought for this Project is below.

Conservation General Policy 2005

The Conservation General Policy 2005 (CGP) provides guidance for the administration and management of lands and waters and natural and historic resources managed under conservation legislation including the Wildlife Act.

Policy 4.6(a) states that “Activities on public conservation lands and waters should be planned and managed in ways which avoid or otherwise minimise adverse effects on the quality of ecosystem services”.

The CGP does not contain policies specific to the proposed wildlife activities. The application is not inconsistent with the CGP.

Otago Conservation Management Strategy 2016

The Otago Conservation Management Strategy 2016 (CMS 2016) describes the conservation values present in Otago and provides guidance for the Department’s work in the form of a vision, objectives, outcomes for Places, policies and milestones. The BOGP is within the boundary of the CMS 2016. It is relevant to activities within the Bendigo and Ardgour Stations and Ardgour Rise Concession Area, SH8 Concession Area, Come-in-Time Concession Area, Willow Concession Area, and Water Monitoring and Access Concession Area.

Section 1.4 addresses Treaty of Waitangi partnership with Ngāi Tahu. Policies relate to maintaining and strengthening relationships with tangata whenua through respectful, cooperative and mutually beneficial engagement. Implementation of Treaty settlement obligations and consideration of iwi environmental plans are integral to the Department’s operations and conservation management approach.

Section 1.5 provides objectives relating to maintaining and restoring natural heritage.

“The diversity of New Zealand’s natural heritage is maintained and restored with priority given to:

- a) conserving a full range of New Zealand’s ecosystems to a healthy functioning state, with an emphasis on priority ecosystems in Appendix 4;*
- b) supporting the work of others to maintain and restore ecosystem types selected from Appendix 2;*
- c) conserving Threatened species to ensure persistence, with an emphasis on those species listed in Appendix 5. ...”*

The species listed in Appendix 5 include those in this application with a threat status of At Risk or Threatened.

The project area is within Section 2.4 Central Otago Uplands and Section 2.6 Central Otago Drylands/Manuherikia Place.

Outcomes for the Central Otago Uplands Place include: *“Intact altitudinal vegetation sequences link the uplands to the lowlands, and provide wildlife corridors and improved habitat and ecosystem connectivity.”*

The outcomes for the Central Otago Drylands/Manuherikia Place include that *“Central Otago’s indigenous dryland ecosystems are highly valued, and better protected”* and that *“Conservation initiatives on public and private land result in the protection of a representative range of dry land ecosystems, corridors for wildlife, ecological connections between the Central Otago Drylands/Manuherikia Place and Central Otago Uplands Place, and recognition of the ecosystem services that they provide. Pest plants and animals are controlled. Distinctive Central Otago dryland threatened species are secure in their natural habitats”*.

A key policy for the Central Otago Drylands/Manuherikia Place is to work collaboratively with others to achieve active management to protect dryland habitats including: habitats of threatened indigenous plants and animals or naturally rare ecosystems; and areas of indigenous vegetation that link with indigenous ecosystems or adjoining upland areas, providing wildlife corridors.

Part Three of the CMS sets out specific policy requirements for Otago. The overarching objective is to process authorisations in accordance with the relevant legislation, this CMS and the provisions of the Conservation General Policy 2005.

Section 3.10 - Structures and utilities is applicable as several structures/ infrastructure are part of the project. The following considerations in relation to the project apply when considering applications to erect structures or utilities on public conservation lands and waters:

- the purposes for which the lands and waters concerned are held;
- the outcomes and policies for the Places where the activity is proposed to occur;
- whether the structure could reasonably be located in another location where fewer adverse effects would result from the activity;
- whether the structure adversely affects conservation values,

DOC Assessment

As discussed in this report, it is not considered that the project’s effects on lizards will be adequately managed and the project is not consistent with the requirements and purpose of the Wildlife Act regarding lizard species as the assessment of effects is incomplete and not accurate and there are substantial residual adverse effects remaining that are not addressed through offset and/or compensation. It is therefore considered that the project is not consistent with the Otago CMS and the CGP regarding lizards.

It is considered that effects on avifauna will be adequately managed and consistent with the requirements and purpose of the Wildlife Act, and therefore consistent with the relevant statutory planning documents.