






Above: View overlooking Mt Herbert and the Slopedown escarpment on the right. Boffa Miskell, 2018.

SLOPEDOWN / MOKORETA - PUKEMIMIHOU ONF

Slopedown forms a striking part of the Southland Syncline and contains an impressive altitudinal sequence of indigenous vegetation providing recreation opportunities.

SLOPEDOWN / MOKORETA - PUKEMIMIHOU ONF

LANDSCAPE ATTRIBUTES	EVALUATION	RATING
BIOPHYSICAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of the geologically significant Southland Syncline which incorporates a series of striking ridges and valleys from western Southland through to the Catlins/Te Ākau Tai Toka. This unit is divided into two sub-units. Although the whole unit is part of the wider area known as the Catlins and is part of the Southland Syncline, the physical characteristics of the two sub-units are quite distinct. The Catlins area is characterised by the parallel low hills, escarpments and valleys of the Southland Syncline (Department of Conservation, 2000). One of the last largely undisturbed examples of the transitional vegetation between the region's predominant rimu-kamahi- forest and the former mixed podocarp forest of the Southland/Murihiku plains and peripheral hill country (Sandercock, 1987). Slopedown Hill has some mountain cedar (<i>Libocedrus bidwillii</i>) on the southern slopes, while the tops have a significant amount of intact red tussock and peatlands (Department of Conservation, 2000). The Slopedown Ecological Area contains altitudinal sequences of regenerating kamahi, podocarp and mixed broadleaved forest on relatively flat to steep hill sides (Department of Conservation, 2016). 	 HIGH
SENSORY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinctive plateau and sloping strike ridge remains highly legible and expressive of the Southland Syncline through this area. The dominant cover and sequence of indigenous forest which culminates along grassland and scrub upon the plateau establishes an overt sense of naturalness. Combination of flattened ridgetop and distinctive sloping forested scarp forms a memorable feature and skyline observed from the Southland Plains. Highly coherent sequence of native vegetation and sub-alpine tussock which expresses a notable altitude sequence in harmony with the landform. 	 VERY HIGH
ASSOCIATIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mimiha Stream is important to Ngāi Tahu and the wider area includes a number of archaeological sites of Māori origin highlighting traditional use and occupation. Slopedown Forest has been used as an outdoor education area (Department of Conservation, 2000). Recognised important backcountry hunting and tramping opportunities. 	 MODERATE-HIGH

OVERALL LANDSCAPE VALUE	OUTSTANDING
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Mapped Extent:

Refer to Figure 36. The Slopedown/Mokoreta - Pukemimihau ONF has primarily been mapped according to the extent of native vegetation. This encompasses the full extent of the vegetated scarp slope and extends onto the plateau top where existing vegetation predominantly remains intact. It also includes the adjacent vegetated form of Mount Herbert. Exotic plantation forestry has been excluded from the ONF and typically forms the boundary along which the extent of the ONF has been defined.

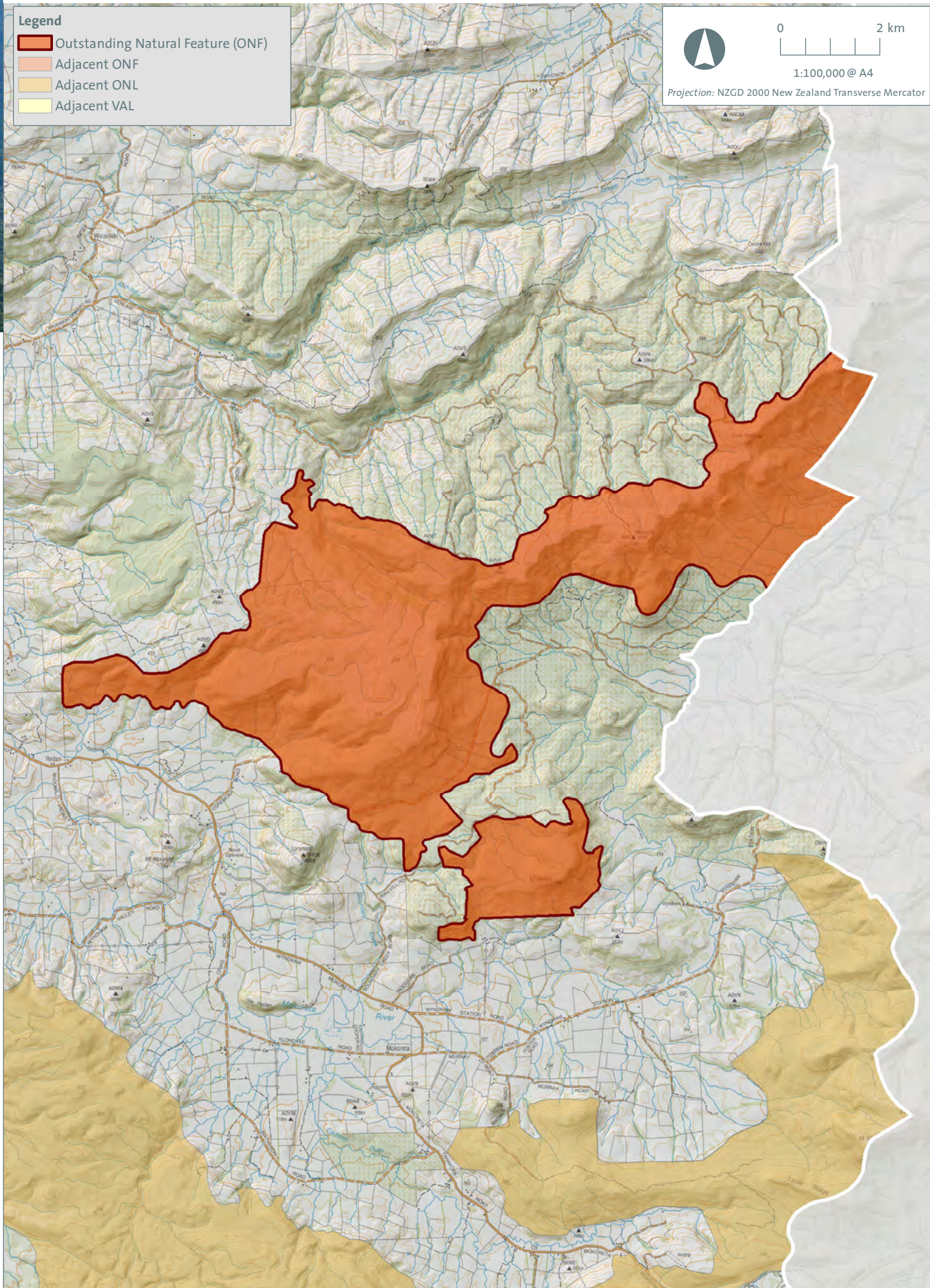


Figure 36: Slopedown ONF. Boffa Miskell, 2018.