

2. WAIAU RIVER



LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

This character area extends beyond the study area to Lake Manapouri. It is a large powerful single braid. The flow regime has been modified by hydro development. Land use and land cover on either side of the river varies between modified farmland, the township of Manapouri and native beech forest on the southern riparian banks.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Large, single braided river
- Modified flow regime

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER SENSITIVITY:

HIGH

Natural Factors: Beech forest down to river edge, dynamic river processes

Cultural Factors: Modified flow, farming patterns and Manapouri settlement along the banks

Quality/Condition: In spite of flow modifications, river maintains a high level of naturalness

Aesthetic Factors: River as attractive natural feature

VISUAL SENSITIVITY:

LOW south of Pearl Harbour, HIGH Pearl Harbour to lake

Visibility: Visible from Manapouri - particularly at tourist boating operations. However, south of Pearl Harbour, generally not visible from easily accessed public viewpoints.

Populations: Small stretch of river potentially visible to large numbers of tourists at times.

LANDSCAPE VALUES

- Important natural feature and recreational resource
- Area of mature beech forest on riparian edges

