

Part 6

NFL – Natural features and landscapes

APP38 – Special landscape values associated with the Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River Valley

Special landscape values associated with the Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River Valley

The following section sets out the specific values and attributes of the Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River Valley.

The Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River flows west from the Bryant Range into Nelson Haven. It includes tributaries which flow from the Roding and Mineral Belt landscape character areas and extends through the Upper Maitai and Maitai Valley character areas before flowing through Nelson's urban area in its lower reaches.

Biophysical – moderate

- Accessible inland valley system extending east of Nelson City.
- Remnant beech and podocarp amongst stands of plantation forest on slopes in the vicinity of the Maitai Dam.

Sensory – high

- Iconic and memorable inland valley landscape setting in close proximity to Nelson.
- Upper reaches retain a high level of naturalness with exception of built elements associated with Maitai Dam, Nelson's water supply and transmission lines.
- Strong picturesque scenic qualities and lower reaches.
- Coherent configuration of open space continues recreation access along the Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River.
- Transient values associated with recreational use of the river and accompanying open space areas.

Associative – very high

- Highly valued recreational area associated with the Maitai River, open space and associated reserves including the golf course and motor camp.
- The river and its environs are a site of great significance for local iwi.
- The Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River was historically a source of argillite, a highly valuable and useful rock used for toki (adzes) and working tools and was rich in mahinga kai, rongoā, weaving and building materials.
- The Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River and its tributaries provided tūpuna with a natural pathway or arawhito through the rohe.

Evaluation

The Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River within the Maitai Valley and Upper Maitai landscape character areas is considered to form a Significant Landscape.