
IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application by MainPower Limited under s.88 of the Resource Management Act 1991 to establish and operate the Mount Cass Wind Farm

Statement of evidence of Robert James Greenaway, called by
MainPower Ltd

Dated: November 2008

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STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF ROBERT JAMES GREENAWAY, CALLED BY MAINPOWER LIMITED

INTRODUCTION

1. My full name is Robert James Greenaway. I am in practice as a consultant leisure and open space planner. I operate a private Nelson-based consultancy called Rob Greenaway & Associates and I am a Director of the Pacific-based leisure planning consortium, the Global Leisure Group Limited.
2. I graduated from Lincoln University in 1987 with a three-year Diploma in Parks and Recreation Management with Distinction, and completed 18 months of postgraduate study, generally in conservation management.
3. Between 1990 and 1995 I worked with an international tourism and recreation development consultancy, Tourism Resource Consultants Limited, on a range of large and small development and advisory projects. This included ecotourism development planning in Samoa, for potential World Heritage Sites in the Solomon Islands for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, event management, and domestic reserve, tourism and recreation management planning.
4. Between 1995 and 1997 I worked for Boffa Miskell Limited, focusing on recreation planning for local authorities and tourism development planning for private agencies.
5. Since 1997 I have worked independently. The majority of my work is for private companies, local and central government, and environmental and community agencies. Over the past five years I have prepared assessments of effect and evidence in relation to recreation and tourism for, for example, Contact Energy (Clutha River), Meridian Energy (Project Hayes, Mokihinui River, Waitaki River and catchment, the Manapouri hydro scheme), TrustPower (Arnold, Wairau, Patea and Matahina hydro schemes), King Country Energy (Mokau River), Bay of Plenty Energy (Kaituna River), Darby Partners (Parkins Bay), Landco (Long Bay), Infinity Investments (Hillend, Peninsula Bay), amongst others. I have spent time around the Te Apiti and White Hill wind farms to gain some appreciation of the character of such developments.
6. I have undertaken many projects in the Canterbury region and lived in Christchurch between 1995 and 2007. My projects have included the Port Hills Recreation Strategy, comprehensive leisure plans for six Christchurch City Community Board areas, recreation user

surveys for the Port Hills, Spencer Park, the Avon Heathcote Estuary, Brighton Beach, Sumner Beach, the Hurunui River and the lower Waimakariri River, and evidence in relation to the Taylors Mistake baches, Kennedys Bush subdivision and the Port Levy mussel farm, amongst others. I have also completed a physical activity strategy for Canterbury and the West Coast for Sport Canterbury. I am currently on a Port Hills Park Trust Board campaign team convened to acquire and manage a new park on the Port Hills, and have written the management plan for that proposal.

7. I confirm that I have read and agree to comply with the Environment Court Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses (Consolidated Practice Note 2006). This evidence is within my area of expertise, except where I state otherwise. I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that alter or detract from the opinions that I express.
8. I have been commissioned by MainPower Ltd to review the potential effects of the Mount Cass wind farm proposal on recreation and tourism, and to review the potential for recreation and tourism developments associated with the proposal.
9. I visited the Mount Cass site in September 2008.

SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

10. In my evidence I:
 - Review international literature in relation to tourism and wind farms;
 - Review the relevant recreation and tourism activities and values within the Mount Cass / Waipara area;
 - Assess the effects of MainPower's proposed wind farm on these values;
 - Identify the potential for mitigating any adverse effects of the proposal;
 - Review relevant submissions made to MainPower's consent application; and
 - Review the planning report to the Hurunui District Council on the consent application.

OVERVIEW

11. My review finds that:
- International literature indicates that wind farms generally have a neutral effect on recreation and tourism activity. While they may not appeal to all visitors to an area, they do not appear to have had a marked effect on tourism or recreation behaviour.
 - Wind farms have led to increased visitor activity in many locations.
 - The Waipara Valley tourism and recreation scene is dominated by the cultural features of the area – especially the wineries – rather than its landscape. While the landscape setting is important, it is not the area's draw-card.
 - There is likely to be very little effect of the proposal on the local tourism and recreation scene, although I estimate that visitor activity in the Mount Cass Road area could well double.

LITERATURE REVIEW

12. The literature that I have reviewed indicates that there is a mix of reactions to wind farms from a tourism perspective, but the trend is generally neutral, and is often positive. For example, in a survey of 307 visitors to Argyll in Scotland (MORI, 2002) – where 83% of respondents noted the landscape and countryside of the area as 'of particular interest' – of the 49% who had seen a wind farm in the area, 15% reported they had a 'completely positive effect', 28% reported a 'generally positive effect', 43% reported an 'equally positive and negative effect', 7% reported a 'generally negative effect', and 1% a 'completely negative effect'. Four percent noted that the wind farms would make them more likely to visit again, 91% reported that they would make no difference and 2% reported that the wind farms meant it was less likely that they would visit again.
13. Similarly, a 2004 study by the University of West England into a proposed wind farm development in North Devon (Aithchison, 2004), based on interviews with 379 'day visitors and tourists', reported that the majority of respondents (58%) thought that wind farms had no overall impact on the tourism experience, 18% reported that they had a positive effect on the tourism experience, and 15% reported a negative effect. The report conclusion was no overall negative impact

on tourism numbers, no overall detrimental effect on the tourist experience, and no overall decline in tourism expenditure.

14. Research carried out by QA Research (2005) of 449 visitors to Cumbria into additional potential wind farms in the area, reported that, to 86% of visitors, more wind farms in Cumbria would make no difference to their visit frequency, 10% would visit less often and 1% would not visit at all. With regard to the statement, 'I would avoid an area of countryside if I knew there was a wind farm there' , 77% disagreed or strongly disagreed and 19% agreed or strongly agreed. However, 71% indicated an extra wind farm would make no difference when visiting the district; 28% thought it would be an additional attraction; 79% indicated it would not reduce their enjoyment on visits; and 91% indicated it would not discourage them from visiting. Seventy-five percent of respondents had prior experience of wind farms in Cumbria, and unfortunately the study report does not indicate the response differences between those who had and had not experienced a wind farm.
15. RBA Research (2002) completed 234 face-to-face interviews with residents near the Lambrigg wind farm in Cumbria and reported that 71% of respondents thought that the wind farm had no effect on the number of people visiting the area, 14% said they didn't know what the impact had been and 11% believed that the number of visitors to the area had increased. Three percent thought that visitor numbers had declined.
16. Star Consultants (2003) – a group of undergraduate students from Leeds Metropolitan University – completed face-to-face interviews with 147 visitors to the Lake District for Friends of the Lake District. In relation to visits to Kirby Moor, 79% of respondents were neither encouraged nor discouraged to visit that area as a result of the wind farm, and equal numbers of respondents (7.5%) were encouraged and discouraged. In relation to Lambrigg Fell – another wind farm area – the neutral group was even larger – 84%. In response to the potential for increasing the number of wind farms in the Lake District, 75% of respondents stated it would make no difference to their visit frequency, 22% stated they would visit less frequently and 2% would be encouraged to visit. The students also interviewed 30 'tourism organisations' in the Lakes District, including the Ramblers Association. The students' report includes analysis of the results by subgroup (such as B&Bs and museums), but as each subgroup was quite small (three B&Bs for example), this detailed analysis is unlikely to be representative. In relation to the Kirby Moor wind farm, all businesses noted that it had had no effect on their operations (only the Ramblers considered it a negative effect). The

same results applied to Lambrigg Fell and the proposed wind farm at Wharrels Hill. Almost three-quarters supported the concept of wind farm visitor centres, and those who did not felt they would be competition for their businesses.

17. This year the Scottish Government released an analysis of the economic impacts of wind farms on Scottish tourism undertaken by Glasgow Caledonian University (March 2008). This study was based on international literature review, intercept surveys with almost 400 visitors to areas in Scotland with wind farms, and an internet-base response survey.
18. The literature review found:
 - There is often strong hostility to developments at the planning stage on the grounds of the scenic impact and the perceived knock-on effect on tourism. However developments in the most sensitive locations do not appear to have been given approval so that where negative impacts on tourism might have been a real outcome there is, in practice, little evidence of a negative effect.
 - There is a loss of value to a significant number of individuals but there are also some who believe that wind turbines enhance the scene.
 - An established wind farm can be a tourist attraction in the same way as a hydro-electric power station. This was considered to be only true whilst a visit remains a novel occurrence.
 - In Denmark, a majority of tourists regard wind turbines as a positive feature of the landscape.
 - Over time hostility to wind farms lessens and they become an accepted even valued part of the scenery. Those closest seem to like them most.
 - Overall there is no evidence to suggest a serious negative economic impact of wind farms on tourists.
19. In relation to the effects of wind farms on visitor intentions to return to Scotland, the study's intercept survey found:

Under all circumstances [the respondent having seen a real wind farm, having seen a photo-montage of a local landscape before and after the creation of an existing wind farm, and seeing a photo-simulation of an expanded existing wind farm] the vast majority (93-99%) of those who had seen a wind farm suggested that the experience would not have any effect. Indeed

there were some tourists for whom the experience increased the likelihood of return rather than decreasing it. The assessed change in likelihood combines both decreases (negative impacts) and increases (positive impacts). In the second case (no farm to current levels [that is, when viewing a 'before and after' photo-montage of an existing wind farm]) the net result of these changes in intentions at both the area level and nationally is relatively small, and in almost all cases is not significantly different from zero in a statistical sense.

However when the farm was extended respondents became significantly more negative. The extended development scenario at the area level shows a small but statistically significant (at the 10% level) fall of 2.5% in the likelihood of revisiting an area and just under 0.5% fall in the likelihood of revisiting Scotland.

The result at first sight seems to stand at odds to the result from the internet survey, where it appeared that once there was an intrusion into the scenery, the effect on the value of the landscape of expanding the size is relatively small. It is believed that this discrepancy may be explained by the difference between stated and revealed actions. The extended photos used in the intercept study were theoretical developments. Again those who did not like the idea of wind farms were given the opportunity to register a "protest vote" by threatening to withdraw if it proceeded. Because of the context this protest was far lower than in some other studies but it would appear to exist. Consequently it is our view that the identified change should be viewed as the maximum response that might be expected.

20. The report concluded a reduction in 'general tourism expenditure' at four study areas of between 1.3% and 1.7% as a result of wind farm development. The total loss for Scotland was estimated at 0.1%. However, this was considered a 'worst case scenario' as it was based on responses to extending existing wind farms where a statistically significant result was noted, and did not include the potential positive effects of wind farm tourism. The authors also reported:

The intercept study possibly overstates the likely negative responses because they were based on hypothetical extensions and were out of line with the marginality findings of the internet study. It is believed that there is an inherent possibility of a protest vote

against wind farms which is not matched by similar responses from supporters.

21. and

The development will happen over a number of years and both the market and tourists are likely to in part adjust to meet the new challenges.

22. The Ten Mile Lagoon wind farm in Western Australia with nine turbines was reported to have had 50,000 visitors in 2001. The Albany wind farm, also in WA, with 12 turbines was reported to have had 100,000 visitors in 2004. In the Manawatu, Destination Manawatu reports a positive effect of the turbines east of Palmerston North, and a car park count showed 1200 vehicles at the Te Apiti wind farm visitor area in one weekend in 2004. In comparison, the Manapouri Power Station has around 40,000 visitors annually, and Benmore Power Station 4000 – which is only a little fewer than the number of people who walk the Heaphy Track each year.
23. A UMR Research study (UMR 2007) completed for Meridian Energy in 2007, based on a telephone survey of 500 Otago residents, found:
- When asked to respond to the statement, 'Wind farms can be tourist attractions', 36% agreed, 26% disagreed and the remainder were neutral.
 - When asked to respond to the statement with regard to the Project Hayes proposal, 'It would adversely impact the recreational value of the area', 24% agreed and 27% disagreed.
 - When asked to respond to the statement with regard to the Project Hayes Proposal, 'It would be a new attraction for locals and visitors to the region', 33% agreed and 26% disagreed.
24. In that same study, 14% of respondents were found to be opposed to the Project Hayes proposal, and 2.9% of that group (two people) based that opposition on, 'adverse impacts on recreational use of land.'
25. In summary, while there is a segment of the tourism and recreation population who may consider that wind farms have an adverse effect on their experience, there are no data which suggest that a wind farm will have important negative effects on tourism and recreation activity generally.

LOCAL TOURISM AND RECREATION

26. The tourism scene in the Waipara Valley is dominated by the wine industry. The Lonely Planet guide to New Zealand (2006) describes the 'scenic Waipara valley' as 'NZ's fastest expanding wine region ... home to over a dozen wineries'. The Lonely Planet makes no other activity recommendations for the Valley. The currently available Alpine Pacific Triangle Touring Route guide describes the Waipara Valley as, 'one of New Zealand's finest and most rapidly expanding wine regions'. The touring guide recommends wineries, olives, lavender and 'other local produce' as well as identifying the Weka Pass vintage railway, 'walking tracks and a nature reserve' – the Tiromoana Bush and Mt Cass Walkways. Also identified as visitor locations are the Glenmark Estate and Glenmark Church.
27. The Insight Guide to New Zealand (2004) also focuses on only wine in the Waipara, but mentions the Waikari limestone landscape (Frog and Seal Rocks) on SH7 – beyond the Waipara Valley. The Footprint New Zealand guide (2005) states that the, 'Alpine Pacific Triangle ... is designed to combine the lesser attraction of the Waipara Valley with its two star destinations, Hanmer Springs and Kaikoura' – and offers no more information about Waipara.
28. The Alpine Pacific Triangle 'Official Visitor Guide Hanmer Springs, Waipara Valley, Kaikoura' focuses largely on the wineries of the Valley, and also identifies the two walkways – Cass and Tiromoana. With regard to Mount Cass, the guide notes the 'unusual limestone landscape and spectacular views of Pegasus Bay and North Canterbury'. Limestone formations are noted as 'highlights' in the Hawarden and Waikari section of the guide, but not in the Waipara section.
29. Tiromoana Bush, developed by Transwaste Canterbury Ltd as a 400 hectare QEII covenanted conservation, education and recreation resource, has 50 to 60 people using it per week during its busy season, which is primarily spring and autumn. There is lighter use in summer (Martin Pinkham, Canterbury Waste Services Ltd, pers comm.). Martin Pinkham estimates a similar level of use for the Mount Cass walkway. By comparison, approximately 2500 people took a tour of the Transwaste site (Kate Valley landfill) over the 12 month period ending 30 June 2008. Open days over two weekends in April 2006 were attended by 2000 people.
30. An additional local recreation resource not referenced by any publications is the coastal access from the end of Mount Cass Road to the fishing options at what is locally called Mackintosh's Beach.

This access is walking only from the end of the formed road, approximately one kilometre from the beach. The unformed legal road to the coast does not provide a practical route. Access is therefore at the landowner's pleasure. Transwaste estimates 20 to 30 vehicles use the Mount Cass Road to access the coast each week, with higher visitor numbers over the summer and lower numbers during the winter (Martin Pinkham, pers comm.).

31. Appendix 1 to my evidence identifies the Department of Conservation reserves in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm. This includes one unclassified and three scenic reserves – two forming part of the Tiromoana reserve group. Visitor use is reported by the 2002 Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy as 'low' and no recreation facilities (such as tracks) are described as being provided on the reserves.
32. Unlike the Port Hills in Christchurch, the Mount Cass setting has limited and simple recreation access – confined to pedestrian – no urban recreation catchment, limited promotion, very few facilities and limited land in the public realm. Land classified as reserve is primarily 'scenic' rather than recreation.
33. The key tourism attractions in the Waipara Valley are not strongly landscape-dependent, being based on the cultural features of viticulture, boutique horticulture, vintage rail (which is strongly linked to the Waikari and Weka Pass limestone landscapes) and, to a lesser extent, the two local walkways – Mount Cass and Tiromoana Bush. While the scenic characteristics of the Valley will always be important, there is no suggestion in the tourism literature that visitors should be drawn to the area as a result of important landscape features.

EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSAL

34. The footprint of the proposed wind farm does not occupy any area publically available to general recreation. Effects are therefore limited to issues of landscape and the degree to which changes to the visual amenity provided by Mount Cass will affect tourism and recreation activity and satisfaction in the visual catchment.
35. The literature I have reviewed indicates a mixed response to wind farms from a tourism and recreation perspective. My conclusion is that the effect will, at worst, be neutral with regard to existing tourism and recreation activities – particularly considering the domination of cultural attractions in the Waipara Valley. I note that Mr Glasson, in his evidence, describes the existing Mount Cass ridge

area as having only 'moderate' visual amenity value with a high degree of modification. He concludes in relation to the development of the wind farm, that the man-induced elements may be accepted as being part of a landscape and that the wind farm will bring a dynamic element to the locality and a fascination for some, but their overall appearance and effect on the landscape of the district will not diminish the character and quality of the Waipara Valley landscape.

36. The only inference possible considering this information is that the wind farm is very unlikely to diminish existing tourism and recreation values in the visual catchment of the proposal. My conclusion is that the net effect on existing recreation and tourism will be minor or less.
37. There is the likelihood of visitor interest in the wind farm itself and further development of walking access along the Mount Cass ridge would support this interest. My preference is for the creation of circular walking routes to create loop tracks, rather than a return route as currently exists at Mount Cass. Such a development, which could offer more views north and west of the ridge, and take in more of the local limestone features, would provide an important tourism asset for the district.
38. The wind farm will certainly increase pedestrian activity at Mount Cass and have a positive cumulative effect in combination with the Kate Valley landfill and Tiromoana Bush by creating a more broad range of experience options in the area. While these settings may not appeal to those seeking an experience with low human influence, a wide range of relevant alternatives will remain in Canterbury, particularly in the foothills to the Alps, including Mount Oxford, Mount Thomas and the Torlesse Range – all within a similar driving distance from Christchurch.
39. It is a challenge to estimate the likely level of change in visitor activity as a result of the proposed development. However, it would be safe, I believe, to treat the existing level of interest in the Kate Valley landfill as a baseline for the proposed wind farm. That is, visitor activity in the immediate area has the potential to double. Specific open days may attract substantial turn-outs. For example, an open day at Meridian Energy's White Hill wind farm in Southland attracted between 4000 and 5000 people in one day¹, while

¹ See:
<http://www.southlandnz.com/LiveinSouthland/CommunityDevelopment/Projects/MeridianOpenDay.aspx>

Transwaste was able to attract 2000 people to Kate Valley over two weekends.

40. Considering that the wind farm will be visible from many parts of the Waipara Valley, the level of visitor interest may be higher than that for Kate Valley. A safe minimum estimate would be an additional 50 to 60 visitors per week to the Mount Cass walkway. Assuming two passengers per car, this would represent another 50 to 60 vehicle movements per week in the spring and autumn months, with fewer in summer if the trend at Tiromoana Bush is consistent.

SUBMISSIONS

41. The general tenure of submissions in relation to recreation and tourism are in regard to three main issues:
- The 'loss' of potential recreation values on the 'south western half' of the Mount Cass ridge (eg, M. Parsons, G. Forgan, P. Phillips, L. Phillips, P. Bioletti).
 - Development of the ridge as a reserve (ecological or for recreation) or for walkways would be more appropriate (eg, Christchurch Tramping Club, L. Lockhead, I. Molles, J. McCahon).
 - Negative effects in a general sense on tourism activity in the Waipara Valley (eg, A. Baxter, S. Forbes).
42. The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand raises the issue of noise effects on recreation.
43. In relation to the 'loss of potential recreation' options on the Mount Cass ridge, or its better development as a reserve; there is no existing proposal to develop any public recreation access in this area that I am aware of. Existing access to Mount Cass and Tiromoana Bush are the legacy of Transwaste's input, with local and regional engagement. The proposal by MainPower is likely to be the one development with sufficient leverage to create public recreation options in the existing setting. As such, the proposal has more chance of enhancing recreation than 'destroying' it. The latter would also not be the case if public access existed.
44. I have addressed the potential for negative effects on local and regional tourism in my evidence, and see no call for concern.
45. Noise is often raised as an issue in relation to wind farms and recreation. A base consideration is that, when there is no wind and the site is silent, the turbines will generate no noise. When it is windy, and much of the site is naturally noisy, the noise of the

turbines is naturally masked. Mr Hunt notes in his evidence that modelled noise levels of 55 dBA at the Mount Cass lookout are not significant in the context of the background noise. It is his view that turbine noise would not detract from recreational activities such as walking or mountain biking for example. I also do not regard turbine noise in this setting as an issue for recreation.

OFFICER'S REPORT

46. The S42A officer's report presents little direct information in relation to recreation.
47. Mr Stuart Camp, in his review of the potential noise effects of the proposal, considers noise effects on recreation in his paragraph 3.5. Like Mr Hunt, he identifies the modelled 55 dBA noise level at the Mount Cass lookout, but does not consider the background ambient noise. Regardless of this, Mr Camp does not consider the addition of the turbines to be 'completely inappropriate' from a recreation perspective.
48. I note that Mr Rough cites research which is additional to that to which I refer in my literature review (his Appendix 2). Mr Rough's additional data corroborates mine.

SUMMARY

49. My assessment is that the proposal will have little effect on existing tourism and recreation activity in the visual catchment of the proposal. However, visitor activity in the Mount Cass Road area may double.
50. The development of an enhanced walkway along the Mount Cass ridgeline would be an important visitor asset for the region.

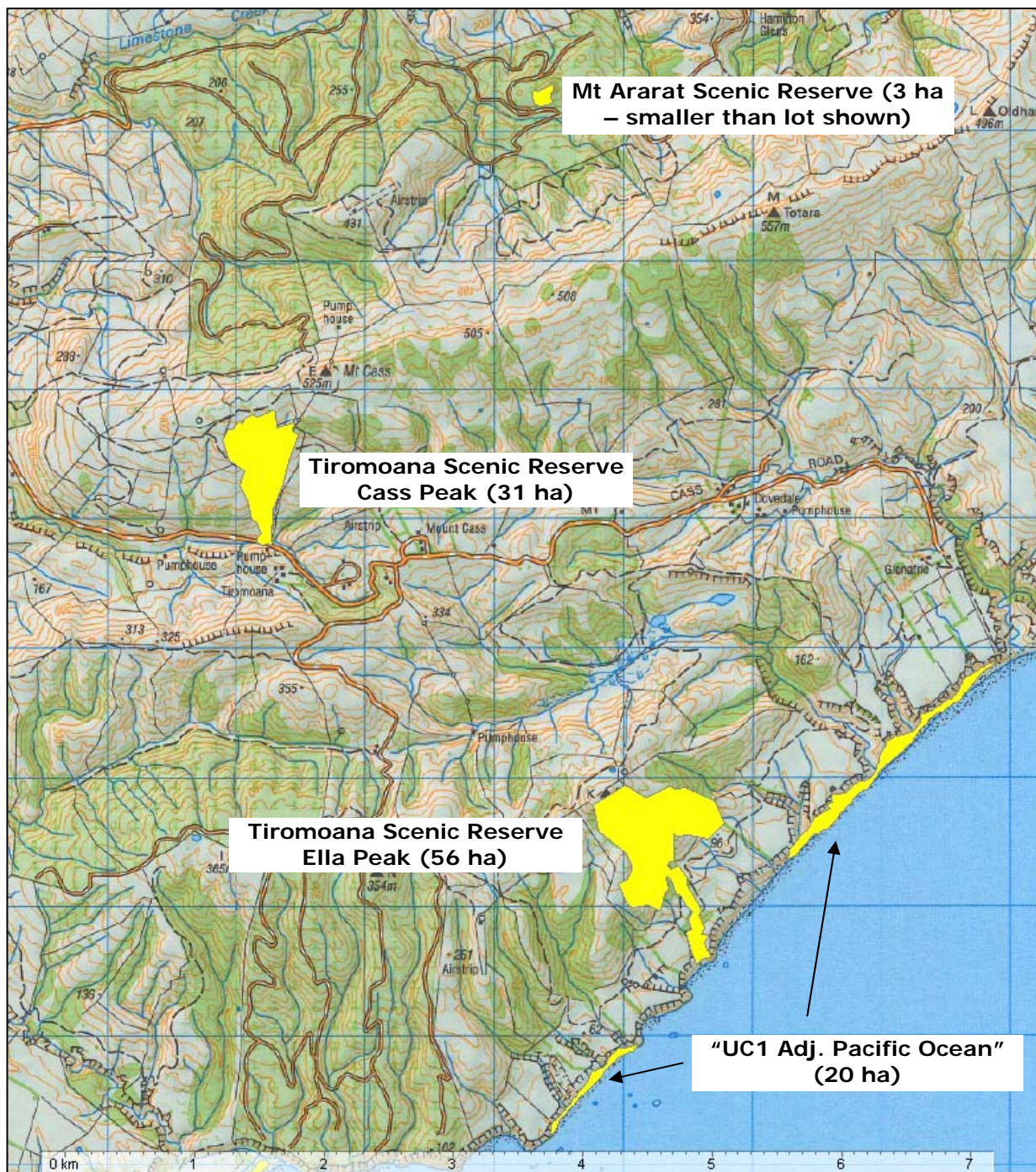
Rob Greenaway

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Appendix 1: Nearby Department of Conservation reserves. Source: Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) 2002



CMS Land Unit	CMS recreation data
N34004 Mt Ararat Rata Reserve	Visitor use: not defined. Facilities: nil
N34023 Tiromoana Scenic Reserve (Cass Peak Area)	Visitor use: Low. Facilities: nil
N34023 Tiromoana Scenic Reserve (Ella Peak Area)	Visitor use: Low. Facilities: nil
UC1 Adj. Pacific Ocean	No data (unclassified)