

PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE

MT. CARDRONA STATION

Addendum to the Ecological Report 2006



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MT. CARDRONA STATION

Addendum to the Ecological Report 2006

Proposed Plan Change

I have been asked to comment on changes (if any) to the ecology of Mt. Cardrona Station since 2006 in relation to Master plan 2660-SK14-16 and what is the likely impact of the proposed golf course.

Ecology

I visited the Mt. Cardrona Station on 6th October 2016 to familiarise myself with the proposed development and its vegetation.

I saw no significant changes to the vegetation that would lead to change of the ecology of this part of Mt. Cardrona Station. The vegetation and ecology remains as described in my 2006 report, namely pastureland composed primarily of exotic grasses and herbs with a scattering of small, common native herbs and tufts of hard tussock (*Festuca novae-zelandiae*). Most shrubs such as matagouri and the exotic sweet brier are confined to terrace edges, faces and gullies.

Proposed Golf Course

The reconfiguration of the housing appears only slightly different to the original plan and there is no foreseeable change likely to the ecology from this reconfiguration.

The proposed golf course occupies land previously identified as open space. Although building a golf course will necessarily lead to some manicuring of the land and some change to the ecology, this is primarily changing one exotic community for another exotic community. This may even increase the biodiversity of the area. The golf course development also offers some potential for native planting to break up the openness, provide further hazards (other than bunkers), improve the appearance/aesthetics and perhaps provide food for native species of birds, insects and lizards.

The proposed reservoirs may provide habitat for water birds, especially if planting occurs around some edges with sedges, rushes, flaxes and small shrubs to give shelter.

Summary

There is no noticeable change to the ecology of the Mt. Cardrona Station in the area of the draft Management Plan since 2006.

The proposed golf course and associated reservoirs could benefit the ecology of this area. Any negative effects on ecology are likely to be less than minor.