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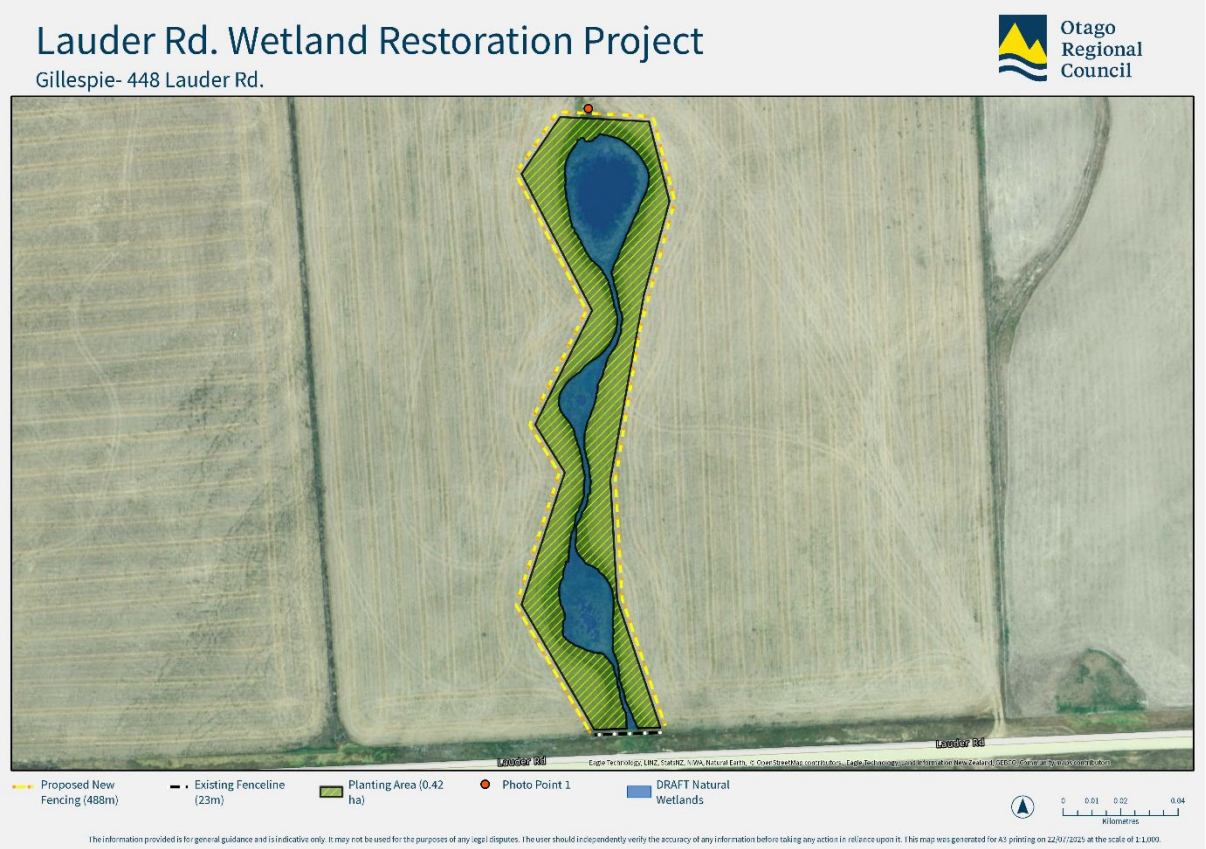
Lauder Road Wetland

Site Details

- **Landowner:** Ben and Anna Gillespie – Two Farmers Farming
- **Primary contact:** Ben Gillespie.
- **Location**
  - Coordinates: Easting 1335294, Northing 5005998
  - Ecological District: Maniototo
  - Ecological Region: Central Otago
- **Wetland dimensions:** 0.6 ha. Approximately 230 m long and 10 m wide.

Site Map



Current wetland condition photo

Photos taken November 13th, 2024.

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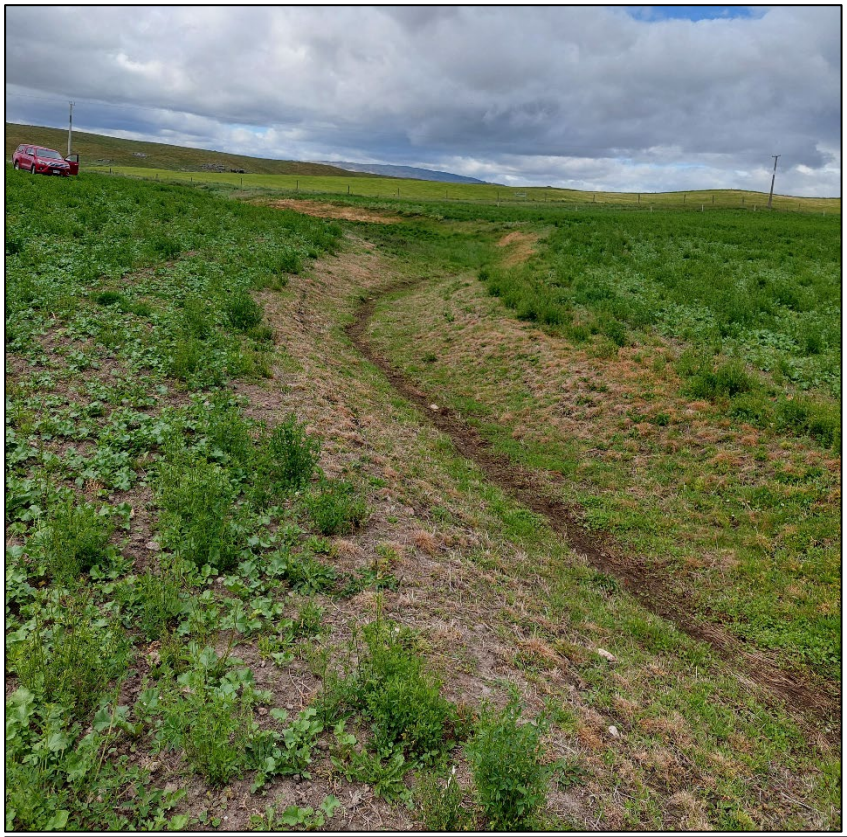

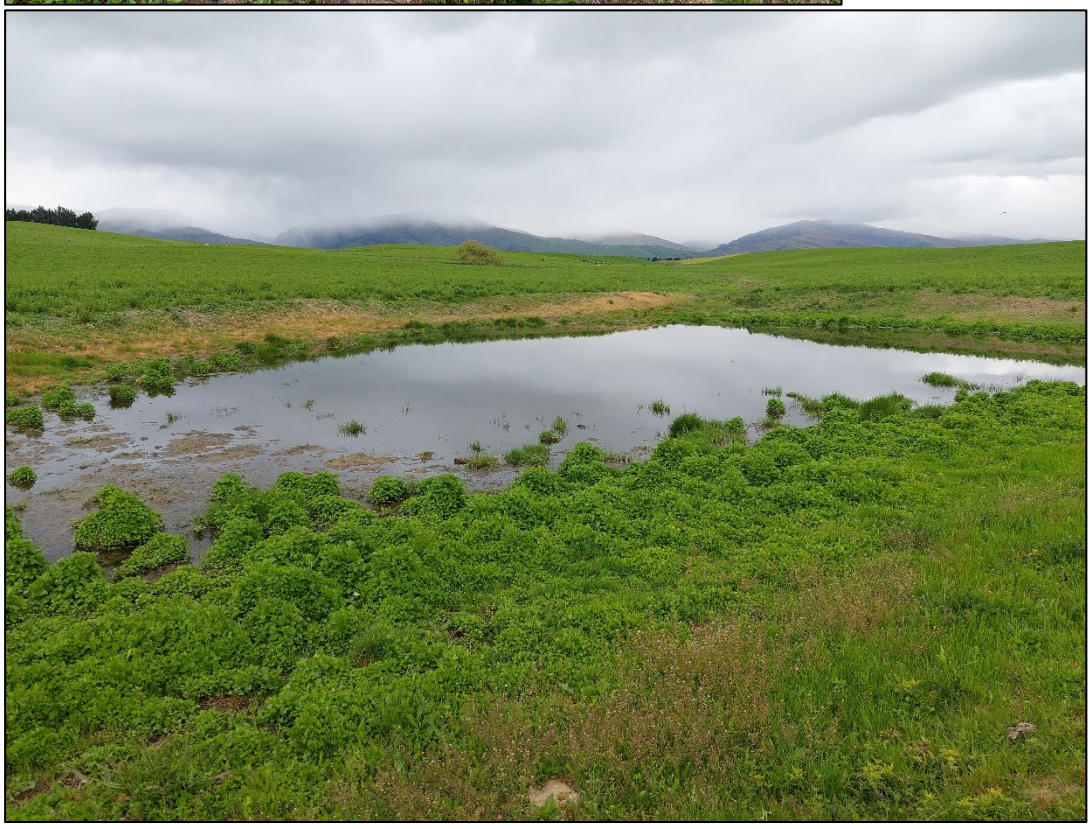

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Site Description

General

Primary hydrosystem: Palustrine
Secondar hydrosystem: N/A
Primary wetland class: Ephemeral
Secondary wetland class: Marsh
Primary wetland form: depression
Secondary wetland form: Flood plain
Primary structural class: Grassland
Secondary structural class: N/A

Topography

Soils: Information retrieved from S-Map Online 27/03/25.
Soil sibling: Laud_2b.1. Moderately deep, silt over clay, imperfectly drained. Proportion: 100%.

Current Vegetation

Ephemeral wetlands were dry depressions at the time of the Wildlands site visit (27th February 2025) with abundant celery-leaved buttercup at the margins, blue sweet grass and jointed rush are also abundant with occasional marsh foxtail, creeping bent and starwort. Some mudwort plants (an indigenous annual herb) were detected, with many drying out. It is possible that other indigenous spring annual or other rare plants are present.
Vegetation in the channels which link the ephemeral wetlands are dominated by exotic wetland grasses. Terrestrial vegetation surrounding the wetland is comprises exotic grasses and herbs.

Special Features

Ephemeral wetlands are historically rare ecosystems, this particular wetland is possible induced, however, it still retains ecological value and there is the potential that rare spring annual or other plants are present within the wetland.

Nearby Natural Areas

There are various indigenous restoration plantings that the Gillespies have established in gullies and riparian zones across the property. Remaining indigenous vegetation that has not been planted is restricted to remnant *Carex secta* found around several of the farm waterways. These purei plants are large and have possibly avoided any historic land clearing.

Wildlife

Several native bird species are frequently seen on the property, these include:

Kārearea/ NZ falcon	*Falco novaeseelandiae*
Pūkeko	*Porphyrio melanotus*
Korimako/Bellbird	*Anthornis melanura*
Tōrea pango/ Variable oystercatcher	*Haematopus unicolor*
Spur-winged plover	*Vanellus miles*
Matuku moana/Blue heron	*Egretta novaehollandiae*

Site History

Potential ecosystem mapping indicates that the terrestrial vegetation was likely present in the wider area is Bog pine, mountain celery pine scrub/forest prior to human occupation. The location of this wetland is mapped as Tl1: Cold temperature inversion under the ORC potential ecosystem mapping.

Description of water flow and drainage

A pond is present above the larger ephemeral wetland, water appears to flow from here into the ephemeral wetlands and the channels that connect them. Rain water is also likely to influence the water levels and water from irrigation is also likely to go into the system as it is located in a slight gully/ depression.

Current condition

The wetland is currently dominated by exotic species, however, no woody weeds are currently present within the area.

Enhancement Proposal

Vision

Restored wetland values providing habitat for native species of birds and insects. This planting connects with other native areas across the Gillespie's farm and mobile native species use it as a stepping stone across the landscape.

Objectives

Fence wetland area from stock. Plant wetland with a variety of obligate and facultative wetland

species. Suggest planting into the channels and area surrounding the ephemeral wetland and avoiding planting into the ephemeral wetland.

Expected Outcomes

Fencing & Planting

Fencing will prevent stock access from the gully and waterway, which in turn will better protect wetland areas and allow native vegetation to regenerate. Planting will facilitate regeneration and provide habitat for native birds and insects. Fences will be set back from any waterway approximately 3 meters.

Weed control

No woody weeds present. The site will be grazed prior to planting.

Sedimentation

Preventing stock from accessing the gully will reduce pugging and sediment inputs into the waterway. This will be enhanced as vegetation in the wetland planting matures.

Total Investment

Fencing: $2,996
Weeds: $0
Planting: $27,000
Total: $29,996

Funding source

Fencing materials & weed control – Waiora Manuherekia
Fencing installation & ongoing weed maintenance – Landowner.

Monitoring

Annual photopoint monitoring to be used to track changes in the wetland.
Annual SHMAK monitoring can be used to track improvements in ecosystem health.
A targeted survey for threatened plants is also suggested to look for spring annual plants (many examples of threatened or at risk spring annuals or other rare plants are known to be in ephemeral wetland habitats throughout Otago), the best timing for this would likely be December or January.

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