

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Dress Circle (including Scenic Reserve)</b>	
<b>Location:</b>	NZ Topo BK35 & BL35	
<b>Description:</b>	Scenic reserve located around the Mangawharariki River. Indigenous vegetation cover spreading out from the incised valley stream onto the first terrace.	
<b>ONL/ONF/SAF:</b>	Outstanding Natural Feature	
<b>Natural Science:</b>	Geological/ Geomorphological:	Indigenous vegetation contained within and adjacent to an incised valley created by erosion of stream through the sedimentary soils which contrasts with the surrounding pastoral landscape. Erosion process is evident through the expressive valley formation, presenting a geological educational opportunity. In places the unique formations of soft grey papa rock, with its many holes, has an appearance reminiscent of swiss cheese.
	Biological/Ecological:	Indigenous forest remnants on valley sides are representative of the land cover that would have once covered this area. The remaining native forest enhances ecological value and water quality, increasing ecosystem health and mauri, while also creating a habitat for indigenous and exotic birdlife.
	Hydrological:	Large agricultural catchment area upstream of this reserve. The dense vegetation contributes to the area's ecosystem health along the stream margins by helping maintain water quality and mauri. There are waterfalls located by the Dress Circle swimming hole. The Managawharariki River is a tributary of the Rangitikei River and is 33km long.
<b>Perceptual:</b>	Memorability:	Area has a high degree of memorability due to the composition of natural elements, being primarily the distinctive incised geomorphology and the indigenous vegetation within the valley. This also spreads up onto the terrace in places, extending the vegetation's influence as a coherent landscape feature.
	Legibility/Expressiveness:	Incised river valley and escarpments along with the indigenous vegetation contrasts with the surrounding simple pastoral land cover causing the Papanui (meaning "big flat") Reserve to be clearly legible in its rural context. Incised valley clearly expressive of the erosive processes that have occurred over time and its mudstone derivation.
	Transient:	Transient value related to fauna of the forest, as well as the changing presence of waterfalls caused by flood waters corroding the soft rock.
	Aesthetic:	Scenic quality of the incised stream valley with large of tracts indigenous vegetation create a sense of cohesion, while the visually striking exposed mudstone (papa) cliffs contribute to the vividness of the landscape.
	Naturalness:	High degree of naturalness resulting from the combination of erosion processes and extent of indigenous vegetation.
<b>Associational:</b>	Historical:	Early settlers named the reserve as when they saw the surrounding cliffs it reminded them of the dress circle in an opera house.
	Tangata Whenua:	Under the Settlement Act the Dress Circle is an area of interest for both Ngāti Apa and Ngāti Hauiti. In a general sense, Tikanga Māori Principles such as Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship), Wairua (Well-being) and Mauri (Life force) are assumed to be important.
	Shared/Recognised:	Early settlers gave the area its name because when they saw the surrounding cliffs they were reminded of the dress circle in an opera house. It has featured in AA magazines, is mentioned on the New Zealand Cycle Trail website, is on the Manawatū Scenic Route and is widely known.
	Recreation:	A popular swimming and picnic spot for over 100 years. There is also a walking track and is a known geocache site.
<b>Summary of Key Characteristics:</b>	High degree of perceived naturalness derived from the expressiveness of the formative processes of the Mangawharariki River incised landform, which contrasts with the surrounding agricultural land use. Areas of indigenous riparian vegetation contribute to the ecological and aesthetic values. An existing high voltage transmission line passes across the Mangawharariki River 250m west of the Dress Circle ONF.	
<b>Potential Issues:</b>	The steeply incised landform valley system filled with native vegetation defines the feature and contributes to the perceived naturalness, aesthetic values and associational factors. It would assist protection of the key characteristics if the following were to occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>discourage loss of native vegetation; discourage establishment of exotic vegetation; discourage adverse effects on cultural values; discourage earthworks; and restrict built development.</li> </ul>	

# ONFL 6 - Outstanding Natural Feature - Dress Circle (including Scenic Reserve)

