Technical note: Implementing the Otago LWRP GMP+ scenario in SedNetNZ

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1 Background

Otago Regional Council (ORC) previously contracted Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research (MWLR) to model baseline mean annual suspended sediment loads and the reductions in load required to meet the suspended fine sediment attribute states (visual clarity) in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 at selected State of the Environment (SoE) water quality monitoring sites (Neverman & Smith, 2022). This work also included assessment of an aspirational mitigation scenario and its impact on the achievement of required load reductions.

Subsequently, ORC requested MWLR develop a further mitigation scenario which a) applies additional mitigations to represent a potential maximum sediment load reduction that may be achievable and b) assesses the corresponding achievement of NPS-FM bands for suspended fine sediment at SoE monitoring sites. This scenario is referred to as Good Management Practice Plus (GMP+). It was agreed with ORC that for sediment GMP+ would involve stock exclusion from steep erosion prone land in addition to the riparian fencing mitigation implemented for the aspirational scenario in Neverman & Smith (2022).

2 Methods

The GMP+ scenario uses the SedNetNZ model configuration described in Neverman & Smith (2022), with the same land cover and mitigations as the aspirational scenario along with the addition of stock exclusion from steep erosion prone pastural land. A spatial ruleset was developed in collaboration with ORC to determine the location of land deemed suitable for stock exclusion for the purpose of erosion reduction. This ruleset uses the intersection of Land Use Capability (LUC) 7e and 8e land (refer Lynn et al. 2009) from the New Zealand Land Resource Inventory (NZ LRI 3rd edition, Newsome et al. 2008) with low producing grassland (Class 41) in the 2018 land cover from the New Zealand Landcover Database (LCDB v5) (Newsome et al. 2008) to identify land where stock exclusion is implemented (Figure 1). Higher resolution, farm-scale LUC and land cover mapping may improve future modelling efforts but are not presently available for the Otago region.

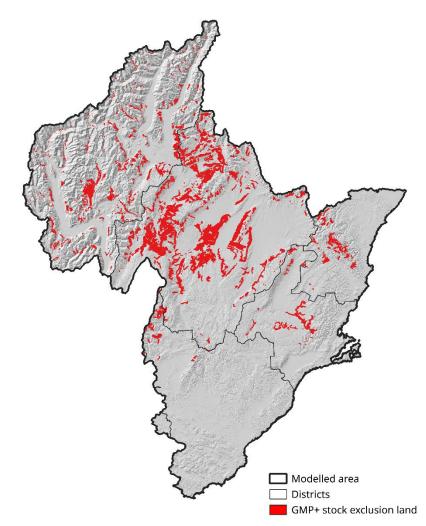


Figure 1. Land subject to stock exclusion in the GMP+ scenario.

Table 1 summarises the proportion of land area subject to stock exclusion in the GMP+ scenario within the catchment draining to each SoE site. Stock are typically excluded from \leq 5% of the SoE catchment areas. The largest extents of stock exclusion occur in the Lindis and Manuherikia catchments, with up to 17% of the SoE catchment subject to stock exclusion.

The effect of stock exclusion is represented by a change in the *C* factor within the NZUSLE surface erosion model (Equation 1 in Neverman & Smith (2022)) applied to those areas subject to stock exclusion. This change represents the surface erosion rates expected for ungrazed pasture. Based on the ~40% difference in annualised average cover factors for grazed and ungrazed low producing pasture reported in Donovan & Monaghan (2021), we use a *C* factor of 0.006 to represent ungrazed low producing pasture (stock removed) in the NZUSLE.

Basher & Lynn (1996) and McIntosh & Allen (1998) found little or no change in soil properties after 15 - 45 years of stock removal on steep low producing grassland in Canterbury, similar to that in the Otago region, despite notable changes in

vegetation cover. This contrasts with the <1 year timeframe Drewry (2006) suggests is needed for soil recovery to occur in other farming systems. Modelling by Donovan & Monaghan (2021) also highlights the minimal impact grazing of low producing pasture has on soil physical properties, with a change in vegetation cover (*C* factor) being the predominant effect of grazing on erosion. We therefore do not alter the *K* factor in the NZUSLE as evidence suggests little or no difference in soil physical properties are expected following stock exclusion of low producing pasture on steep Otago hill country on a decadal scale.

As stock exclusion from the riparian zone is already captured through implementation of riparian fencing in the aspirational scenario, no additional reduction in streambank erosion is applied in the GMP+ scenario.

The reduction in load relative to baseline and the achievable attribute band for the GMP+ scenario are reported for the 34 SoE sites identified in Neverman & Smith (2022) as having a baseline attribute state below band A.

3 Results

A 29% reduction in end-of-catchment loads is achieved across the region between the baseline and GMP+ scenarios, with 348 kt yr⁻¹ of suspended sediment modelled to reach coastal receiving environments with implementation of GMP+ mitigations. This equates to a 2.8 kt yr⁻¹ reduction between the aspirational and GMP+ scenarios, a further 0.6% reduction relative to baseline.

The addition of stock exclusion in the GMP+ scenario further reduces erosion in 14% of REC2 sub-catchments in the modelled area compared to the aspirational scenario mitigations, while accumulated mean annual suspended sediment load is reduced in 25% of REC2 segments (Figure 4).

Suspended sediment loads at the SoE sites are presented in Table 1. Compared to results for the aspirational scenario reported in Neverman & Smith (2022), an additional reduction in sediment load is achieved at 25 of the 34 SoE sites for the GMP+ scenario. Additional reductions in load range from <1% – 2.5% relative to baseline. This results in the same achievable attribute states for the 34 SoE sites as the aspirational scenario (Table 4), with 12 sites being brought above the national bottom line, and an additional six sites achieving both bands A and B.

The additional reductions in load tend to reflect the extent of stock exclusion for most SoE catchments. In catchments such as the Lindis and Manuherikia, reductions in load at some SoE sites are relatively low compared with the extent of stock exclusion in the catchment. This is primarily due to higher proportions of the sediment load coming from unmitigated parts of the catchment which have higher erosion rates, often 1 – 2 orders of magnitude higher than mitigated areas, due to steeper slopes and higher rainfall. Land deemed unsuitable for mitigation (i.e., land not mapped as pasture, cropland, orchards, vineyards, or perennial crops in the 2018 class in LCDB v5) covers a significant proportion of these SoE site catchments (e.g., \sim 40 – 60% of the catchment area for the Lindis and Manuherikia SoE sites is unmitigated, Table 1). As a result, stock exclusion may have a significant impact locally (with local reductions of 30 – 40%, Figure 4), but this impact diminishes as sediment loads from segments subject to stock exclusion combine with loads from other sources as they accumulate through the stream network to SoE sites and catchment outlets (Figure 4).

Table 1. Total mean annual suspended sediment loads at SoE water quality monitoring sites under each modelled scenario, rounded to 2 significant figures. The proportion by area of SoE catchments with unmitigated land and land subject to stock exclusion in the GMP+ scenario are also reported, rounded to the nearest integer value.

				Aspirationa	al scenario		GMP+ scenario	
Site ID	Site no.	Baseline suspended sediment load (kt yr ⁻¹)	Areal extent of unmitigated land (%)	Suspended sediment load (kt yr ⁻¹)	Load reduction achievable (%)	Areal extent of stock exclusion (%)	Suspended sediment load (kt yr ⁻¹)	Load reduction achievable (%)
Benger burn at SH8	1	3.9	7	1.8	55	0	1.8	55
Catlins at Houipapa	2	5.1	63	4.3	17	<1	4.3	17
Clutha @ Balclutha	3	270	60	200	28	5	200	29
Clutha @ Millers Flat	4	140	68	120	18	6	120	19
Crookston Burn at Kelso Road	5	1.8	27	1.3	30	<1	1.3	30
Heriot Burn at Park Hill Road	6	2.8	10	1.6	45	1	1.5	46
Kawarau @ Chards Rd	7	410	89	380	6	2	380	6
Kye Burn at SH85 Bridge	8	23	39	19	20	3	18	20
Lindis at Ardgour Road	9	59	47	47	20	17	46	22
Lindis at Lindis Peak	10	47	57	40	14	12	39	16
Lindsays Creek at North Road Bridge	11	0.4	60	0.35	11	0	0.35	11
Lovells Creek at Station Road	12	0.72	17	0.51	30	0	0.51	30
Manuherikia at Blackstone Hill	13	13	70	8.6	32	3	8.6	33

				Aspirationa	al scenario		GMP+ scenario	
Site ID	Site no.	Baseline suspended sediment load (kt yr ⁻¹)	Areal extent of unmitigated land (%)	Suspended sediment load (kt yr ⁻¹)	Load reduction achievable (%)	Areal extent of stock exclusion (%)	Suspended sediment load (kt yr ⁻¹)	Load reduction achievable (%)
Manuherikia at Galloway	14	130	37	110	18	11	110	18
Manuherikia at Ophir	15	120	41	100	16	9	100	16
Mill Creek at Fish Trap	16	0.042	47	0.03	27	<1	0.03	27
Owhiro Stream at Riverside Rd	17	0.31	30	0.18	42	0	0.18	42
Pomahaka at Burkes Ford	18	56	28	35	38	2	34	39
Pomahaka at Glenken	19	31	38	22	30	5	21	33
Sutton Stream at SH87	20	1.9	39	1.3	33	<1	1.2	33
Taieri at Allanton Bridge	21	110	34	74	31	2	73	31
Taieri at Creamery Road bridge	22	18	48	13	26	4	13	27
Taieri at Linnburn Runs Road	23	5.7	88	5.4	6	<1	5.3	7
Taieri at Outram	24	100	34	71	31	3	70	31
Taieri at Stonehenge	25	7.5	74	6.4	14	3	6.4	15
Taieri at Sutton	26	75	38	53	29	3	53	30
Taieri at Tiroiti	27	57	41	42	26	3	42	27
Taieri at Waipiata	28	25	44	18	28	3	18	28

				Aspirationa	Aspirational scenario		GMP+ scenario		
Site ID	Site no.	Baseline suspended sediment load (kt yr ⁻¹)	Areal extent of unmitigated land (%)	Suspended sediment load (kt yr ⁻¹)	Load reduction achievable (%)	Areal extent of stock exclusion (%)	Suspended sediment load (kt yr ⁻¹)	Load reduction achievable (%)	
Thomsons Creek at SH85	29	8.6	36	6.3	27	3	6.3	27	
Tokomairiro at Lisnatunny	30	0.91	60	0.76	16	0	0.76	16	
Tokomairiro at West Branch Bridge	31	1.6	54	1.3	18	0	1.3	18	
Waipori at Waipori Falls Reserve	32	0.85	72	0.84	1	0	0.84	1	
Wairuna at Millar Road	33	0.64	4	0.25	61	0	0.25	61	
Waitahuna at Tweeds Bridge	34	6	35	3.7	38	0	3.7	38	

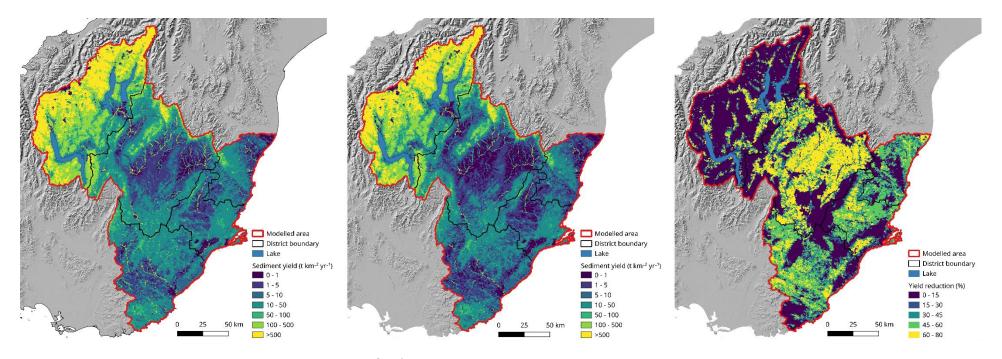


Figure 2. REC2 sub-catchment suspended sediment yield (t km⁻² yr⁻¹) for the baseline (left) and GMP+ (centre) scenarios, and the percentage reduction in yield between the scenarios (right).

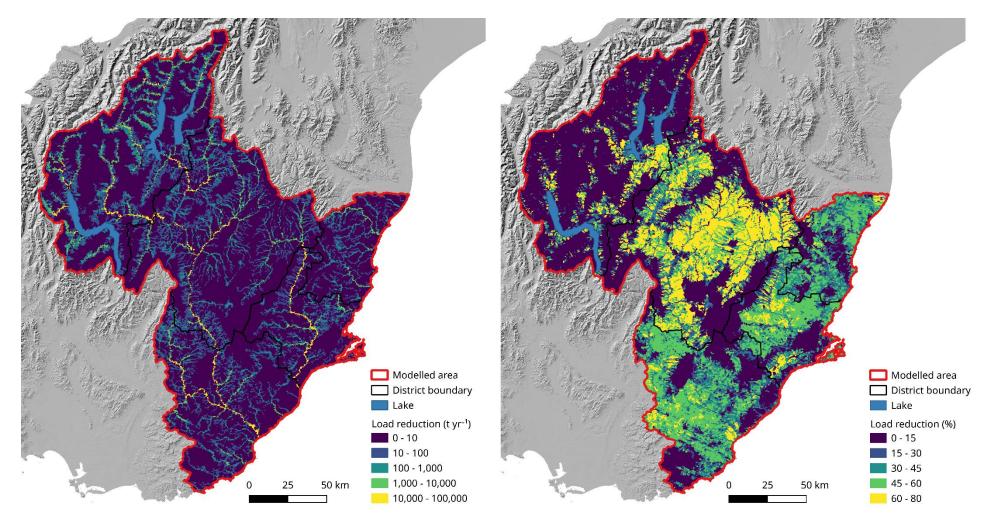


Figure 3. Absolute (left) and proportional (right) REC2 sub-catchment suspended sediment load reductions between the baseline and GMP+ scenarios.

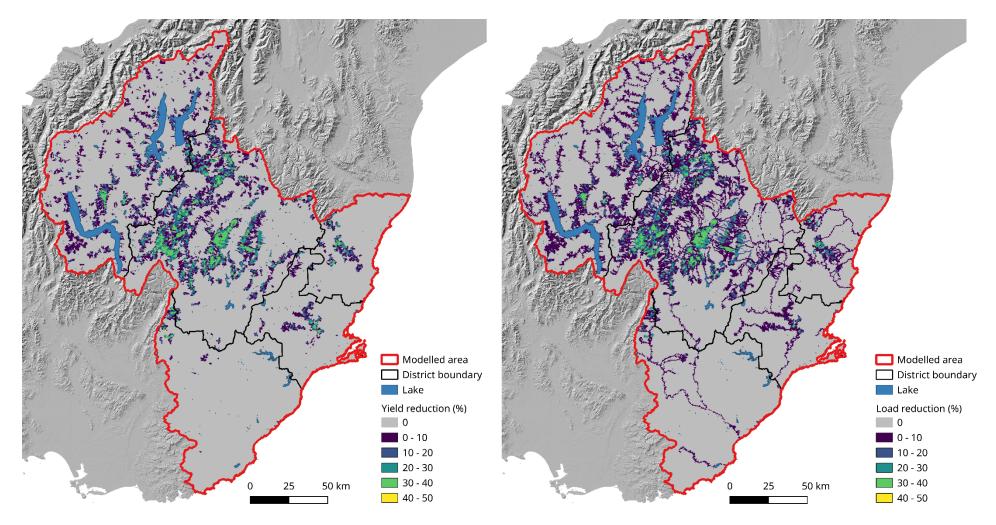


Figure 4. Proportional reductions in sediment yield (left) and sediment load (right) for REC2 sub-catchments between the aspirational and GMP+ scenarios.

		onal reductio required (%)		Absolute reduction in load required (kt yr ⁻¹)			
Site ID	National bottom line	B band	A band	National bottom line	B band	A band	
Benger burn at SH8	18	33	44	0.73	1.3	1.7	
Catlins at Houipapa	0	0	4	0	0	0.23	
Clutha @ Balclutha	40	51	59	110	140	160	
Clutha @ Millers Flat	4	21	34	6.4	31	50	
Crookston Burn at Kelso Road	13	28	40	0.24	0.52	0.74	
Heriot Burn at Park Hill Road	38	49	57	1.1	1.4	1.6	
Kawarau @ Chards Rd	0	2	19	0	9.9	76	
Kye Burn at SH85 Bridge	0	11	26	0	2.5	6	
Lindis at Ardgour Road	0	0	11	0	0	6.4	
Lindis at Lindis Peak	0	5	21	0	2.5	9.8	
Lindsays Creek at North Road Bridge	0	4	20	0	0.016	0.079	
Lovells Creek at Station Road	19	33	44	0.13	0.24	0.32	
Manuherikia at Blackstone Hill	11	26	39	1.4	3.4	4.9	
Manuherikia at Galloway	30	43	52	40	56	69	
Manuherikia at Ophir	35	46	55	42	56	67	
Mill Creek at Fish Trap	46	55	63	0.019	0.023	0.026	
Owhiro Stream at Riverside Rd	79	83	86	0.25	0.26	0.26	
Pomahaka at Burkes Ford	4	21	34	2.5	12	19	
Pomahaka at Glenken	26	39	49	8.2	12	15	

 Table 2. Proportional and absolute reductions in mean annual suspended sediment load required to

 achieve NPS-FM 2020 attribute states at water quality monitoring sites, rounded to 2 significant figures.

	-	onal reductio required (%)	n in Ioad	Absolute re	eduction in lo (kt yr ⁻¹)	ad required
Site ID	National bottom line	B band	A band	National bottom line	B band	A band
Sutton Stream at SH87	40	51	59	0.76	0.95	1.1
Taieri at Allanton Bridge	59	67	72	63	71	77
Taieri at Creamery Road bridge	30	43	52	5.4	7.6	9.3
Taieri at Linnburn Runs Road	0	3	19	0	0.19	1.1
Taieri at Outram	0	12	26	0	12	27
Taieri at Stonehenge	0	3	19	0	0.25	1.5
Taieri at Sutton	55	63	69	41	47	51
Taieri at Tiroiti	77	81	84	44	46	48
Taieri at Waipiata	39	50	58	9.8	12	15
Thomsons Creek at SH85	54	62	69	4.7	5.4	5.9
Tokomairiro at Lisnatunny	10	26	38	0.092	0.23	0.35
Tokomairiro at West Branch Bridge	0	0	12	0	0	0.19
Waipori at Waipori Falls Reserve	1	19	32	0.012	0.16	0.27
Wairuna at Millar Road	61	68	73	0.39	0.43	0.47
Waitahuna at Tweeds Bridge	19	33	44	1.1	2	2.7

Table 3. Absolute and proportional reductions in mean annual suspended sediment load under the aspirational and GMP+ scenarios relative to baseline at water quality monitoring sites, rounded to 2 significant figures.

		Asp	irational scer	ario	C	GMP+ scenar	o
Site ID	Baseline attribute state	Load reduction achievable (kt yr ⁻¹)	Load reduction achievable (%)	Achievable attribute state	Load reduction achievable (kt yr ⁻¹)	Load reduction achievable (%)	Achievable attribute state
Benger burn at SH8	D	2.2	55	А	2.2	55	А
Catlins at Houipapa	В	0.87	17	A	0.87	17	A
Clutha @ Balclutha	D	77	28	D	78	29	D
Clutha @ Millers Flat	D	27	18	С	28	19	С
Crookston Burn at Kelso Road	D	0.56	30	В	0.56	30	В
Heriot Burn at Park Hill Road	D	1.3	45	С	1.3	46	С
Kawarau @ Chards Rd	С	23	6	В	24	6	В
Kye Burn at SH85 Bridge	С	4.6	20	В	4.7	20	В
Lindis at Ardgour Road	В	12	20	А	13	22	А
Lindis at Lindis Peak	С	6.7	14	В	7.5	16	В
Lindsays Creek at North Road Bridge	C	0.042	11	В	0.042	11	В
Lovells Creek at Station Road	D	0.21	30	С	0.21	30	С
Manuherikia at Blackstone Hill	D	4.1	32	В	4.1	33	В
Manuherikia at Galloway	D	23	18	D	24	18	D

		Asp	irational scer	nario	C	GMP+ scenari	io
Site ID	Baseline attribute state	Load reduction achievable (kt yr ⁻¹)	Load reduction achievable (%)	Achievable attribute state	Load reduction achievable (kt yr ⁻¹)	Load reduction achievable (%)	Achievable attribute state
Manuherikia at Ophir	D	19	16	D	19	16	D
Mill Creek at Fish Trap	D	0.011	27	D	0.011	27	D
Owhiro Stream at Riverside Rd	D	0.13	42	D	0.13	42	D
Pomahaka at Burkes Ford	D	21	38	A	22	39	A
Pomahaka at Glenken	D	9.5	30	С	10	33	С
Sutton Stream at SH87	D	0.62	33	D	0.63	33	D
Taieri at Allanton Bridge	D	33	31	D	33	31	D
Taieri at Creamery Road bridge	D	4.6	26	D	4.8	27	D
Taieri at Linnburn Runs Road	C	0.37	6	В	0.37	7	В
Taieri at Outram	С	31	31	А	32	31	А
Taieri at Stonehenge	С	1.1	14	В	1.1	15	В
Taieri at Sutton	D	22	29	D	22	30	D
Taieri at Tiroiti	D	15	26	D	15	27	D
Taieri at Waipiata	D	7	28	D	7.1	28	D
Thomsons Creek at SH85	D	2.3	27	D	2.3	27	D
Tokomairiro at Lisnatunny	D	0.15	16	С	0.15	16	С

		Asp	irational scer	ario	GMP+ scenario			
Site ID	Baseline attribute state	Load reduction achievable (kt yr ⁻¹)	Load reduction achievable (%)	Achievable attribute state	Load reduction achievable (kt yr ⁻¹)	Load reduction achievable (%)	Achievable attribute state	
Tokomairiro at West Branch Bridge	В	0.3	18	A	0.3	18	A	
Waipori at Waipori Falls Reserve	D	0.013	1	С	0.013	1	С	
Wairuna at Millar Road	D	0.4	61	С	0.4	61	С	
Waitahuna at Tweeds Bridge	D	2.3	38	В	2.3	38	В	

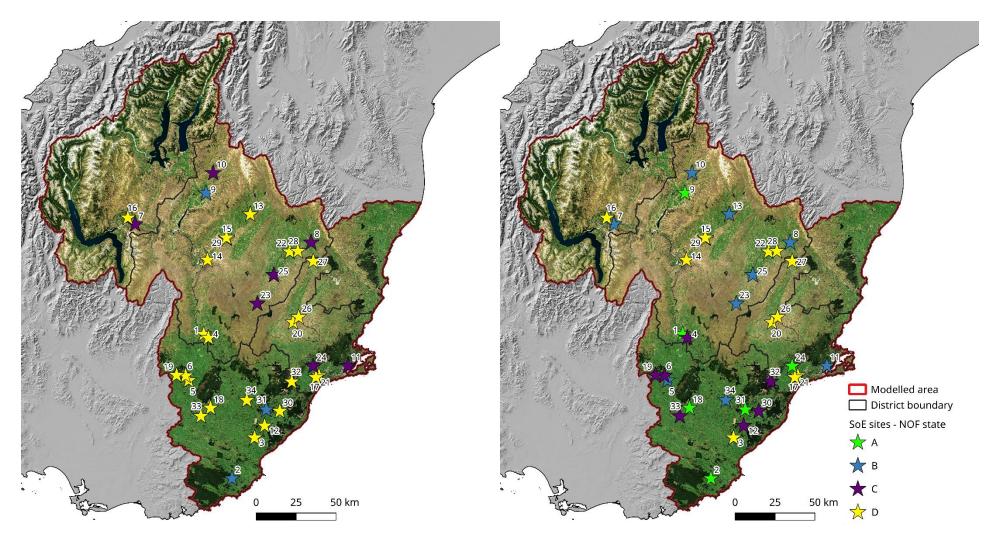


Figure 5. Attribute state achieved under the baseline (left) and GMP+ (right) scenarios at the 34 SoE sites.

Table 4. Count of SoE sites in each band under the baseline, aspirational, and GMP+ scenarios. Sites are only counted in the highest band with which they comply, i.e. if a site is counted in band A it is not counted in band B, although it would also comply with band B.

	Count of sites achieving band						
NOF band	Baseline scenario	Aspirational scenario	GMP+ scenario				
А	0	6	6				
В	3	9	9				
С	7	7	7				
National Bottom Line	0	0	0				
D	24	12	12				
Total	34	34	34				

Table 5. Comparison of load reductions required to achieve the national bottom line and the reductions achieved in the aspirational and GMP+ scenarios at the 12 sites that are unable to achieve the national bottom line under the aspirational and GMP+ scenarios.

Site ID	Site no.	Suspended sediment class	Baseline visual clarity (m)	National bottom line visual clarity threshold (m)	Reduction required to achieve national bottom line (%)	Load reduction achievable Aspirational scenario (%)	Load reduction achievable GMP+ scenario (%)
Clutha @ Balclutha	3	3	1.51	2.22	40	28	29
Manuherikia at Galloway	14	3	1.69	2.22	30	18	18
Manuherikia at Ophir	15	3	1.60	2.22	35	16	16
Mill Creek at Fish Trap	16	3	1.39	2.22	46	27	27
Owhiro Stream at Riverside Rd	17	1	0.40	1.34	79	42	42
Sutton Stream at SH87	20	3	1.50	2.22	40	33	33
Taieri at Allanton Bridge	21	3	1.12	2.22	59	31	31
Taieri at Creamery Road bridge	22	3	1.69	2.22	30	26	27
Taieri at Sutton	26	3	1.21	2.22	55	29	30
Taieri at Tiroiti	27	3	0.73	2.22	77	26	27
Taieri at Waipiata	28	3	1.52	2.22	39	28	28
Thomsons Creek at SH85	29	3	1.22	2.22	54	27	27

4 References

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5 Data dictionary

The accompanying data supplied with this technical note are supplied as vector data (ESRI Shapefiles). The attribute fields for the files are described below.

The data layer **ORC_SedNetNZ_loads_and_yields_GMPplus.shp** contains SedNetNZ model outputs (mean annual suspended sediment loads and yields) for the GMP+ scenario.

Attribute Field	Description
nzsegment	Stream segment ID from REC2 v2.4.
GMPLoad	SedNetNZ modelled accumulated mean annual suspended sediment load (t yr ⁻¹) for the GMP+ scenario.
AbLoadRed	Absolute reduction (t yr ⁻¹) in SedNetNZ modelled accumulated mean annual suspended sediment load (t yr ⁻¹) between the baseline and GMP+ scenarios.
PrLoadRed	Proportional reduction in SedNetNZ modelled accumulated mean annual suspended sediment load (t yr ⁻¹) between the baseline and GMP+ scenarios.
GMPYield	SedNetNZ modelled local specific suspended sediment yield (t km ⁻² yr ⁻¹) from erosion processes for the baseline scenario. Does not include floodplain deposition.

Filename: ORC_SedNetNZ_loads_and_yields_GMPplus.shp

The data layer **ORC_SoE_site_compliance_GMPplus.shp** contains NPS-FM 2020 compliance results for the 34 SoE sites analysed.

Filename: ORC_SoE_site_compliance_GMPplus.shp

Attribute Field	Description
sID	Site ID - as supplied by ORC
nzsegment	Stream segment ID from REC2 v2.4.
Med_Clar	Baseline visual clarity (m) - as supplied by ORC
SedClass	Corrected sediment class (see Neverman & Smith (2022)) for the reach based on Hicks et al. (2020).
BaseBand	Baseline NOF attribute state.
PrNBL	Proportional reduction in load required to achieve the national bottom line.
PrBband	Proportional reduction in load required to achieve the B band.
PrAband	Proportional reduction in load required to achieve the A band.
PrRedAch	Achievable proportional load reduction between the baseline and GMP+ scenarios.
AbNBL	Absolute reduction in load (t yr ⁻¹) required to achieve the national bottom line.
AbBband	Absolute reduction in load (t yr ⁻¹) required to achieve the B band.
AbAband	Absolute reduction in load (t yr ⁻¹) required to achieve the A band.
AbRedAch	Achievable absolute load reduction (t yr ⁻¹) between the baseline and GMP+ scenarios.
GMPBand	NOF attribute state achievable under the GMP+ scenario.