



Title: Mackenzie Wet and Dry

Description: The view east from the Alps to Ocean cycleway near one of its starting points alongside the Tekapo Canal.

Photographer: Rod Hay

Where, when: Tekapo, Mackenzie Country.

Sustainability? The Mackenzie Country is a land of great climatic and geographical contrasts. Landscape and land-use in one of Aotearoa New Zealand's driest areas are shaped by water. This view from the Tekapo Hydro canal near the start of the Alps to Ocean Cycleway shows precious wetlands in the foreground, behind which is the remnant of the Tekapo River, the flow of which has been largely diverted to hydro-power and irrigation. In the distance are the classic Mackenzie dry plains and, in the far distance, easterly cloud is failing to make its way over the ranges above Burkes Pass. Elsewhere in the Mackenzie Basin, the landscape is giving way to artificially irrigated dairy conversions which the highly porous stony soils are ill-suited to.

While the dairy boom has brought some financial reward to the district, its ecological cost is likely to be very high. In contrast, the Alps to Ocean Cycleway has created a low-impact boost to the local economy, providing an opportunity for people to appreciate the landscape, and the creatures that live in it in a leisurely, social and healthy way.

Photo notes: Panorama of 2 images 1/320s, 12mm, f7.1, ISO 200, OM-D E-M5 m4/3.

Digital specs: 4608 x 3456 pixels (16 MP)

Key words: Mackenzie Country, Tekapo, cycleways, dairy farming, wetlands, Rod Hay, Ecosystems Photography, Aotearoa, New Zealand

Price: \$200 (incl. GST) for use of the digital image

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Image Ref: RH002 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence)

Rod Hay

6 December 2021