



Lakes380

Our lakes' health
past, present, future

Me hoki whakamuri,
kia haere whakamua



LAKE DOUGLAS

Region: West Coast **Location:** Haast **Coordinates:** 43° 58' 0" S 169° 5' 29" E **Depth:** 44 m

Lake Douglas is situated at about 600 m in the Marks Range, south of the Haast River on the West Coast. The lake is fed by several mountain streams, including the outflow from closeby Lake Eggeling, and drains south to the Okuru River.

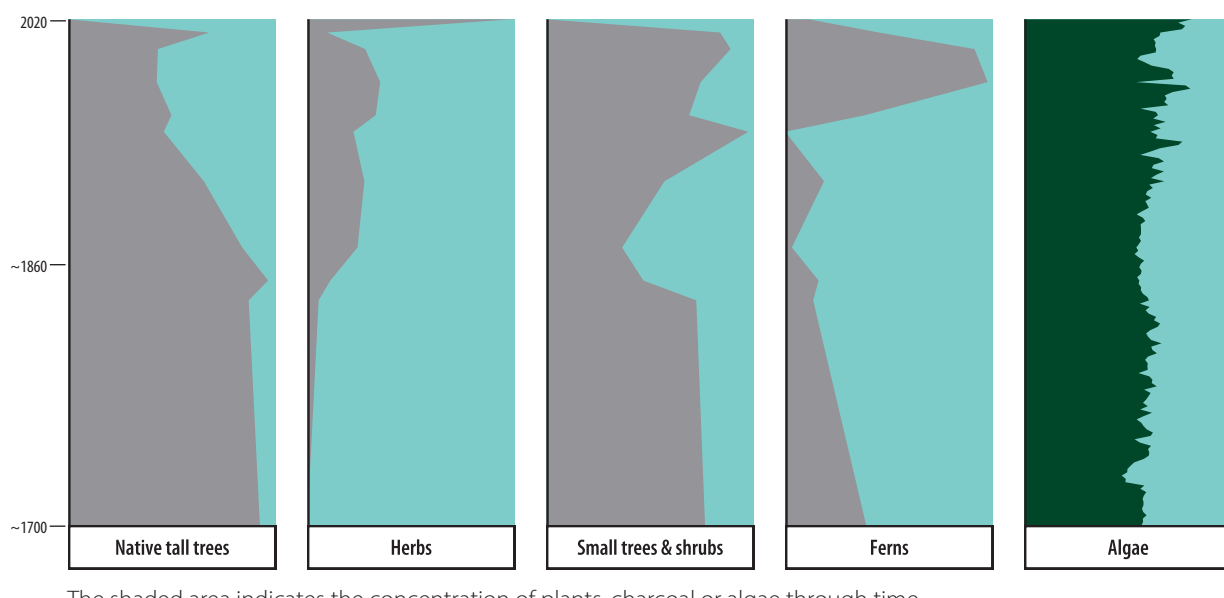
Lake Douglas in Mount Aspiring National Park has no road access. Human impact on this lake is likely to have been very limited. The sediment core only covers the time period of ~300 years. This is because a large earthquake in 1717 on the Apline Fault resulted in considerable amounts of sediment being deposited in the lake.

Initial results from the sediment core suggest that during the last 300 years the lake and wider

region was surrounded by beech forest, with some podocarps, in particular rimu. In recent years there has been an increase in herbs and grasses, likely to reflect changes in agricultural development in the lowland valleys of the Haast region.

Algae levels have remained relatively constant in the lake, although it appears there has been a slight increase in recent times.

POLLEN, CHARCOAL AND ALGAE LEVELS FOR THE PAST ~300 YEARS



The shaded area indicates the concentration of plants, charcoal or algae through time.