

Ben's Bush

At a glance

TRC Reference: BD/7078	LENZ:	F1.1b Not threatened
Ecological District: North Taranaki		F5.2a Acutely threatened
Land Tenure: Private	National:	Priority 1 - Threatened Land Environment
Area(ha): 62.3		Priority 4 - Threatened Species
GPS: 1720403X & 5677867Y	Regional:	Key Native Ecosystem
Habitat: Forest Remnant	Regional Ecosystem Loss:	Chronically threatened 10-20% left
Bioclimatic Zone: Semi-Coastal	Protection Status:	QEII Covenant
Ecosystem Type: WF13: Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hinau, podocarp forest	Catchment:	Onaero (398)

General Description

Ben's Bush QEII covenant is located on private land, approximately 4.8km south of Urenui in North Taranaki. The remnant is comprised of semi-coastal forest and includes three unnamed tributaries of the Mangapoua stream, near the center of the Onaero catchment. The covenant is situated in close proximity to Kaipikari Road Forest Remnants KNE and Hickman Road (Luxton) KNE.

Ecological Features

Flora

This covenanted area contains a good quality example of semi coastal/lowland mixed tawa forest (WF13). Less than 20% of this type of forest remains in the Taranaki region. Some of the forest is mature with a canopy consisting of tawa, miro, pukatea, rewarewa, puriri and rimu. The site contains three species of threatened climbing rata and is likely to include other notable species such as king fern. The understory and ground cover in the forest is in fair condition, likely due to feral goats and occasional stock incursions, but the condition improves in some areas further within the forest.

Fauna

Native birdlife recorded in and around the remnant include the kereru, grey warbler, fantail, bell bird, tui, morepork, kingfisher and shining cuckoo. There is good habitat for a range of reptiles and invertebrates. Native fish and bats may also be present.

Ecological Values

Rarity and Distinctiveness - Medium	Provides habitat for, and also likely to contain, other notable fauna species including native bats, reptiles and invertebrates. Also contains three climbing rata species listed as 'Threatened' flora and Manuka which is listed as 'At Risk'.
Ecological context - High	Provides well forested cover for tributaries of the Mangapoua stream as well as additional habitat and greater connectivity with other Key Native Ecosystems in this area such as the Hickman Road (Luxton) KNE and Kaipikari Road Forest Remnants KNE.
Sustainability - Positive	In good vegetative condition. Key ecological processes still influence the site. Under appropriate management, it can remain resilient to existing or potential threats
Representativeness - High	Contains indigenous vegetation on F5.2b, an 'Acutely Threatened' LENZ environment. It is also a good example of a forest type that is

considered Chronically threatened in Taranaki (WF13 Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hinau, podocarp forest).

Other Management Issues

Herbivores - High	Browsing by possums, stock, goats and deer pose a high risk to the regeneration of this remnant.
Predators - High	Rodents, mustelids, possums and feral cats are present and will be having an impact on native species.
Weeds - Medium	Weeds are currently a low threat at this site with scattered invasive species present including woolly nightshade, montbretia and blackberry which are mainly isolated to edge understory.
Habitat Modification - Medium	Limited stock grazing has modified accessible parts of this remnant. Fencing repairs and maintenance will reduce this risk.

