

Gillett Family Bush

At a glance

TRC Reference: BD/9745	LENZ:	F5.2a Acutely threatened
Ecological District: Egmont	National:	Priority 1 - Threatened Land Environment
Land Tenure: Private		Priority 4 - Threatened Species
Area(ha): 2.1	Regional:	Key Native Ecosystem
GPS: 1706941X & 5669446Y	Regional Ecosystem Loss:	Chronically threatened 10-20% left
Habitat: Forest Remnant	Protection Status:	Landowner may pursue QEII Covenant
Bioclimatic Zone: Semi-Coastal	Catchment:	Waiongana (394)
Ecosystem Type: WF13: Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hinau, podocarp forest		

General Description

The Gillett Family Bush site is located on privately owned land 4.5 km northeast of Inglewood and lies in the Egmont Ecological District and Waiongana Stream catchment. The site is approximately 2.1 ha in size and is comprised of a cutover lowland tawa dominant forest remnant on hill slopes and stream terraces. The remnant is of a native forest type that is classified as 'Chronically Threatened' in Taranaki and falls within 'Acutely Threatened' Land Environment (LENZ) F5.2a. Remnants such as this provide important habitat for rare and threatened species. Gillett Family Bush also offers good connectivity to other nearby habitats, private QEII covenants and Key Native Ecosystems in the area such as the Everett Park Scenic Reserve KNE, Allerby's Bush KNE, and Waiongana Flats A and B KNEs.

Ecological Features

Flora

The forest canopy is dominated by tawa, kohekohe, and pukatea, with occasional pigeonwood and rimu. The understory and groundcover is primarily kawakawa, mahoe, and ferns e.g., hen and chicken fern. Three rata species are present, which have recently been elevated to 'Threatened' status due to new myrtle rust threats.

Fauna

Native birds include tui, shining cuckoo, kingfisher, fantail, silvereye, grey warbler and Australasian harrier. Morepork and kereru, although not observed on the day of assessment, are also likely to be present. There is good habitat for a range of other native species such as freshwater fish, reptiles, and invertebrates.

Ecological Values

Ecological Context - Medium	Close to and interconnected with other small forest remnants and riparian vegetation in vicinity.
Rarity and Distinctiveness - Medium	Provides habitat for and also likely to contain other notable fauna species including reptiles and invertebrates. Also contains three rata species which are newly listed as 'Threatened' flora due to potential vulnerability to myrtle rust.
Representativeness - High	Contains indigenous vegetation on F5.2a, 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), with only about 16% of its original area left.

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.

Other Management Issues

Habitat Modification - Low

Although the habitat is at risk of modification from stock and weed incursions from surrounding pasture, there are no immediate threats facing this site.

Herbivores - Medium

The site is partially fenced from stock, however, the west side of the remnant is unfenced. Despite this, stock access appears minimal due to the steep slope down to the stream on that side. Browsing by possums does pose a threat to the site, however.

Possum Self-help

The site is within the current Inglewood North possum self-help area.

Predators - Medium

Predators including rodents, mustelids, possums, feral cats and hedgehogs will be having an impact on native species at the site.

Weeds - High

There is a relatively large patch of Tradescantia (wandering willy) near the southeastern edge of the site, along with edge weeds such as Japanese honeysuckle, barberry, woolly nightshade, and Himalayan honeysuckle.

