

Pukekotahuna Head Waters Reserve

At a glance

TRC Reference: BD/9740	LENZ:	F5.3b Not threatened
Ecological District: Egmont	Local:	Significant Natural Area
Land Tenure: Private	National:	Priority 4 - Threatened Species
Area(ha): 6	Regional:	Key Native Ecosystem
GPS: 1690925X & 5660333Y	Regional Ecosystem Loss:	Less reduced >50% left
Habitat: Forest Remnant	Protection Status:	QEII Covenant
Bioclimatic Zone: Lower Montane	Catchment:	Te Henui (391)
Ecosystem Type: MF8.2: Rimu, rātā, kamahi forest		

General Description

Pukekotahuna Headwaters Reserve is located off the top end of Mangorei Road, 14 kilometres south west of New Plymouth. The covenant provides connectivity to other priority KNE's and habitats in the area including Te Papakura o Taranaki, Korito Heights, Mount View and Carrington Road KNE's. The site falls within the Te Henui Catchment and Egmont Ecological District. Covering about 6ha, the site is comprised of cutover forest dominated by Kamahi and includes multiple small unnamed tributaries of the Pukekotahuna Stream.

Ecological Features

Flora

The canopy of the remnant is dominated by kamahi with a mix of hinau, toro, miro, rimu and rewarewa. A good sub canopy and understorey is also present and dominated by toro and toropapa, with kanano, pigeonwood, raukawa, rangiora, pigeonwood and hangehange. Tree ferns and ground ferns are common in places and seedlings and saplings are also abundant. The area falls within the 'Less reduced, better protected' LENZ environment F5.3b.

Fauna

Notable native birdlife recorded within the site include whitehead, kārearea/falcon, rifleman and long tailed cuckoo. Other birdlife includes kererū, tūi, bellbird, fantail, tomtit, silvereye, grey warbler and ruru. Very good habitat exists for notable freshwater fish such as kōkopu species, kōaro and longfin eel. Native freshwater crayfish are present and notable native lizards and invertebrates may also occupy this site.

Ecological Values

Ecological context - High	Contiguous with other priority ecosystems including Te Papakura o Taranaki, recognised as a Significant Natural Area and provides connectivity to other KNEs Korito Heights, Mount View and Carrington Road. Also provides core habitat for 'At Risk' native fauna species and 'Threatened' native flora species.
Rarity and Distinctiveness - Medium	Contains four species of 'Threatened' rata and several notable native bird species including rifleman, kārearea/falcon, long tailed cuckoo and whitehead. Visits from North Island robin and North Island brown kiwi are also likely. Provides good habitat and likely to contain other 'Threatened' and 'At Risk' native species, including freshwater fish and reptiles.
Representativeness - High	Contains indigenous vegetation on F5.3b ('Less reduced, better protected') LENZ environment and is a remnant of an ecosystem

type (MF8-2 Rimu, rata, kamahi forest) classified as 'Less reduced or intact'. Is close to, and the same forest type as an area identified as a priority representative site for management.

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

Localised modification for access has been carried out. Tracks being cut by the landowner will be primarily for predator control.

Possum Self-help

The sites falls within the possum self-help area, and receives regular control by the landowner.

Predators - Medium

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

Weeds - Low

Currently a low threat at this site with occasional shrub weed species present on the margins only.

Herbivores - Low

Feral deer and pigs are absent from this area and feral goats are controlled to very low densities in the surrounding forest.



Whare Pīwakawaka

At a glance

TRC Reference: BD/9743	LENZ:	F5.2a Acutely threatened
Ecological District: North Taranaki	National:	Priority 1 - Threatened Land Environment
Land Tenure: Private		Priority 4 - Threatened Species
Area(ha): 1.5	Regional:	Key Native Ecosystem
GPS: 1713525X & 5650007Y	Protection Status:	QEII Covenant
Habitat: Forest Remnant	Catchment:	Waitara (395)
Bioclimatic Zone: Lowland		
Ecosystem Type: MF7.2: Rātā, tawa, kamahi, podocarp forest		

General Description

Whare Pīwakawaka is a small (1.5ha) forest remnant located on privately owned land approximately 4.5km east of Midhirst. The site lies in the Waitara River catchment within the North Taranaki Ecological District. Tawa dominates the canopy, with a few pigeonwood, pukatea and māhoe around the edges. The remnant contains indigenous vegetation in an areas classified as an 'Acutely Threatened LENZ environment (F5.2a). The nearest protected sites (within 5km) include other KNEs in the area such as Makara Farms, Stanley Road and Te Kapua Park Bush.

Ecological Features

Flora

The forest canopy is dominated by tawa, with pigeonwood, pukatea and around the edges. The understorey is absent, although ground ferns, epiphytes and climbers are common. Notably, two species of rātā (recently classified as 'Threatened' due to potential threats by myrtle rust) and the 'Nationally Vulnerable' poroporo are present in this remnant.

Fauna

Native birds at the site include fantail, tūī, kererū, silvereye, kingfisher, shining cuckoo, grey warbler, morepork and harrier. The site contains a limited amount of reptile habitat in the way of dense forest canopy, deep leaf litter and logs on the forest floor.

Ecological Values

Ecological Context - Low	This site is isolated from other KNE and private QEII sites in the area but other small fragments of native bush are nearby.
Rarity and Distinctiveness - Medium	Contains two species of 'Threatened' rata and the 'Nationally Vulnerable' poroporo.
Representativeness - Medium	Contains indigenous vegetation on F5.2a (Acutely Threatened) LENZ environment and is a remnant of an ecosystem type (MF7.2 Rata, tawa, kamahi, podocarp forest) classified as 'Less reduced or intact'.
Sustainability - Positive	If left unmanaged, the condition of the site would continue to deteriorate. With appropriate management, the site can recover and begin to regenerate.

Other Management Issues

Habitat Modification - Medium	The site has been heavily browsed by stock, altering the ability of the site to regenerate.
Herbivores - High	Dairy cattle currently graze the site on rotation. The landowners are eager to fence off and protect the site.
Possum Self-help	The sites falls within the possum self-help area, and receives occasional control by friends of the Hancocks.
Predators - Medium	Predators including rodents, mustelids, possums, feral cats and hedgehogs will be having an impact on native species at the site.
Weeds - Low	Weeds at the site are currently present in low numbers.

