



Waikaruru Stream Wetlands

Site Number: SNA61
Ecological District: Rotorua Lakes
Source of Information: Shaw and Beadel (1998)
Digital Scale: 1:2,000
Data Source: RDAM 2006
Regional Council: Bay of Plenty
1998 Site Number: RAP No. 61; PNA no. 220
Current Tenure: Unprotected
Site Area: 34.7 ha
Altitude Range: 360-380 m
Bioclimatic Zone: Lowland
Grid Reference: NZTM E1884015, N5763814

VEGETATION		LANDFORM	EXTENT
CODE	TYPE		
1	Harakeke/ <i>Baumea rubiginosa</i> - <i>Gleichenia dicarpa</i> fern-sedgeland (with scattered <i>Coprosma propinqua</i> subsp. <i>propinqua</i> , manuka, <i>C. tenuicaulis</i> with some young grey willow).	Wetland	2.8 ha
2	Manuka/ <i>Baumea rubiginosa</i> / <i>Sphagnum</i> shrub-mossland (with occasional <i>Coprosma propinqua</i> subsp. <i>propinqua</i> , <i>Baumea teretifolia</i> , swamp coprosma, <i>Cortaderia fulvida</i> , <i>Baumea rubiginosa</i> , and monoao).	Wetland	9.0 ha
3	Grey willow/harakeke/swamp kiokio treeland (with kiokio, <i>Coprosma propinqua</i> subsp. <i>propinqua</i> , <i>C. tenuicaulis</i> , <i>Cortaderia fulvida</i> , <i>Baumea rubiginosa</i>)	Wetland	17.1 ha
4	<i>Carex secta</i> / <i>C. geminata</i> - <i>Juncus effusus</i> /Yorkshire fog rush-grass-sedgeland (with scattered <i>Carex māorica</i> , lotus, spike sedge, and <i>Eleocharis gracilis</i>).	Wetland	4.3 ha
5	Grey willow/blackberry/ <i>Baumea rubiginosa</i> -swamp kiokio treeland	Wetland	1.1 ha
6	Manuka-gorse/Yorkshire fog shrubland (with <i>Carex secta</i> , swamp kiokio, kiokio, <i>Carex māorica</i> , Spanish heath).	Wetland	0.5 ha

Indigenous Flora: No threatened or at risk species as listed in de Lange *et al.* (2009) are known from this site. Monoao is present.

Fauna: Birds observed in 1996 include North Island fernbird ('At Risk - Declining' in Miskelly *et al.* 2008), fantail, pied tit, grey warbler, pukeko, tui, Australasian harrier, and paradise shelduck.

Notes on Overall Condition: Wetland vegetation that has been particularly modified through drainage, possibly fire, and establishment of adventive species.

Change Relative to Shaw and Beadel (1998): From aerial photographs it appears exotic plantation trees have been planted in parts of the 1998 site.

Threats/Modification/Vulnerability: Spanish heath and broom. Spanish heath appears to be increasing in abundance in the *Sphagnum* area (Unit 2), and grey willow appears to be increasing in abundance throughout.

Drains dissect the wetlands and weeds dominate a thin strip alongside the drains. This area would have been regularly grazed in the past, but following afforestation of the surrounding land, grazing is now less

intensive.

Weeds are locally common and include grey willow, blackberry, and gorse.

- Risk Assessment:** Drainage: Risk to site - high; Timeframe - high.
Pest plants: Risk to site - high; Timeframe - high.
- Significance Level:** Regional (Appendix 4 - Table 1 - Criteria 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12; Table 2 - Factors R4, R6, R8, R9).
- Significance Justification:** This site is of regional significance as it is a relatively large wetland with several wetland types present including a large area of *Sphagnum* bog up to c.0.4 m deep. Wetland vegetation is greatly reduced in extent in the ecological district and is poorly represented in the existing reserve system. A population of North Island fernbird ('At Risk – Declining') is present.
- Fieldwork Required:** No fieldwork required to assess significance, but fieldwork required to update biodiversity and management information. Site boundaries and vegetation mapping require updating.
- Notes:** This site was identified as a "Recommended Area for Protection" (RAP No. 61) in the natural area survey of Rotorua Lakes ED (Beadel *et al.* 1998).
- References:** Shaw and Beadel (1998); Beadel *et al.* (1998).