



Horohoro Bluff

Site Number:	SNA551
Ecological District:	Atiamuri
Source of Information:	Shaw and Beadel (1998); Spring-Rice (Unpublished)
Digital Scale:	1:5,000
Data Source:	WRAPS 2007
Regional Council:	Waikato
1998 Site Number:	NHS No. 551
Current Tenure:	Unprotected
Site Area:	674.5 ha
Altitude Range:	430-820 m
Bioclimatic Zone:	Lowland; Submontane
Grid Reference:	NZTM E1874771, N5761400

VEGETATION		LANDFORM	EXTENT
CODE	TYPE		
1	Tawa-tawari forest and horopito-(Hall's totara)-(miro) forest on upper slopes and summit	Upper slopes and summit	Not known
2	Tawa-mahoe-pukatea-(rewarewa)-(rimu) forest	Colluvial fan	Not known
3	Rewarewa/kamahi-manuka-monoao forest (from Spring-Rice Unpublished)	Western faces	Not known

Indigenous Flora: No threatened or at risk species as listed in de Lange *et al.* (2009) have been recorded from this site.

The area has an exceptionally high diversity of plant species - 192 native species having been identified to date (Clarkson 1986), and more are found during each botanical inspection. Several species reach their geographical limits of distribution at Horohoro Bluffs and some are not known elsewhere in the ecological district. Tawari is unusually common at this altitude range. Also of interest are *Brachyglottis kirkii*, *Epacris alpina*, the perching orchid *Ichthyostyomum pygmaeum*, and the small rush *Luzula colensoi*. Many other sub-montane species exist only here and on the crest of the Paeroa Range, the highest summit in the Atiamuri Ecological District (by approx. 150 m).

Fauna: North Island kokako, North Island kaka, and blue duck (all 'Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable' in Miskelly *et al.* 2008) have been recorded here. However, these are all old records and this site is unlikely to still be of importance to the conservation of these species. The adjacent Mamaku Plateau has remnant populations of North Island brown kiwi ('Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable') (Spring-Rice Unpublished), and there is a possibility that kiwi are still present at this site. Other indigenous bird species such as kereru, whitehead, and tui are likely to utilise this site on a regular basis.

Notes on Overall Condition: There is excellent buffering on the western side, particularly in the areas abutting the Matahana Ecological Reserve and the pine forests to the north and south (Spring-Rice Unpublished).

On the western slopes adjoining the exotic forest boundary there is an excellent example of natural forest regeneration which has occurred following previous clearance and fires. The rewarewa/kamahi vegetation type which has re-established through fire-induced low manuka-monoao

scrub, is probably the most intact example of this formerly common sequence still existing in the ecological district (Spring-Rice Unpublished).

The entire site is almost completely covered with an indigenous forest canopy, although the dome has been selectively logged for podocarps. However some large trees, notably Hall's totara, remain. Regeneration is occurring, although somewhat restricted by deer and possum browsing (Spring-Rice Unpublished).

Change Relative to Shaw and Beadel (1998):	Unknown, probably little change.
Threats/Modification/Vulnerability:	In 1996 no sign of stock browse was seen. However, deer and possum browse was reducing plant diversity, particularly in the summit forest (Spring-Rice Unpublished)
Risk Assessment:	Pest animal: Risk to site - medium; Timeframe - medium.
Significance Level:	Regional (Appendix 5, Table 1 - Criteria 7, 8, 9, 10, 11; Table 2 - Factors L, M, P, Q).
Significance Justification:	The site is of regional significance as it is a large area of indigenous vegetation typical of Atiamuri ED with high animal and plant biodiversity. Only <i>c.</i> 7% cover of indigenous vegetation remains in Atiamuri ED. The site provides habitat to threatened bird species and is also contiguous with an extensive area of DOC-administered land to the north (Matahana Ecological Reserve). The area has high botanical value as the only remaining example of the tawa-tawari forest in the Atiamuri Ecological District.
Fieldwork Required:	No fieldwork required to assess significance, but fieldwork required to update biodiversity and management information.
Notes:	<p>A striking feature of this site is a very imposing escarpment with an uppermost line of cliffs, visible to the west of SH 30 about 25 km south of Rotorua. It is the result of extreme down-faulting of the eastern half of the original dome. It has considerable aesthetic value as the skyline vista, both from State Highway 30 and as the backdrop to Rotorua City itself, when viewed from the north. At its north end the broad remaining summit abuts the southern rim of the Mamaku Plateau (Spring-Rice Unpublished).</p> <p>Local farmers hunt in the area; walking and school groups make limited use of the steep face for outdoor recreation. (Spring-Rice Unpublished).</p>
References:	Spring-Rice (Unpublished); Shaw and Beadel (1998).