



Rawhiti Lagoon

Site Number:	SNA564
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Source of Information:	Shaw and Beadel (1998); Spring-Rice (Unpublished)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. 564
Current Tenure:	Unprotected
Site Area:	31.4 ha
Altitude Range:	300 m
Bioclimatic Zone:	Lowland
Grid Reference:	NZTM E1887850, N5729084

VEGETATION		LANDFORM	EXTENT
CODE	TYPE		
	<p>“Minor swampland communities occur throughout the area, with many exotic weed species prevalent. Raupo occurs along the lagoon margins, and both meadow and sedgeland species are present. In deep-water areas, beds of <i>Myriophyllum</i> and hornwort occur, with scattered <i>Potamogeton</i> and starwort.”</p> <p>(from Spring-Rice Unpublished)</p>		31.4 ha

Indigenous Flora: Twenty-eight indigenous taxa and 37 adventive taxa (fewer than at Hardcastle Lagoon, SNA563) have been recorded from this site (Howard-Williams 1989); however no threatened or at risk species as listed in de Lange *et al.* (2009) have been recorded from this site.

Fauna: Likely to provide habitat for threatened and at risk wetland birds such as New Zealand dabchick (‘Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable’ in Miskelly *et al.* 2008), spotless crake (‘At Risk - Relict’), and black shag (‘At Risk - Naturally Uncommon’).

Notes on Overall Condition: Unknown, but Spring-Rice (Unpublished) noted damage by stock and introduced weeds.

This lagoon is formed within the arms of a small horseshoe bend, on the eastern bank of the Waikato River just upstream of the Ohaaki Bridge. The lagoon is almost completely surrounded by a willow-covered levee, has less open water than Hardcastle Lagoon, and water flow from the river is more restricted (Spring-Rice Unpublished).

Change Relative to Shaw and Beadel (1998): Unknown, probably little change.

Threats/Modification/Vulnerability: Introduced weeds and stock damage appear to be the major threats (Spring-Rice Unpublished).

Risk Assessment: Unknown

Significance Level: Regional (Appendix 5 - Table 1 - Criteria 3, 4, 6, 9, 11; Table 2 - Factors L, N, O, R).

Significance Justification: This site is of at least regional significance because it contains wetland habitat. Wetlands have become greatly reduced in extent following human settlement. It also forms an important link to the adjacent Waikato River - a nationally significant site. It is also likely to provide habitat for threatened and at risk bird species.

Fieldwork Required: No fieldwork required to assess significance, but fieldwork required to update biodiversity and management information.

Notes: None

References: Spring-Rice (Unpublished), Shaw and Beadel (1998).