

Ngaruroro Catchment – Wetlands

Omahu Lakes, Ngamatea East Swamp, Kaweka Lakes, Lake Poukawa – Rewild Opportunities



Inspiring our community to rewild these places

The Opportunities

Within the Ngaruroro catchment are many lake and wetland ecosystems, that will flourish when they and their catchments are rewilded.

The lake and wetland catchments with the least development are the best opportunities for the restoration of freshwater ecosystems. The peat soil lakes and wetlands and their margins are the best opportunities to end methane emissions, and restore carbon sink processes.

The lakes and wetlands are home to special plant communities and threatened species, (particularly for lakes) including those on the margins or surface, and submerged meadows.

Special bird species at home here include shags, dotterels, dabchicks, grey duck, stilts and bittern.

Native fish species inhabitants comprise long and short finned eels, bully and inanga.

These lakes and wetlands are vital water and soil conservation freshwater ecosystems that protect Hawke's Bay communities and businesses from the harms of flooding, sedimentation, poor water quality and low river and groundwater flows.

They will be shining examples of optimising freshwater ecosystems that are the most sustainable in the future, enhance the Hawkes Bay community wellbeing, and best protect our atmosphere.

The rewilding of these lakes and wetlands would recognize these national and regional values, with all the benefits that rewilding can bring.

Current Management

These identified lakes and wetlands are presently managed as a mix of public conservation land, iwi/hapu land and private land. Kaweka Lakes is the only area that is presently largely protected as public conservation land.

Context

There have always been a limited number of lakes and wetlands within the Ngaruroro catchment. Of those that remain, not all are fed by catchments that are free from infrastructure/development that generates sediment and nutrient runoff that undermines their longterm integrity and resilience. Rewilded lake and wetland catchments are vital to maximise low flows, minimize flood and sediment flows, minimize nutrient inflows such as phosphorous and nitrogen to ensure that native lake and wetland ecosystems can maintain a natural balance into the future.

Many lakes and wetlands have been drained historically, resulting in reduced freshwater ecosystem extent and reduced resilience to periods of drought. By blocking historic drains these lakes and wetlands can be rejuvenated and made more resilient into the future.

Peat soils developed within historic wetlands. By draining them and clearing wetland vegetation, peat soils were exposed to the air, gassing off methane and other gases as they decompose. By rewetting these peat soils the process is reversed and they can then resume sinking carbon gases from our atmosphere.

This rewild opportunity assessment is one of a comprehensive series looking at the Ngaruroro catchment.

Key Benefits

7 key lake and wetland ecosystems with largely undeveloped catchments optimally protected and resilient.

1,500 hectares of peat soils protected and rewetted to end methane emissions and sink atmospheric carbon gases.

Improved water quality and flood protection downstream.

Increased employment for iwi and the community from tending to the regeneration of native lake and wetland ecosystems, and their catchments.

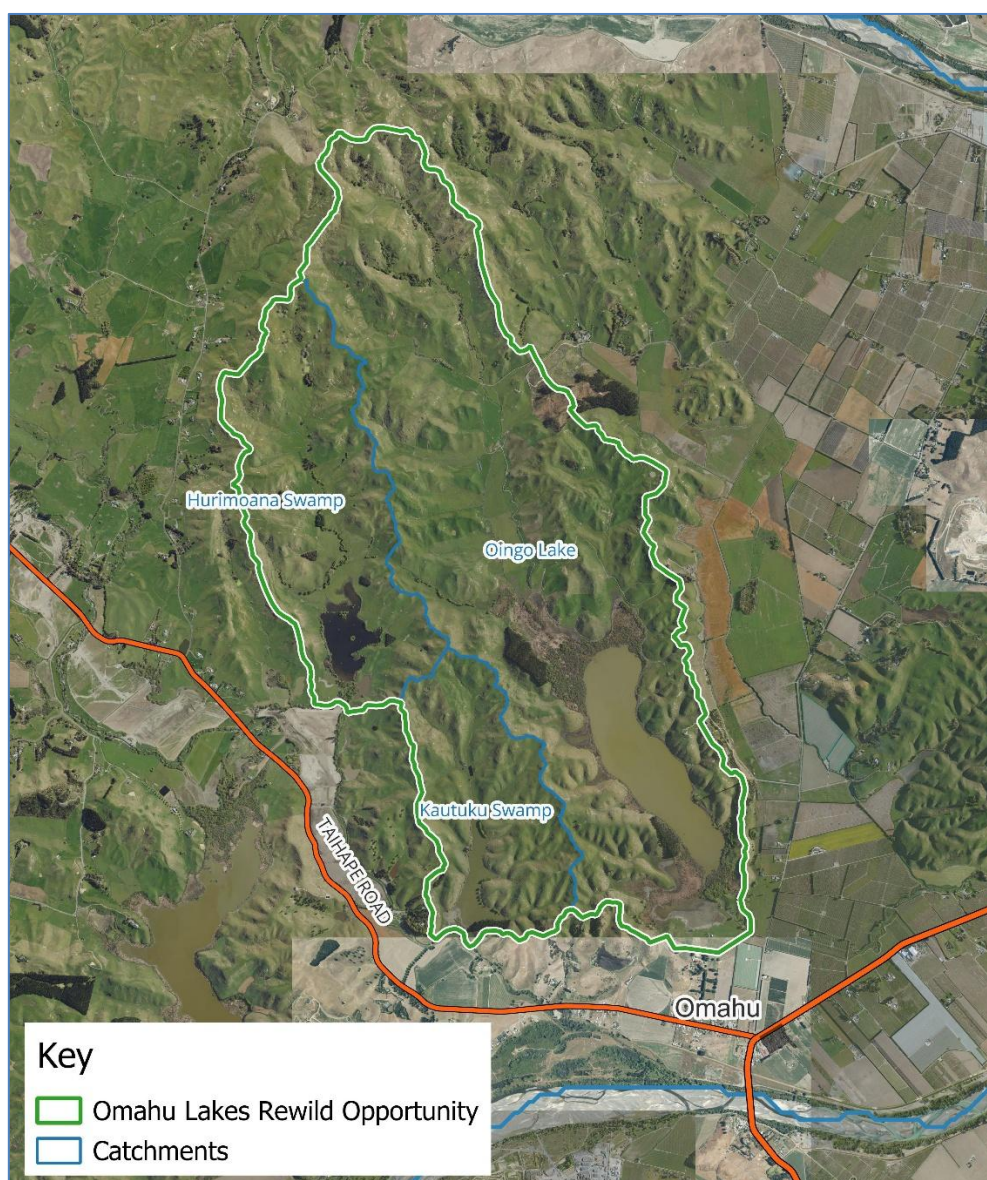


Dedicated to iwi/hapu and the people of Hawkes Bay

Ngaruroro catchment lake and wetland Rewild Opportunities

Lakes and wetlands where the catchments are free of infrastructure		
Omahu Lakes	Lakes and wetlands on private land	Rewild the private farmland in the catchments. Remove pests such as hornwort.
Ngamatea East Swamp	Swamp on iwi/hapu land	Rewild the Ngamatea Station farmland in the catchment
Kaweka Lakes	Rotoroa and Rototuna lakes on Public Conservation Land	Rewild the Crown Forestry Licence pine forest in the catchment, out to the forestry road. Free from exotic fish.
Lakes and wetlands where significant peat soils are present		
Lake Poukawa	Lake Poukawa and its original extent on iwi/hapu and private land	Rewild the former extent and original level of the lake and a riparian margin on iwi/hapu and private land. This will also benefit the downstream Pekapeka Swamp. Remove outlet weir/flapgate and any fish passage barriers.
Omahu Lakes	Oingo Lake, Hurimoana Swamp and Kautuku Swamp wetlands on iwi/hapu and private land	Rewild the former extent and level of the lakes and wetlands and a riparian margin on iwi/hapu and private land

Omahu Lakes Rewild Opportunity



Further reading

Lake Oingo <https://webstatic.niwa.co.nz/library/HBRCp3950.pdf>

Ngamatea East Swamp values <https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Outstanding-Water-Bodies/web-documents/3-Values-reports/Ngamatea-East-Swamp-ID17-Summary-of-Values-Aug-2020-5496.pdf>

Kaweka lakes values <https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Outstanding-Water-Bodies/web-documents/3-Values-reports/Lakes-Rotorua-Rototuna-ID5-Summary-of-Values-Aug-2020-5484.pdf>

Poukawa Te Waiu https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/assets/Publications/Te-reo-o-te-repo-vol-2/TRoTR_Kei-konei-tonu-au_Chapter-14.pdf

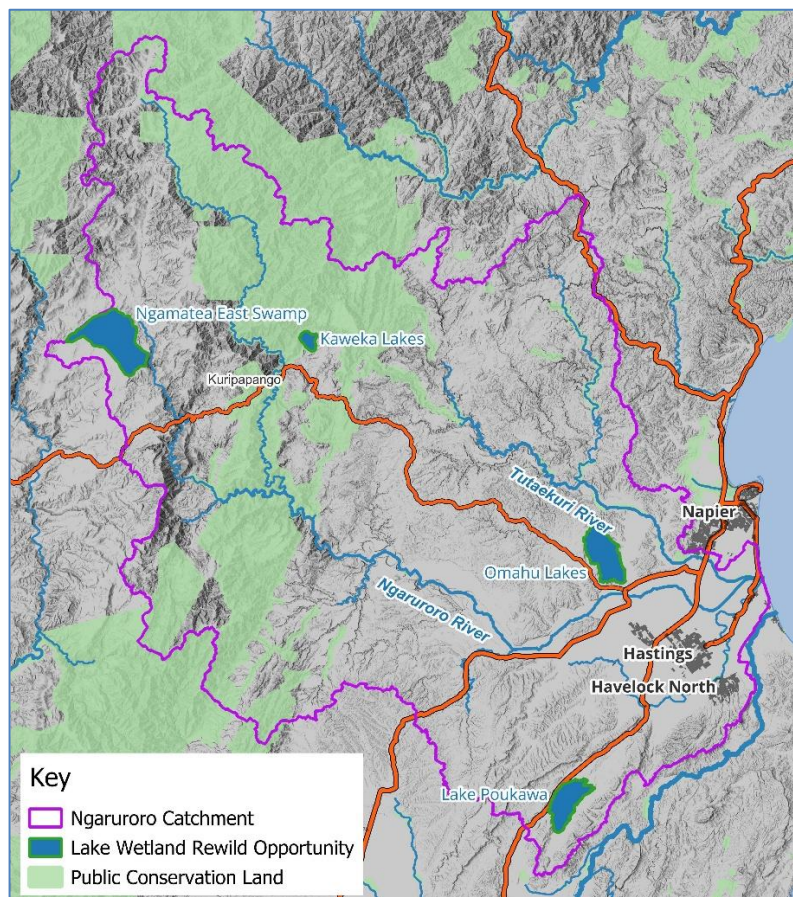
Lake Poukawa <https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Outstanding-Water-Bodies/web-documents/3-Values-reports/Lake-Poukawa-Pekapeka-ID6-Summary-of-Values-Aug-2020-5485.pdf>

Hawke's Bay Lakes Assessment <https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Publications-Database/4971-RM18-02-Hawkes-Bay-Lakes-Assessment-using-LakeSPI-2016-data.pdf>

Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Inventory <https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Other/Biodiversity-documents/Hawkes-Bay-Biodiversity-Inventory-August20141.pdf>

Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Strategy <https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Strategies/biodivstratNovember2015v3.pdf>

Opportunity Locations



Rewilding: to create and protect healthy ecosystem processes and functions that can sustain themselves, our society, and our economy.

