

MAW_19 – Nine Mile Creek/Kotorepi (above the road) (154.0277 ha)

Protected Area(s)	Area (ha)	NaPALIS #	# of Primary Parcels
Conservation Area – Nine Mile Creek/Kotorepi	154.0277	2809048	1

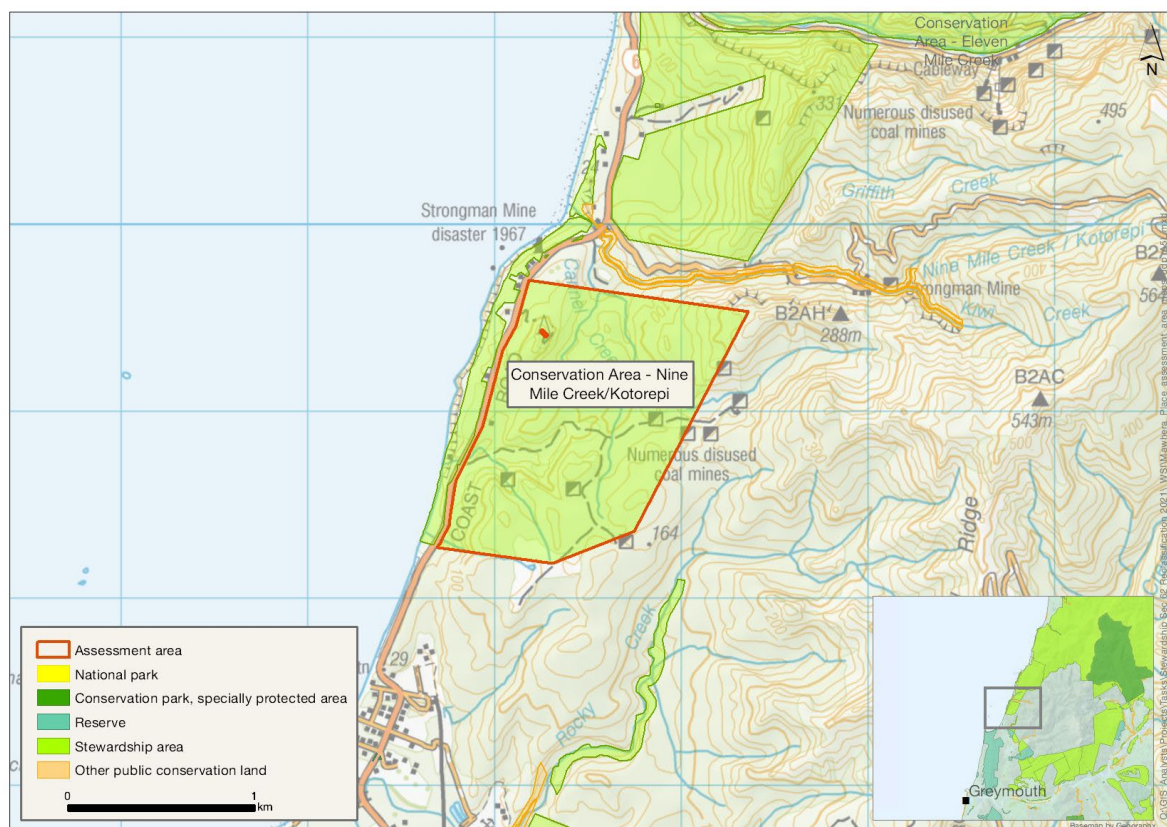
Location

2 km north of Rapahoe settlement, adjacent to and inland from SH6 in North Westland.

Brief Description

This assessment area is the inland part of Nine Mile Creek/Kotorepi Conservation Area and is coastal hillside supporting an almost continuous cover of indigenous forest. It makes an important contribution to the connectivity of the coastal forests to the north. While there has been modification to the area by mining activities, it remains dominated by indigenous vegetation. Access roads to old mine sites and a road to a small area of freehold are located within the area, many of which are used by walkers and mountain bikers. Concessions held include two access arrangements, one each for coal and rock mining (quarry) and a telecommunications license and easement.

Map



Ngāi Tahu Values and Interests

Mo tātou, a, mo ka uri, a muri ake nei – for us and our children after us

From the preliminary desk top assessments, there do not appear to be any site specific Ngāi Tahu values identified. However, there is a deep connection between Ngāi Tahu and all of the whenua in the Ngāi Tahu takiwā, and the absence of site specific values in the preliminary analysis does not detract from that connection, nor does it confirm that site specific values are not present. Further, a section 4 Conservation Act and Te Tiriti principles perspective is required as well, and it may be that areas of land are significant to Ngāi Tahu from that broader perspective. To avoid doubt, nothing in the proposed classification affects, limits or derogates from the rangatiratanga of Ngāi Tahu over its takiwā, including in relation to freshwater; and/or any other rights or interests Ngāi Tahu may have.

Ecological Values

Representativeness

The low mixed hardwood/beech (tawhai, *Fuscopora* and *Lophozonia*) forest in much of this area is typical of the coastal vegetation of Blackball Ecological District, as is the coastal scrub facing the ocean. This area has been partly modified by coal mining but remains dominated by indigenous vegetation. The coastal faces support recovering coastal scrub (recovering from Cyclone Ita, 2014) with coastal hebe (*kōkōmuka*, *Hebe elliptica*), māhoe (*Melicytus ramiflorus* agg.), kiekie (*Freycinetia baueriana* subsp. *Banksia*), tī kōuka (cabbage tree, *Cordyline australis*), harakeke (*Phormium tenax* and *Phormium cookianum*) and taller hard beech (*Fuscopora truncata*)/kamāhi (*Pterophylla racemose*)/southern rātā (*Metrosideros umbellata*) forest on less disturbed faces and gullies and sheltered inland aspects. The area is moderately natural. A suite of common indigenous avifauna likely uses this area.

In terms of freshwater, this area covers the catchment of a small creek – Cannel Creek – a tributary of Nine Mile Creek/Kotorepi. There is a history of mining, with numerous disused coal mines. It is unknown whether these old mines influence the water quality of the creek, but a high level of naturalness is predicted.

Diversity and pattern

The assessment area is underlain by sandstone, mudstone, coal measures and recent (Pleistocene) ocean deposits and has a variable topography with exposed coastal faces, variable aspects and an altitudinal range from 40–220 m above sea level with both steep and gently undulating surfaces. The vegetation patterns reflect this variety of influences.

There are no freshwater survey records from Cannel Creek but, going on nearby records, it is likely that there would be habitat for īnanga (*Galaxias maculatus*), kōaro (*Galaxias brevipinnis*), banded kōkopu (*Galaxias fasciatus*), bluegill bully (*Gobiomorphus hubbsi*) and longfin eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*) (all At Risk: Declining), shortjaw kōkopu (*Galaxias postvectis*) (Nationally Vulnerable), redfin bully (*Gobiomorphus huttoni*), common bully (*Gobiomorphus cotidianus*) and shortfin eel (*Anguilla australis*) (all Not threatened).

Rarity and distinctiveness

Great spotted kiwi (roroa, *Apteryx maxima*) (Nationally Vulnerable) habitat is present in the surrounding landscape.

Ecological context

A moderately large (154 ha) regular polygon which is 1200 m wide. The assessment area is contiguous with large areas of indigenous forest that connect the inland, eastern Paparoa Ranges with the coast. It makes an important contribution to the connectivity of the coastal forests to the north.

Cannel Creek and two tributaries flow through this parcel. There is a high level of water quality predicted, but without knowing more about the flow regime, it's hard to predict what habitat will be available for freshwater species. This block adjoins SH6 (to west).

Illegal dump site at Eight Mile, which is supposed to be cleaned up. There is a rock quarry for MBD Contracting.

Recreation Values

Setting

The area is in a Backcountry-remote zone with no DOC-managed tracks or facilities. There are access roads to old mine sites and a road to a small area of freehold. There are lots of old tracks and unofficial mountain bike/walking routes behind Rapahoe.

Visitor type and activities typically undertaken

Likely to receive little recreation use.

Access

Can be accessed from Coast Road.

Heritage Values

Historical overview

The area is riddled with old coal mines. Coal mines were first established in the Greymouth coalfield in the late 19th century. Towns such as Rūnanga, Dunollie and Rapahoe were planned townships to support the State coal mines (formed by Richard Seddon in 1901).

Sites recorded

None, but old survey plans and the map show evidence of coal mines and associated infrastructure e.g. SO 1782 dated 1916.

Heritage values

Coal has been a critical component of the West Coast economy for well over a century. Its importance can be seen through the creation of State coal mines in 1901 and the various steps that successive governments have taken to nationalise production.

Modifying factors

The mines form part of the wider mining heritage landscape between Ten Mile Creek/Waianiwaniwa and Grey River/Māwheranui, which was intensively worked for over a century. The condition of the mine sites is unknown, but it is expected that they will generally be in good condition.

Permissions summary

- Access arrangement for mining coal at Spring Creek near Rapahoe
- Access arrangement for open-cast rock mining at Eight Mile quarry north of Rapahoe
- A notified telecommunications licence under a national agreement
- A non-notified telecommunications easement for the Rapahoe to Punakaiki fibre optic cable

There may also be a track easement to a radio repeater (which is not on DOC land).

Map (aerial photo)

