

## MAW\_30 – Blaketown (1.232 ha)

Protected Area(s)	Area (ha)	NaPALIS #	# of Primary Parcels
Conservation Area - Blaketown	1.232	2809293	1

### Location

In Greymouth, north-east of the airport and south of the 'harbour' basin.

### Brief Description

Small patch of salt marsh wetland, part of a much larger tidal wetland in Greymouth township. Although limited in size, this small conservation area comprises highly natural riparian wetland vegetation within a registered estuary that provides important habitat for native fish and cryptic wetland bird species. This estuary contains extensive inanga spawning habitat with multiple identified/registered sites. The conservation area does not border any public conservation land but adjoins Māori Reserve. This is an old mahinga kai site and was a traditional food basket for Ngati Waewae. There is no easy access, tracks or facilities or recreational use. A disused sewage pipe that was never removed runs through this conservation area.

### Map



# Ngāi Tahu Values and Interests

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

There is a deep connection between Ngāi Tahu and all of the whenua in the Ngāi Tahu takiwā. A section 4 Conservation Act and Te Tiriti principles perspective is required, 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.

This is an old mahinga kai site and was a traditional food basket for Ngati Waewae.

## Ecological Values

### Representativeness

There is high representativeness and naturalness, mostly for aquatic ecological values. Although small, it is part of a much larger estuarine/salt marsh wetlands. These wetlands are often threatened by reclamation, fragmentation, pollution and development. There is a high level of naturalness in water quality and vegetation, despite being very urban and having an artificial harbour/marina downstream/to the north-west.

### Diversity and pattern

Two recorded īnanga (*Galaxias maculatus*) spawning sites, but this entire estuary will provide spawning habitat for īnanga. There are also records of longfin eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*), shortfin eel (*Anguilla australis*) and common bully (*Gobiomorphus cotidianus*). Other migratory galaxias are likely to use this estuary to migrate upstream to suitable habitat.

### Rarity and distinctiveness

High – as a small patch of salt marsh wetland, this type of wetland is under threat. It provides important habitat for native fish and cryptic wetland bird species.

### Ecological context

A small area (1.3 ha) of saltmarsh wetland, part of a much larger tidal wetland in Greymouth township. Indigenous saltmarsh vegetation, possibly exotic grasses and some woody weeds may be present. This is important habitat for cryptic wetland birds, eel, īnanga and other native fish spawning etc. No at-risk or threatened terrestrial species are recorded. The land environment is classified as Less Reduced and better protected in the Greymouth Ecological District.

Although limited in size, this small parcel comprises highly natural riparian wetland vegetation within a registered estuary. This estuary contains extensive īnanga spawning habitat with multiple identified/registered sites. It does not border any public conservation land but adjoins Māori Reserve.

There is a mix of rushes (wiwi, *Juncus*), kōwhai (*Sophora*) and flax. It is regularly controlled for yellow flagged iris and willow. There is one record for marsh crane (koitareke, *Porzana pusilla affinis*). The straight line is a disused sewage pipe that was never removed.

## Recreation Values

### Setting

This area is located northeast of the airport. It is in a Backcountry-remote zone, with no tracks or facilities.

### Visitor type and activities typically undertaken

Likely to receive little or no recreation use.

### Access

No easy to access as surrounded by Blaketown Lagoon.

## Heritage Values

### Historical overview, Sites recorded, Heritage values

None recorded.

## Permissions summary

None recorded.

## Map (aerial photo)

