

# INA\_49 – West Rappahannock River (146.1514 ha)

Protected Area(s)	Area (ha)	NaPALIS #	# of Primary Parcels
Conservation Area - Rappahannock River	146.1514	2807881	1

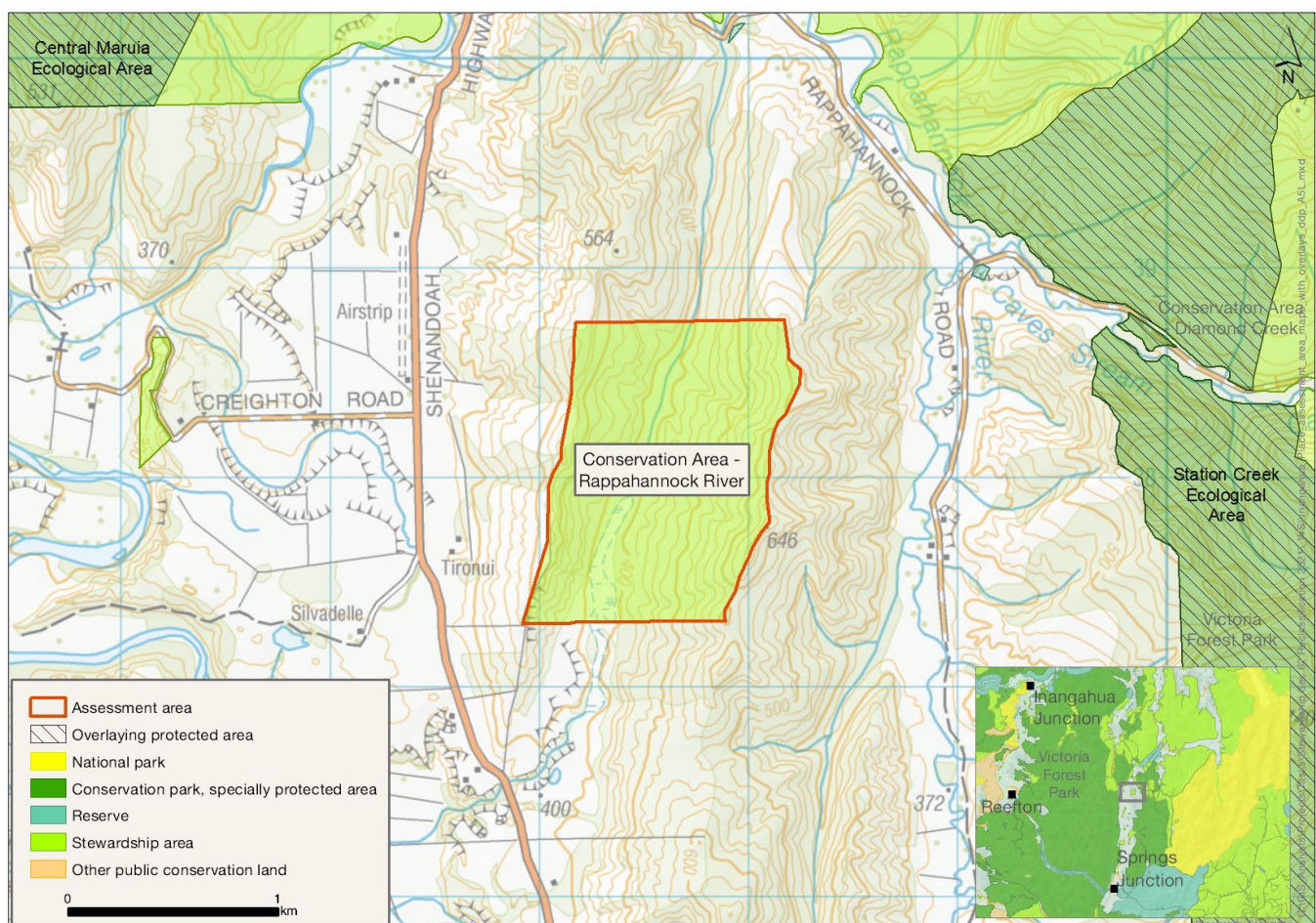
## Location

Largely within the catchment of a tributary of Rappahannock River, north of Warwick Junction and east of the Shenandoah Highway in the Maruia valley.

## Brief Description

A moderate sized area (146 ha) predominantly of indigenous forest, extending either side of the tributary stream to the ridge. The area also contains areas of wetland and pasture, and except for forest land to the north and east is largely surrounded by farmland isolated from other public conservation land. Grazing in the cleared and grazed area in the southern central piece (approx. 1.1 ha) and along the western edge is unauthorised. Access is difficult and there are no tracks or facilities or expected recreational use. There is no historic interest.

## 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 area is a section of montane valley from floor to ridge, containing regenerating forest, beech (tawhai, *Fuscopora* and *Lophozonia*) forest, swamp/shrublands and other wetland vegetation, within Rotorua Ecological District. There are also areas of pasture encroaching into the assessment area in the south and west. There are no ecological or species management units present. This 146 ha area contains a small stream(s) with a high level of naturalness and water quality predicted.

### Diversity and pattern

The area extends from valley floor to ridge (400–646 m) and is largely covered in indigenous forest and wetland, but has areas of pasture and regenerating forest.

There are no records of native freshwater fish or invertebrate values here, but the receiving Rappahannock Stream has records of upland bully (West Coast) (*Gobiomorphus breviceps*), northern flathead galaxias (*Galaxias* species N), dwarf galaxias (*Galaxias divergens*), longfin eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*), and brown trout (*Salmo Trutta*) (Introduced). If the flow is sufficient, it is possible that these small streams will be used by these species.

### Rarity and distinctiveness

The valley floor wetland forms the divide between north and south flowing catchments. Several threatened plant species have been recorded from nearby areas within the Maruia valley and may be present, including bloodwood (*Coprosma wallii*) and scarlet mistletoe (pirita, *Peraxilla colensoi*) (both At Risk: Declining).

Freshwater fish and invertebrate records in the receiving tributaries include northern flathead galaxias (Nationally Vulnerable) and dwarf galaxias and longfin eel (both At Risk: Declining). It is possible these highly mobile species use the reaches here, providing there is sufficient flow.

### Ecological context

The area is adjoined by a much larger area of forest in private ownership to the north and east. There is no immediately adjoining public conservation land, but the receiving Rappahannock Stream is a species management unit for dwarf galaxias. These small streams have a very high level of naturalness.

Areas on the margins have been developed into pasture. Grazing in the cleared and grazed area in the southern central piece (approx. 1.1 ha) and along the western edge is unauthorised.

## **Recreation Values**

### **Setting**

This is in a Backcountry-remote zone. There are no tracks or facilities in this area.

### **Visitor type and activities typically undertaken**

The area is likely to receive little recreation use.

### **Access**

No easy access to this area.

## **Heritage Values**

### **Historical overview**

No historic sites or heritage values recorded.

## **Permissions Summary**

None recorded.

## **Map (aerial photo)**

