

KAW_14 – Waimangaroa River Mouth (7.8866 ha)

Protected Area(s)	Area (ha)	NaPALIS #	# of Primary Parcels
Conservation Area - Waimangaroa River Mouth	7.8866	2808242	2

Location

Waimangaroa River Mouth, in the Buller District.

Brief Description

North side of Waimangaroa River mouth. Contains a channelised creek that runs parallel to the coast into the river. This area supports a diversity of freshwater and terrestrial habitats. The area is used by people accessing and using the beach. There is a grazing concession and unofficial beehives.

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 area is used for mahinga kai.

Ecological Values

Representativeness

This area on the true right of Waimangaroa River is an example of a dynamic river mouth with a low sand cliff on the coastal plain, typical in the southern part of the Foulwind Ecological District. It includes a modified (channelised) freshwater creek and is immediately adjacent to the river mouth. The vegetation cover is a mix of managed pasture and common native shrub vegetation, some of which has been cleared in the last decade but is now recovering. The area is identified as good whitebait habitat and good numbers of small passerines and shorebirds are likely. It is potential kororā (blue penguin, *Eudyptula minor*) habitat. The Macroinvertebrate Community Index suggests high water quality of the freshwater environments. Also recognised as an īnanga spawning site, which requires protection. The area has a moderate naturalness value.

Diversity and pattern

This area supports a diversity of habitats both freshwater and terrestrial. The ungrazed end of the spit is regenerating with native flora, as is the creek which has also been fenced off. The area provides potential habitat for a suite of native fauna including sea/shore birds, and lizards. A high diversity of migratory fish has been recorded further up the catchment – giant kokopu (*Galaxias argenteus*), freshwater shrimp (*Paratya*), lamprey (piharau, *Geotria australis*), longfin eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*), īnanga (*Galaxias maculatus*) and shortjaw kokopu (*Galaxias postvectis*) – suggesting this site is important for these species both for spawning and as a migration pathway. As three whitebait species are present, it is an important site for whitebait diversity.

Rarity and distinctiveness

The assessment area classifies about half this area as an O1.3 land environment (Leathwick et al. 2002) of which 1.1% is within public conservation land within the ecological district. The entire area is classified as an Acutely Threatened Land Environment (Holdaway et al. 2012). A range of at-risk and threatened seabird and shore bird species are likely to be within the area, including the banded dotterel (tūturiwhatu, *Charadrius bicinctus*) (Nationally Vulnerable), eastern bar-tailed godwit (kuaka, *Limosa lapponica*) (At Risk: Declining) and migratory turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). The freshwater fish present include lamprey and shortjaw kōkopu (both Nationally Vulnerable) and longfin eel, giant kokopu and īnanga (all At Risk: Declining).

Ecological context

This 7.7 ha area is a relatively compact shape and includes a dynamic area of foreshore and coastal plain. Part of the assessment area is grazed pasture incorporated into the surrounding farm. The remnant native vegetation is part of a patchwork of remnants on the coastal plain north of the Orowaiti River, which are important for a suite

of avifauna. Upper tributaries of the Waimangaroa River are protected in KAW-10 – Waimangaroa–Granity Conservation Area, the Denniston Scenic Reserve and KAW-17 – Mount Rochfort Conservation Area.

Recreation values

Setting

The area is in a Backcountry-remote zone, and on the coast on the north bank (TR) of Waimangaroa River.

Visitor type and activities typically undertaken

The area is used by people accessing and using the beach. There is reported presence of duck shooting maimai, unofficial beehives and native restoration by an unknown party.

Access

The area can be accessed via Collins Road to the north.

Heritage Values

Sites recorded

None recorded.

Heritage values

No recorded archaeological sites but location at mouth of river is risk for potential occupation evidence.

Modifying factors

None recorded.

Permissions summary

A grazing concession is held to graze dairy cows over approximately 4.3 ha.

Map (aerial photo)

