

Evidence from Makarewa provided in meeting
18 June 2018



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Internal Correspondence

Our ref:

Your ref:

From: Terrestrial Ecosystems - J Marshall

To: West Coast Operations - M Davies

Date: 01/12/2015

Subject: Wetlands on Maori Reserve Land - South Westland

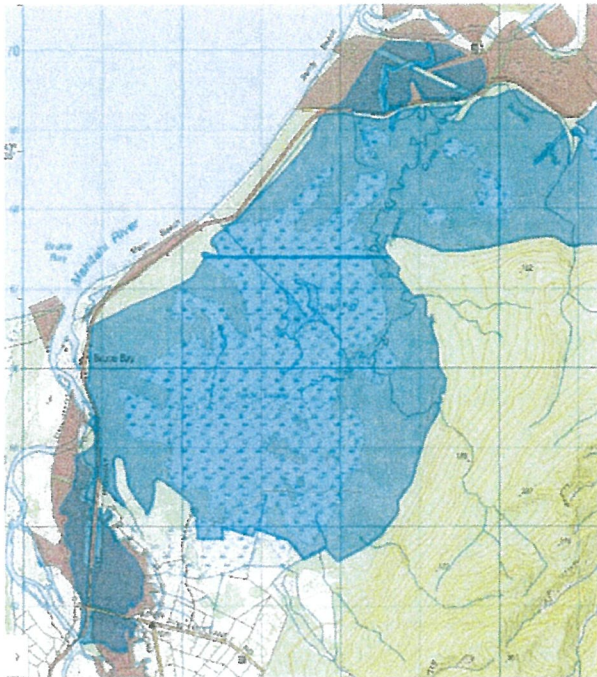
Background

The West Coast Regional Council was required to identify Significant and Potentially Significant wetlands in its territorial authority through the process of developing a new regional Land and Water Plan. The Schedule of Significant and Potentially Significant wetlands is appended to the Draft Land and Water Plan ([Draft Land and Water Recommending Report](#)).

The wetlands were identified by a panel of ecologists including DOC, Regional Council and other affected parties as either Significant wetlands (Schedule 1) or Potentially Significant wetlands (Schedule 2). This process was done mainly as a desktop exercise relying on soil maps and aerial photographs to a large degree to identify wetlands. The Department also sought to adjust any boundaries or anomalies in the scheduled wetlands by ground truthing sites with the Regional Council staff and confirming that the site was or was not, wetland. Once a wetland has been assessed by a qualified ecologist it would either be listed on Schedule 1, if it is found to be ecologically significant using the criteria stipulated by the Plan; if not the wetland would no longer be listed.

Wetlands on Maori Reserve Land

The wetlands that have been identified on Maori Reserve Land are listed on Schedule 2, so they are potentially significant.



Map information

Brown= Maori Land Court Reserve
Blue= wetland
Dark blue = overlap between Maori Reserve and schedule 2 wetlands.


Both the northern and southern sections of overlap are defined as part of one wetland KAGP008.

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Scheduled wetlands on Maori Reserve Land South Westland - DOC-2646832

The wetland which covers part of the Maori Reserve Lands is identified as KAGP008 Lake Kini. It is a 2236ha mosaic of wetland types including wetland forest, pakihi/swamp and bog. The middle of the Kini Bog is a peat dome and the site also contains areas of (partly drained) fertile swamps. Grey duck, fernbird, bittern, black shag, are reported from the site and it is likely to be important to native fisheries, one unidentified skink has been found.

The evidence presented to the Environment Court states it is "One of the best examples of a bog in this biogeographic zone, it is a nationally significant wetland". In terms of Ecological Significance criteria it scores highly under the Representativeness criterion as it is "one of the best" examples of a diverse wetland on the West Coast. It is listed in the Wetlands of National Importance list (WONI) and Wetlands of Ecological and Representative Importance (WERI). When ranked against other wetlands identified through this process it ranks in the 4th equal ranking with 22 other wetland sites with 30 other sites ranked above them in the top 3 categories.

 Individual parcels of land were not assessed for the biodiversity values and so, as the Maori Reserve Lands are part of a bigger wetland the question of whether they are in themselves significant have not been addressed. The areas of Reserve Land covered by the wetland appear to be mostly forest associations. Some of the Maori Reserve lands have been assessed as not being functioning forest wetlands and have been removed from the Schedule on that basis (Draft Plan).