

Proposed Ototara Scientific Reserve

The reserve was acquired in 2020, following a successful Nature Heritage Fund application.

Why classify the reserve for 'scientific' purposes?

The Himatangi Beach foredune was recommended for protection in the Protected Natural Areas Programme report for the Foxton ecological district. The reserve is important as it is representative of the indigenous biodiversity, plant and animal communities that were originally present in this district.

It is part of the Manawatu dune system which has considerably reduced in extent. Protecting indigenous vegetation on dune systems is identified as a national priority by the Ministry for the Environment.

The main value of the reserve is an ephemeral wetland that contains the largest known population of *Pimelea actea*, a Threatened-Nationally Critical plant that is now only known from two natural populations, both on this coastline. Other threatened coastal plants such as *Selliera rotundifolia*, *Coprosma acerosa* (sand coprosma), *Pimelea villosa* (sand daphne), *Eleocharis neozelandica* (sandspike sedge) *Isolepis basilaris* (pygmy clubrush) and *Ficinia spiralis* (pinigao) are present.

Banded dotterel and katipo are also found in the area.

A 'scientific' classification reflects the importance of this site and will allow management of the threatened plant species to enhance their populations.

Why name the reserve "Ototara"

Rangitāne o Manawatū advises that **Ototara** is the traditional name for this area. It is a Moana Tuna site signified by the number of old hangi pits surrounding it. It is also listed within the Rangitāne o Manawatū Deed of Settlement as a significant site along the Manawatu Coastline.



Figure 1: Location of reserve

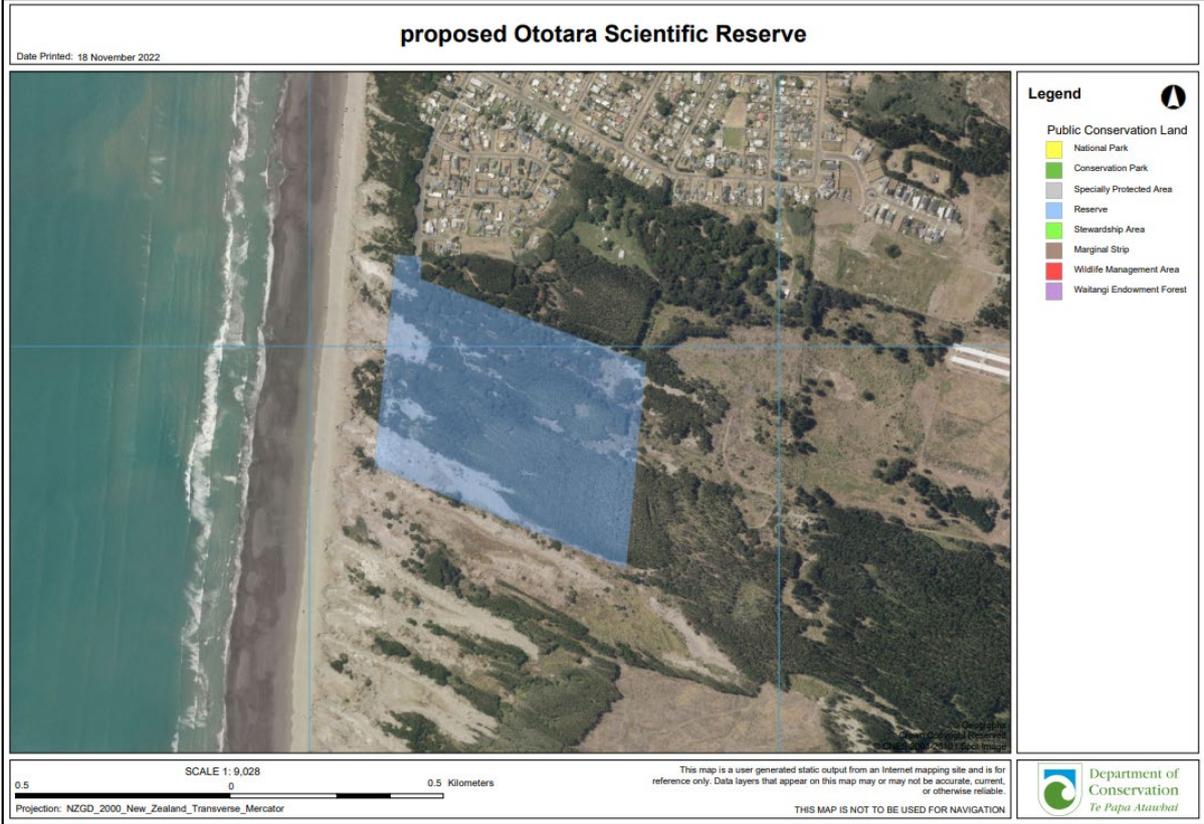


Figure 2: aerial view of reserve