

From: ruahineparkconsultation@doc.govt.nz
To: [David Bishop](#)
Subject: Ruahine Conservation Park consultation
Date: Wednesday, 28 January 2015 9:39:30 a.m.

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Commentsstatus: I object to the change of Status of 22 ha of the Ruahine Conservation Park.

I am against The Department of Conservation revoking part of the Ruahine Conservation Park. I think DOC should keep its 22 ha of Ruahine Conservation Park and DOC should buy the 146 hectares of private land "Smedley Exchange Block" and include it as part of the Ruahine Conservation Park.

The 146 hectares of private land "Smedley Exchange Block" should be protected long term.

If the DOC changes the status of 22 ha of the Ruahine Conservation Park and it is given to the Hawke's Bay Regional Investment Company in exchange for 146 hectares of private land and the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme is built, not only DOC's 22 hectares of precious and ecologically significant indigenous vegetation and habitat utilised by threatened and At Risk Species be lost and the fauna who inhabit this disturbed or killed, but overall the total area affected by flooding, the dam structure and spoil disposal is approximately 450.18 ha.

A total of 185.18 ha of ecologically significant indigenous vegetation and habitats would be flooded by the proposed reservoir, or covered over by associated infrastructure including the dam structure, new access tracks and soil disposal sites. This comprises of:

- 80.71 ha of mature and secondary indigenous forest including a number of trees which would be in excess of 300 years old and one At-Risk plant species the red mistletoe.
- Loss of significant terrestrial indigenous vegetation. This is the area of ecologically significant indigenous vegetation covered by the dam and reservoir footprint, which is calculated to be 106.10 ha
- Edge effects. The assumed detectable edge effects area which would be adversely affected is 10 ha
- Braided river habitat. The area of braided river habitat (gravel river bed) lost under the reservoir and dam footprint is calculated to be 73.97 ha
- Wetland habitat. The area of ecologically significant wetland and seep zone habitat which would be lost is estimated to be 5.11 ha
- Loss of habitat for Threatened and At Risk Species. Loss of significant habitat for seven At Risk and Threatened terrestrial fauna and flora species would result as a consequence of the dam and reservoir, equating to 185.18 ha

A total of 38 bird species (11 endemic) were identified at the proposed reservoir locality during formal field surveys. Of all individual birds formally observed 55% were native and 45% introduced. Threatened or At Risk species comprise 2.5% of all observations, including one pair of nesting and Nationally Vulnerable New Zealand bush falcon, and one adult banded dotterel with a chick. Nationally 'At Risk' species detected were pied stilt, New Zealand pipit, black shag and North Island fernbird.

- Loss of habitat for some indigenous aquatic species that are unlikely to find the reservoir habitat suitable for them
- Loss of trout spawning habitat in the areas occupied by the dam and reservoir
- Loss of fish passage beyond the proposed dam to the upper bounds of the Makaroro River and Dutch Creek
- Changes to the flow regime of the Makaroro and Waipawa Rivers; in particular, upstream of Caldwell Road with a consequent adverse effect on the invertebrate population and trout spawning in those reach.
- Loss of the established walking track from the end of Wakarara Road, across the Makaroro River, to the DOC tracks extending throughout the Ruahine Forest Park.

For this reason alone the RWSS should not be built as no amount of mitigation, remediation or offset can truly replace the natural and Indigenous environment and the Indigenous Biodiversity that would be lost or disturbed. This can be avoided by not changing the status of 22 ha of the Ruahine Conservation Park and giving it to the Hawke's Bay Regional Investment Company in exchange for 146 hectares of private land.

Changing the status of 22 ha of the Ruahine Conservation Park and exchanging it so a Dam can be built causing 450.18 ha of damage to the indigenous and natural environment is inconsistent with the proposed National Policy on Indigenous Biodiversity and The Draft Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Strategy and The New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, many of the policies in Conservation General Policy and various international agreements NZ has signed on biodiversity and conservation. This was confirmed by the Board of Inquiry's Tukituki Catchment Proposal Volume 1, final Report and Decision, Volume 1, page 366 [1231]:
"Considered in isolation the RWSS would not meet s 6 (c) and it would be inconsistent with the proposed National Policy on Indigenous Biodiversity."

There are other options and alternative methods for farmers and growers to farm sustainably so as not to degrade the environment. There are many other factors that influence their prosperity besides lack of water.

There are better ways to protect and improve both the rivers and natural environments. People must learn to live sustainably and not exploit our resources to their utmost limits. Ecologically significant indigenous vegetation and habitat utilised by threatened and At Risk Species should not be sacrificed to allow for Dams to be built. No amount of mitigation and remediation could make up for this abhorrent proposed, planned destruction that will take place if the RWSS is built. It will be a terrible catastrophe to cause such destruction of our precious natural and Indigenous environment.

If farmers want irrigation water they could build their own water storage, on their own land.. NIWA are now predicting more heavy rainfall in the decades ahead for Hawke's Bay so there could be opportunities for farmers and growers to capture that rain.

My views are that the Draft Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Strategy and the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy are good and hopefully the aims can be achieved. Throughout reading of the documents foremost in my mind is the building of the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme, (DAM) on the Makaroro River and the destruction of our precious natural environment this will cause. The most imminent threat to the Biodiversity of HB is the building of the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme, (DAM) on the Makaroro River. If this can't be acknowledged and the dam is built and destruction of our precious natural and Indigenous environment happens, then there is no hope for the biodiversity of HB, the Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Strategy, and the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.

It would also put the Department of Conservation in a very bad light. Many people would think it's not doing what it should. Conservation means the preservation and protection of natural and historic resources!!

Commentsexchange: I am against The Department of Conservation revoking part of the Ruahine Conservation Park and exchanging it for 146 hectares of private land ("Smedley Exchange Block") I think DOC should keep its 22 ha of Ruahine Conservation Park and DOC should buy the 146 hectares of private land ("Smedley Exchange Block") and include it as part of the Ruahine Conservation Park.

The 146 hectares of private land "Smedley Exchange Block" should be protected long term. All the remaining indigenous fauna and flora and natural rivers in New Zealand and Hawke's Bay are precious and should be protected and cared for.

It is not a fair exchange because if DOC changes the status of 22 ha of the Ruahine Conservation Park and it is given to the Hawke's Bay Regional Investment Company in exchange for 146 hectares of private land and the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme is built, not only DOC's 22 hectares of precious and ecologically significant indigenous vegetation and habitat utilised by threatened and At Risk Species be lost and the fauna who inhabit this disturbed or killed, but overall the total area affected by flooding, the dam structure and spoil disposal is approximately 450.18 ha. This would be a great loss for all the world. No amount of mitigation, remediation or offset can truly replace the natural and indigenous environment and the Indigenous Biodiversity that would be lost or disturbed.

Personaldetailsremoved: No
Hearing: Maybe
emailsubmission: Yes