

**Response to the 'Assessment of proposed land exchange between Ruahine Forest Park revocation land and proposed Smedley Exchange Block in relation to Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme' report –
Additional photos**

Te Taiao Hawke's Bay Environment Forum

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Introduction

The photos presented here are of the Makaroro and Dutch Creek land parcels which together form the Doc Exchange Area. The photos submitted support statements made within Te Taiao Hawke's Bay Environment Forums' response to the Doc's Ecological report - May 2015.

1. Wetlands within the Doc Exchange Area have been under-represented within the Doc report. Fig 1 & 2 shows that there are two wetland areas within the Makaroro land parcel, on the eastern and western sections of the parcel. Fig 3 & 4 show that there are significant seepages and riparian vegetation within Dutch Creek.
2. The Doc report does not acknowledge regeneration of indigenous vegetation on the Makaroro land parcel. Fig 5 shows large beech trees and podocarps are present on the Makaroro land parcel. The photo also shows that the Makaroro land parcel has regenerating kahikatea
3. The Ecological Significance section of the Doc report does not acknowledge the large beech trees and regenerating podocarps found within Dutch Creek, Doc Exchange Area. Kessels *et al.* Terrestrial Ecological Report describes the beech forest, such as that in the Dutch Creek, as having 'podocarps such as matai, kahikatea, rimu, totara and miro are also frequently regenerating in the lower tiers of this forest type.'¹ Furthermore the red mistletoe photo insert in the Terrestrial Ecological Report explains 'Red mistletoe (*Peraxilla tetrapetala*) growing on a large black beech at Dutch Creek'². Fig 6 shows a Google map of the Dutch Creek indicating that large beech trees are present in Dutch Creek, Doc Exchange Area. Podocarps are also likely to be present in the lower tiers of this forest.

¹ Kessels *et al.* Terrestrial Ecological Report pg 15

² Kessels *et al.* Terrestrial Ecological Report pg 21

Fig 1: Wetland vegetation on the eastern side of the Makaroro land parcel. Orange tinted reeds in fore-ground are *Eleocharis acuta* and the clumps of fern are *Blechnum novae-zelandiae*.



Fig 2: Braided river habitat and adjacent wetland vegetation (indicated by arrows) within the western side of the Makaroro land parcel.



Fig 3: Dutch Creek with seepage and riparian habitat present.



Fig 4: Seepage and riparian vegetation within Dutch Creek



Fig 5: Regeneration within Makaroro land parcel. Note that large beech trees and podocarps are present and young kahikatea (left of photo) are regenerating.



Fig 6 Google map indicating Conservation land parcel (arrows) with large beech trees. Podocarps are likely to present in the lower tiers of this forest. Large beech and emergent podocarps are also present on Crown Forest land nearby (box).

