

PEKAPEKA WETLAND

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IMG 201



Pekapeka is a palustrine wetland (from the Latin word 'palus' meaning marsh) with inputs of groundwater, and surface water from Poukawa Stream. The wetland is part of what used to be a much larger system covering most of the flat land in the Poukawa basin and out into the Heretaunga plains.

Location

Pekapeka wetland is located next to State Highway 2 and the Palmerston North - Gisborne railway, approximately 12km southwest of Hastings. It has an area of approximately 90 hectares, is 4.7km long and 800m wide at its widest point.

Development

This wetland has undergone major hydrological modifications caused by drainage for farming. This has allowed fast growing willow trees to grow and increase the rate of evapotranspiration reducing water levels further. Drier ground allows weeds to colonise and reduces habitat for fish.

Restoration

Pekapeka is currently being rehabilitated as it is now recognised as a valuable asset in Hawkes Bay for its cultural, historical, ecological and recreational attributes.



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