

# Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges wetlands

## Summary of Values

For Proposed Plan Change 7: Hawke's Bay Regional  
Resource Management Plan  
(Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change)

## **Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges wetlands - Summary of Values**

### **For Proposed Plan Change 7: Hawke's Bay Regional Resource Management Plan (Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change)**

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Author:  
Belinda Harper, Senior Planner

Reviewed by:  
Gavin Ide, Principal Advisor Strategic Planning



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## Purpose of Report

1. This report is a compilation of information previously documented on the values associated with the Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges wetlands during preparation of Proposed Plan Change 7 prior to its notification on 31 August 2019. It is one of a series of similar reports compiled for each of the respective proposed outstanding water bodies (OWB) identified in Plan Change 7.
2. The approach used by Hawke's Bay Regional Council to identify OWB in Hawke's Bay followed a process that began with a high level review documenting the values associated with 130 water bodies across the region. A short explanation is provided at the beginning of each section which discusses the relevant phase and whether the Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges wetlands were considered during that part of the process.
3. Not all OWB identified in Proposed Plan Change 7 were considered during each phase of the process. For clarity, an index table (Table 1) has been included in this report which sets out the relevant phases, report names, values and page numbers for the Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges wetlands.
4. No new research or further information was commissioned for the purposes of compiling this report.
5. For further information on the Outstanding Water Body Identification Methodology and each of these phases, see the Plan Change 7 Section 32 Evaluation Report<sup>1</sup>.

**Table 1: Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges wetlands index**

Phase	Included (yes/no)	Report name /date	Page numbers in associated report
High Level Review (Phase 1 & Phase 2)	No	Summary of Cultural Values Associated with Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay (March 2018)	N/A
		Summary of the Recreation, Landscape and Ecology Values Associated with Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay (March 2018)	N/A
Secondary Assessments (Phase 3)	No	N/A	N/A
Local Expert Panel (Phase 4)	Yes	Outstanding Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay - Report of the Expert Panel (April 2019)	68
Final Evaluation (Phase 5)	Yes	Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change - selecting a list of outstanding water bodies in Hawke's Bay (May 2019)	28, 29, 94, 107

## Plan Change 7 Overview

6. Hawke's Bay Regional Council has prepared an amendment to the Hawke's Bay Regional Resource Management Plan (RRMP) to include a list of the region's outstanding water bodies, together with a framework which prescribes a high level of protection for these water bodies in future plan making. That change to the RRMP is referred to as 'Proposed Plan Change 7' or the 'Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change.'
7. The water bodies identified in the Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change have been proposed as the 'best of the best' within the region, featuring an exceptional cultural, spiritual, recreation, natural character, landscape, geology, or ecology value which is remarkable in Hawke's Bay.
8. Since commencing this OWB plan change project in early 2017, a significant amount of work has been undertaken to build a clearer picture of water bodies within the region and their potential for being classed as outstanding.
9. The Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change amends the RPS to reflect NPSFM provisions which require the protection of the significant values of outstanding water bodies. This special protection does not lessen the importance of, or value associated with other water bodies, which are managed through other parts of the Regional Resource Management Plan or Council work programme.
10. Further information about the background and purpose of proposed Plan Change 7 is online at [www.hbrc.govt.nz](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz) (search #owb).

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Outstanding-Water-Bodies/1.-Other-supporting-information/Section-32-Evaluation-Report.pdf>

## **Phase One & Phase Two: High Level Review & Summary of Values**

11. In June 2017, the Council embarked on a high level review documenting the cultural, spiritual, recreation, landscape, geological, natural character and ecology values associated with 130 water bodies across the region.
12. Phase 1 involved a thorough review of over ninety documents being completed. Those documents included Deeds of Treaty Settlements, statutory acknowledgements for Treaty settlements, customary uses reports, Waitangi Tribunal reports, and other documents produced in a national and regional context between 1979 and 2018.
13. This work built a clear picture of values associated with a wide range of water bodies across the region and their potential for being classified as outstanding. Phase 2 was the culmination of this work in a literature review with the following two tables summarising key values associated with 130 of the region's water bodies:
  - Table C1: Cultural Values Table – Summary of Cultural Values Associated with Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay.
  - Table R2: Recreation, landscape, Ecology Values Table – Summary of the Recreation, Landscape and Ecology Values Associated with Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay.
14. Table C1 included all water bodies identified by name in reviewed documents, with a high level summary of the associated 'cultural and spiritual values'. This work was sent out to all Treaty settlement entities in Hawke's Bay in December 2017 for input prior to completion.
15. Table R2 included all water bodies identified by name in reviewed documents, with a high level summary of their recreation, landscape, geology and ecology values, and associated ratings assigned in these documents.
16. No information regarding the Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges wetlands was found during the high level review. As such, these water bodies do not feature in Tables C1 or R2.

## **Phase Three: Refine List & Secondary Assessments**

17. In 2018, the high level review findings for 130 water bodies, and their associated values, were reported to the Council's Regional Planning Committee (RPC). The RPC selected a shortlist of 22 candidate OWB to proceed forward a more detailed secondary assessment to see if any contained values that were clearly superior to other water bodies in Hawke's Bay.
18. The Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges wetlands were not selected as a candidate OWB as such, a secondary assessment was not carried out for this water body.

## **Phase Four: Engagement & Local Expert Panel Process**

19. Phase 4 involved wider input from the public, iwi authorities, key stakeholders and territorial local authorities. Feedback from this process featured requests for an additional 20 water bodies to be identified as OWB.
20. In December 2018, Council staff contracted a local expert panel to evaluate, categorise and identify outstanding characteristics, for all value sets, from the list of 22 candidate OWB and the additional 20 water bodies put forward during engagement.
21. The local expert panel was appointed via nominations by key stakeholders, iwi authorities and city and district councils, and comprised six members<sup>2</sup> with good knowledge of the Hawke's Bay region.
22. The recommendations made by the panel were based on existing information, their local knowledge, and a set of assessment criteria they developed at their first meeting. The assessment criteria used by the panel to identify outstanding features is set out at the beginning of each subsection for each value set.
23. The expert panel concluded there was insufficient information available to carry out an assessment of the Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges wetlands

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<sup>2</sup> Morry Black (Mauri Protection Agency), Matt Brady (DOC), John Cheyne (Te Taiao Environment), Andrew Curtis (Water Strategies Limited), Bernie Kelly (kayaking rep), Tom Winlove (Fish & Game Hawke's Bay)

## **Phase Five: Final Evaluation & Overview**

24. Phase Five saw a final evaluation carried out to assist the Council's Regional Planning Committee to select a list of outstanding water bodies in Hawke's Bay, for inclusion in Proposed Plan Change 7.
25. This work summarised the key values of 42 water bodies nominated during Phases 3 and 4, and informed by
  - The secondary assessments
  - local expert panel findings
  - the values summary reports, and
  - stakeholder engagement.
26. The summary was presented by value-type, based on the work to date and in a format consistent with the direction given by Council.
27. Appendix 1 sets out the relevant extracts from the final evaluation for the Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges wetlands.

# Appendix 1: Final Evaluation - Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges wetlands

*Note: Appendix 1 contains extracts only - for further information please refer to the full report.*



## Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change Selecting a list of outstanding water bodies in Hawke's Bay

HBRC Report Number: SD19-18  
Publication Number: 5400



## Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change

### Selecting a list of outstanding water bodies in Hawke's Bay

HBRC Report Number: SD19-18  
Publication Number: 5400

Prepared by:

**Belinda Harper, Senior Planner**

**Dale Meredith, Senior Planner**

Reviewed by:

**Ceri Edmonds: Policy and Planning**

**Dale Meredith: Senior Planner**

**Tom Skerman: Group Manager Strategic Planning**



## **Ecology values**

### **Wildlife**

The wetlands situated in the Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges were put forward for consideration as outstanding water bodies by the Department of Conservation. With the exception of Lakes Rototuna and Rotoroa, which are discussed separately in this report, no information could be found on these wetlands.

The local expert panel's report did not discuss the wetlands in the Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges. Appendix 6 sets out the full findings of the local expert panel.

## **Cultural and Spiritual values**

The local expert panel found that there was insufficient information to assess these wetlands for and outstanding values.

At the time of writing, iwi authorities had not provided any comment specific to the Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges wetlands.