

Taruarau River



Key Values

Cultural

Recreation (trout fishing)

Ecology (aquatic biodiversity values)

Natural character

Table 1: List of documents reviewed

| Year | Name | Author |
|------|--|--|
| 1981 | New Zealand Recreational River Survey | G & J Egarr |
| 1984 | The Relative Value of Hawke's Bay Rivers to New Zealand Anglers | Fisheries Research Division - N.Z. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries |
| 1986 | A List of Rivers and Lakes Deserving Inclusion in A Schedule of Protected Waters | Grindell & Guest |
| 1994 | Headwater Trout Fisheries in New Zealand | NIWA |
| 2004 | Potential Water Bodies of National Importance | Ministry for the Environment |
| 2010 | Taruarau / Napier-Taihape Rd to Whanawhana, IV | Whitewater NZ forum |
| 2012 | River Values Assessment System (RiVAS) | Lindis Consulting |
| 2015 | An Application to the Minister for the Environment for a Water Conservation Order on the Ngaruroro River and Clive River | Catalyst Group |
| 2015 | Copy Supporting an Application for Water Conservation Order on the Ngaruroro River from Whitewater New Zealand | Whitewater New Zealand |
| 2016 | Inventory of Values in the TANK Catchments of Hawke's Bay | Cawthron Institute |
| 2016 | New Zealand Geo-preservation Inventory | Geological Society of New Zealand |
| 2017 | The 2017-2018 Trout Fishing Season | Fish and Game New Zealand |
| 2018 | Cultural Values Table | Hawke's Bay Regional Council |

Discussion

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to assist the RPC members to determine whether any of the values of the Taruarau River are outstanding for the purposes of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM).
2. This report presents the summarised findings of the values attributed to the Taruarau River in those documents referred to in Table 1, above.

Overview

3. The Taruarau River rises in the Kaimanawa Ranges flowing south across rolling tussock country for around 70 km before it joins the Ngaruroro River. The river is highly valued for kayaking and salmonid angling.
4. The Taruarau River is very scenic and begins by meandering through extensive tussock grasslands, before traveling through scrub lined valleys with striking rocky overhangs. The river drops into an enclosed gorge before flowing into the Ngaruroro River around 20 km upstream of Whanawhana.
5. The area has a high degree of natural character, with the exception of some extensive pastoral farming which occurs on around 10% of the catchment area.

Location

6. The Taruarau River is located approximately 100 km northwest of Napier on the east coast of the North Island. The Taruarau River is part of the Ngaruroro catchment and is a major tributary of the Ngaruroro River.
7. The location and extent of the Taruarau River is shown in Figures 1 and 2, below.

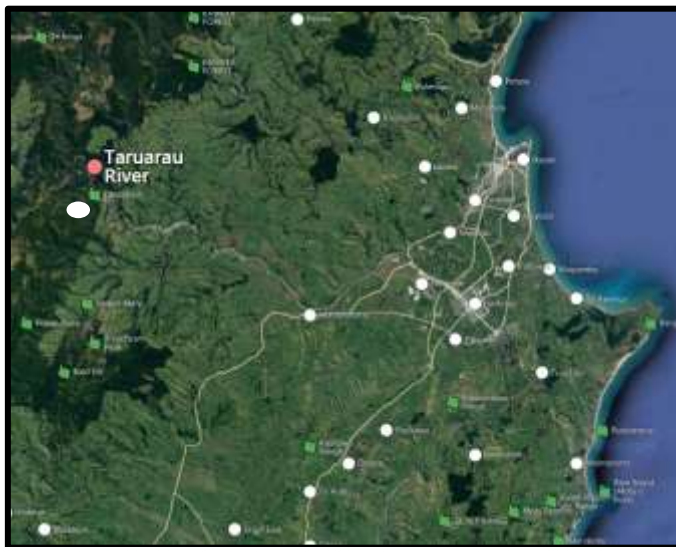


Figure 1: Location of Taruarau River

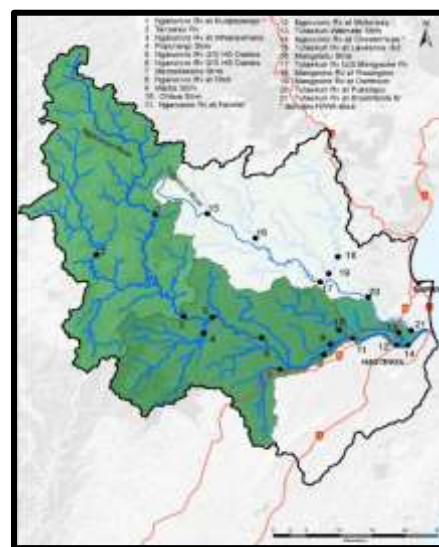


Figure 2: Extent of Taruarau River (Number 2)

Cultural values

8. The Taruarau River is located within the traditional boundary of two Treaty Settlement Entities - Heretaunga Tamatea and Ngāti Tūwharetoa.
9. The river is associated with the early origins of Kahungunu and iwi associations with the Ruahine Range. From the deed of settlement documents:

At the place where the Ikawetea River flows into the Tāruarau River there is a large rock where it is said that Kahungunu sat and watched for upokororo. This place thereafter was named Te Upokororo-o-Kahungunu. Some accounts record that it was at Te Upokororo o Kahungunu that Tamatea's mōkai named Pohokura escaped. Other accounts suggest Tamatea released Pohokura at this place. Pohokura has continued to inhabit the range and is a kaitiaki for Tamatea's descendants - particularly for those hapū that inhabited the lower forest and foothills.

10. Attachment 1 contains a more detailed description of the cultural values associated with the Taruarau River.

Recreation values

11. The main recreational activities which take place on the Taruarau River are angling and kayaking. The river can be rafted however reviewed literature does not discuss how often rafting takes place. The river is wild and scenic which adds to the recreational value of the river.
12. The recreational activities which take place on the Taruarau River are discussed in more detail below.

Angling

13. The Taruarau River is a high quality wilderness trout fishery which is highly used by anglers living in Hawke's Bay. It is a mixed fishery which is dominated by rainbow trout. The average weight of trout is around 1.5 kg, with some larger trophy trout present in the river.
14. In 1984, a report by the Fisheries Research Division identified the Taruarau River as a wilderness fishery of local importance. The report describes the Taruarau River as one of the most remote and inaccessible rivers in the district, with large fish, and a low catch rate, which is thought to be of exceptional value by the anglers who fish there.
15. In 1994, the Taruarau River was identified by NIWA as a Category A headwater trout fishery which contains trophy trout and fishes well all season. There are a total of eighteen Category A headwater fisheries in the North Island, eighty one in New Zealand.
16. In 2012, the Taruarau River, was identified as regionally significant in the Hawke's Bay RiVAS assessments for salmonid angling.
17. In 2013, results from the National Angling Survey show the Taruarau River as being within the top 3% of New Zealand rivers most enjoyed by anglers. The enjoyment score is considered to be a reasonable proxy for the importance of a fishery on a national scale in the survey.

Boating

18. The Taruarau River is a technical whitewater run which can be used by experienced kayakers and rafters. The river contains a steep and difficult gorge which is only able to be kayaked during high flows.
19. The whitewater is challenging, with the Taruarau River starting off small and then gaining momentum and volume as it proceeds through several narrow winding canyons with drops, twists, chutes and waterfalls. The river contains predominately Class 4 rapids.
20. The River is accessed from the Napier-Taihape Road, offering a long one day trip or a two day trip with a stopover in Shutes Hut.
21. In 1981, the New Zealand Recreational River Survey assigned the recreational and scenic values of the Taruarau River a 'low'¹ and 'impressive'² rating, respectively. At the time the Taruarau River was seldom used for boating due to the number of high grade technical rapids.

Ecology values

22. The Taruarau River flows through a variety of natural landscapes, from areas of rolling tussock country which are very barren and dry to rugged and isolated areas surrounded by scrubland. Given the lack of development pressures in the surrounding area the river is expected to be in a near natural state with high ecological values.
23. In 2004, the Taruarau River was identified as a Potential Water Body of National Importance for aquatic biodiversity values by the Ministry for the Environment.

¹ Recreational values graded on a five point scale: insignificant, low, intermediate, high, exceptional

² Scenic values graded on a six point scale: dull, uninspiring, moderate, picturesque, impressive, exceptional.

Fisheries

24. The Taruarau River provides a highly valued habitat for introduced fish species supporting good populations of both rainbow and brown trout which are self-sustaining. The river is a key source of the rainbow trout population in the Ngaruroro River.
25. The Taruarau River did not specifically feature in the RiVAS assessment undertaken in Hawke's Bay for native fish.

Wildlife

26. No information could be found about the wildlife present in the Taruarau River, and the river did not feature in the RiVAS assessment undertaken in Hawke's Bay for native birdlife.

Macroinvertebrates

27. In 2013 and 2014, Hawke's Bay Regional Council monitored the freshwater ecology of the Taruarau River to provide further information for the TANK plan change (see Table 3). The macroinvertebrate measures in Table 2 are an indicator of stream health where generally, the higher the Macroinvertebrate Community Index, taxa richness and percent EPT, the better the health of the stream.
28. The monitoring results show that the ecological health of the Taruarau River at this location is excellent, with no pollution occurring.

Table 2: Macroinvertebrate sampling results – Taruarau River (2013, 2014)

| Monitoring site | Macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI) | Classification | Taxonomic richness | Percent EPT ³ richness |
|-----------------|---|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Taruarau River | MCI > 121/125 | Excellent | 25/29 | 55.2% |

Note: Regional Councils use a classification from Stark & Maxted (2007) for MCI sampling, assigning a rating of either excellent, good, fair or poor for ecological health and/or habitat condition.

Landscape / scenic values

29. The Taruarau River flows through a variety of natural landscapes, from areas of rolling tussock country which are very barren and dry to rugged and isolated areas surrounded by scrubland and pine forests. The river flows through some impressive gorges which rocky overhangs.
30. In 1981, the New Zealand Recreational River Survey assigned the scenic value of the Taruarau River an "impressive"⁴ rating.
31. Photographs of the Taruarau River are contained in Attachment 2.

Geological features

32. The Taruarau River is a steep sided convoluted river which meanders at a depth of around 400 m through greywacke mountains.
33. The National Geo-preservation Inventory, which identifies and ranks geological features according to their relative significance, identifies the Taruarau River as containing one of the two best gorges in Hawke's Bay, listing this feature as regionally significant.

³ EPT stands for Ephemeroptera (mayfly), Plecoptera (stonefly) and Trichoptera (caddisfly), and are macroinvertebrates which are sensitive to water pollution.

⁴ Scenic values graded on a six point scale: dull, uninspiring, moderate, picturesque, impressive, exceptional.

Naturalness/intactness of waterbody

34. The area has a high degree of natural character, with the exception of some extensive pastoral farming which occurs on around 10% of the catchment area.
35. In 2012, the Taruarau River was identified as nationally significant in the Hawke's Bay RiVAS assessments for natural character. Specifically, the reports states the Taruarau River had a high degree of natural character, owing to its very low level of modification.

Water Quality

36. Hawke's Bay Regional Council regularly monitored the Taruarau River during 2013 and 2014 to provide further information for the TANK plan change (see Table 3). Due to limited access, the monitoring site was not able to be placed at the bottom of the catchment, as such the following results only capture part of the influences in the catchment.
37. Monitoring results show the Taruarau River has excellent water quality at this location.

Table 3: Water quality – Taruarau River (2013, 2014)

| Monitoring site | Water clarity | Nitrogen | Phosphorus | Microbiological Indicator (<i>E. coli</i>) |
|-----------------|--|---|---|--|
| Kuripapango | Turbidity = 1.5 NTU; Black disk = 3.9 metres. | Total Nitrogen = 0.051 g/m ³ ; Total Oxidised Nitrogen = 0.017 g/m ³ (Annual median) and 0.0275 g/m ³ (95 th percentile); Ammoniacal Nitrogen = 0.005 g/m ³ (Annual median) | Dissolved Phosphorus = 0.002 g/m ³ , Total Phosphorus = 0.002 g/m ³ . | Reactive Phosphorus = 0.002 g/m ³ NOF Band A E. coli = 13 cfu/100ml |

Values Summary

| Overarching Value | Sub-value | Description | Outstanding Yes/no | Comments |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|----------|
| Cultural | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| Recreational | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| Ecological | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| Landscape | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| Natural Character | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |

3. Statutory Acknowledgement Area of Interest



Figure1: Heretaunga Tamatea Area of Interest

4. Resource Management Plans

The following tables list any relevant resource management plans developed by either the regional council or territorial authorities. The tables include any specific provisions that apply to them. They do not include all of the general policies or rules that may apply to them. Water quantity provisions have been included as it is recognised that these aspects can significantly impact on cultural values.

Iwi and Hapu Resource Management Plans

Kahungunu ki Uta, Kahungunu ki Tai & Freshwater Fishes Strategic Plan

Mana Ake An Expression of Kaitiakitanga, Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga

Attachment 2: Photographs - Taruarau River

