

Central and East Northland

Horahora Dune lake (East Northland), NRC Lake No. 199B



Horahora Dune Lake, Ngunguru

Summary 2008

Overall ranking

Moderate: Isolated, with some endangered birds. Water body very shallow, dominated by the introduced swamp lily.

Threats

High risk of drying completely.

Management recommendations

No further monitoring.

Description

Horahora Dune lake (1736048E, 6051806N) was almost dry when visited, with two shallow (0.5 m deep) ponds <1ha in area. The lake is situated on the northern side of the Horahora River mouth accessed through private Maori land. The catchment was rough pasture and scrub, with a 3 ha wetland fringe around some of the lake.

Wetland vegetation

Some areas of *Eleocharis sphacelata* were present within the lake. This and other species including *Eleocharis acuta*, *Machaerina articulata*, *Cyperus ustulatus*, *Persicaria* spp. and *Alternanthera sessilis* were present in the wetland.

Submerged vegetation

The lake was dominated by the introduced swamp lily (*Ottelia ovalifolia*), with *Myriophyllum propinquum*, *Potamogeton cheesemanii* and *Ludwigia palustris* in the shallows.

Water birds

The wetland provided good bird habitat. The endangered fernbird (*Bowdleria punctata vealeae*) and bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) were seen as well as the more common mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), coot (*Fulica atra*) and paradise duck (*Tadornia variegata*).

Fish

Shortfin eels (*Anguilla australis*) were present.

Aquatic invertebrates

Sigara arguta were common.

Endangered species

Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) are classed as Nationally Critical.

Lake Ecological Value

Lake Ecological Value score of 3 "Low" with low diversity and a pasture/scrub catchment.

Threats

The water level in the lake is now very low, apparently reducing over the past 30 years (pers. comm. owner). Further falls in water level will completely drain the waterbody.

Management recommendations

No further monitoring.