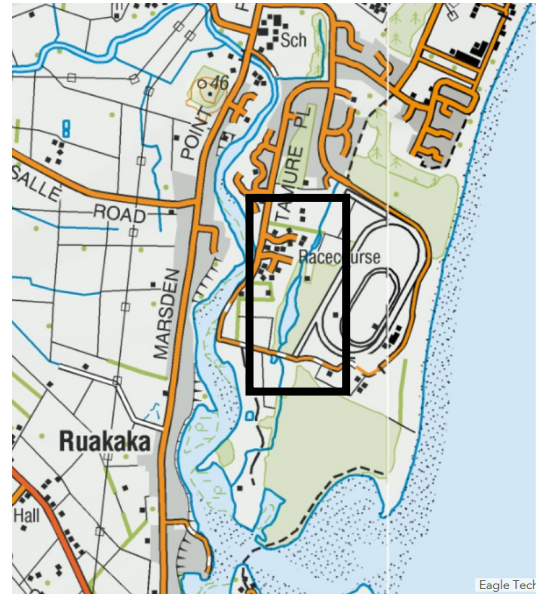


# Site, area, or landscape of significance to tangata whenua work sheet

Tangata whenua group: Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust Board

Site, area, or landscape name Ruakaka Dune Lake



### **What are the values that should be protected?:**

Traditional uses as mahinga kai include

- Traditional harvest of tuna, freshwater fish and water fowl
- Source of weaving materials
- Source of rongoa (medicinal plants)

The area has been degraded over time, but the remnant dune lake still supports a range of biota. Remedial programmes are in place to enhance the biodiversity of the dune lake. This will enable future cultural harvest.

Further, taonga were often immersed in water or below the bed of a water body for several reasons. This included purposes such as curing wood for future use, or for hiding taonga for protection.

The values to be protected are:

- The biodiversity of the lake and of the ecological niche supported by the lake
- The integrity of the bed of the lake

### **Why is the site, area or landscape significant?**

Patuharakeke Hapū Environmental Management Plan 2014:

*Extensive wetlands and dune lakes throughout Mata, Ruakaka and Waipu were once teeming with tuna, kokopu, ducks, shags, crakes and rails. They were not only significant sources of kai for Patuharakeke, but sites for gathering rongoa species, weaving and building materials, and repositories for cultural and spiritual artefacts for the hapu. Wetlands are now almost completely drained and the last remaining and regionally significant Dune Lake is at risk from unfettered subdivision developments.*

*The last decade and a half has seen a proliferation of unfettered coastal subdivision and industrial and commercial estates in our rohe. This has taken place with little regard to infrastructure requirements and has had negative consequences for fresh and coastal water quality, natural character and our cultural landscapes and seascapes. Decision makers have allowed subdivision development to physically encroach upon high value sites such as the Ruakaka Dune Lake – adjacent to the Ruakaka Racecourse it is the only dune lake in Waipu Ecological District, and in fact the whole Eastern Northland Ecological Region.*

Intrinsically any such water body is of potential significance to tangata whenua. For Patuharakeke this is the sole remnant existing water body with these qualities, greatly increasing its significance.

## **What is the evidence of endorsement by the relevant tangata whenua community?**

Evidence of the significance is in the Patuharakeke Hapū Environmental Management Plan 2014. This includes, for instance:

### **5.5.2**

#### **Objectives**

.....

*b) Sound land management practices become the norm in our rohe with waterways, sites of significance, indigenous biodiversity and cultural landscapes protected from the adverse effects of vegetation clearance and commercial forestry operations.*

### **6.2**

#### **Objectives**

.....

*g) All mahinga kai sites in waterways in our rohe are managed, monitored and enhanced by Patuharakeke.*

## **7 TANE MAHUTA**

*Extensive wetlands and dune lakes throughout Mata, Ruakaka and Waipu were once teeming with tuna, kokopu, ducks, shags, crakes and rails. They were not only significant sources of kai for Patuharakeke, but sites for gathering rongoa species, weaving and building materials, and repositories for cultural and spiritual artefacts for the hapu. Wetlands are now almost completely drained and the last remaining and regionally significant Dune Lake is at risk from unfettered subdivision developments.*

### **9.3.2**

#### **Objectives**

*a) Healthy dune and beach ecology, safety for beach goers, and protection of sites of significance, natural character and amenity through collaborative management between Patuharakeke and the respective agencies.*

### **9.3.3**

#### **Policies**

*a) Customary access to the coastal environment is a customary right, not a privilege, and must be recognised and provided for independently from general public access.*

*b) Policies and plans prepared by statutory agencies must recognise the rights of access that Patuharakeke have:*

*vi. for the harvesting and collection of kai;*

*vii. to taonga prized for traditional, customary and cultural uses;*

Those sections of the Patuharakeke Hapū Environmental Management Plan provide further written evidence of the significance. That this is supported by the tangata whenua community is evidenced by the process of the plan development (emphasis added):

### **1.9.1**

#### ***Development***

*This plan was developed using the following key steps:*

- *Formation of a hapu “working party” to lead the review and update of the HEMP;*
- *A Desktop review of existing plan, other HEMPs and identification of gaps;*
- *An initial workshop to form the working party and allocate tasks;*
- ***One initial hui-a-hapu at the start of the work programme to seek hapu input on the vision and clarification/identify “resource” issues of significance to Patuharakeke;***
- *Four wananga/workshops with working party and other key hapu members to discuss draft provisions;*
- *Development of draft provisions (issues, objectives, policies and methods) for the HEMP;*
- ***A “report back” hui -a- hapu seeking ratification of draft plan with presentation of the issues of significance, policy direction and draft provisions to the wider hapu through hui for comment and endorsement;***
- *Presentation and circulation of the full draft for feedback and editorial review;*
- *Presentation of the completed HEMP to Local Authorities and Agencies.*

It should be noted that the Patuharakeke Hapū Environmental Management Plan has been lodged with the Northland Regional Council and hence must be taken into account in relevant plan changes, in this case in the review of the regional plan.