

## Poutō Peninsula

Otapuiti (Poutō), NRC Lake No. 806.



**Otapuiti.** Photo taken from the eastern shore, with dense emergent band of kuta (*Eleocharis sphacelata*). (Photo: Paul Champion 20 September 2018).

Summary	Otapuiti
<b>Surveyed:</b>	2018 (reconnaissance).
<b>Overall ranking:</b>	<b>Moderate:</b> A lake set in a wetland / scrub / dune complex covering the south-western Poutō Peninsula, which contains nationally significant populations of endangered biota. Submerged vegetation was lacking.
<b>Threats:</b>	Isolation and difficulty of access make the likelihood of pest introduction low. Water quality appeared poor with no submerged vegetation apparent.
<b>Management recommendations:</b>	No further monitoring.

### Description

A 4.2 ha dune lake (1696397E 5975719N) with an undetermined maximum depth, situated in a coastal scrub catchment, with an extensive wetland margin extending from the south-eastern margin of Mokeno. Access is very difficult, through manuka scrub and wetland vegetation, with no boat access.

### Wetland vegetation

The dominant emergent species was kuta (*Eleocharis sphacelata*), which formed a 25 m wide zone, extending to depths of 2 m, with occasional raupō (*Typha orientalis*) and rare invasive *Utricularia gibba*. Surrounding this emergent zone was a diverse wetland with *Carex secta*, *Machaerina articulata*, *M. juncea*, *M. arthrophylla*, *M. rubiginosa*, manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*), harakeke (*Phormium tenax*), ti kouka (*Cordyline australis*), *Thelypteris confluens*, *Isachne globosa* and *Hydrocotyle pterocarpa*.



**Wetland and emergent vegetation on the margin of Lake Otapuiti.** (Photo: Paul Champion 20 September 2018)

### Submerged vegetation

No submerged vegetation was observed.

### LakeSPI

Otapuiti is categorised as being non-vegetated with a LakeSPI Index of 0%.

### Water birds

Excellent bird habitat, although only four black swans (*Cygnus atratus*) were seen in 2018.

### Fish

No fish were seen in 2018.

### Aquatic invertebrates

No aquatic invertebrates were seen in 2018.

### Endangered species

The At Risk Naturally Uncommon marsh fern (*Thelypteris confluens*) was common, growing in the wetland.

### Lake Ecological Value

A preliminary ecological value rating of “7-moderate” was assigned to Otapuiti based on the largely indigenous catchment and entire emergent vegetation fringe including an At Risk endangered species. However, submerged vegetation was lacking, similar to the adjacent Whakaneke.

### Threats

Isolation and difficulty of access make the likelihood of pest introduction low. Water quality appeared poor with no submerged vegetation apparent.

### Management recommendations

No further monitoring is advocated.

