

Central and East Northland

Whau Dam (near Whangarei) NRC No. 206



The Whau Dam (left) and looking away from the dam (right).

Summary 2008

Overall ranking

Moderate-Low: Steep sided artificial lake of limited ecological value

Threats

None identified.

Management recommendations

No monitoring recommended.

Description

The Whau Dam (1716550E, 6047511N) was around 20 ha in area, a steep sided dam constructed for domestic water supply. The area was accessed by public road with gated access to the car park. The catchment was native bush.

Wetland vegetation

No wetland or emergent margin.

Submerged vegetation

Native species dominated with *Potamogeton ochreatus* the most abundant tall-growing species, with *Myriophyllum triphyllum* and *M. propinquum* and *P. cheesemanii* also present. A charophyte meadow of *Nitella* aff. *cristata* grew from 2 to 4.2 m deep.

Water birds

None seen.

Fish

None seen.

Aquatic invertebrates

None seen.

Endangered species

No endangered species were seen.

Lake Ecological Value

Lake Ecological Value score was 4 "Moderate to Low" based on the size and depth of the water body, with shallow water charophyte meadows present.

Threats

The dam was of very low ecological value and is unlikely to deteriorate further.

Management recommendations

No further monitoring.

Threats

As there was no boat access, the risk of invasive weed spread is limited and the rocky substrate and steep sides was not suited to extensive submerged weed beds.

Management recommendations

No monitoring recommended.