

Te Hiku

Waipopo (formerly Lake Katavich) (Aupouri), NRC Lake No. 103



Waipopo showing the pasture catchment and marginal emergent beds, predominantly of raupo. (2019).

Summary	Waipopo
Surveyed:	2005 and 2019.
Overall ranking:	Moderate: impacted by cattle grazing, no submerged, but bands of emergent vegetation around much of the lake, with heavy cattle pugging in two areas of shoreline. The water appears to be heavily nutrient enriched.
Threats:	Situated within a pasture catchment, with ready lake access to cattle. Invasive plants would currently have a limited impact on this degraded lake.
Management recommendations:	No monitoring recommended.

Description

This lake (1614995E, 6133225N) is 6.3 ha in area. The catchment is predominantly (90%) pasture with unimpeded cattle access to the lake, with some scrub and pine plantation to the west. A drain

enters the western end of this lake, but there is no outlet. Access is difficult, through farmland, with no boat access.

Wetland vegetation

There is a wide fringe of emergent vegetation comprised predominantly of *Typha orientalis*, *Eleocharis sphacelata*, *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* and *Machaerina articulata*.

Submerged vegetation

No submerged vegetation seen.

LakeSPI

No LakeSPI index generated.

Water birds

Some areas of dense, tall emergent vegetation providing good habitat for many aquatic birds, with DoC SSBI survey in 1991 recording several regionally significant spotless crake (*Porzana tabuensis plumbea*). Mallard ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*), paradise shelduck (*Tardorna variegata*), black swan (*Cygnus atratus*), Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) and white-faced heron (*Egretta novaehollandiae*) were seen during the 2019 survey.

Fish

The pest fish *Gambusia affinis* were seen in the lake. NIWA FBIS records common bullies (*Gobiomorphus cotidianus*) and shortfin eels (*Anguilla australis*). In 2019, the landowners described the liberation of 'snapper-like' fish into the lake. Possibly these could be rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*). As drains connect Waipopo and Waiparera, this could explain the 2001 record of this species from Waiparera.

Aquatic invertebrates

No aquatic invertebrates were noted.

Endangered species

No endangered species seen.

Lake Ecological Value

A 2016 Lake Ecological Value rating of 5 (Moderate - Low) was scored due to the narrow fringe of emergent species and lack of submerged vegetation.

Threats

Access is difficult but introduced pest plants would not threaten any significant habitat.

Water quality appears to be already very poor. The landowners are unwilling to fence off this lake or other water bodies on their property (discussion held in 2019).

Management recommendations

No monitoring is recommended.