



### Moanatuatua peat bog restoration



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Restoration of a 4ha area of peat bog next to Moanatuatua Scientific Reserve, Waipa District

Restoration of a 4 ha area of peat bog immediately adjacent to Moanatuatua Scientific Reserve, Waipa District.

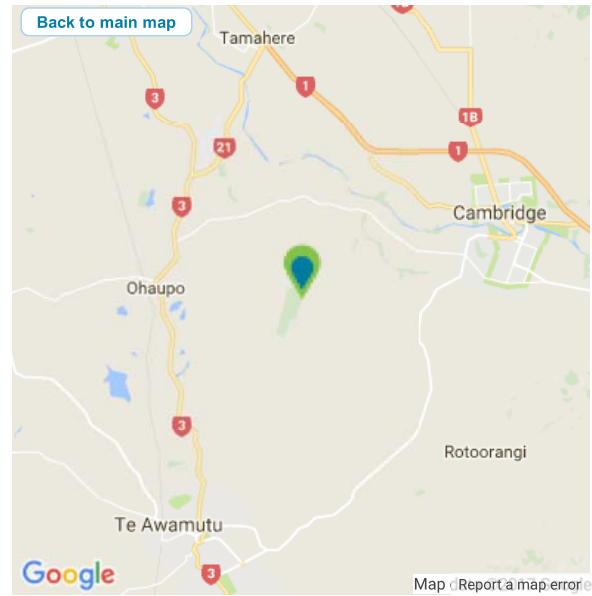
Moanatuatua peat bog once covered a vast area of the lower Waikato, but after intensive conversion to farmland only 1.5 per cent (114ha) of its original extent remains. The restoration will be a significant increase in the total native vegetation of the remaining wetland. The restoration area borders 1.2km of the Scientific Reserve edge, which means it will act as a buffer, protecting the Scientific Reserve from some of the environmental impacts of the surrounding farmland.

A pine plantation at this site was recently felled; the pine remains will be mulched to provide additional substrate for plants. Native shrubland plants, dominated by manuka, will be planted into the mulched ground. A drain that runs along the border will be retained to ensure the landowner's adjacent paddocks remain usable, but the drain will be contoured to reinstate a flood plain.

These alterations are designed to improve its suitability as native fish habitat, enhancing access for threatened fish fauna between Moanatuatua peat bog and the Waikato River. Fencing will be conducted to exclude livestock. Regular pest plant control will be required to ensure high planting success. This project will span three years, with mulching, planting and some weed control being conducted in the first year. The second and third years will consist of spring release (weed control) of plantings."

This project received funding from the Waikato River Authority (WRA 16-028).

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