

Comments on Matawii Water Storage Reservoir, Kaikohe, a listed project under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020

Application Name:	<i>Matawii Water Storage Reservoir, Kaikohe</i>
EPA Reference:	FTC000016
Applicant:	<i>Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust</i>
Comments due by:	21 September 2020
Accessing the application:	The Matawii Water Storage Reservoir Fast-track application can be accessed here : https://www.epa.govt.nz/fast-track-consenting/listed-projects/matawii-water-storage-reservoir/application/

To comment on the Matawii Water Storage Reservoir application using the form below, please fill in the details and:

- **Email** the form to matawiifasttrack@epa.govt.nz
Please mark in the subject line: “Comments on Matawii Fast Track Application (Your name/organisation)”; or
- **Post** the form to Matawii Fast-track Application, Environmental Protection Authority, Private Bag 63002, Waterloo Quay, Wellington 6140. Please ensure adequate time is given for the form to be received in time; or
- **Deliver in person** to Environmental Protection Authority, Grant Thornton House, Level 10, 215 Lambton Quay, Wellington. Please note that due to potential changes in COVID-19 Alert Levels our reception may not be open to the public. We suggest phoning ahead to check.

Comments must be received by the EPA, on behalf of the Panel, on 21 September 2020.

If your comment is not received by the EPA on 21 September 2020 the Panel is not required to consider your comment (although it may decide to). Under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 there is no right to seek a waiver of the time limit.

If you are an iwi authority you may share the consent application with hapū whose rohe is in the project area in the application, and choose to include comments from the hapū with any comments you may wish to provide.

Important information

Your personal information will be held by the EPA and used in relation to the Matawii Water Storage Reservoir application process. You have the right to access and correct personal information held by the EPA. A copy of your comments, including all personal information, will be provided to the Matawii Expert Consenting Panel and the applicant.

All comments received on the application will be available on the EPA website.

If you are a company making comments on this application, your full business contact details will be publicly available. For individuals, your name and any information you provide may be publicly available. Your contact details (phone number, address, and email) will not be publicly available.

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All information held by the EPA is subject to the Official Information Act 1982.

Comment on the Matawii Water Storage Reservoir, Kaikohe, Fast-track Application

Please complete all parts of this form

The Matawii Water Storage Reservoir, Kaikohe, Fast-track application can be accessed here

1. Contact Details

Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.

Organisation name (if relevant):	Far North District Council District Planning		
First name:	Greg		
Last name:	Wilson		
Postal address:			
Home phone / Mobile phone:		Work phone:	
Email:	Greg.wilson@fndc.govt.nz		

2. We will email you draft conditions of consent for your comment about this application.

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/fast-track-consenting/listed-projects/matawii-water-storage-reservoir/application/>



I can receive emails and my email address is correct



I cannot receive emails and my postal address is correct.

3. Please provide your comments on the Matawii Water Storage Reservoir, Kaikohe Fast-track Application

If you need more space, please attach additional pages. Please include your name, page numbers and Matawii Water Storage Reservoir, Kaikohe, Fast-track Application on the additional pages

Submission Point – Economic and Social Benefits of the Proposal

Please find a submission supporting the proposed Matawii storage reflecting on the potential positive contributions to the Far North economy and social wellbeing of Far North Communities.

Far North District Council has worked collaboratively with Regional Council and MBIE over the last few years to explore opportunities for secure water storage to enable production potential for the mid north. This is an area identified to contain highly versatile soils, that may allow for high value horticultural activities to be established. However, without a reliable water supply there are limits on what can be grown. Much of the land is thus suited only to dryland sheep and beef farming and dairy. Local farmers have a desire to diversify into higher value crops, however without a reliable water supply, summer drying and the threat of droughts prevents any major shift away from the status quo dry land farming.

The Matawii proposal offers the potential to improve community wellbeing by improving freshwater storage capacity, reducing the threat of drought, offering greater resilience in a distributed network of water storage and maximising economic development potential for the region.

A more reliable water supply will give land owners, including Māori, greater options to utilise their land. In particular, it is anticipated that the provision of water will facilitate a shift away from pastoral farming to market gardening and horticulture and in the process optimise the use of highly versatile soils

Optimising the land for production minimises the potential land uses that could impede rural economic production such as lifestyle housing. There is presently demand for horticultural expansion in Northland, however this expansion is dependent on the reliable supply of water.

There are also local comparable examples of the economic and social benefits of secure water storage with highly versatile soils away in Kerikeri, where the Kerikeri Irrigation Scheme has enabled high value rural production in the horticulture sector and associated employment benefits. There is opportunities through this proposal to expand the knowledge and networks across the district and grow the overall economic performance of the district.

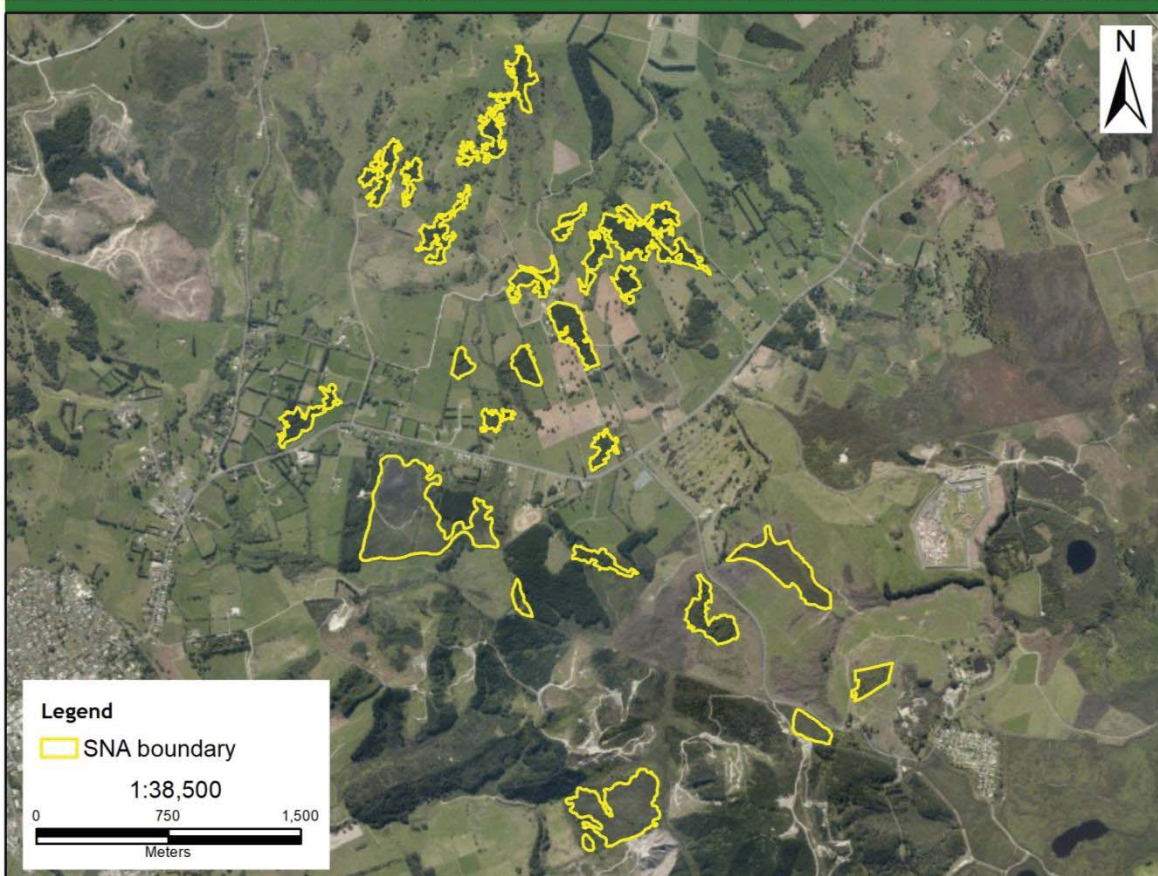
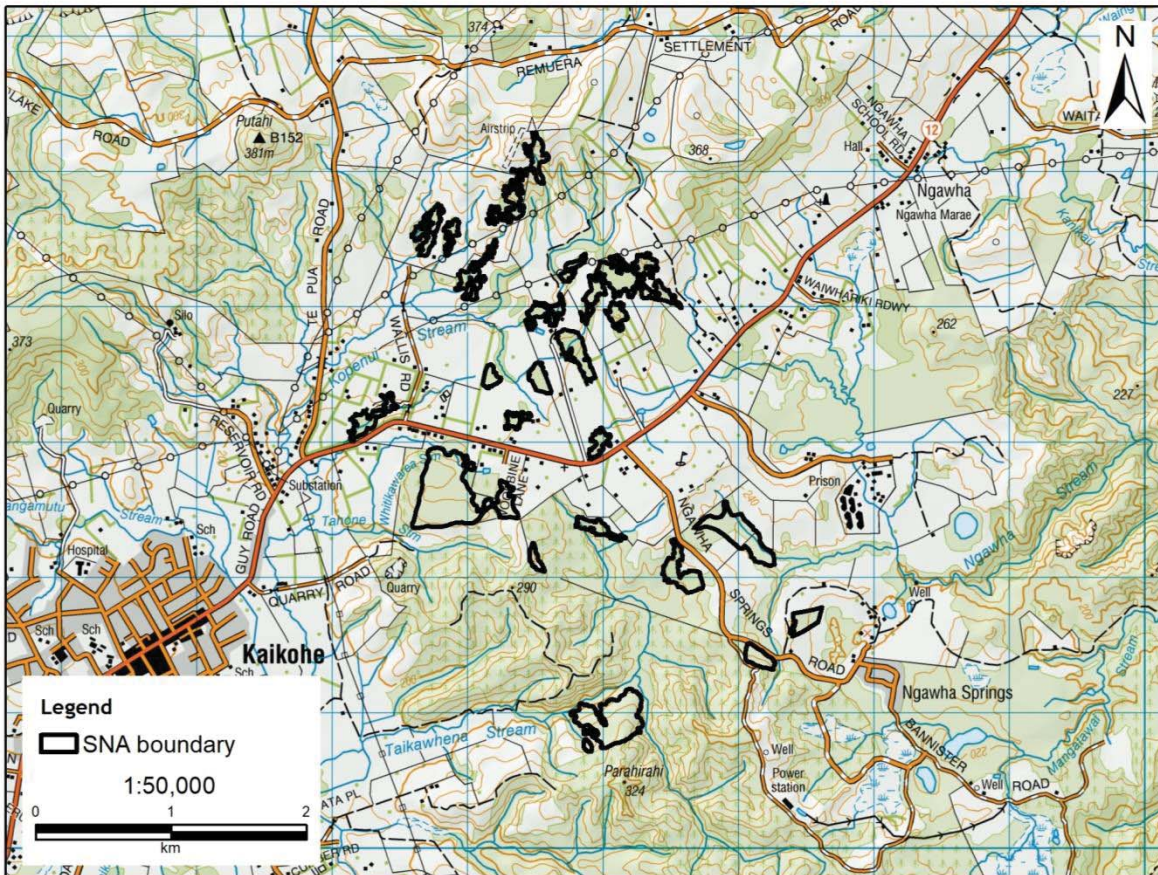
Submission Point – Potential Significant Area and Ecological Effects.

The site of the proposed Matawii reservoir appears to be in close proximity with an identified Significant Natural Area (SNA) – Kopenui Stream Remnants. Please find attached an ecological report from Wildlands Ltd made to inform Council's response to the Biodiversity requirement of the Northland Regional Policy Statement. An extract of the SNA affected areas in the locality is provided below. It is apparent that the potential SNA is spread across quite a large area with patchy pieces of vegetation, so there is potentially some crossover with the reservoir site (which sits just north of the main road shown in the snip below).

The Matawii proposal includes a comprehensive offset and compensation program, however, Council considers it prudent to further consider the potential sites in the local context identified through the Council mapping and evaluation process.



Thank you for your comments



KOPENUI STREAM REMNANTS

SNA ID:	FN172
Protection Status:	Unprotected
Area (ha):	103.15
Altitude Range (m):	200 - 368
Ecological District:	Kaikohe
Grid Reference:	E1674888, N6082619

VEGETATION TYPE	LANDFORM
Tōtara forest	Hillslope
Taraire-pūriri forest	Hillslope
Conning and Miller (2000)	

Flora:	None known.											
Fauna:	None known.											
Notes/Comments:	The taraire-pūriri dominant portion is representative of the volcanic broadleaved forest, which was once typical of forests on the volcanic plateau east of Lake Omapere, but which are now rare. This site has an emergent rimu element, which is uncommon in the Kaikohe ecological District (Conning and Miller (2000).											
Significant:	Yes											
Significance Justification:	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Criteria Met</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Justification</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1a(i)</td> <td>Contains representative forest vegetation types.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1a(ii)</td> <td>Contains vegetation types representative of pūriri-taraire forests which would have existed circa 1840.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2a(i)</td> <td>The site occurs on 'Acutely Threatened' and 'Chronically Threatened' land environments.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2a(ii)</td> <td>Pūriri-taraire forests have been reduced to less than 20% of their original extent in the Northland Region.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Criteria Met	Justification	1a(i)	Contains representative forest vegetation types.	1a(ii)	Contains vegetation types representative of pūriri-taraire forests which would have existed circa 1840.	2a(i)	The site occurs on 'Acutely Threatened' and 'Chronically Threatened' land environments.	2a(ii)	Pūriri-taraire forests have been reduced to less than 20% of their original extent in the Northland Region.
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Threats/Modifications/Vulnerability (Desktop Assessment):	Unknown.											
References:	Conning and Miller (2000).											
Assessment for Significance Based On:	Northland 0.1 metre Urban Aerial Photos (2017) and existing information as cited above.											
Boundary Changes Since 1999:	Boundaries adjusted to follow the extent of indigenous vegetation based on 2017 digital aerial photographs.											
Field Work Required?	No											
Assessment Date:	15/7/2019											