

OBJECTIVE 1

Wetland Extent

Maintain or increase the extent of wetland habitat.

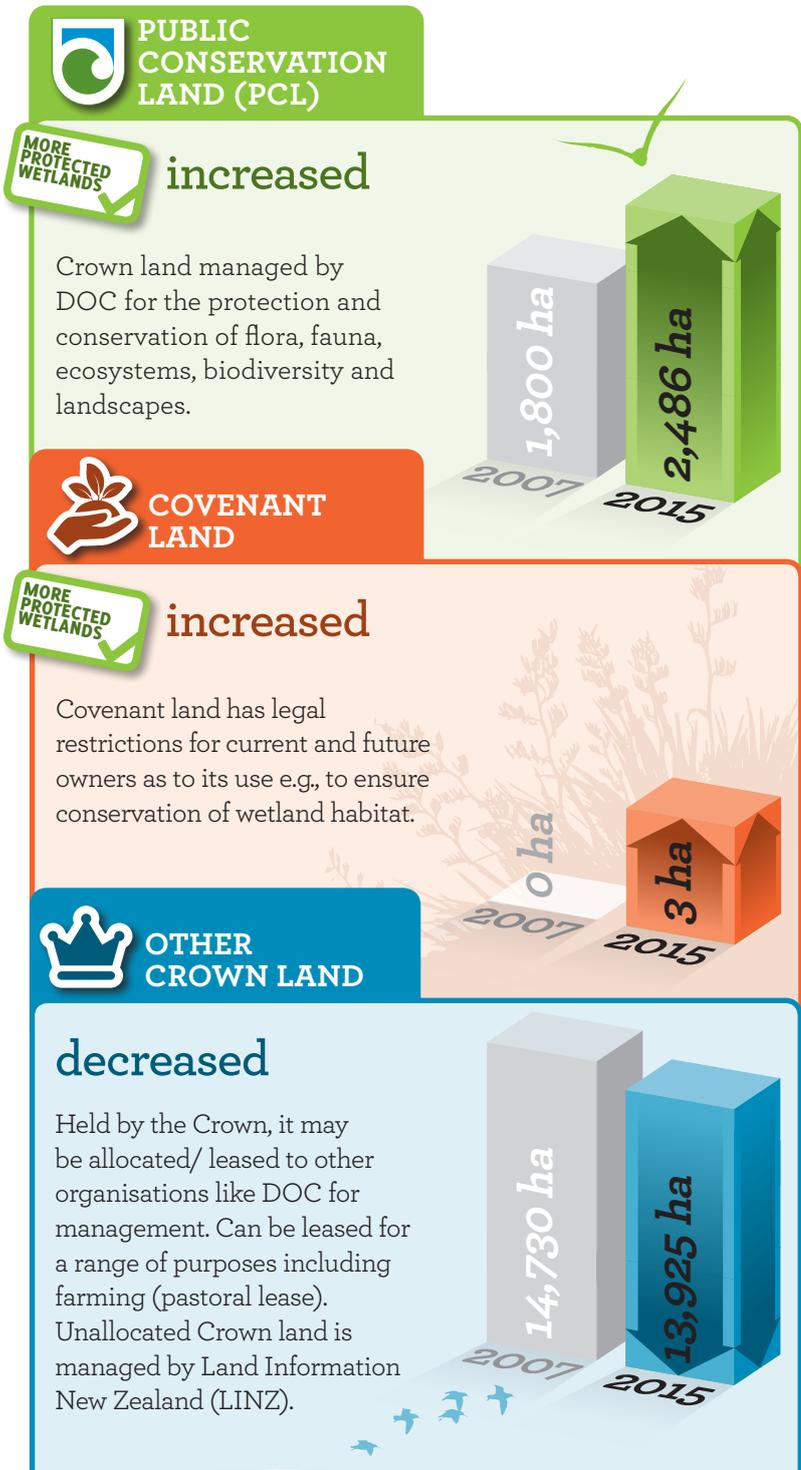
Ō TŪ WHAREKAI / REPORT CARD 2015



The loss of wetland habitats across New Zealand is well reported. It correlates directly with a decline in biodiversity, and the ecosystem function they perform (such as maintaining water quality and reducing flooding). Our focus is on protecting existing wetland habitat through statutory measures and advocacy.

Successful increase in protected wetland habitat extent

Since 2007 the wetland habitat areas on Public Conservation Land (PCL) at Ō Tū Wharekai have increased through a combination of Nature Heritage Fund purchases and a land tenure (holding) review process. As a result these areas are no longer grazed, and are now managed to promote the wetland habitats recovery and sustainability. This is vital as Ō Tū Wharekai is one of the best examples of an intermontane (between mountains) wetland system remaining in New Zealand.



Arawai Kākāriki
wetland restoration programme

Whangamarino • Ō Tū Wharekai • Awarua-Waituna

Ō Tū Wharekai

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

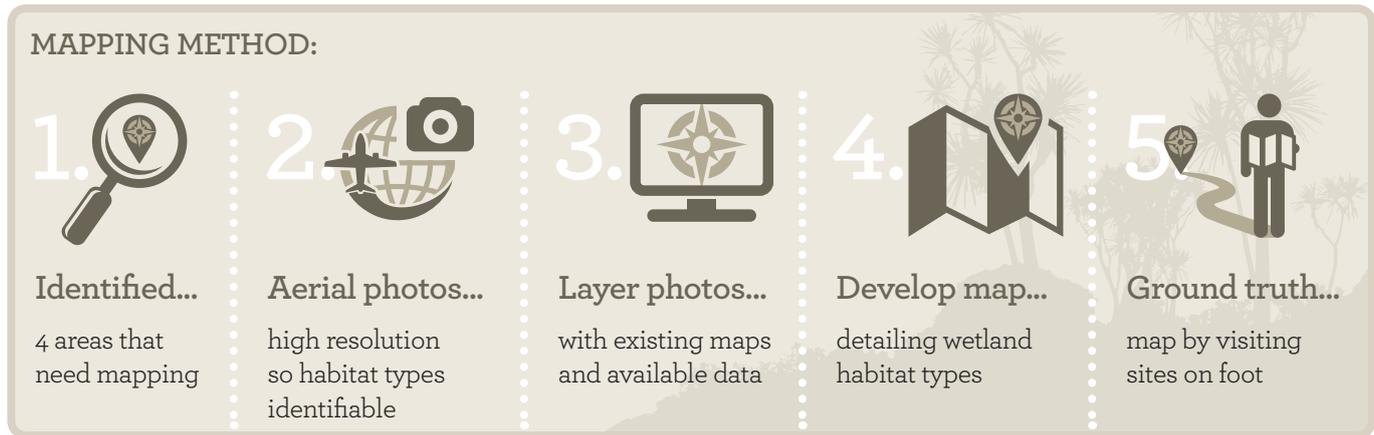


Wetland mapping for good future management

Mapping wetland habitat areas was identified as a key task for all Arawai Kākāriki sites. The wetland habitat areas of Ō Tū Wharekai include swamp, fen, marsh, seepage, bog and kettle holes. Mapping these habitats enables us to understand their extent, and lets us create baselines to measure the success of our management strategies by:

- assessing changes in the condition of habitats over time
- identifying the destruction/loss of habitat
- identifying threats to be managed.

Armed with improved understanding we can prioritise our management and focus our resources on the areas most in need.



KETTLE HOLE = 26 ha

An ephemeral wetland feature formed as glaciers retreated leaving potholes of sediment-filled water. They have low nutrient inputs and receive water from rainfall/snowmelt.

BOG = 94 ha

A peat substrate which gets its only water from rainfall. Bogs are low in nutrients and poorly drained. The water table is close to/above the ground surface.

SEEPAGE = 222 ha

Halfway between wetland and stream where there is a steady flow of water, usually from groundwater seeping to the surface. Substrate and nutrient levels are variable.

SWAMP = 668 ha

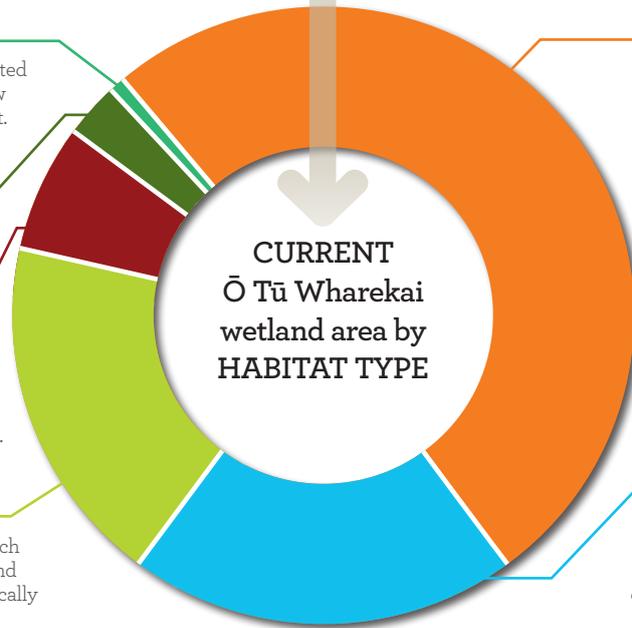
A mix of peat and mineral substrates with a relatively rich supply of nutrients and sediment from surface runoff and groundwater. The water table is permanently or periodically above the ground surface with areas of standing water.

FEN = 1,675 ha

Predominantly a peat substrate (partially decayed vegetable matter) that receives low levels of nutrient inputs. The water table is near the surface and at fairly constant level.

MARSH = 668 ha

A predominantly mineral substrate with good drainage. Characterised by large changes in water level and low to medium nutrient inputs.



NEXT ACTIONS...



Advocacy...
for wetland protection and restoration



Support...
landowners to manage wetlands on private land



Monitor...
changes in wetland extent over time