

TE URANGA B2 INCORPORATION

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

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TE URANGA B2 INCORPORATION

The original block size was 6603 the boundaries were identified by Te Huia Kingi when the block was surveyed in 1901 – 1902. Five hundred and five hectares were taken in a survey line by the then Government under the Native Land Court Act 1804 and the Maori Land Laws Amendment Act 1903.

The Proprietors of Rangitoto Tuhua 74 B6G Incorporation was formed in 1910 and a Committee of Management was appointed by the Shareholders.

The land was leased out to four Lessees until in 1953 The Proprietors of Rangitoto Tuhua 74B6G was vested in the Maori Trustee to be liquidated and the leases wound up.

The present Incorporation, known as The Proprietors Te Uranga B2 Incorporation was formed in 1958.

Successive Committee of Management co-operated and advised the Department of Maori Affairs and Land and Survey in developing the farm through the Hikurangi Block Development Scheme with an end view to eventual block return to owner control.

The Committee of Management negotiated with the then government for the return of the land and eventually was returned to owner control by the Hon Ben Couch, Minister of Maori Affairs, in June 1981. The Committee of Management members at that time were John Seymour Wooster (Chairman), Garry Houpapa (Secretary), Moari Matena, Te Whakauruhanga Koni Sonny Houpapa, and Lily Kilgour.

Physical Overview:

SOILS:

Yellow brown earth, yellow brown loam, yellow brown pumice

ROCK TYPES:

Jointed and banded mudstone, pumice, greywacke, limestone, ignimbrite

PREVAILING WIND:

North westerly

RAIN BEARING WIND:

Easterly

ALTITUDE:

Summit of Mount Hikurangi: 514m above sea level (a.s.l)

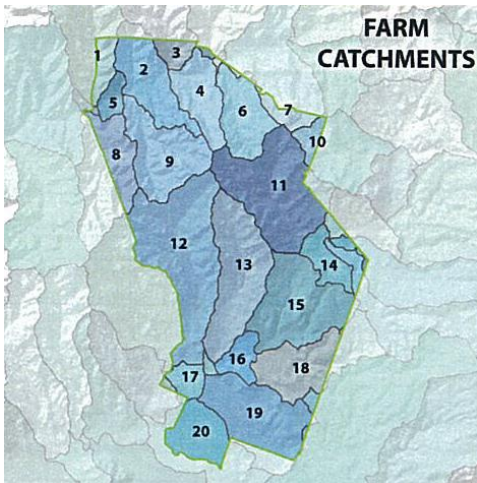
Steeper hill country: 350-460m a.s.l

Top flats: 365m a.s.l.

Flats on Koromiko: 258m a.s.l.

WATER RESOURCES

The Inc straddles two minor catchments that feed that feed into the Ongarue River – the Upokomatu Stream catchment to the north, and the Ue Pango Stream catchment to the south.



Within the property there are approximately 20 farm sub-catchments that can be managed separately for water quality purposes.

There are approximately 62km of discernable waterways throughout the property (perennial and ephemeral) Extended and extensive wetlands are a feature of the local landscape, and the Inc has retired and managed some of those found on the property, including 3.2ha under Nga Whenua Rahui covenant protection.

Te Uranga B2 Inc – Horizons m.w.

The Committee of Management of Te Uranga B2 has a responsibility to present day owners and to those generations who will follow and the land. Of these three responsibilities the most important is the land for without it we the owners are nothing.

“Whataungarongaro te tangata, toitu te whenua” **Man dies but the land lives for ever**

The CoM has a responsibility to the owners to be seen in the farming sector as being a profitable and innovative Maori Authority, and as leaders in Sustainable Land Management practices. Sustainable Land Management of Inc soil, water, lands vegetation gives the CoM the ability to utilise the various land classes to their optimum and “leave the land in better heart and to give something of value” to following generations of owners.

HORIZONS

[Horizons Regional Council manages the natural resources of the Horizons (Manawatu-Wanganui) region].

Acknowledgment is given to the strong working relationship that co-exists between the Inc and Horizons, the expertise and support that is given to the Inc Environmental Works Programme is valued. Such a working relationship has facilitated and advanced environmental enhancements riparian retirement and plantings, soil erosion and slumping control. The return on this work is manifold and can be seen in the increase across the board in the return of biodiversity especially birdlife and song. Thanks to Whole Farm Plan (WFP) the land is managed according to land classes, soil types and usage as dictated by the seasons.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS

Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI), Whole Farm Plan (WFP) Strategic 5yr Plan

The Inc has had two previous Environmental Plans with the then Manawatu Whanganui Regional council now known as Horizons.

The Inc was the fifth applicant to Horizons of the Whole Farm Plan prototype framework.

This covers:

- Review of existing farm business using benchmarking,
- Assessment of land, water, living heritage and farm production resources
- Identification of environmental issues and recommendation of tailored best practices
- Planning a five year integrated business/environmental plan
- Follow up procedures to clarify responsibilities, monitoring, maintenance and support.

Environmental work has a budget and is factored in to the annual Inc budget, work is programmed a season ahead, time lined, costed and brought before the CoM for discussion and approval. Major environmental works are programmed over a five year period i.e. Stream retirement/fencing.

Thanks to the WFP land Management practices are now according to land classes, soil types, and land usage as seasons dictate i.e. nil cattle on in winter.

NGAKONU SCHOOL "TREES FOR SCHOOLS" (1ha established 2001)

This area contains the last area of Indigenous Bush remnant on Koromiko Dairy Unit. Ngakonui School senior pupils, teachers, parent helpers and Horizons and Committee members help plant this area annually with native seedlings pupils have raised at school the previous year. Horizons m.w. provide the seedlings to the school "Trees for schools" is a Horizons Regional Council initiative. The Inc and Ngakonui Valley School were one of the first in the Ruapehu District to implement this initiative.



NGA WHENUA RAHUI
Indigenous Regenerating Bush

[[5 areas, established 1994, 1997) and (1) Wetland; (established 2001) 117 ha (289 acres)]

These areas are protected under a 25 year covenant, at the conclusion of this term the covenant will be brought before an AGM of owners for their decision to either (a) renew the covenant or (b) not to renew. Owners have the right of access for rongoa gathering purposes (Maori Medicine). The Inc has the responsibility to maintain throughout the covenant period stock proof fences and noxious weed/animal/vermin control in close proximity to the Inc to the east Pureora National Park and to the west Waimiha and extensive bush and pine plantations. The Inc NWR areas are complimentary to these areas helping to further extend flight corridors for birds/insects etc.



TE WHAREPAPA WETLAND

19ha: Catchment 260 ha,

3.32 ha of this Wetland is part of the NWR covenant, it has been extensively planted in native species that are “bird attractive” and regeneration of the area is pleasing to see.



Balance of wetland; 16ha; 5000 O.G Phormium Tenax have been planted annually for the past three years. (15,000)

To complete the planting of the area a further 5000 Tenax will be planted this Sept/Oct 2010, making a total of 20,000 tenax plants. Tenax is eco sourced from Taupo Native Plant Nursery. The planting of the area is primarily to provide biodiversity habitats and to further compliment existing flight corridors.

Tenax planting is done to a grid pattern for (a) ease of general maintenance and (b) possible harvesting. The Inc term view being the possibility of the future re-establishment of a commercially viable flax industry in New Zealand. (medicinal, etc) and being in a position to take advantage of this market.

KOROMIKO AND PAATARA DAIRY UNITS

Extensive riparian retirement, fencing, planting has taken place on both nearly compliant dairy units. The Inc is nearly compliant with Fonterra's "Clean Streams" accord. Some further retirement fencing may be needed.

UPOKO SHEEP AND BEEF (To be completed)

UPOKOMATU WETLAND

1.5ha established in 2002



UPOKOMATU STREAM

Both sides of this stream where they run through the Koromiko Dairy and Upoko have been retired/fenced off. Where required judicious riparian planting has been carried out on the dairy side of the stream otherwise natural growth has been left i.e. *

This stream has heavy willow growth on both sides; because of stream flow pattern advice will be sought from Horizons on developing a programme for the removal/eradication of the old man willows on the stream river banks. Environmental fencing is to be carried out annually until the stream is to be fenced off to its source.

Poplars: The Inc has a policy of pollarding all poplars planted for erosion /slump control – it is the roots that are wanted to stop the land movement not the heavy growth pattern trees develop as they age. This growth impacts and hinders grass growth around and under the trees.

* **Riparian and Wetland species in situ:** Manuka, Kanuka, Carex, Totoro, Sedges, Raupo, koromiko, pohuepohue (mulhenbeckia)

Native species planted Plagianthus Regis, Sophora Microphylla, Cordyline australis. Toe Toe, Phormium Tenax

Amenity plantings: Staff Houses, stock shelter, stock yards; dairy laneways, roadside; London planes, Sorbus, Claret Ash, Pittosporum Chatamitca

Exotic: Taxodium Distichum, Sequoia, Nitens, Oaks, "Awanui" and Campanulata cherry trees, Copper Beech, Magnolias, Albizzia.

