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| Name: | Rangiwahia (including Scenic Reserve) | |
| Location: | NZ Topo BL35 & BL36 | |
| Description: | Area of original podocarp forest left untouched by the early settlers with the intention that it would provide a water catchment for the growing local town. Rangiwahia Scenic Reserve covers approximately 50ha. | |
| ONL/ONF/SAF: | Outstanding Natural Feature | |
| Natural Science: | Geological/ Geomorphological: | Representative of a typical part of the rolling to steep hill country of the upper Ōroua River Valley, with the flat valley of Rangiwahia Township to the north. |
| | Biological/Ecological: | Indigenous forest remnant of over 50ha in the Rangiwahia Scenic Reserve with very high ecological values and mauri, and represents the historic land cover of the area. Reserve provides habitat for indigenous and exotic birdlife. Untouched, virgin podocarp forest with mature species including rimu, miro, mātai, maire, kahikatea, rewarewa and several species of rata. This diversity of large forest species illustrates the reserve's healthy ecosystem and make it a rare feature in the largely deforested surrounding landscape, as well as a unique area for research and education. |
| | Hydrological: | Uniquely, this ecological system was set aside as a water catchment for the growing town in Rangiwahia by the early settlers. Surrounded by agricultural land use, with waters flowing into the Kiwitea Stream to the north and the Ōroua River to the south, with both joining together at Feilding. |
| Perceptual: | Memorability: | Memorable due to the strong contrast between the dense and tall original indigenous vegetated reserve and the surrounding agricultural land use. |
| | Legibility/Expressiveness: | Expressive of the indigenous vegetation that once covered the entire district. |
| | Transient: | Transient value related to fauna of the forest. |
| | Aesthetic: | Extensive indigenous vegetation throughout the reserve has a high degree of coherence and reinforces its vividness both as a feature and in contrast to the surrounding modified landscape which results in a high scenic quality. The quality of indigenous vegetation cover has significance within the district through their rarity and is an excellent example of indigenous lowland forest. |
| | Naturalness: | High degree of naturalness exhibited by the indigenous vegetation cover. |
| Associational: | Historical: | Set aside as a water catchment for supplying the original village of Rangiwahia around 1860. |
| | Tangata Whenua: | Under the Settlement Act the reserve is an area of interest for Ngāti Apa, Rangitāne o Manawatū, and Ngāti Hauiti. In a general sense, Tikanga Māori Principles such as Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship), Wairua (Well-being) and Mauri (Life force) are assumed to be important. |
| | Shared/Recognised: | Focus of tracking and tree naming work by keen locals and supported by a grant from the Fonterra Grass Roots Fund. |
| | Recreation: | Walking tracks marked through the reserve for local recreation. It is also a known geocache site. |
| Summary of Key Characteristics: | High degree of perceived naturalness derived from extent of indigenous vegetation which contrasts with the surrounding agricultural land use. The indigenous vegetation contributes to the ecological and water quality values. | |
| Potential Issues: | <p>The extensive and continuous expanse of native vegetation defines the feature and contributes to the perceived naturalness, aesthetic values and associational factors. It would assist protection of the key characteristics if the following were to occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discourage the loss of native vegetation; discourage the establishment of exotic vegetation; discourage adverse effects on cultural values; discourage earthworks; and restrict built development. | |

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