



Lake Whangape restoration



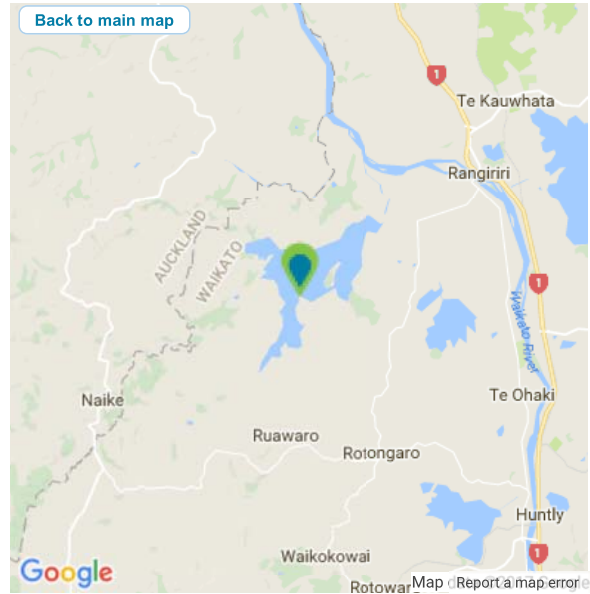
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This project is concentrated on the restoration of a riparian margin on Lake Whangape.

Lake Whangape is the second largest riverine lake in the Lower Waikato, and despite poor water quality, retains significant conservation values including at least 10 threatened bird and fish species. Lake Whangape is directly linked with the Waikato River, and has been identified as a top priority lake for restoration by the Waikato River Independent Scoping Study. The Wairenga Holdings Ltd (Deroles family) bull farm has a significant 4.5 km stretch of lake frontage along the southern lake arm (a boundary shared with DOC, map of location attached). This riparian belt has been retired from grazing and fenced with generous 5-25 m setbacks, but current vegetation is dominated by exotic species (rough pasture, scattered willow etc). Our project is to restore this 4.5 km belt to a native-dominated ecosystem by planting 20,000 plants over a 2 year period. Species will be characteristic of lowland wetland and swamp forest, which has largely been lost from the area through agricultural development. Existing fencing will be upgraded to 3 wire electric to ensure stock exclusion from the lake/planting area and some additional fences will be built to prevent stock from moving around the lake margin and into the planting areas. The project will be managed by Jackson Efford (Catchment Management Officer) from the Regional Council. As well as improving lake and river water quality by filtering farm run-off (sediment/nutrient/bacteria) with a dense native vegetation belt, providing enhanced/restored native habitat, and a native corridor linkage between key lake features (e.g., Motukauere Island and Awaroa wetland) and the Waikato River, this project will also act as a restoration model to inspire and inform other landowners with similar lake frontages void of native vegetation.

This is a Waikato River Authority project (WRA 14-049).



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