## TAURANGA ECOLOGICAL DISTRICT PHASE 1 PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS PROGRAMME REPORT

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Protected Natural Areas Programme (PNAP) was established in 1983 to address Section 3(1)(b) of the Reserves Act 1977:

The preservation of representative samples of all classes of natural ecosystems and landscapes which in the aggregate originally gave New Zealand its own recognisable character.

New Zealand has been mapped into 286 ecological districts determined by landscape and ecological patterns. Ecological districts are grouped into 68 ecological regions, as the basis of the PNA Programme (McEwen 1987).

The Tauranga Ecological District is situated in the western Bay of Plenty, between the eastern foothills of the Kaimai-Mamaku range and the Pacific Ocean, encompassing the western half of the coastal dune systems that stretch between Waihi beach and Opotiki. The district includes three estuarine environments, including the entire expanse of the Tauranga Harbour. The ecological district is largely within the coastal bioclimatic zone, as only small portions of the area extend for more than approximately 1 km from the coastal or estuarine environments. Beyond the coastal zone, the rest of the ecological district is in the semi-coastal bioclimatic zone (refer to Figure 1).

This report presents a summary of existing information on the physical nature of the Tauranga Ecological District and identifies what is needed to complete a protected natural areas programme survey of the ecological district.

Implementation of a PNAP field survey for the Tauranga Ecological District will involve identification of natural areas that maintain the unique indigenous biotic character of the district.

## 2. LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND PHYSIOGRAPHY

The Tauranga Ecological District (c.85,670 ha) is situated in the western Bay of Plenty, between the eastern foothills of the Kaimai-Mamaku range and the Pacific Ocean, encompassing the western half of the coastal dune systems that stretch between Waihi beach and Opotiki.

The ecological district lies largely within the coastal bioclimatic zone, as only small portions of the area extend for more than approximately 1 km from the coastal or estuarine environments into the semi-coastal bioclimatic zone (refer to Figure 1).

The ecological district encompasses approximately 80 km of ocean beach and a large area of estuarine environment, comprising three estuaries, including the entire expanse of the Tauranga Harbour. The boundary skirts the lower slopes of the Kaimai – Mamaku Range and passes around the eastern side of the Mamaku plateau before joining the coast near Otamarakau. The altitudinal range is from sea level to approximately 300 m. Typically the land is of a shallow gradient, rising gradually to a series of rolling and moderately steep hills in the west.



Figure 1



Unless otherwise noted the following description has been compiled from Healy *et al.* (1974). A large proportion of the land area along the coast has an underlying geology of sand, mostly as fixed foredunes. Alluvial deposits adjoin this area, mostly undifferentiated. West of the Tauranga Harbour the geology is composed of intermixed fluviatile sands and silts with siltstones, sandstones and conglomerates and occasional pumiceous tuffs forming moderately steep undulating hill country. The western boundary of the ecological district is defined by the boundary between fluviatile deposits and the ignimbrites of the Kaimai range. Around the base of the Mamaku plateau, the boundary is most easily defined by two large hidden faults, on either side of the Mamaku Plateau that run slightly west of south, although the true boundary is again defined by the limits of the sedimentary deposits.

South and west of the Maketu and Little Waihi Estuaries flat to slightly undulating terraces are formed of fluviatile sands, silts and gravels. These have been overlain to form the southern boundary of the ecological district by the same ignimbrites that form the Mamaku Plateau and pumice breccias from the Rotoiti eruption. At the very eastern limit of the ecological district, there is a small area of pumice breccias with siltstones. In areas surrounding the Maketu and Little Waihi Estuaries are intermixed peat and alluvial beds, which rise to the west and merge into the fluviatile terraces described above. The estuaries of Maketu, Little Waihi and Tauranga Harbour are entirely composed of sediment deposited by the various rivers and streams that enter these areas. The sediments range between fine silts and sands, although most commonly it is a mixture of both. Hard mud and shell surfaces can be found in some areas of the Tauranga Harbour (Barker and Larcombe 1976).

Several rivers run through the ecological district, the most notable being the Kaituna River which drains into the Maketu Estuary. Many streams and rivers flow into Tauranga Harbour from the west, including the Wairoa River. Most streams and rivers originate outside the ecological district, on the heavily forested higher slopes of the Kaimai and Mamaku ranges. The lower slopes of the hills have had much of their native vegetative cover removed, which has resulted in an increase in erosion, especially along the banks of the watercourses in the district (Surman *et al.* 1999). The resulting increase in waterborne sediment has had an impact on the water quality and hence the wildlife within the streams and rivers, as well as increasing sedimentation in the estuaries.

## 3. LANDFORM UNITS

Eighteen landform units were identified in the ecological district. These are described below and mapped in Figure 2.

### 3.1 Coastal margin

- 1. Infilled harbour: Comprising one section of the Tauranga Harbour, namely Sulphur Point.
- 2. Intertidal Flats: Extensive areas between the mean high water spring and the mean low water spring tidal marks.



Figure 2



- 3. Oceanside sand beach: Found along the shores of the ocean, between the high tide mark and the dune systems that run along much of the ocean coastline in the ecological district.
- 4. Sand dune: Stretching along the ocean coast from Waihi Beach to the mouth of the Maketu Estuary. This is the dominant land form along the ocean beach and forms a critical part of the ecosystem.
- 5. Rocky shore: Very limited in its extent and restricted to small areas around Mauao, Bowentown Heads and at the base of the cliffs at the entrance to Maketu Estuary.
- 6. Harbour and estuary: Areas that are underwater at low tide.
- 3.2 Flat-shallow gradient land
  - 7. Alluvial plains: Located around the banks of the Kaituna River. They are somewhat limited in extent and were formerly part of a large swamp which has now mostly been drained and cultivated.
  - 8. Flat-undulating/undulating low hills: Located to the west and south of the Tauranga Harbour, in the gentle terrain below the steeper slopes of the Kaimai and Mamaku Ranges. These can be defined as hills with less than 100 m between the base and top. This landform grades into undifferentiated terraces towards the harbour.
  - 9. Undifferentiated terrace: These are local or isolated terraces, which are indistinguishable from higher or lower terraces according to current data.
  - 10. Higher terraces: There is a restricted area of this landform on the borders of the Mamaku range. Generally this landform has a gentle slope and is more or less modified by erosion.
  - 11. Flats: These include riparian flats and are generally found near the lower reaches of streams and wetlands. Some peat swamp areas also form part of this landform unit.
- 3.3 Moderately steep land
  - 12. Hills: There are occasional isolated moderately steep hills.
- 3.4 Steep land
  - 13. Scarps, toeslopes and associated steep slopes: This landform includes the transition between terraces and flats, but also includes scarps and inland cliffs.
  - 14. Very steep hills: There are isolated occurrences of very steep hills, the best example of which is Mauao.



- 15. Gorges: This landform is restricted to a small area on the eastern flanks of the Mamaku Plateau; it typically has very steep sides and an absence of streamside terraces.
- 16. Gullies: Steep-sided and narrow, these are similar to gorges, but are typically found in undulating or moderately hilly country.
- 17. Cliffs: There are small areas of very steep to sheer cliffs around the coast.

### 3.5 Other

18. Wetlands: Occur occasionally on the plains and riparian margins. The majority of these are less than 20 ha in area.

## 4. SPECIAL GEOLOGICAL FEATURES

Seven sites of geological importance are noted for the Tauranga Ecological District: the peak of Mauao, which is the remnant of a large rhyolite lava dome; Maketu Estuary lagoon; Maketu Hot Springs; the Woodlands and Sapphire Springs at Katikati; Waihi Beach; and Matakana Island and its associated tombolos. Mauao and Matakana Island are sites of national significance, and the other four are of regional significance (Kenny and Hayward 1996).

### 5. SOILS

The soils of the region are derived, for the most part, from a range of volcanic events that have showered the area in ash and tephra. The dominant soil-forming ashes are those from the Kaharoa eruption and the Waihi and Whakatane ashes, which form sandy soils that are well drained and have a high allophone content (Rijkse and Cotching 1995). Smaller areas of peat-based soils are found in the swamps adjoining the Maketu and Little Waihi Estuaries. These areas have been largely converted to farmland by draining and fertilisation (Town and Country Planning Branch, Ministry of Works, 1962).

Sand deposits stretch along the ocean beaches and some distance inland, forming deep, well drained soils that have been used for urban construction and development. The largest areas of intact habitat in this region are the dune systems that stretch along Waihi beach, Matakana Island, and from Mauao to the Kaituna River mouth (west exit) and beyond to Maketu Estuary (east exit).

The predominant soil type is a yellow brown loam, derived from the Whakatane and Waihi ashes, which extends across the ecological district to the west and south of the Tauranga Harbour, into the foothills of the Kaimai Range. Further south the dominant soil types are Kaharoa ash and yellow-brown pumice soils, mixed with organic (peat) soils. Along the coast there are large areas of recently formed soils, especially on Matakana Island. These are derived from the deposition of sand and include the dune systems along Papamoa Beach (Stokes, 1980; Rijkse and Cotching 1995).

Soils temperatures are on average 1-2 degrees Celsius above the average air temperature, and as such the ecological district is ideal for horticulture, of which kiwifruit production (*Actinidia chinensis*) forms a large part (Rijkse and Cotching 1995).

## 6. CLIMATE

The Tauranga Ecological District is sheltered to the west, south, and east by high country ranges and plateaux, which, with the predominantly westerly airflow over New Zealand, results in the region experiencing lower rainfall than many other areas, as well as higher temperatures and high sunshine hours (Rijkse and Cotching 1995). The mean annual temperature of the ecological district is approximately 14°C, with the maximum 34°C and the minimum just below -5°C. At Tauranga Airport, mean annual rainfall is 1,300 mm over 153 rain days (Tauranga District Council 1996), while the sunshine hours average 2200-2400 annually (Tauranga District Council website, accessed September 2003).

## 7. VEGETATION

### 7.1 Historical

Tall podocarp-broadleaved forest would have historically covered all of the hill country and some of the flat land, including the dune systems, with the exception of the foredunes and the extensive freshwater wetlands on the plains (Wildland Consultants Ltd 2000e) (refer to Figure 3). The vegetation would have been dominated by rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*)-tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) type forest, with other podocarp species also common, such as miro (*Prumnopitys ferruginea*) and matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*). Kauri (*Agathis australis*) is likely to have been found in the northern end of this ecological district (Stokes 1980). The non-forested dune areas would have had some cover of sand binding species such as pingao (*Desmoschoenus spiralis*), pohuehue (*Muehlenbeckia complexa*) and spinifex (*Spinifex sericeus*), with low shrubland areas of *Coprosma* spp., kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides*), karo (*Pittosporum crassifolium*), and pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) further back from the beach (Beadel 1995e). Pohutukawa forest would also have occurred on the headlands and hill slopes near the harbour.

Within the estuarine systems there would have been extensive saltmarshes and mangrove (Avicennia marina subsp. australasica) scrub, shrublands, and eelgrass beds.

Large freshwater wetlands also existed on the Kaituna-Pongakawa plain, and around the Maketu and Little Waihi Estuaries. These would have been dominated by kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*) swamp forest with maire tawake (swamp maire; *Syzygium maire*) and large areas of kiekie (*Freycinetia banksii*), but extensive areas of flaxland and reedland would also have been present. Smaller wetlands

Figure 3



covered in a mixture of flaxland, reedland and swamp forest would have been found along the margins of the major river valleys such as the Wairoa, Kopurererua and Waimapu.

The arrival of Maori saw clearance of extensive areas of vegetation by burning, especially on the lower, more fire-prone flat lands and dune areas. Tall forest was replaced by a mixture of fernland, shrubland, remnant primary forest and secondary forest. The arrival of Europeans saw the introduction of a wide range of weed and cultivated species (see Appendix 2), as well as further clearance of the primary and secondary forest for farmland and timber production. Freshwater wetlands were also cleared and drained for farming, although this did not occur for some time after the arrival of Europeans.

As a result of human activity, there has been a significant reduction in the amount of indigenous vegetation cover in the Tauranga Ecological District. This is especially the case for wetland vegetation including tall swamp forest, which have largely been cleared and drained for agriculture, horticulture and urban development (Cromarty 1996).

### 7.2 Present day

The present day land cover of the ecological district is indicated in Figure 4. Most of the indigenous vegetation has been cleared and replaced with pastoral land use/horticulture/life style properties or residential/commercial/industrial development. Remaining areas of indigenous vegetation or mixtures of indigenous and exotic vegetation are concentrated on dunes along the coast, on harbour and estuary margins, and on Mauao (Mt Maunganui) and the Bowentown Headland. There are small scattered clumps of secondary vegetation inland of Tauranga Harbour and behind Te Puke, mainly in gullies. One or two kahikatea stands remain on the Pongakawa Plains; a relatively large freshwater wetland survives near the mouth of the Kaituna River, and several other much smaller areas of freshwater wetland exist in the vicinity of the Kaituna River. Freshwater wetlands, generally relatively small, but some larger areas occur near Tauranga Harbour and in places extending up some valleys that drain into the harbour. The only other examples of indigenous vegetation tend to be confined to scarps on the harbour margins and in adjoining valleys.

### 8. FLORA

A provisional list of the vascular plant species for the ecological district has been compiled (Beadel 2002). Of the 705 species listed, less than half (338/705) are indigenous and 367/705 are exotic species. Separate species lists for indigenous vegetation are available for several reserves and other sites within the area (see Beadel 1989b, 1992a, & 2004; Beadel *et al.* 1996; Shaw 1999a). Full species lists are provided in Appendices 1 and 2.



Figure 4



### 8.1 Threatened and local plants

There are several nationally, regionally or locally threatened and uncommon species present within the ecological district. There is an historical record of *Olearia pachyphylla* (Acutely Threatened - nationally endangered) from the ecological district (P. de Lange pers. comm.). *Pterostylis micromega* (classed as Acutely Threatened - nationally critical in Hitchmough 2002) was recorded from the Kaituna in 1983 (Miller 1983), but has not been resighted. *Ranunculus macropus* (classed as Chronically Threatened - serious decline by Hitchmough 2002) occurs in the wetlands at the northern end of Matakana Island. King fern (*Marratia salicina*; Chronically Threatened - gradual decline by Hitchmough 2002), and in the Bay of Plenty known only from the Tauranga Ecological District. *Pimelea tomentosa* (classed as Gradual Decline by Hitchmough 2002) occurs on Mauao.

Large populations of pingao (*Desmoschoenus spiralis*; Chronically Threatened gradual decline) are present on Matakana Island, with similar populations along the Papamoa and Kaituna Sand Dunes, and local populations elsewhere. A large population of hinarepe (or sand tussock, *Austrofestuca littoralis*; Chronically Threatened - gradual decline) occurs at Kaituna, and smaller populations at Pukehina and Papamoa. This species is known from only a handful of sites in the Bay of Plenty. Large populations of *Cyclosorus interruptus* and *Thelypteris confluens* (both Chronically Threatened - gradual decline) occur in the wetlands on Matakana Island with small populations in the Arawa Wetlands near Maketu.

Kohihi (NZ spinach, *Tetragonia tetragonioides*: At Risk - sparse) occurs at several sites in the ecological district, including Matakana Island, Bowentown, and Waikaraka Estuary. *Hypolepis dicksonioides* (At Risk - sparse) occurs at one site in the ecological district. *Mimulus repens* (At Risk - sparse) has only been recorded from one site in the ecological district near Maketu.

Two small stands of maire tawake (swamp maire, *Syzgium maire* are present, one at the northern end of the ecological district, and the other in the Kaituna Wetland. This species is only known from a few sites in the Bay of Plenty. *Psilotum nudum* is only known from Mauao in the ecological district, and whilst it occurs at several geothermal sites in the Bay of Plenty and at Putauaki, it is only know from one other coastal site, Moutohora - Whale Island.

Many other species are confined to only one site in the ecological district, reflecting perhaps a combination of gaps in the botanical knowledge of the district, and that very little remains of the natural vegetation in many parts of the district. One of these species is wire rush (*Empodisma minus*), a small population of which occurs on Matakana Island.

*Melicytus novae-zelandiae* occurs on Matakana Island and is present at the Mount (probably naturalised from plantings).



### 8.2 Distribution limits

*Lepidosperma laterale* approaches the southern limit of its distribution in the ecological district, where it is known from only two sites. Mangroves also approach their southern limit for the east coast here, although they are also found slightly further south at Ohiwa Harbour (Rasch 1989).

### 9. FAUNA

The indigenous fauna of the Tauranga Ecological District is diverse. The diversity of habitat types is reflected in the diversity of invertebrate and vertebrate species within the ecological district. As the ecological district encompasses a large section of shoreline and three estuarine environments, there are a large number of waders, although much habitat has been destroyed for development into farmland, urban areas and plantation forestry which has limited forest bird densities. A provisional list of fauna is provided in Appendix 3.

### 9.1 Avifauna

The Tauranga Ecological District supports a wide diversity of bird species, with nearly two thirds being indigenous. However, forest bird species have become relatively scarse due to habitat modification in the area. The large proportion of seabirds, shore birds, and waders listed in Appendix 3 reflects the presence of large saltwater wetlands in the form of estuaries, as well as a long sandy coastline. Several petrels and other seabirds breed or roost on the offshore islands just outside the Tauranga Ecological District, and grey-faced petrels (oi; *Pterodroma macroptera*) and northern blue penguins (*Eudyptula minor iredalei*) also breed on the mainland. Many species are migratory, of which several, such as the white heron, are only occasional visitors.

Over 20 threatened bird species are present in or visit the ecological district (refer to Table 1). These include 11 coastal and estuarine species, seven freshwater wetland species and five forest species. Some such as the Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) have nationally significant breeding populations within it. Other threatened species with important breeding areas in the district include northern blue penguin, banded dotterel (*Charadrius bicinctus*) and northern New Zealand dotterel (*Charadrius obscurus aquilonius*). Many other species of waders are non-breeding visitors from breeding grounds in central and southern New Zealand and from the northern hemisphere.



Species	Threat status <sup>*</sup>	Main habitat
White heron	Nationally critical	Wetlands
Black stilt	Nationally critical	Harbour, estuaries
Reef heron	Nationally endangered	Coast
Australasian bittern	Nationally endangered	Wetlands
North Island kaka	Nationally endangered	Forest
New Zealand falcon	Nationally vulnerable	Forest
Wrybill	Nationally vulnerable	Harbour, estuaries
Caspian tern	Nationally vulnerable	Coast
North Island kiwi	Serious decline	Forest
Black-fronted tern	Serious decline	Coast, estuaries
Grey duck	Serious decline	Wetland
Northern blue penguin	Gradual decline	Coast
Banded dotterel	Gradual decline	Beaches and estuaries
White-fronted tern	Gradual decline	Coast
Kereru	Gradual decline	Forest
Long-tailed cuckoo	Gradual decline	Forest
New Zealand dotterel	Sparse	Beaches, estuaries
Black shag	Sparse	Coastal
Pied shag	Sparse	Coastal
Banded rail	Sparse	Freshwater wetland
Marsh crake	Sparse	Freswater wetlands
Spotless crake	Sparse	Freshwater wetland
North Island fernbird	Sparse	Freshwater wetland

# Table 1: Threatened avifauna species known to occur in Tauranga EcologicalDistrict

Note: \* = Threat status follows Hitchmough 2002; grey duck and New Zealand dotterel are likely to have their status upgraded (R. Hitchmough, DOC pers. comm.).

Many of the species listed in Table 1 are the victims of localised habitat and breeding site destruction, and predation from introduced mammalian predators (e.g. Pierce 2002). Tauranga Harbour, Maketu Estuary and Little Waihi Estuary provide important habitat for some of these species. Tauranga Harbour is recognised by the RAMSAR convention as being a wetland of international significance for the protection of migratory and indigenous wetland bird species (Cromarty 1996).

### 9.2 Herpetofauna

Native lizard species include copper skink (*Cyclodina aenea*), shore skink (*Oligosoma smithii*), and moko skink (*Oligosoma moco*), which are predominantly found amongst the dune systems (Rasch 1989; Wildland Consultants Ltd 2000e). There is a high possibility that forest gecko (*Hoplodactylus granulatus*), common gecko (*Hoplodactylus maculatus*) and Pacific gecko (*Hoplodactylus pacificus*) are also

present (Wildland Consultants Ltd 2000e). Introduced rainbow skinks are well established in the Tauranga area.

### 9.3 Mammalian species

Feral cats (*Felis catus*), ship rats (*Rattus rattus*), Norway rats (*Rattus norvegicus*), goats (*Capra hircus*), pigs (*Sus scrofa*), house cats (*Felix catus*), stoats (*Mustela erminea*), ferrets (*Mustela furo*), weasels (*Mustela nivalis*), brush-tailed possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), dama wallabies (*Macropus eugenii*), European hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*), house mice (*Mus musculus*), brown hares (*Lepus europaeus*), and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) are present in the ecological district. Stray dogs (*Canis familiaris*) and cattle (*Bos taurus*) are occasionally recorded, but these have not established feral populations. Both short-tailed bats (*Mystacina tuberculata rhyacobia*; nationally endangered) and long-tailed bats (*Chalinolobus tuberculatus*; nationally vulnerable) have been recorded in the area infrequently (Rasch 1989).

### 9.4 Fish species

The native fish fauna of the Tauranga Ecological District is relatively diverse due to the proximity to the coast. Many of the native fish species are diadromous, requiring part of the life cycle in saltwater, and as such can be found in many rivers and streams that empty into the sea or harbours and which lack artificial or natural barriers (Beadel et al. 1999). Short-jawed kokopu (Galaxias postvectis), giant kokopu (Galaxias argenteus) and banded kokopu (Galaxias fasciatus) are all found in the ecological district (Rasch 1989; Wildland Consultants Ltd 2001b). The short-jawed kokopu, giant kokopu, and long-finned eels (Anguilla dieffenbachii) are all classed as chronically threatened - gradual decline (Hitchmough 2002). Common smelt (Retropinna retropinna), short-finned eels (Anguilla australis), red-finned bully (Gobiomorphus huttoni), common bully (Gobiomorphus cotidianus), torrentfish (Cheimarrichthys fosteri) and inanga (Galaxias maculatus) are also present. Yelloweved mullet (Agonostomus forsterii) can be found in the lower reaches of the waterways (Wildland Consultants Ltd 2000e). Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and brown trout (Salmo trutta) have been introduced to many streams and rivers in the area.

### 9.5 Invertebrate species

There is no published list of invertebrate species found in the Tauranga Ecological District (Rasch 1989). However, some notable indigenous invertebrates have been reported, including several species of minute snails in the vegetation at the base of Mauao, and *Mecodema atrox*, a type of ground beetle classified as sparse by Hitchmough (2002). Koura (*Paranephrops planifrons*) are present in freshwater streams, as is a wide range of caddis-flies, stoneflies, and mayflies (Hatton *et al.* 1975). Estuarine environments within the Tauranga Ecological District provide habitat for a wide range of intertidal fauna such as mud snails (*Amphibola crenata*), crabs (*Helice crassa*), and pipi (*Paphies australe*) (Barker and Larcombe 1976).

Watt (1982) considered that 80-90% of the estimated 20,000+ insect taxa in New Zealand are endemic. Several studies have found a high incidence of insect endemism in very small areas of indigenous habitat (e.g. Ramsay *et al.* 1988; Kuschel 1990;

May 1993). Therefore, it should be noted that with perhaps 50% of the insect species in New Zealand yet to be described, and many more than that are yet to be named (Beadel *et al.* 1999), it is likely that the Tauranga Ecological District contains several invertebrate species that are endemic to the district.

Introduced insects such as wasps (*Vespula germanica*, *V. vulgaris*, *Polistes chinensis*) and honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) are the most notable of the exotic species. Honey bees and bumble bees (*Bombus* spp.) are used commercially for the pollination of fruit crops in orchards, and honey bees for honey production. The introduced gorse seed weevil (*Apion ulicis*) is used to control gorse (*Ulex europaeus*).

## 10. HUMAN HISTORY AND LAND USE

The Bay of Plenty region was extensively settled by Maori, especially around the coastal margins, estuaries and major river valleys. The pattern of settlement reflects the availability of food, the suitability of soils for horticulture, and the situation of defensive sites for the building of pa (Beadel *et al.* 1999). Traditionally, the Bay of Plenty region is considered to be the landing place of seven of the original canoes from Hawaiki, of which at least two landed in the Tauranga Ecological District: Takitimu (Tauranga Harbour) and Te Arawa (Maketu Estuary). Several others are recorded by tradition as having passed by or called in briefly, leaving a few settlers and then passing on (Tauranga District Council 1996).

There is archaeological evidence that the Tauranga Ecological District has been occupied for approximately 1,000 years, although this is subject to some debate. Settlement was especially intensive, with archaeological sites highly concentrated about the Tauranga Harbour (Department of Conservation 1997), and over 30 kaainga (villages) in the region at 1840 (Stokes 1980). As a result of this there are many tribes which have established themselves in or around the district at one time or another and have tangata whenua status in the area. Mauao has three associated tribes in the area, all of whom consider it part of their whakapapa (heritage): Ngati Ranginui, Ngaiterangi and Ngati Pukenga. Other more or less related tribes also occupied Tauranga Harbour at the same time. Stokes (1980) provides a detailed account of the succession of tribal invasions and warfare that has occurred in this region.

The Maori occupiers built many pa and villages, and cultivated large tracts of land for kumara and taro. Kumara grew especially well in the fertile soils of the lowlands, where early European settlers found large areas under cultivation. Cultivation was carried out by a system of burning an area, planting for several seasons, and then leaving it to lie fallow for a period, after which any regenerating vegetation would be burnt and the ashes used as fertiliser (Stokes 1980). The remains of many of these sites of occupancy can be seen in the terraces and shell middens on hillsides in the area, but most lowland sites have been destroyed by subsequent land development (Stokes 1980).

European arrival saw the introduction of potatoes, pigs, corn, wheat, and cattle, as well as a variety of pest plants and animals such as rats and brush-tailed possums. Early European settlers lived in or near the local Maori villages, sometimes as part of the tribe (Stokes 1980). Later colonists lived in small villages, often at sites that are now towns and cities. These people cleared the land in a similar fashion to the local Maori, by burning. However, the land was then sown in pasture species and grazed by cattle and sheep to keep down regenerating native species. At first little effort was made to log the native forest before clearing, although later arrivals would selectively log the podocarp species (Town and Country Planning Branch, Ministry of Works 1962). The arrival of Europeans also saw the introduction of money and firearms as well as the arrival of numerous diseases, each of which had a major impact on the local Maori population.

Today, agriculture and horticulture constitute the main land uses in the Tauranga Ecological District. However, there is a large and increasing urban area in Tauranga city and many other smaller towns in the area. These townships were originally established around mission stations and sites chosen especially for settlement, which was aided by distribution of land confiscated from the local Maori after land wars. Gold strikes at places such as Te Puke also enticed settlers from other parts of New Zealand and overseas (Stokes 1980).

Urban areas are focussed on the delivery of primary services to the surrounding rural areas, especially in the agricultural and horticultural regions. Plantation forestry is also an important land use in the Tauranga Ecological District, although this is insignificant in comparison to the plantation forests found in other parts of the Bay of Plenty region (Town and Country Planning Branch, Ministry of Works 1962). The Port of Tauranga also provides employment for many people, with large volumes of timber and other resources being shipped from here to destinations overseas.

## 11. FURTHER WORK

The following actions are required to complete a PNAP survey for Tauranga Ecological District.

- Prepare vegetation type map of Tauranga Ecological District using the RDAM as the base map:
  - Onscreen digitising.
  - Field checking as required.
- Undertake GIS analysis of 1840 vegetation cover, bioclimatic zones, landforms, present day vegetation cover, extent of protected areas.
- Identify RAPs and potential RAPs for field survey using PNAP evaluation criteria. Many RAPs will be able to be identified from existing information, but some will require field checking of site boundaries, and some sites, RAPs, and all potential RAPs will require full field surveys.
- Identify landowners.
- Prepare letter to landowners/managers/residents describing the survey.
- Prepare field survey record sheets.



- Undertake field survey.
- Input field data into GIS and re-run data analysis (bioclimatic zones, landforms, present day vegetation cover).
- Prepare RAP descriptions and maps.
- Prepare maps for final report:
  - PNAs and RAPs;
  - Current day vegetation cover;
  - Landforms;
  - Bioclimatic zone;
  - Vegetation history map.
- Prepare final report a draft contents page for the final report is presented in Appendix 5.

## 12. THREATENING PROCESSES

Protected areas within the Tauranga Ecological District are very limited in extent. The Department of Conservation (DOC) administers only 0.7% of the total land area (Department of Conservation 1997), which is a miniscule proportion compared to ecological districts such as Rotorua Lakes, another relatively developed district, which has 14% land administered by DOC. Smaller areas within the district are protected by covenant, e.g. QEII open space covenant. With the limited area of natural environment in the Tauranga Ecological District, any process that threatens native flora or fauna is likely to be significant. At the present time the most serious issues are the invasion of plant pest species into many of the natural areas, the destruction of these areas by the brush-tailed possum, predation of indigenous species by mammal pest animal species (e.g. mustelids, rats, and mice), and disturbance of nesting and roosting areas.

Fire, urban development and mining pose a threat to dune vegetation and rare coastal forests, especially as unmodified vegetation of this type is extremely rare. There is a significant lack of formally protected areas of these two vegetation types in the Tauranga Ecological District, and they are significantly reduced on a national scale. Cosatal areas also see a significantly increasing conflict between a recreational focussed human community and the specialised nesting, feeding and roosting requirements of many threatened bird species.

Freshwater wetland vegetation and habitat are highly threatened by draining of the wetlands for agricultural purposes and encroachment by willows. This is especially an issue for sites like the Arawa wetland near Maketu Estuary, which was once part of a vast wetland stretching between Maketu and the Tauranga Harbour. The wetland now encompasses only 24 ha and has been substantially modified by the lowering of the watertable and invasion of weeds such as grey willow (*Salix cinerea*).



Nevertheless, the remaining wetland habitat is still used extensively by a range of bird species and contains two rare ferns; *Thelypteris confluens* and *Cyclosorus interruptus* (Beadel 1989b). Of the wetland vegetation types, kahikatea dominated wetland forest is the least common, as the majority of this forest type was on higher ground suitable for farming and consequently has largely been cleared for agriculture.

## 13. RELATION TO ADJOINING DISTRICTS

Three ecological districts share boundaries with the Tauranga Ecological District.

- 1. *Waihi Ecological District* shares only a very small portion of the boundary on the northern point of the Tauranga Ecological District and is demarcated by a change in geology from sedimentary rock types to rocks of volcanic origin.
- 2. *Te Aroha Ecological District* is situated to the west of the Tauranga Ecological District and south of the Waihi Ecological District. It comprises the northern half of the Kaimai Range, which is largely steep hill country of volcanic origin and is predominantly forest clad. The eastern side of the Kaimai Range within this ecological district demarcates the western boundary of the Tauranga Ecological District.
- 3. *Otanewainuku Ecological District* comprises the Mamaku Plateau to the west and south of Tauranga Ecological District. The boundary between the two is demarcated by the change between sedimentary rock types (Tauranga) and volcanic rock types (Otanewainuku).

A fourth ecological district (Motiti), to the north, is separated from the Tauranga Ecological District by a stretch of water. This ecological district consists of a group of small islands and Motiti itself, probably part of the same drowned volcanic plateau as Mauao.

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### APPENDIX 1

## PROVISIONAL LIST OF INDIGENOUS VASCULAR PLANT TAXA OF TAURANGA ECOLOGICAL DISTRICT

### Gymnosperms

Dacrycarpus dacrydioides Dacrydium cupressinum Phyllocladus trichomanoides var. trichomanoides Podocarpus totara Prumnopitys ferruginea Prumnopitys taxifolia

### Monocot. trees and shrubs

Cordyline australis Cordyline banksii Rhopalostylis sapida

#### Dicot. trees and shrubs

Alectryon excelsus var. excelsus Aristotelia serrata Avicennia marina subsp. australasica Beilschmiedia tawa Brachyglottis repanda s.s. Carmichaelia australis Carpodetus serratus Coprosma acerosa Coprosma acerosa x C. repens Coprosma grandifolia Coprosma lucida Coprosma propinqua subsp. propinqua Coprosma propinqua subsp. propinqua × C. robusta Coprosma repens Coprosma rhamnoides Coprosma robusta Coprosma tenuicaulis Coriaria arborea var. arborea Corynocarpus laevigatus Dodonaea viscosa Dysoxylum spectabile Entelea arborescens Fuchsia excorticata Fuchsia perscandens Gaultheria antipoda

kahikatea rimu tanekaha totara miro matai ti kouka ti ngahere, forest cabbage tree nikau titoki makomako, wineberry manawe, mangrove tawa rangiora makaka, maukoro

kanono karamu

putaputaweta

taupata

karamu hukihuki tutu karaka akeake kohekohe whau kotukutuku

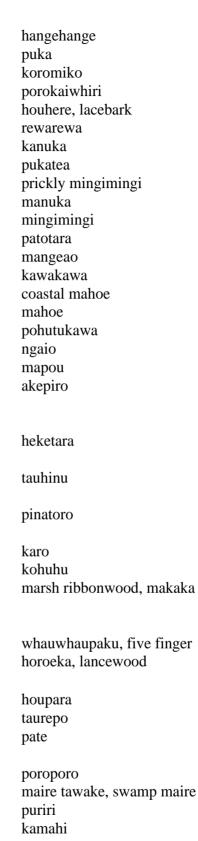
tawiniwini



Geniostoma rupestre var. ligustrifolium Griselinia lucida Hebe stricta var. stricta Hedycarya arborea Hoheria populnea var. lanceolata Knightia excelsa Kunzea ericoides var. ericoides Laurelia novae-zelandiae *Leptecophylla juniperina* subsp. *juniperina* Leptospermum scoparium Leucopogon fasciculatus Leucopogon fraseri Litsea calicaris Macropiper excelsum var. excelsum Melicytus novae-zelandiae Melicytus ramiflorus subsp. ramiflorus Metrosideros excelsa Myoporum laetum Myrsine australis Olearia furfuracea Olearia pachyphylla (historic record, P. de Lange pers. comm.) Olearia rani Olearia solandri Ozothamnus leptophylla Pimelea arenaria *Pimelea prostrata* s.s. Pimelea tomentosa Pittosporum crassifolium Pittosporum tenuifolium subsp. tenuifolium Plagianthus divaricatus Pomaderis kumerahou Pomaderris phylicifolia Pseudopanax arboreus var. arboreus Pseudopanax crassifolius Pseudopanax crassifolius × P. lessonii Pseudopanax lessonii Rhabdothamnus solandri Schefflera digitata Solanum aviculare var. aviculare (incl. S. a. var. albiflorum and S. cheesemanii) Syzygium maire Vitex lucens Weinmannia racemosa

Monocot. lianes

Freycinetia banksii Ripogonum scandens

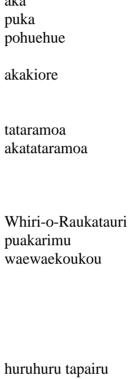


kiekie kareao, supplejack



## Dicot. lianes

Calystegia sepium Calystegia soldanella	pohue panahi
Calystegia tuguriorum	
Calystegia sepium x C. soldanella	
Clematis cunninghamii	ngakau-kiore
Clematis paniculata	puawananga
Metrosideros diffusa	rata
Metrosideros fulgens	rata
Metrosideros perforata	aka
Muehlenbeckia australis	puka
Muehlenbeckia complexa	pohuehue
Muehlenbeckia australis x M. complexa	
Parsonsia capsularis	akakiore
Parsonia heterophylla	
Rubus australis	
Rubus cissoides	tataramoa
Rubus schmidelioides	akatataramoa
Lycopods and psilopsids	
Huperzia varia	Whiri-o-Rauka
Lycopodium deuterodensum	puakarimu
Lycopodium volubile	waewaekouko
Psilotum nudum	
Tmesipteris tannensis	
Ferns	
Adiantum cunninghamii	huruhuru tapai
Adiantum hispidulum	
Asplenium bulbiferum s.s.	mouku
Asplenium flaccidum s.s.	makawe
Asplenium oblongifolium	huruhuruwhen
Asplenium polyodon	petako
Asplenium terrestre subsp. maritimum	
Azolla filiculoides	retoretore
Blechnum chambersii	rereti
Blechnum colensoi	
Blechnum filiforme	panako
Blechnum fluviatile agg.	kiwikiwi
Blechnum novae-zelandiae s.s.	kiokio
Blechnum novae-zelandiae (wetland form;	
B. minus of NZ authors)	
Cardiomanes reniforme	kidney fern
Crepidomanes venosum	- <b>J</b>
Ctenopteris heterophylla	
Cyathea dealbata	ponga
Cyathea medullaris	mamaku
	manunu



e ruwhenua



*Cyclosorus interruptus* Deparia petersenii Dicksonia squarrosa Diplazium australe Doodia australis Gleichenia dicarpa Gleichenia microphylla Grammitis sp. Histiopteris incisa *Hymenophyllum demissum Hymenophyllum dilatatum* Hymenophyllum multifidum *Hymenophyllum rarum* Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum Hymenophyllum scabrum Hypolepis ambigua Hypolepis dicksonioides Hypolepis distans Hypolepis lactea Lastreopsis glabella Lastreopsis hispida Leptopteris hymenophylloides *Lygodium articulatum* Marratia salicina var. salicina Microsorum pustulatum Microsorum scandens Paesia scaberula Pellaea rotundifolia Pneumatopteris pennigera Polystichum richardii Pteridium esculentum Pteris comans Pteris comans x P. macilenta *Pteris macilenta* (of NZ authors) Pteris tremula Pyrrosia eleagnifolia Rumohra adiantiformis Thelypteris confluens

### Orchids

Bulbophyllum pygmaeum Caladenia sp. Corybas oblongus Corybas "Kaimai" (J.B. Irwin pers. comm.) Drymoanthus adversus Earina autumnalis Earina mucronata s.s. Microtis unifolia Orthoceras novae-zeelandiae



wheki pukupuku waewaekaka matata irirangi matua mauku mauku mauku piripiri mauku

heruheru mangemange para, kingfern kowaowao (hounds tongue fern) mokimoki matata tarawera (button fern) pakau pikopiko (hard shield fern) rarahu (bracken)

turawera (shaking brake) leather-leaf fern

piripiri

raupeka peka-a-waka maikaika maikaika

Pterostylis alobula	
Pterostylis banksii	tutukiwi
Pterostylis micromega (Miller 1983)	
Thelymitra longifolia	maikuku
Thelymitra pauciflora	
Winika cunninghamii	

### Grasses

Austrofestuca littoralis	
Austrostipa stipoides	
Chionochloa flavescens	
Cortaderia fulvida	toetoe
Cortaderia toetoe	toetoe
Cortaderia fulvida x C. toetoe	
Deyeuxia avenoides	
Dichelachne crinita	patiti
Echinopogon ovatus	-
Isachne globosa	swamp millet
Lachnagrostis billardierei	perehia
Lachnagrostis lyallii	-
Lachnagrostis filiformis	
Microlaena avenacea	bush rice grass
Microlaena stipoides	patiti
Oplismenus imbecillis	
Poa anceps subsp. anceps	
Poa pusilla	
Rytidosperma gracile	
Spinifex sericeus	kowhangatara
Zoysia pauciflora	
Sedges	
Baumea articulata	
Baumea anthophylla	
Baumea juncea	
Baumea rubiginosa	
Baumea tenax	
Baumea teretifolia	
Bolboschoenus caldwellii	

ririwaka ririwaka

purei



Bolboschoenus fluviatilis

Bolboschoenus medianus

Carex breviculmis Carex dipsacea Carex dissita Carex geminata Carex maorica Carex pumila

Carex secta Carex sinclairii

Carex solandri	
Carex subdola	
Carex testacea	
Carex virgata	purei
Cyperus ustulatus	toetoe upokotangata
Desmoschoenus spiralis	pingao
Eleocharis acuta	
Eleocharis gracilis	
Eleocharis sphacelata	
Gahnia lacera	tarangarara
Gahnia pauciflora	takahikahi
Gahnia setifolia	mapere
Gahnia xanthocarpa	tupari-maunga
Isolepis cernua	
Isolepis distigmatosa	
Isolepis habra	
Isolepis inundata	
Isolepis nodosa	wiwi
Isolepis prolifer	
Isolepis reticularis	
Lepidosperma australe	
Lepidosperma laterale	
Machaerina sinclairii	tuhara
Morelotia affinis	
Schoenoplectus pungens	
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani	kapungawha
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani Schoenus maschalinus	kapungawha
Schoenus maschalinus	
Schoenus maschalinus Schoenus tendo	kapungawha wiwi
Schoenus maschalinus Schoenus tendo Tetraria capillaris	wiwi
Schoenus maschalinus Schoenus tendo Tetraria capillaris Uncinia scabra	wiwi matau
Schoenus maschalinus Schoenus tendo Tetraria capillaris	wiwi
Schoenus maschalinus Schoenus tendo Tetraria capillaris Uncinia scabra Uncinia uncinata	wiwi matau
Schoenus maschalinus Schoenus tendo Tetraria capillaris Uncinia scabra	wiwi matau
Schoenus maschalinus Schoenus tendo Tetraria capillaris Uncinia scabra Uncinia uncinata Rushes	wiwi matau
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Schoenus maschalinus Schoenus tendo Tetraria capillaris Uncinia scabra Uncinia uncinata Rushes Juncus caespiticius Juncus edgarae	wiwi matau kamu, matau a Maui wi
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dland

Astelia fragans

Astelia solandri	kowharawhara
Astelia trinervia	mauri
Collospermum hastatum	kahakaha
Collospermum microspermum	
Cordyline pumilio	ti rauriki
Dianella nigra	turutu
Empodisma minus	
Lemna minor	karearea
Libertia grandifolia	mikoikoi
Phormium cookianum	
Phormium tenax	
Potamogeton cheesemanii	
Potamogeton ochreatus	
Sparganium subglobosum	burr reed
Triglochin striata	arrow grass
Typha orientalis	raupo
Zostera meulleri	Tuop o
Composite herbs	
Cotula coronopifolia	bachelor's button
Euchiton audax	bucherer s buttom
Euchiton gymnocephalum	
Lagenifera pumila	papataniwhaniwha
Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum agg.	pukatea
Senecio hispidulum	рикаса
Senecio glomeratus	
Senecio giomeratus Senecio lautus	
Senecio quadridentatus Senecio scaberulus	
Senecio scuberulus	
Dicot. herbs (other than composites)	
Acaena anserinifolia	piripiri
Apium prostratum	New Zealand celery
Callitriche petrei	New Zealand celery
-	
Centella uniflora	
Chenopodium glaucum subsp. ambiguum	
Dichondra repens	horokaka
Disphyma australe	погокака
Drosera peltata subsp. auriculata	
Epilobium nerteroides	
Epilobium pallidiflorum	
Epilobium pedunculare	
Epilobium rotundifolia	
<i>Euphorbia glauca</i> (planted)	
Galium propinquum	mawe
Geranium solanderi	
Gonocarpus incanus	piripiri
Gonocarpus micranthus subsp. micranthus	



Haloragis erecta subsp. erectatoatoaHydrocotyle heteromeriaHydrocotyle microphyllaHydrocotyle microphyllaHydrocotyle moschataHydrocotyle moschataHydrocotyle novae-zeelandiaeHydrocotyle pterocarpaHypericum japonicumLilaeopsis sp.Lilaeopsis sp.Limosella lineatamudwortLobelia ancepspunakuruMimulus repensMyriophyllum propinquumNertera depressaNertera acapanioidesOxalis exilisOxalis rubensParietaria debilisPelargonium inodorumPersicaria decipienspanakenakeRanunculus acaulismaruruRanunculus maphitrichusmaruruRorippa palustrismaruruSamolus repensmakaokaoSarcocornia quinquefloraremuremuSolanum americanumspergularia mediaStellaria decipiens (incl. S. minuta and S. parviflora)kohukohukokihiLitrica inciaa	Gratiola sexdentata	
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Mimulus repens	· ·	mudwort
Mimulus repens	Lobelia anceps	punakuru
Myriophyllum propinquumNertera depressaNertera scapanioidesOxalis exilisOxalis exilisOxalis rubensParietaria debilisPelargonium inodorumkopataPeperomia urvilleanaPersicaria decipiensPratia angulatapanakenakeRanunculus acaulismaruruRanunculus macropusmaruruRorippa palustrismakokaoSarcocornia quinquefloraremuremuSelliera radicansremuremuSolanum americanumkohukohuStellaria decipiens (incl. S. minuta and S. parviflora)kohukohuKokihiKohukohu		1
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Tetragonia tetragonioides kokihi	Spergularia media	
	Stellaria decipiens (incl. S. minuta and S. parviflora)	kohukohu
Urtica incisa	Tetragonia tetragonioides	kokihi
ornea meisa	Urtica incisa	
Wahlenbergia violacea	Wahlenbergia violacea	



## **APPENDIX 2**

# PROVISIONAL LIST OF ADVENTIVE PLANT TAXA OF TAURANGA ECOLOGICAL DISTRICT

### Gymnosperms

Allocasuarina littoralis Araucaria heterophylla Chamaecyparis lawsoniana Cupressus macrocarpa Pinus pinaster Pinus radiata Pseudotsuga menziesii Dicot, trees and shrubs Acacia decurrens Acacia longifolia Acacia mearnsii Acacia melanoxylon Acacia sophorae *Acer pseudoplatanus* Ailanthus altissima Albizia lophantha Banksia intermedia Berberis glaucocarpa Betula pendula Buddleja davidii Callistemon sp. Chamaecytisus palmensis Chrysanthemoides monilifera Cotoneaster glaucophyllus Cotoneaster simonsii (Wilcox & Ecroyd 1984) Crataegus monogyna Cyphomandra betacea Cytisus scoparius Datura stramonium Erica lusitanica Eriobotrya japonica Eucalyptus botryoides Eugenia smithii Euonymus japonicus Fatsia japonica Feijoa sellowiana Ficus carica

she-oak Norfolk Island pine Lawsons cypress macrocarpa maritime pine radiata pine Douglas fir

green wattle Sydney golden wattle black wattle Tasmanian blackwood sycamore

tree of heaven brush wattle banksii barberry silver birch buddleia bottlebrush tree lucerne boneseed cotoneaster

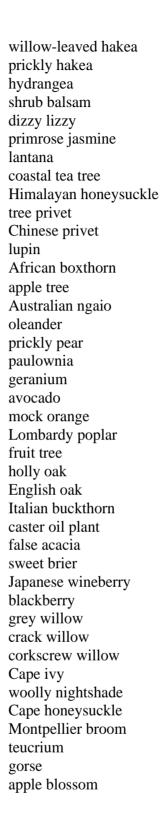
hawthorn tamarillo broom thorn apple Spanish heath loquat eucalyptus lillypilly Japanese spindle tree fatsia feijoa fig



Hakea salicifolia Hakea sericea Hydrangea macrophylla Impatiens sodenii Impatiens sp. Jasminum mesnvi Lantana camara Leptospermum laevigatum Levcesteria formosa Ligustrum lucidum *Ligustrum sinense* Lupinus arboreus Lycium ferocissimum Malus × domestica Myoporum insulare Nerium oleander **Opuntia** vulgaris Paulownia tomentosa *Pelargonium* sp. Persea americana *Philadelphus* x *maxicanus* Populus nigra cv. Italica Prunus sp. **Ouercus** ilex Quercus robur Rhamnus alaternus Ricinus communis Robinia pseudacacia Rosa rubiginosa Rubus phoenicolasius Rubus sp. (R. fruticosus agg.) Salix cinerea Salix fragilis Salix matsudana cv. tortuosa Senecio angulatus Solanum mauritianum Tecomaria capensis Teline monspessulana Teucrium fruticans Ulex europaeus Weigela florida

### Ferns

Azolla pinnata Dryopteris fillixmas Nephrolepis cordifolia Osmunda regalis



ferny azolla male fern tuber ladder fern regal fern



### Dicot. lianes

Actinidia chinensis Araujia sericifera Calystegia silvatica Clematis vitalba *Clematis* sp. Cymbalaria muralis Dipogon lignosus Galeobdolon luteum Hedera helix Ipomoea indica Lonicera japonica Passiflora edulis Passiflora mollissima Rumex saggitattus Senecio mikanioides Senecio petasitis Solanum jasminoides Vinca maior Vitis vinifera

### Monocot. trees and shrubs

Phoenix canariensis Tracycarpus fortunei

#### Lycopods and psilopsids

Sellaginella kraussiana

### Grasses

Agrostis capillaris Agrostis stolonifera Aira caryophyllea Ammophila arenaria Anthoxanthum odoratum Aristida ramosa Arrhenatherum elatius Arundo donax Axonopus fissifolius Briza maxima Briza minor Bromus diandrus Bromus hordeaceus Bromus willdenowii Cortaderia jubata Cortaderia selloana Critesion murinum

kiwifruit moth plant greater bindweed old man's beard ornamental clematis vine Kenilworth ivy mile a minute artillery plant ivy blue morning glory Japanese honeysuckle black passionfruit banana passionfruit climbing dock German ivy velvet groundsel potato vine periwinkle grape

Phoenix palm fan palm

creeping clubmoss

browntop creeping bent silvery hairy grass marram sweet vernal Australian wire grass tall oat grass giant reed narrow-leaved carpet grass quaking grass shivery grass ripgut brome soft brome prairie brome pampas pampas barley grass



Cynodon dactylis Cynosurus cristatus Dactylis glomerata Digitaria sanguinalis Echinochloa crus-galli Eleusine indica *Elytrigia pycnantha* Eragrostis brownii *Festuca rubra* subsp. *rubra Glyceria declinata* Glyceria fluitans Glyceria maxima Holcus lanatus Lagurus ovatus Lolium perenne Miscanthus nepalensis Panicum dichotomiflorum Paspalum conjugatum (Gardiner 1995) Paspalum dilatatum Paspalum distichum Paspalum vaginatum Pennisetum clandestinum Phleum pratense Poa annua Poa pratensis Polypogon monspeliensis Pseudosasa japonica *Rytidosperma racemosum* Schedonorus phoenix Setaria viridis Spartina alterniflora Spartina anglica Spartina x townsenii Sporobolus africanus *Stenotaphrum secundatum* Vulpia bromoides Vulpia myuros

# Sedges

Carex divulsa Carex lurida Carex ovalis Carex vulpinoidea Cyperus brevifolius Cyperus congestus Cyperus eragrostis Cyperus involucratus Cyperus tenellus Isolepis sepulcralis



Indian doab crested dogstail cocksfoot summer grass barnyard grass crowfoot grass sea couch bay grass red fescue floating sweetgrass sweetgrass reed sweetgrass Yorkshire fog harestail rye grass Himalaya fairy grass smooth witchgrass paspalum Mercer grass saltwater paspalum kikuyu grass timothy annual poa Kentucky bluegrass beard grass bamboo tall fescue green bristle grass spartina spartina spartina ratstail buffalo grass vulpia hairgrass vulpia hairgrass

purple umbrella sedge

umbrella sedge

## Rushes

Juncus acuminatus	sharp-fruited rush
Juncus articulatus	
Juncus bufonius	
Juncus bulbosus	
Juncus conglomeratus	
Juncus effusus	soft rush
Juncus microcephalus	
Juncus tenuis	track rush

### Monocot. herbs (other than orchids, grasses, sedges and rushes)

*Agapanthus praecox* Allium triquetrum Arum italicum Aristea ecklonii Asparagus asparagoides Asparagus sprengeri Asparagus scandens Canna indica Ceratophyllum demersum Colocasia esculenta Crocosmia × crocosmiiflora Egeria densa Elodea canadensis Freesia refracta *Hedychium gardnerianum* Ixia maculata Kniphofia uvaria Lagarosiphon major Leucojum aestivum Lilium formosanum Narcissus pseudonarcissus Potamogeton crispus Scilla non-scripta Spirodela punctata Tradescantia fluminensis Watsonia meriana cv. Bulbillifera Zantedeschia aethiopica

# Composite herbs

Achillea millefolium Arctotheca calendula Aster subulatus Bellis perennis Bidens frondosa Carduus tenuiflorus



agapanthus three-cornered garlic Italian arum aristea smilax climbing asparagus canna lily hornwort taro montbretia egeria; oxygen weed Canadian pondweed freesia wild ginger ixia red hot poker lagarosiphon; oxygen weed snowflake Easter lily daffodil curled pondweed bluebell purple-backed duckweed tradescantia watsonia arum lily

yarrow cape weed sea aster daisy beggars' ticks thistle Chrysanthemum segetum Cirsium arvense Cirsium vulgare Conyza albida Crepis capillaris Erechtites hieraciifolia Erigeron karvinskianus *Gaillardia* × grandifolia Gamochaeta spicata Gazania linearis Hypochoeris radicata Lactuca serriola Leontodon taraxacoides Leucanthemum vulgare Matricaria dioscoidea Mycelis muralis Osteospermum fruticosum Picris echioides Senecio bipinnatisectus Senecio elegans Senecio jacobaea Senecio skirrhodon Senecio svlvaticus Senecio vulgaris Sonchus asper Sonchus oleraceus Taraxacum officinale

### Dicot. herbs (other than composites)

Acaena agnipila Acaena novae-zelandiae Acanthus mollis Anagallis arvensis Angelica pachycarpa Anthemis arvensis Aphanes arvenis Artemisia verlotiorum Atriplex prostrata Cakile edentula Cakile maritima *Callitriche stagnalis* Cannabis sativa Capsella bursa-pastoris Cardamine hirsuta Carpobrotus edulis Centaurium erythraea Cerastium fontanum Chenopodium album Chenopodium ambrosioides

corn marigold California thistle Scotch thistle fleabane hawksbeard American fireweed Mexican daisy gaillardia cudweed gazania catsear prickly lettuce hawkbit oxeye daisy rayless camomile wall lettuce rain daisy/dimorphotheca oxtongue Australian fireweed purple groundsel ragwort gravel groundsel wood groundsel groundsel prickly puha, prickly sow thistle puha dandelion

Australian sheep's burr piripiri acanthus scarlet pimpernel angelica corn chamomile parsley piert Chinese mugwort orache sea rocket sea rocket starwort hemp shepherd's purse bitter cress ice plant centaury mouse-ear chickweed fathen Mexican tea



Conium maculatum Coronopus didymus Cotvledon orbiculata Dianthus ameria Digitalis purpurea Dipsacus fullonum Duchesnea indica Epilobium ciliatum Euphorbia lathyris Euphorbia peplus Fragaria vesca *Foeniculum vulgare* Fumaria muralis Galeobdolon luteum Galinsoga parviflora Galium aparine Galium palustre Geranium molle Geranium robertianum Gunnera tinctorea *Hypericum perforatum* Lamium purpureum Lapsana communis *Lepidium* sp. Linum bienne Lotus pedunculatus Lotus suaveolens Ludwigia palustris Lunaria annua Lycopersicon esculentum Lycopus europeaus Lythrum hyssopifolia Malva parviflora Marrubium vulgare Medicago arabica Medicago nigra Medicago sativa Melilotus indicus Mentha pulegium Mentha x piperita Mimulus moschatus Modiola caroliniana Myosotis arvensis Myosotis sylvatica Nasturtium microphyllum Nasturtium officinale Oenothera stricta Ornithopus perpusillus Orobanche minor Osteospermum fruticosum

hemlock twin cress pig's ear Deptford pink foxglove wild teasel Indian strawberry willow herb caper spurge milkweed wild strawberry fennel scrambling fumitory artillery plant galinsoga cleavers marsh bedstraw dove's foot herb Robert Chilean rhubarb St John's wort red dead nettle nipple wort lotus hairy birdsfoot trefoil water purslane honesty tomato gypsywort

hyssop loosestrife mallow horehound spotted bur medick bur medick lucerne King Island melilot penny royal peppermint musk creeping mallow forget-me-not garden forget-me-not watercress watercress evening primrose seradella broomrape



Oxalis incarnata Parentucellia viscosa Pastinaca sativa Physalis peruviana Phytolacca octandra Plantago australis Plantago coronopus Plantago lanceolata Plantago major Plectranthus ciliata *Polycarpon tetraphyllum* Polygonum aviculare Polygonum capitatum Polygonum hydropiper Polygonum persicaria Portulaca oleracea Primula sp. Prunella vulgaris Ranunculus acris Ranunculus flammula Ranunculus parviflorus Ranunculus repens Ranunculus scleratus Raphanus raphanistrum subsp. raphanistrum Rumex acetosella Rumex conglomeratus Rumex obtusifolius Sagina procumbens Scrophularia auriculata Silene gallica Sisymbrium officinale Solanum chenopodioides Solanum linnaeanum Solanum marginatum Solanum nigrum Solanum americanum Solanum pseudocapsicum Solanum tuberosum Soliva valdiviana Spergula arvensis Stachys arvensis Stachys sylvatica Stellaria alsine Stellaria graminea Stellaria media Trifolium arvense *Trifolium pratense* Trifolium repens Tropaeolum majus Urtica dioca

lilac oxalis tarweed wild parsnip cape gooseberry inkweed swamp plantain buck's horn plantain narrow-leaved plantain broad-leaved plantain plectranthus allseed wireweed pink-head knotweed water pepper willow weed wild portulaca primula selfheal giant buttercup spearwort small-flowered buttercup creeping buttercup celery-leaved buttercup wild raddish sheep's sorrel clustered dock dock pearlwort water figwort catchfly wild mustard velvety nightshade Apple of Sodom white-edged nightshade black nightshade small-flowered nightshade Jerusalem cherry potato Onehunga weed spurrey staggerweed hedge woundwort bog stitchwort stitchwort chickweed haresfoot trefoil red clover white clover garden nasturtium stinging nettle



Verbascum thapsus Verbascum virgatum Verbena bonariensis Verbena officinalis Veronica anagallis-aquatica Veronica arvensis Veronica serpyllifolia Vicia sativa Wahlenbergia sp. Yucca sp. woolly mullein moth mullein purple-top vervain water speedwell field speedwell turf speedwell vetch harebell yucca



# FAUNA OF THE TAURANGA ECOLOGICAL DISTRICT

## **AVIFAUNA**

List compiled from: Barker and Larcombe (1976); Rasch (1989); Owen (1993); Cromarty (1996); Department of Conservation (1996); Tauranga District Council (1996).

#### Native

Acanthasitta chloris granti Anarhynchus frontalis Anas gracilis Anas rhynchotis variegata Anas superciliosa superciliosa Anthornis melanura Anthus novaeseelandiae Ardea novaehollandiae Arenaria interpres Aythya novaeseelandiae Botaurus poicilioptilus Bowdleria punctata vealeae Calidris acuminata Calidris alba Calidris canutus Calidris ferruginea Calidris ruficollis Charadrius bicinctus Charadrius melanops Charadrius obscurus aquilonius Chlidonias leucopterus Chrysococcus lucidus Circus approximans gouldi Egretta alba modesta Egretta sacra sacra Eudynamys taitensis *Eudyptula minor iredalei* Falco novaeseelandiae Gallirallus philippensis Gallirallus phillippensis assimilis Gervgone igata Haematopus ostralegus Haematopus unicolor Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus Himantopus novaezelandiae Hirundo tahitica

North Island rifleman wrybill grey teal New Zealand shoveler grey duck bellbird New Zealand pipit white-faced heron turnstone New Zealand scaup Australasian bittern North Island fernbird sharp-tailed sandpiper sanderling red knot curlew sandpiper red-necked stint banded dotterel black-fronted dotterel northern New Zealand dotterel white-winged black tern shining cuckoo Australasian harrier white heron reef heron long-tailed cuckoo northern blue penguin New Zealand falcon banded rail banded rail grey warbler South Island pied oystercatcher variable oystercatcher kereru,New Zealand pigeon pied stilt black stilt welcome swallow



Larus bulleri Larus dominicanus Larus novaehollandiae Limosa haemastica Limosa lapponica Limosa lapponica baueri Mohua albicilla Morus serrator *Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis* Ninox novaseelandiae Numenius madagascariensis Numenius phaeopus Petroica australis longipes Petroica macrocephala toitoi Phalacrocorax carbo Phalacrocorax melanoleucos Phalacrocorax sulcirostris Phalacrocorax varius Platalea regia Pluvialis fulva Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus Porzana pusilla affinis Porzana tabuensis plumbea Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae Pterodoma macroptera Puffinus griseus Rhipidura fuliginosa placabilis Sterna albifrons Sterna albostriata Sterna caspia Sterna hirundo Sterna nereis davisae Sterna striata Tadorna variegata Todiramphus sanctus vagans Tringa brevipes Tringa nebularia Vanellus miles *Zosterops lateralis* 

### <u>Exotic</u>

Acridotheres tristris Alauda arvensis Anas platyrhynchos Anser anser Arenaria interpres Branta canadensis Callipepla californica Carduelis carduelis



black-billed gull southern black-backed gull red-billed gull Hudsonian godwit Asiatic bar-tailed godwit eastern bar-tailed godwit whitehead Australasian gannet North Island kaka morepork eastern curlew whimbrel North Island robin North Island tomtit black shag little shag little black shag pied shag royal spoonbill Pacific golden plover pukeko marsh crake spotless crake tui grey-faced petrel sooty shearwater North Island fantail little tern black-fronted tern Caspian tern common tern New Zealand fairy tern white-fronted tern paradise shelduck New Zealand kingfisher Siberian tattler greenshank spur-winged plover silvereye

common myna skylark mallard feral goose turnstone Canada goose California quail goldfinch Carduelis chloris Carduelis flammea Columba livia Cygnus atratus Emberiza citrinella Fringilla coelebs Gallus gallus *Gymnorhina tibicen* Meleagris galloparvo Passer domesticus Phasianus colchicus Platycercus eximius Prunella modularis Sturnus vulgaris Synoicus ypsilophorus Turdus merula *Turdus philomelos* 

greenfinch redpoll feral pigeon black swan yellowhammer chaffinch domestic chicken Australian magpie turkey house-sparrow, dunnock pheasant eastern rosella hedge-sparrow starling brown quail blackbird song thrush

### **HERPETOFAUNA**

List compiled from: Rasch (1989); Wildland Consultants Ltd (2000e).

Indigenous

Cyclodina aenea	copper skink
Hoplodactylus granulatus	forest gecko
Hoplodactylus maculatus	common gecko
Hoplodactylus pacificus	Pacific gecko
Leiolopisma moco	moko skink
Leiolopisma smithi	shore skink
Leiopelma hochstetteri	Hochstetter's frog
<u>Exotic</u> Lampropholis delicata	rainbow skink
MAMMALS	

# Indigenous

Chalinolobus tuberculatus Mystacina tuberculata rhyacobia

<u>Exotic</u>

Bos taurus Canis familiaris Capra hircus long-tailed bat short-tailed bat

cattle dog goat



Erinaceus europaeus
Felis catus
Lepus europaeus
Macropus euginii
Mus musculus
Mustela erminea
Mustela nivalis
Mustela putorius furo
Oryctolagus cuniculus
Rattus norvegicus
Rattus rattus
Sus scrofa
Trichosurus vulpecula

European hedgehog feral cat brown hare dama wallaby house mouse stoat weasel ferret rabbit Norway rat black (ship) rat pig brush-tailed possum

# <u>FISH</u>

List compiled from: Rasch (1989); Cromarty (1996); Department of Conservation (1997); Wildland Consultants Ltd (2000e); Wildland Consultants Ltd (2001b).

Aldrichetta forsteri Anguilla australis Anguilla dieffenbachia Cheimarrichthys fosteri Galaxias argenteus Galaxias fasciatus Galaxias maculatus Galaxias postvectis Gobiomorphus cotidienus Gobiomorphus huttoni Oncorhynchus mykiss Retropinna retropinna Salmo trutta yellow-eyed mullet short-finned eel long-finned eel torrentfish giant kokopu banded kokopu inanga short-jawed kokopu common bully red-finned bully rainbow trout common smelt brown trout

# **INVERTEBRATES**

See Barker and Larcombe (1976) for more information on invertebrate species in the tidal zone.

Polistes chinensis Amphibola crenata Apion ulicis Apis mellifera Bombus spp. Chione stutchburyi Helice crassa (Amphidesina?) Paphies australe Vespula vulgaris Vespula germanica Asian paper wasp mud snail gorse seed weevil honey bee bumble bee cockle crab pipi common wasp German wasp



# LAND COVER AND LANDFORM OF THE TAURANGA ECOLOGICAL DISTRICT

												L	and Cov	ver									
Landform Unit	_	Bare ground		Coastal sands		Coastal Wetlands		Estuarine channels & intertidal flats		Horticultural & pastoral			Indigenous forest		Inland Wetland		Planted forest		ub	Urban & urban open space		TOTAL	
		ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%
Alluvial plains	Historic		<b>.</b>										27	6,703	73		,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	2,433	27			9,136	100
	Current	10			1	2				8,678	95	43		18				380	4	5		9,136	100
Flat undulating	Historic		<b>.</b>									356	92	14				4,410	92			4,780	100
	Current	11					-			4,130	86	422	9	9		36	1	101	2	72	2	4,780	100
Gullies	Historic		ļ		<u> </u>							488	29					1,193	71			1,681	100
	Current						:			443	26	1,027	61	19	1	23	1	169	10			1,681	100
Higher terraces	Historic													40	8			455	92			496	100
	Current	22	5		1					449	91	5	1			1		18	4			496	100
Hill(s)	Historic				-		-		-		-	2,745	49					2,886	51			5,631	100
	Current	29	1							3,908	69	608	11	1		669	12	415	7			5,631	100
Intertidal flats	Historic						- -				-								100				100
	Current										100												100
River flats	Historic							1				234	6	435	12			3,026	82			3,696	100
	Current	16				1	3			3,136	85	262	7	4		29	1	140	4	109	3	3,696	100
Sand dunes	Historic													380	98			7	2			387	100
	Current	2	1							384	99									1		387	100
Undifferentiated	Historic				1		1		-		-	66		698	5			13,145	95			13,909	100
terrace	Current	51	-							11,965	86	479	3	1		61		257	2	1,095	8	13,909	100
Undulating low hills	Historic				1		:					7,931	39	174	1			12,335	60			20,441	100
Ū	Current	41					1			15,959	78	3,030	15	7		94		870	4	439	2	20,441	100
Very steep hills	Historic									,		14	20					56	80			70	100
	Current		••••••••	1	••• <u>•</u> ••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••		eta constanta da seconda da second En esta da seconda da s		·· <b>/</b> ······	4	6	5	7			38	54	23	33			70	100
Water	Historic				1	t	1		1		-	_		27	71		-	11	29			37	100
-	Current	+	4	+		1	1			22	58							15	41			37	100
GRAND TOTAL	Historic						· ·	1				11,834	20	8,470	14			39,958	66			60,264	100
	Current	<b>.</b>		-		4				49,078	81	5,881	 10	57		949	2	2,390	4	1,720	3	60,264	100

# 4.1 Land cover in the semi-coastal bioclimatic zone of the Tauranga Ecological District



# **APPENDIX 4**

# 4.2 Landcover in the coastal bioclimatic zone of the Tauranga Ecological District

												L	and Co	ver									
Landform Unit	-	Bare ground		Coasta	I sands	nds Coastal Wetlands		Estuarine channels & intertidal flats		Horticultural & pastoral		-	Indigenous forest		Inland Wetland	Planted forest		Scrub		open	& urban space	TOTAL	
		ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%
Alluvial plains	Historic		<u> </u>	143	17	4.0	<u> </u>					10		665	79			32	4		ļ	841	100
0	Current	30	4	3		16	2			578	69	13	2					187	22	14	2	841	100
Cliffs	Historic		:		10		+		: ••••									7	100		: T	7	100
	Current	1	11	1	10		<u> </u>		<u> </u>	5	63							1	16	0	<u> </u>	1	100
Flat undulating	Historic			4					-	700		4.40	4.4			40		1,063	100			1,063	100
0	Current	28	3			6	1			739	69	148	14			12	1	65	6	66	6	1,063	100
Gullies	Historic						ļ			07	1							59	100			59	100
LP-b-s-t-s-s-s	Current		: 1 i						- 1	27	45	7	11					25	41	1	· 1	59	100
Higher terraces	Historic	~~	<u> </u>				<u> </u>		<b>.</b>	400	Ļ							217	100	07	Ļ	217	100
	Current	25	12	1		1				130	60	1						33	15	27	13	217	100
Hill(s)	Historic		-	56	44		+		-	40			4.0					71	56		- -	127	100
Le Client le sub-serve	Current		<u> </u>						<u> </u>	40	32	20	16					67	52		<u> </u>	127	100
Infilled harbour	Historic		: 1				1		: "İ		: Ť							48	100	40	: 1 400	48	100
	Current			40	47	_	-		4									70		48	100	48	100
Intertidal flats	Historic	4	ļ	16	17	5	5	1	ļ		<u> </u>	~	~			4.4	45	72	77		ļ	94	100
Occupation and	Current	1	1	1	1	26	28		1	28	30	3	3			14	15	7	7	14	15	94	100
Oceanside sand	Historic			112	100		<u> </u>	<u>_</u>	_		ļ					40			40		ļ	112	100
beaches	Current		<u> </u>	78	70	407	4.0		<u> </u>	4	3			450	4.5	12	11	14	13	3	3	112	100
River flats	Historic		- 			107	10				- 1	~-		153	15	~-		781	75		- 1	1,041	100
<u> </u>	Current	3		38	4	91	9		-	558	54	85	8		4.0	35	3	150	14	80	8	1,041	100
Sand dunes	Historic			5,280	71	13	ļ				ļ			762	10			1,430	19		ļ	7,485	100
	Current	16		161	2	21			1	1,267	17	25		14		3,908	52	270	4	1,802	24	7,485	100
Undifferentiated	Historic			296	4	14	<u> </u>				<u> </u>			372	5			7,300	91			7,982	100
terrace	Current	63	1	8		209	3			5,875	74	264	3			149	2	375	5	1,039	13	7,982	100
Undulating low hills	Historic		: 			2					: *			10	1			1,511	99		: 1	1,523	100
	Current	11	1			8	1			807	53	133	9					111	7	453	30	1,523	100
Very steep hills	Historic								: 		: Y							72	100		: 	72	100
<del></del>	Current									29	41	28	39					15	20			72	100
Wetlands	Historic		<u> </u>	223	43	45	9				<u> </u>			169	33			80	15		<u> </u>	517	100
	Current	5	1			146	28			179	35	1		5	1	102	20	77	15	3		517	100
GRAND TOTAL	Historic		ļ	6,126	29	186	<u> </u>	1			Į			2,131	10			12,745	60			21,189	100
	Current	183	1	291	1	523	2			10,265	48	727	3	19		4,232	20	1,397	7	3,552	17	21,189	100

# 4.3 Landcover in the lowland bioclimatic zone of the Tauranga Ecological District

		Land Cover																					
Landform Unit		Bare ground		Coastal sands		Coastal Wetlands		Estuarine channels & intertidal flats		Horticultural & pastoral			Indigenous forest		Inland Wetland		Planted forest		Scrub		Urban & urban open space		AL
		ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%
Undulating low hills	Historic								1		1	53	100						1		1	53	100
	Current										Ì	53	100									53	100
GRAND TOTAL	Historic											53	100									53	100
	Current										E	53	100						-		Ē	53	100



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