

# Corbett Lake Scenic Reserve

At a glance (last updated: February 2006)			
TRC reference:	0888-0	Ecological district:	Egmont
Other reference:	DOC 70375	LENZ environment:	F5.2b (3.0 ha) H1.3a (1.2 ha)
Land tenure:	Crown	Protection status:	A, B, C
GPS:	2589064E – 6219232N	Area:	4.2 ha

## Location

The Crown-owned Corbett Lake Scenic Reserve is located 5 km south-east of Okato and lies in the Egmont Ecological District.

## General description

The Corbett Lake Scenic Reserve (4.2 ha) contains a small lake, palustrine and lacustrine wetland, and is surrounded by native bush on three sides. It is located in a depression on lahar deposits. Much of the area has been covered by old debris flows from Mt Taranaki which has resulted in a very stony landscape with bouldery hummocks and swampy depressions.



## Ecological features

### Vegetation

The Corbett Lake Scenic Reserve contains a good representation of wetland vegetation. Vegetation surrounding Corbett Lake includes variable amounts of kamahi (*Weinmannia racemosa*), swamp maire (*Syzygium maire*), twiggie coprosmas, karamu (*Coprosma lucida*), pukatea (*Laurelia novae-zelandiae*) and manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*). This vegetation is located in the buffer zone between the lake and the forest behind. It is all less than 5 metres high.

## Fauna

Indigenous birds found in the Reserve include the New Zealand pigeon (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*), which is identified as 'Chronically Threatened (Gradual Decline)'. Other native birds present are fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*), harrier hawk (*Circus approximans*), and pukeko (*Porphyrio porphyrio*).

The Reserve is a moulting site for paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*). Canadian geese (*Branta canadensis*) are also present at the site.

## Ecological values

Ecological values	Rank	Comment
Rarity and distinctiveness	Medium	Contains the 'Chronically Threatened' New Zealand pigeon
Representativeness	High	A small but high quality example of indigenous vegetation on 'Acutely Threatened' (F5.2b, H1.3a) LENZ environments
Ecological context	Medium to high	Wetland is a refuge for wildlife, particularly waterfowl that also utilise other wetlands in the region
Sustainability	Positive	In relatively good vegetative condition. Key ecological processes still influence the site. Under appropriate management it can remain resilient to existing or potential threats

## Management threats and response

Potential and actual threats to the sustainability of the Corbett Lake Scenic Reserve's ecological values are as follows:

Threats to ecological values	Level of risk	Comment
Pest animals	Low to medium	Possums, cats, goats, mustelids and rats
Weeds	Medium	Blackberry and bracken
Habitat modification	Low to medium	Illegal shooting of waterfowl on the lake

Site protection measures addressing potential threats and actual threats are as follows:

Site protection	Yes/No	Description
<b>A</b> Public ownership or formal agreement	Yes	Public Conservation Estate (Scenic Reserve)
<b>B</b> Regulatory protection by local government	Yes	Site specific rules apply – Taranaki Regional Council rules for wetlands (refer Appendix IIA of the Regional Fresh Water Plan) General regional or district rules might also apply
<b>C</b> Active protection	Yes	Fenced Enhancement plantings Self-help Possum Control Programme

