

Name:	Lake Kaikokopu	
Location:	NZ Topo BM33	
Description:	Dune lake with native riparian margins.	
ONL/ONF/SAF:	Significant Amenity Feature	
Natural Science:	Geological/ Geomorphological:	Basin-type dune lake formed at the boundary of two dune forming phases. Shallow lake with a sandy bottom. Lake Kaikokopu is a dune wetland and, therefore, is representative of one of New Zealand's most threatened and rare ecosystem types in New Zealand.
	Biological/Ecological:	Indigenous raupō and Carex secta comprise the majority of the lake's vegetation, however crack willow is also present, which reduces the ecological integrity of the area. In recent times, Horizons (Manawatu-Wanganui) Regional Council has cited the importance of the connected Kaikokopu Stream for native fish spawning, as well as for redfin bullies. Due to the migratory nature of these species the protection of the connecting water systems is important in retaining and further enhancing what remnant native fishery there is. The lake is an important breeding and feeding area for two rare, threatened species of waterfowl, New Zealand dabchick and Australasian bittern, and is important for a number of other bird species, reflecting the lake's ecosystem functionality and mauri.
	Hydrological:	Shallow lake that has an inlet stream (Kaikokopu Stream) and an outflow through the dunes to the nearby ocean. Seventy-five percent of the lake is open water. Due to Kaikokopu Stream's shallow depth and low flows for much of the summer period E. coli concentrations can breach contact recreation guidelines at times, especially following rainfall, reducing the mauri of the water. However, in 2016 the Kaikokopu Stream Revitalisation Project was undertaken which included riparian planting. Since this project, the stream has performed better hydrologically and future research through fish surveys will be used to determine ecological conditions of the stream.
Perceptual:	Memorability:	Expansive water of the lake and riparian vegetation which surrounds the water contrasts with the textures and colours of the surrounding pastoral and plantation forestry landscape.
	Legibility/Expressiveness:	Expressive of the wetland habitat that once covered a much larger area in the district.
	Transient:	Migratory birds and seasonal colour changes and growth pattern with plants.
	Aesthetic:	Significant aesthetic appeal as a result of the vividness of the lake, which provides a general pattern of land cover coherence, combined with the remnant riparian vegetation.
	Naturalness:	A moderate degree of perceived naturalness exists within the lake due to the presence of the combination of indigenous vegetation and its open body of water. This character is however degraded by the extent of pastoral farming, drainage and plantation forestry which surrounds the area.
Associational:	Historical:	Some afforestation has been undertaken in the surrounding area, primarily for revenue purposes but also to stabilise the land.
	Tangata Whenua:	Under the Settlement Act, Lake Kaikokopu is an area of interest for Rangitāne o Manawatū and Ngāti Apa. Lake Kaikokopu provided valuable mahinga kai and an abundance of tuna (eels) to Rangitāne o Manawatū in the past. It was a place that Rangitāne o Manawatū would stop overnight to replenish food stocks and to rest while travelling between Rangitikei and Manawatū. Lake Kaikokopu remains in Māori ownership. Lake Kaikokopu is located within Himatangi. The correct hyphenation of the word is said not to be Hima-tangi but Hi-matangi. "Hi" means to fish, and Matangi was a chief who lived in the mystic past in the Mohaka District of the East Coast. The name also refers to Matangi capturing and slaying a taniwha in the area upon his settlement. Himatangi was famous for the abundance of birds and eels available from the wetlands and dune lakes in the area, namely one of these was Lake Kaikokopu. As a result of the early land transactions between the Crown and Ngāti Apa (North Island), access to many of the resources along the coastal area became very difficult and limited. Reserves were established around coastal lakes, including Lake Kaikokopu, but no legal access was provided for these land areas. Traditionally, Lake Kaikokopu was accessed mainly for tuna but also for kōkopu, mudfish, inanga and kakahi (freshwater mussel). Ngāti Kauae and Ngāti Rangiwaho, hapū of Ngāti Apa, traditionally used the lake for catching tuna. They also had a settlement at Lake Kaikokopu and there were several pā on islands in the lake.
	Shared/Recognised:	Listed as a heritage place under Appendix 1 of the MDC District Plan.
	Recreation:	Lake Kaikokopu is privately-managed for gamebird hunting.
Summary of Key Characteristics:	Moderate degree of perceived naturalness derived from the presence of indigenous vegetation combined with the expressiveness of the lake which contrasts with the surrounding agricultural and plantation forestry land use. Unique habitat type, with rare fauna species and cultural associations.	
Potential Issues:	The open water and remnant native vegetation defines the feature and contributes to perceived naturalness, aesthetic values, and associational factors. It would assist preservation of the key characteristics if the following were to occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restrict adverse effects on cultural values; limit the loss of native vegetation; limit the establishment of exotic vegetation; limit earthworks; and limit built development. 	

SAF4 - Significant Amenity Feature - Lake Kaikokopu

