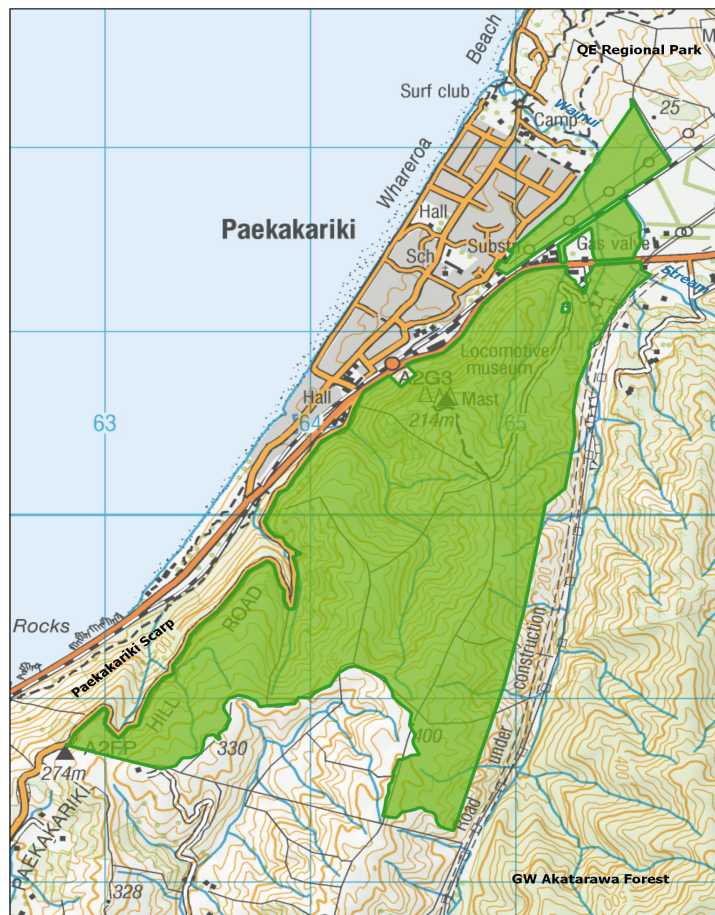




Project Kakariki

Project Kakariki will protect much of the natural areas surrounding our Paekakariki community for future generations. The land it protects has been bought by NZTA for the Transmission Gully motorway and is surplus. It contains the eroding headwaters of our streams, the steep face of our escarpment, outstanding landscapes, mature and regenerating native forest, historic sites, significant streams with rare fish, extraordinary ecological restoration/corridor/carbon sink opportunities, and many amenity/recreational opportunities. The land comprises 339 ha. immediately east of the Paekakariki village.



Key advantages of Project Kakariki

The outstanding advantage is protection of the natural character of our Paekakariki scarp and coastal hills from development. In time, native forest will clothe and enhance this steep land, allowing our native species and birds such as Kakariki to flourish.

A hidden advantage is the natural healing of the runoff, erosion and slips that plague this land, flooding our village, our highway, our railway, our campground and our homes. These hazards will only get worse with climate change.

There are recreation opportunities too. Paekakariki is already a regional destination for natural outdoors walking and cycling with the Te Ara O Whareroa shared path and the Paekakariki Scarp Track. New tracks such as the clifftop above the railway station, and stream or ridgetop walks will greatly enhance the recreation opportunities for our community and visitors alike.

A new neighbourhood park will provide a much anticipated community garden, flood protection and other amenities.

The restoration of a native forest ecosystem on our hills will build a large Carbon Sink that will immediately mitigate some of our village greenhouse gas emissions.

Protection of our Wainui, Te Puka and Waikakariki streams and their margins will restore and enhance our freshwater ecosystems and the threatened native fish that live in them.

Lastly and importantly, the restoration of native forest on our hills and along our streams will provide vital ecological corridors that connect QE Regional Park with the Paekakariki Scarp and Mt Wainui creating a new ecological network where nature can flourish across the district.

Progress is already underway by the wider community

[Nga Uruora](#) are active in predator/weed control on the site and have a Strategic Plan that supports legal protection, a [Revegetation Plan](#) for some of the site, and a 1,650 ha. [Kapiti Mainland Island](#) animal pest plan (developed with a MFE Community Environment Fund grant to the [Kapiti Biodiversity Project](#)) for some of the site - Walking Access Commission have applied for walking access across the land - [Friends Of Paekakariki Streams](#) are endeavouring to protect the Wainui Stream and remove fish passage barriers and restore its margins - NZTA have fenced off all stream margins and are undertaking significant forest planting as ecological impact mitigation and soil conservation - Greater Wellington have agreed to manage some of the land as Regional Park and support pest control over another portion as a Key Native Ecosystem - Kapiti Coast District Council have built the Betty Perkins Way walkway across the land - DOC staff have supported Wainui Stream protection and using credits to secure some of this land for conservation and reserve purposes.

Whakapapa of Project Kakariki

This project had its genesis with the [GROW PAEKAKARIKI](#) project where the Paekakariki community sought to identify which areas of one NZTA purchased property should be set aside from development to secure significant recreation, amenity, open space and biodiversity. In 2013 an open and transparent community engagement process resulted in the GROW PAEKAKARIKI [Report](#) recommendations which were endorsed publicly by the Paekakariki community, the Paekakariki Community Board, and the full Kapiti Coast District Council.

Since then the community have become aware of other adjoining NZTA land that should naturally be included, that there should be wider Ecological Corridors protected in this area after districtwide [research](#) into ecological corridor benefits of carbon sinks, and that this site has great potential to reduce greenhouse emissions and create an extensive native afforestation carbon sink. NZTA have several years ago retired much of the land from grazing and it is now well on its way to natural native afforestation, enhanced with plantings they have made since.

Many people in our community have tried for several years to persuade the Kapiti Coast District Council to purchase this surplus land, but as they are now having financial difficulty, that option has been exhausted. NZTA need to sell the surplus land after 2020, so we all need a new solution now. Management by DOC will enable our Paekakariki community and conservation groups to action conservation enhancement for the benefit of everyone nationally, regionally, and locally. It may be necessary to follow Public Works Act procedures to secure this legal protection.

There is a great deal of support in the community for the GROW PAEKAKARIKI recommendations, and including the old quarry site, carbon sinks, and extended ecological corridors.

Elements of the Project Kakariki site

Soil Conservation Catchments - over steepened eroding catchments lying behind the coastal scarp and along the left bank of Te Puka Stream.

They are largely reverting pasture as most grazing has been retired. It contains several areas of native forest and regenerating native shrubland. NZTA are native reforesting the area along the left bank of Te Puka Stream as ecological mitigation for adverse impacts of Transmission Gully, and some areas of extreme erosion on the balance. There are farm tracks over some of the land. There is a Natural Gas Pipeline and access road along the main ridge. Much of the land is erosion prone and covered in slumps, gully erosion, debris flood deposits and gravel deposits in stream channels.

Land either side of SH1 - between the railway and the base of the hills.

It is grazed by horses north of SH1, with Wainui Stream and Te Puka Stream fenced off from grazing. There are threatened fish in the streams. There are some native trees remaining along Te Puka Stream. The streams often deposit large volumes of gravel, and machinery access is required to manage the impacts of this on flood capacity. Several areas flood/pond during the winter or heavy rainfall. It is crossed by a large natural gas pipeline and community water pipelines. There is a cottage beside Te Puka Stream. The south side of SH1 has been taken over by Transmission Gully silt traps and clean fill operations.

Paekakariki Scarp - the old coastal scarp that edges the flat land along SH1. It is over steepened due to past coastal erosion.

It is largely reverting pasture as grazing has been retired. It contains several areas of native forest and regenerating native shrubland. There is a farm track along the top of the northern portion. There is a disused quarry with associated structures, opposite the Paekakariki Railway Station. There are several communication towers opposite the Paekakariki Railway Station. There is an historic pa site just north of Waikakariki Stream and historic WWI radar research buildings at the top of Paekakariki Hill Rd. Waikakariki stream emerges from the hills and there is a walking track along this. There is a paragliding launch site above the top of Paekakariki Hill Rd.

Tilley Triangle - between Tilley Rd houses and the railway and QE Regional Park.

It is grazed by horses with Wainui Stream and Te Puka Stream fenced off from grazing. There are threatened fish in the streams. The streams often deposit large volumes of gravel, and machinery access is required to manage the impacts of this on flood capacity. Several areas flood/pond during the winter or heavy rainfall. Residents garden several areas of the west side. There is an outstanding dune landform at the north end. An area is proposed as wetland by the Minister of Conservation. It is crossed by powerlines, Betty Perkins Way walkway/cycleway, internet broadband cabling and community water pipelines.

Benefits

The protection benefits to conservation, carbon sinks and society are:

- A unique restoration of kakariki in the Paekakariki village that they are synonymous with, returning kakariki to its perch
- Establishment of ecological corridors linking the extensive Mt Wainui Akatarawa Forest with QE Regional Park(DOC land) restoration forests and the Paekakariki/Pukerua Bay coastal scarp kohekohe forest and famous [Paekakariki Scarp Track](#) (QEII Covenant) that links further south again– see Paekakariki [proposed ecological corridor site](#)
- Connecting nature to the Paekakariki community in terms of a natural landscape and birdlife such as kereru, tui, and bellbird
- 321 ha. of [natural climate solution](#) as native afforestation carbon sink, and immediate and sustained reduction in grazing greenhouse gas emissions – see Paekakariki [proposed carbon sink site](#)
- Extensive walking/cycling/bridleway opportunities
- Legal protection of a regionally important Outstanding Natural Landscape and Feature and Special Amenity Landscape.
- Securing public access to the regionally important [paragliding](#) launch site
- Legal protection of 75 ha. of native afforestation that NZTA is establishing as ecological impact mitigation
- Legal protection of numerous native forest remnants
- Protection from debris floods and floods for; the nationally important rail corridor that also is a vital link for thousands of Kapiti rail commuters, the regional road network, and the heart and northern extremity of [Paekakariki village](#).
- Protection of historic heritage pa and WWII radar research sites
- Legal protection of 2 km of Wainui catchment streams/margins that are home to nationally threatened fish; longfin eel, giant kokopu, short jawed kokopu, torrentfish, koaro and redfin bully. The Wainui catchment is protected in the Greater Wellington [Regional Freshwater Plan](#) for its threatened fish– page 234
- Wainui wetland restoration site that the Minister of Conservation has already agreed to with Friends Of Paekakariki Streams
- Outstanding Natural Landscape important dunes landform addition to QE Regional Park
- Paekakariki village Tilley Triangle [neighbourhood park](#) including Te Ara o Whareroa cycleway/walkway extensions and connections, community garden/mara kai and amenity facilities

The benefits to NZTA are:

- Ready disposal of an extensive area of retired soil conservation farmland of low value.
- Ready disposal and secure ownership for its ecological mitigation native afforestation mitigation planting that is required by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) consents.
- Avoidance of public controversy over the future use of this land for conservation purposes during any disposal process
- Ready disposal of the old quarry site that they had previously offered to DOC for nil consideration
- Ready disposal of an extensive clean construction fill site (for ecological corridor)
- Redemption of DOC NZTA land credits from purchases elsewhere on SH1
- Transport Infrastructure protection from flooding, debris floods and landslides for nationally important railway, motorway, and a regionally important road.
- Remedy for Wainui Stream native fish ecosystem impacts that were not adequately addressed by NZTA consent applications and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)
- Public land to extend the southern end of the NZTA funded Te Ara o Whareroa cycleway/walkway on an off-road route for an additional 600m
- Kudos for NZTA for supporting a Nature Gateway to Kapiti Nature Coast and Transmission Gully, a significant biodiversity project, enabling community conservation, enhancing Paekakariki village social and visitor amenity, mitigating its own construction and maintenance carbon emissions, and establishing a significant native afforestation carbon sink Reserve.

Please let us know if you would like further information on the Project Kakariki benefits to conservation, carbon sinks and society.

We are happy to have a conversation about progressing this significant once in a lifetime opportunity.

[Website](#)

[Email](#)

March 2018

