

## Sunman Farms QEII Covenant

### At a glance

TRC Reference: BD/7006	LENZ:	F5.2a Acutely threatened
Ecological District: Egmont	National:	Priority 1 - Threatened Land Environment
Land Tenure: Private		Priority 4 - Threatened Species
Area(ha): 1.17	Regional:	Key Native Ecosystem
GPS: 1695428X & 5635418Y	Regional Ecosystem Loss:	At risk 20-30% left
Habitat: Forest Remnant	Protection Status:	QEII Covenant
Bioclimatic Zone: Lowland	Catchment:	Kaupokonui (355)
Ecosystem Type: MF7.2: Rata, tawa, kamahi, podocarp forest		
MF7.3: Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest		

### General Description

The Sunman Farms QEII covenant is a small (1.17ha), privately owned remnant of cut over lowland forest, located approximately 4kms north west of Kaponga. The remnant is mainly situated on flat ground tapering to a small stream on the southwest side. The bush remnant lies in the Egmont Ecological District and Kaupokonui River catchment and provides connectivity to other habitats in the vicinity. Forest remnants such as this are now very rare in this area. The remnant contains vegetation associated with an 'Acutely Threatened' (F5.2a) LENZ environment.

### Ecological Features

#### Flora

The canopy of the forest remnant is dominated by tawa with occasional pukatea, pigeonwood and mahoe. The understory and ground cover is mainly intact and is a mix of kanono, mahoe, pigeonwood, tree ferns and ground ferns. Native climbers and epiphytes are common and include jasmine, muehlenbeckia, perching lily, tank lily and native orchids. Four species of threatened rata and the threatened swamp maire are also present and are notable for the site.

#### Fauna

Native birds confirmed present include kereru, tui, grey warbler, fantail, pukeko, welcome swallow, pukeko and harrier. Other native birds are likely to be present or use this area such as morepork, shining cuckoo and kingfisher. The site is likely to contain a variety of other native fauna including reptiles, native fish and invertebrates.

### Ecological Values

Ecological Context - Medium	An important example of native forest in an area on the ring plain where forest remnants of this type are very rare.
Rarity and Distinctiveness - Medium	The site provides habitat for a variety of notable threatened species including four species of threatened rata and the threatened swamp maire. Other notable species are likely to be present including native fish, reptiles and invertebrates.
Representativeness - High	Contain vegetation associated with an 'Acutely Threatened' (F5.2a) LENZ environment. The remnant is an example of cutover MF7.3: Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest (At Risk) ecosystem type.

Sustainability - Positive

In good vegetative condition. Key ecological processes still influence the site, and under appropriate management, it can remain resilient to existing or potential threats.

### Other Management Issues

Habitat Modification - Medium

Currently fenced and in good condition. Potential risk from stock breach and human modification.

Herbivores - Medium

Feral goats, pigs and deer are largely absent from the ring plain. Potential high risk from stock browsing although currently fenced and stock proof. Recent evidence of bark stripping on kanono from rabbit browse.

Possum Self-help

The property is within the Waimate possum self-help area and receives sustained possum control.

Predators - Medium

Predators including rodents, mustelids, possums, feral cats and hedgehogs will be having an impact on native species at the site.

Weeds - High

Localised infestations of weedy species such as barberry, blackberry, wandering willy, ivy and holly.

