

REVIEW OF TEN SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS IN ROTORUA DISTRICT



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REVIEW OF TEN SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS IN ROTORUA DISTRICT

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Project Team:

Sarah Beadel - Project management and review

Angela Simpson - Report author

Prepared for:

Rotorua Lakes Council

1061 Haupapa Street

Rotorua

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Reviewed and approved for release by:



Sarah Beadel
Director
Wildland Consultants Ltd

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1. INTRODUCTION

Rotorua Lakes Council has proposed a change to the Rotorua Lakes District Plan (Plan Change 3) which includes changes to the maps of Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) within the district. Public submissions on this Plan Change were received. Wildland Consultants was commissioned to assist Rotorua Lakes Council with landowner consultation in response to these submissions where they related to ecological matters.

This report presents the outcomes from desktop mapping, and liaison with landowners and/or land managers in relation to ten SNAs in the Rotorua Lakes District during 2019. This report follows on from earlier reports on the identification of SNAs within the Rotorua Lakes District (including Wildland Consultants 2009 and 2018).

2. METHODS

Submissions on ecological matters relating to SNAs in the Rotorua District were provided by Rotorua Lakes Council. Where possible, amendments were made to the boundaries of SNAs based on recent aerial photographs (sourced from WRAPS 2017, BOPLASS 2015-2015, BOPLASS 2019, LINZ 2018, and GoogleEarth). Oblique aerial photographs (Waikato Regional Council - Aerial Photography - Surveillance Oblique Images Data¹) were used to assess the SNA boundaries of concern for SNA 585 Lake Ohakuri Northwest Riparian Faces. Appointments were arranged to meet with landowners and/or land managers on site to assess the areas of concern, where necessary.

Only the parts of each SNA that were of concern to the submitter were assessed. The boundaries of each SNA in these areas were reviewed and refined, and management issues were discussed with the landowner. The vegetation within the relevant areas was assessed against the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement Heritage Criteria significance criteria for sites located in the Bay of Plenty Region, and against the Waikato Regional Council guidelines for determining significance for sites located in the Waikato Region. Edits to the boundaries of sites were hand-drawn onto aerial photograph maps and provided to Rotorua Lakes Council. Rotorua Lakes Council amended the SNA GIS layer as per the edits from Wildland Consultants.

3. FINDINGS

Amendments were made to the boundaries of seven sites for which submissions were received during this stage of the Rotorua Lakes District Plan Change 3 process (Table 1). Changes to the mapped boundaries of each of these SNAs are presented in Appendix 1.

Amendments involved the removal of areas such as grazed exotic pasture, plantation eucalyptus forest, plantation pine forest, other exotic vegetation, recently planted

¹ Supplied by Rotorua Lakes Council under License Agreement from Waikato Regional Council, for the purpose of this project only.

indigenous trees, recently cleared vegetation, and scattered indigenous trees within pasture that were isolated from the core remnants.

An additional area (c.0.7 hectares) which includes a geothermal spring was identified and added to SNA 718 Western Te Kopia Road.

Additional areas were identified for two further SNAs (SNA 585 Lake Ohakuri Northwest Riparian Faces and SNA 708 Tokerau Wetland A). These areas included indigenous wetland, scrub, and forest habitats.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank all the landowners and land managers who granted access to their properties to undertake a revision of the Significant Natural Areas addressed in this report. These landowners/managers also provided useful information on the historical use of the sites.

Kim Smith (Rotorua Lakes Council) provided project and landowner liason.

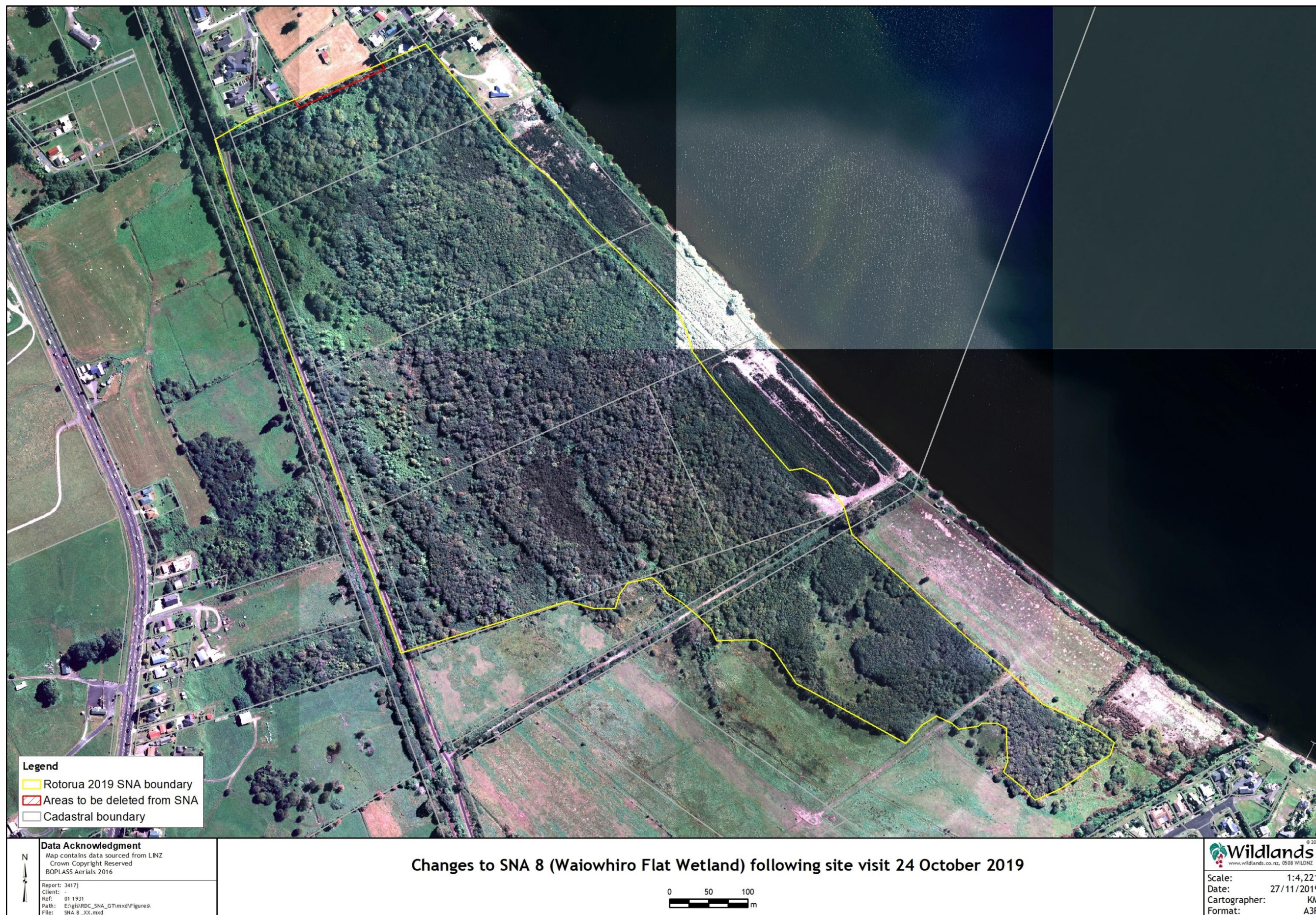
REFERENCES

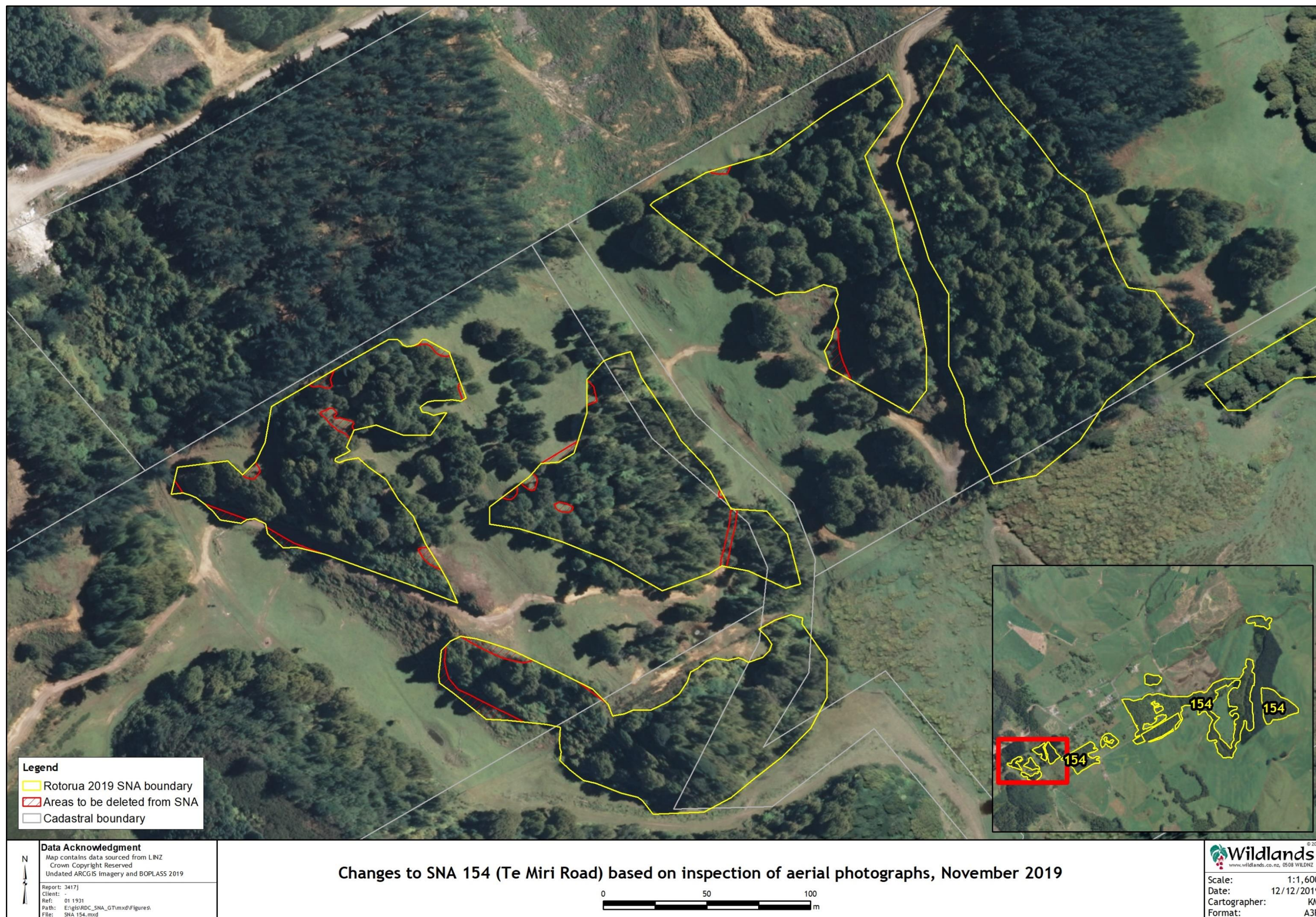
- Wildland Consultants 2009: Rotorua District Council natural heritage and biodiversity review 2009. Volumes 1 and 2. *Wildland Consultants Ltd Contract Report No. 2049*. Prepared for Rotorua District Council. 432 pp.
- Wildland Consultants 2018: Assessment of 56 natural areas in the Rotorua District not already identified as SNA, amendments to 12 current SNA, and 12 new SNAs identified: Updated September 2018. *Wildland Consultants Ltd Contract Report No. 3417f*. Prepared for Rotorua Lakes Council. 314 pp.

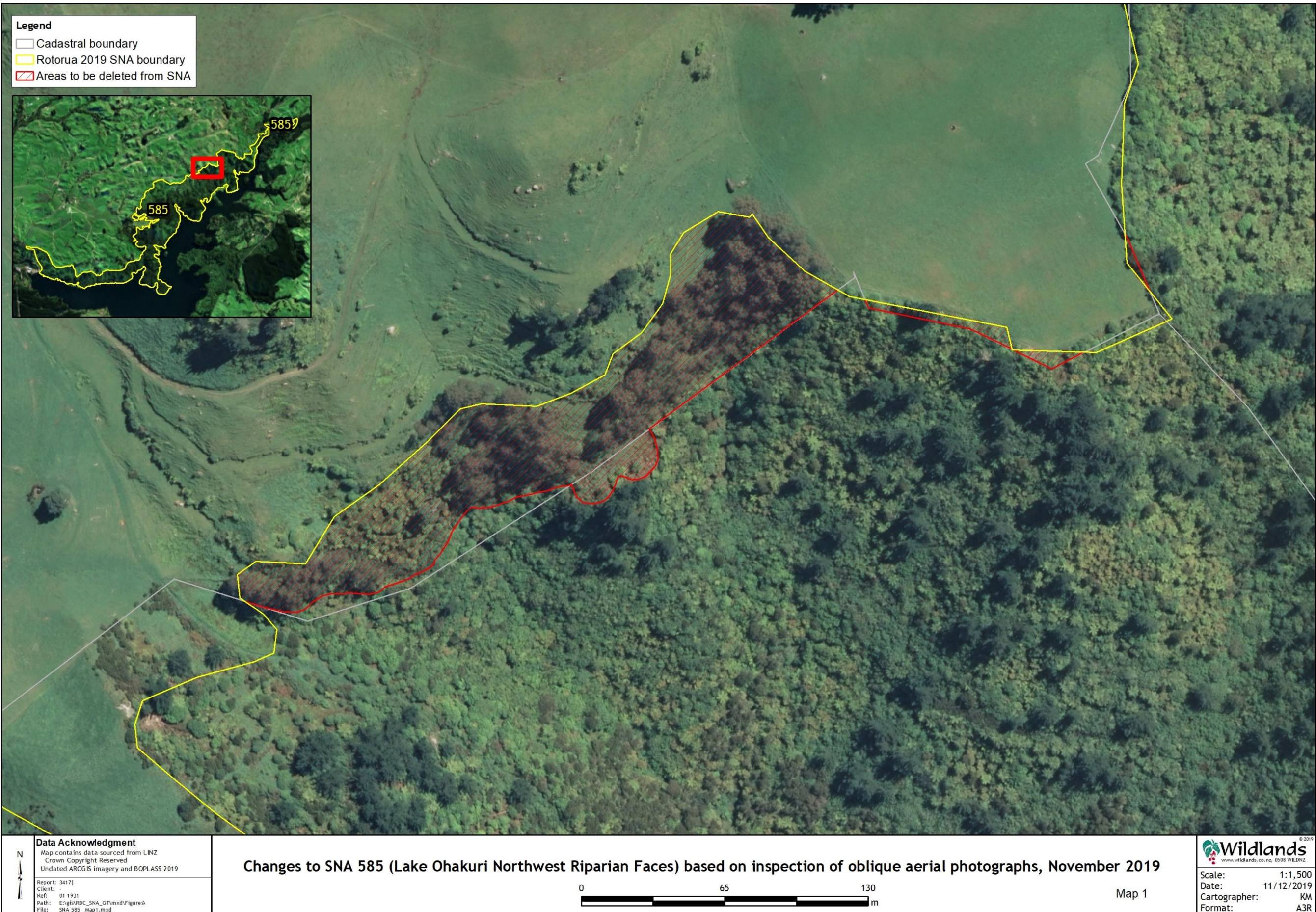
Table 1: Rotorua District Significant Natural Areas reviewed as a result of submissions to the proposed Rotorua District Plan Change 3.

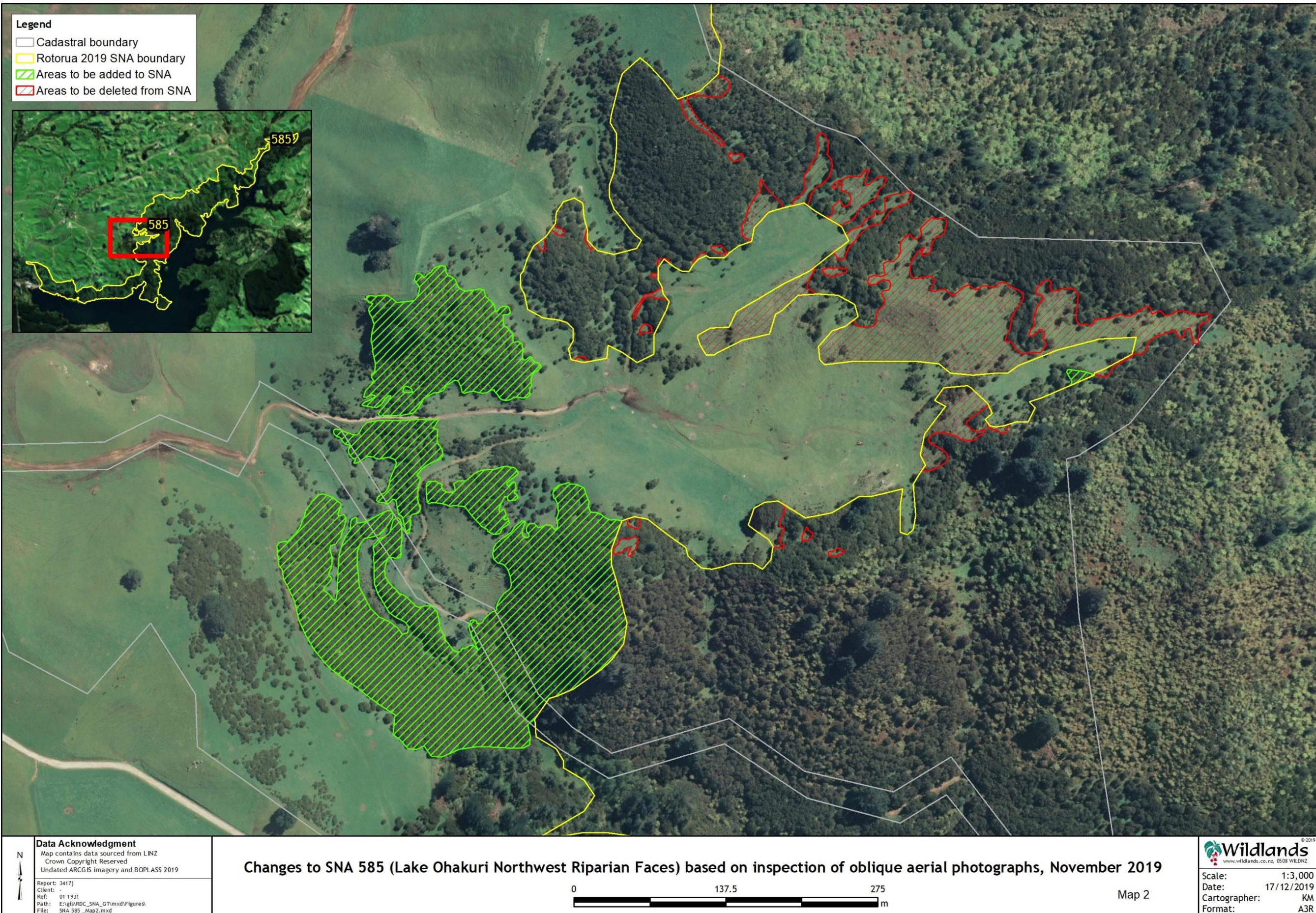
SNA Number	SNA Name	Submitter	Submission Point	Action Taken
8	Waiowhiro Flat Wetland	Ross Campbell	The area identified as an SNA on this property is a paddock. There is no significant vegetation alongside the stream other than that which has been planted. The trees present are macrocarpa, willows, eucalyptus, and some native trees which have been planted.	A site visit was undertaken on 24 October 2019. The area identified as a SNA on this property does not meet the significance criteria. The boundaries of this SNA have been amended to remove the SNA from this property.
154	Te Miri Road	Lyla Hohneck, Te Rimu Trust	The area identified as a SNA on this property contains areas of pasture. The indigenous vegetation on this property is of a different scale and use to the vegetation on other properties within this SNA.	Areas of exotic pasture and a track have been removed from this SNA based on inspection of aerial photographs (BOPLASS 2015/2017, and Google, 2019 Maxar Technologies, Imagery date 17 June 2019).
585	Lake Ohakuri Northwest Riparian Faces	Stephen Uttinger	The area identified as a SNA on this property contains gum trees. The landowners would like to be able to use these gum trees in the future.	Areas of planted eucalyptus forest and exotic pasture were removed from this SNA based on inspection of oblique aerial photographs.
		Director General of Conservation, Department of Conservation	There are areas of pasture which should be removed from this SNA. There is secondary indigenous vegetation which should be added to this SNA.	The boundaries of this SNA have been amended (on the property of J & C Connolly, as per map provided by Rotorua Lakes Council) based on inspection of oblique aerial photographs (Waikato Regional Council 2017). Areas of secondary indigenous scrub and forest have been included in this SNA and areas of pasture have been removed from this SNA.
590	Waihunuhunu Arm Riparian Faces and Wetland	Tony Sargison, Rotorua Forest Haulage	The area identified as a SNA on this property includes areas which have been felled/cleared and replanted in exotic plantation forest.	Areas of cleared indigenous vegetation, planted exotic conifers, and wilding exotic conifers have been removed from this SNA based on inspection of recent aerial photographs (Google, 2019 Maxar Technologies, Imagery date 17 June 2019).
592	Orakeikorako Extension		The area identified as a SNA on this property includes areas of exotic plantation forest.	Areas of planted exotic conifers have been removed from this SNA based on inspection of recent aerial photographs (Google, 2019 Maxar Technologies, Imagery date 17 June 2019).
700	Mangaharakeke Waterfall	CNI Iwi Land Management Ltd	Parts of this SNA are dominated by pest plant species. Other methods of protection are preferred.	A brief visit to parts of this site was undertaken on 25 October 2019. No changes have been made to the boundaries of this SNA.
701	Mangaharakeke Wetland		Parts of this SNA are dominated by pest plant species. Other methods of protection are preferred.	A brief visit to parts of this site was undertaken on 25 October 2019. No changes have been made to the boundaries of this SNA.
703	Torepatutahi Stream Riparian		The gully within this SNA is not riparian. Other methods of protection are preferred.	A brief visit to part of this site was undertaken on 25 October 2019. No changes have been made to the boundaries of this SNA.
708	Tokerau Wetland A	Director General of Conservation, Department of Conservation	There are currently areas on the adjoining property which are not included in the SNA but appear to be similar to the vegetation and habitat types within the SNA. The SNA should be extended to the south east to include the remainder of the wetland and forested area.	The boundaries of this SNA have been amended based on inspection of recent aerial photographs (BOPLASS 2019). An area of wetland and an area of indigenous forest have been added to this SNA.
718	Western Te Kopia	M & C Bayes	Additional geothermal features may need to be included in this SNA.	A site visit was undertaken on the morning of 1 November 2019. An additional area was identified and added to the map of SNA 718 on this property. This area includes a geothermal spring and the surrounding indigenous vegetation and habitats.

CHANGES TO BOUNDARIES OF
SNAS, ROTORUA DISTRICT,
SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2019



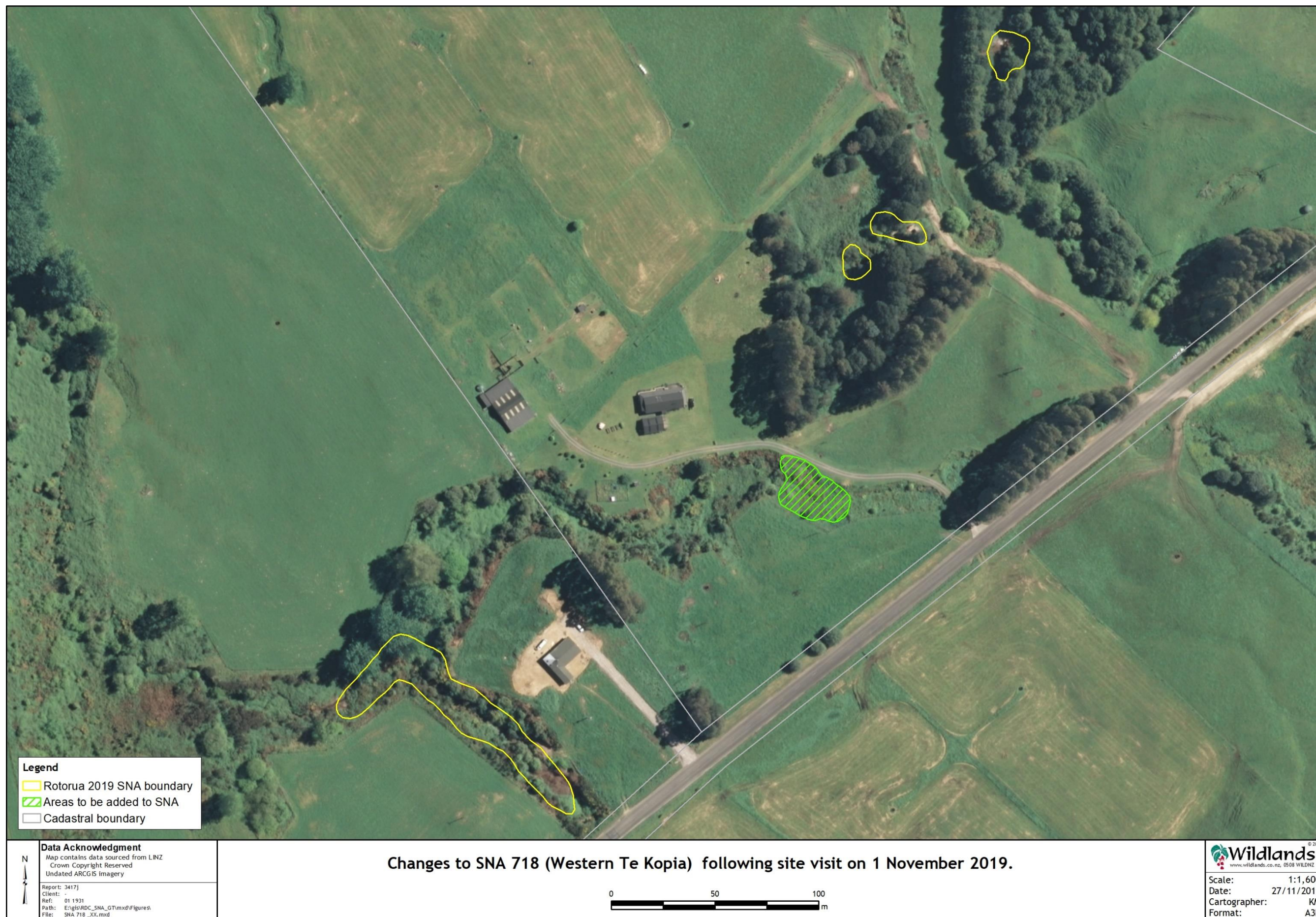














Call Free 0508 WILDNZ
Ph: +64 7 343 9017
Fax: +64 7 3439018
ecology@wildlands.co.nz

99 Sala Street
PO Box 7137, Te Ngae
Rotorua 3042,
New Zealand

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