

# GEOGRAPHY

## *Pekapeka Catchment*

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Pekapeka wetland is at the northern end of the Poukawa Catchment just south of Pakipaki. The majority of the 10,000Ha catchment drains into Lake Poukawa before joining with Pekapeka. Approximately 90Ha is all that remains of a once large wetland system that covered most of the Poukawa basin.

### Catchment

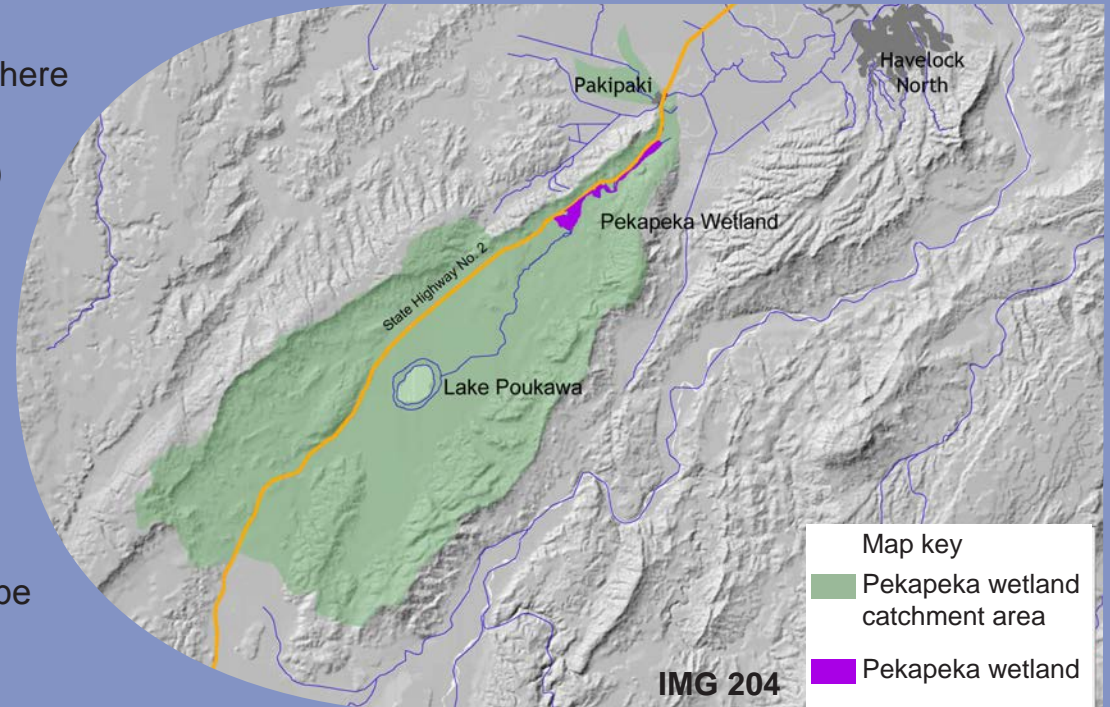
A catchment is an area of land bordered by hills or mountains, where water from rain and groundwater drains into a body of water.

Water flows fast and carries small stones and sand (sediment) along with it. As the hills become less steep, water slows down and it drops sediment to the bottom which clears the water.

As the water flows downhill, it joins with other streams on flatter land and becomes wider. The water temperature increases which causes plankton life to develop.

Wetland plants retain nutrients that are collected along the way (like fertilisers and effluent) ensuring better water quality downstream and reduced algal blooms.

If nutrients are added to quickly to the water, the balance will be broken causing invertebrate and other life to die.



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Map key  
■ Pekapeka wetland catchment area  
■ Pekapeka wetland