

# NEW ZEALAND WETLANDS

## Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance

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New Zealand joined the RAMSAR Convention in 1976. We have six wetlands listed of International Importance which covers a total of 55,512 hectares of land. The government now follows a National Wetland Policy to protect, enhance, or re-establish wetlands of regional and local importance.

Only 10% of New Zealand wetlands remain.

### Awarua Wetland - formally Waituna Lagoon

Awarua Wetland is 15 minutes from Invercargille. It provides habitat for numerous native plant species, endemic butterfly and moth species as well as two species of native fish.

### Farewell Spit

Farewell Spit, at the top of the South Island, is a 30km long sand spit, with intertidal areas. It grows in size by 15m every year. It is particularly important as a staging area for shorebirds and supports many notable plant species as well.

### Kopuatai Peat Dome

Close to Paeroa, Kopuatai is the largest natural raised bog in New Zealand. It is an important environment for threatened birds, plants and some rare invertebrates. The swamp lands and lagoons are also a vital spawning site for threatened fish.



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