

# WATER

## Water quality

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Wetlands play an important role in improving water quality. Wetlands absorb water like a sponge as it flows through it. They also act like a filter to make the water cleaner before releasing it again. Dirty water in - clean water out! Pekapeka gets its water from Lake Poukawa (ground water) and surface water runoff from the surrounding hills.



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Wetlands are like kidneys, they clean the water as it flows through them

### Water flow rates

Water flows very slowly in wetlands which means particles settle to the bottom making the water clearer. Vegetation like Raupo that grows in the wetland helps to slow down the water flow.

### Cleaning the water

Wetland plants such as harakeke and raupo help to remove nutrients in the water such as excess nitrogen and phosphorous. They also provide shade that cools the water temperature down to prevent algae blooms.

### Threats to water quality

The main threats to water quality are caused through draining the wetlands, clearing vegetation and grazing stock. Increased nutrients in the water come from animals, pollution and fertiliser runoff from the surrounding hills. These increased nutrients cause algae and decrease oxygen levels in the water.