



Ecology	Name of item: Awaawarua Bay	Map reference: 17-12
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Island: Waiheke	SES 14 (Site of Ecological Significance)	
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Description of Item

Like Te Matuku Bay, this estuary has a shell spit. Awaawarua is the second-most important breeding site for New Zealand dotterels on Waiheke (northern New Zealand dotterels are a nationally vulnerable species). Caspian terns (which are also a nationally vulnerable species) breed here, as does the endemic variable oystercatcher. There is also a pied shag breeding colony. Four threatened species are found in the wetlands: North Island fernbirds (nationally sparse), banded rails (nationally sparse), spotless crakes (nationally sparse) and Australasian bitterns (nationally endangered). The wetlands range from mangroves and saltmarshes to substantial raupo wetlands at the head of the estuary.



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