



New Zealand's northernmost point, the Surville Cliffs, form part of a reserve rated as the most important botanical reserve for its size in the country. The integrity of this reserve is threatened by mining.



No Mining at North Cape

Following a report from Forest and Bird and a recommendation from the National Parks and Reserves Authority stating there was "lack of a demonstrated need for serpentine", Lands Minister Koro Wetere recently declined a new licence for North Cape. Apparently the mining company has stockpiled 23,000 tonnes over the past 8 years — and shipped none out! Although this mining licence has been declined, North Cape is still open to further mining applications.

There is now a *prima facie* case for the Ministers of Energy, Lands and conservation to implement Section 24 of the Mining Act to set apart permanently the North Cape Scientific Reserve from mining.



The company which mined for serpentine within the North Cape Scientific Reserve used to have a permit for entering the reserve. Casual visitors who take only photographs and leave only footprints may find it more difficult to enter the reserve than a mining company which desecrates the landscape.

lead to a resurgence in the rat population. High rat numbers decimated the flax snail population during a previous mining licence and it has only just recovered following a five-year rat control programme by the Wildlife Service.

There is no good reason to mine the serpentine. Agricultural research has shown that serpentine has a rather low efficiency as a magnesium fertiliser and that it is totally ineffective in controlling ryegrass staggers. Furthermore, asbestos in the serpentine rock poses a potential health hazard to quarry and fertiliser workers.

The mining and the roads threaten more than just the plants and animals; they are an affront to the integrity of this special reserve and debase the spiritual significance of North Cape and the remote character of this part of the proposed Te Paki National Reserve. 🦜

HELP SAVE THIS SNAIL



On a small hill near Cape Reinga there lives a very special and rare animal. Maori know it as pupuharakeke or flax snail. It is probably one of the rarest snails in the world and is in danger of dying out completely.

These snails are only found in small pockets of bush around the northern tip of New Zealand. The largest colony of pupuharakeke alive are found in the small patch of bush on Maungapiko Hill.

Old people can remember when the entire hill was covered in bush and the pupuharakeke were everywhere. Today the bush canopy has been opened up for grazing, and thrushes and blackbirds prey on the exposed young snails.

Pupuharakeke hide in thick moist leaf litter during the day and come out at night to eat the leaves that have fallen off native trees. Unfortunately sheep and cattle like to eat the same plants as the pupuharakeke. Without the leaves of their favourite trees the snails starve to death. This is what has been happening at Maungapiko.

The only solution that will save these rare snails is to fence off the small patch of bush from the wild stock and to replant some of the native trees.

Forest and Bird is supporting the efforts of the Save our Snails Society and the Maori land owners, the Muriwhenua Incorporation, to fence off the Maungapiko Hill bush to protect these unique snails.

We need your help to save the snails. \$4000 is needed for the fence. Please send your donations to:

**Snail Appeal
Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society
P.O. Box 631
WELLINGTON**

All donations to the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society are tax deductible.