

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – MT TIGER BUSH AND REMNANTS
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types Northern and eastern dissected ranges; high relief land type	The forested hill country represented by this unit is strongly representative of the character of the Northland landscape and the hills form a backdrop to the harbour, as well as forming a part of a discontinuous chain of hills that links Whangarei Harbour with Waikare Inlet in the Bay of Islands.
Geology (including geopreservation sites)	Deeply incised valleys in hill country of Waipapa Terrane greywacke with limited areas of overlying Te Kuiti Group glauconitic sandstone in the west.
Soil Types	<p>The soils within this unit primarily comprise Marua brown clay loam, whilst ridgetops are, in places overlain with Omaiko gravelly silt loam and the valley floors with Whakapai clay loam.</p> <p>Pockets of Rangiora silt clay loam and Te Ranga steepland soils light brown clay loam, stony clay loam are evident in places.</p>
Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	<p>The unit includes a number of different sites identified in the Whangaruru Ecological District PNAP report. Q07/005 (Taihu/Kohinui Stream Bush) is a Level 1 site, which comprises 405 ha of forest, and 209 ha of shrubland.</p> <p>This site is of significance due to the presence of threatened and regionally significant species. The site is contiguous with large, adjacent forest areas and is a representative site for mamaku fernland, and taraire–kanuka/manuka forest. Only record of type (c) in the Ecological District.</p> <p>Q07/004 (Parkes Road Bush) is a Level 1 site that comprises 156 ha of forest, and 14 ha of shrubland.</p> <p>The site is of significance due to the presence of kukuoa. It is contiguous with large, adjacent remnants and is a representative site for type (a) totara forest.</p> <p>Q07/002 (Mount Tiger Road Bush) is a Level 1 site that comprises 242 ha of forest, 25 ha of shrubland)</p> <p>The site is of significance due to the presence of threatened and regionally significant species (including Kukupa (Gradual Decline), long-tailed cuckoo (Gradual Decline), NI tomtit (Regionally Significant), Australasian harrier, grey warbler, morepork, NZ kingfisher, NI fantail, shining cuckoo, silvereye, tui. Visiting NI kaka (Nationally Endangered), bellbird (Regionally Significant) and red-crowned kakariki (Regionally Significant). The snail <i>Amborhyiida dunniae</i> (Gradual Decline). Banded kokopu (Regionally Significant) and shortfin eel present in the upper reaches of Awaroa Creek.</p> <p>Mount Tiger Road Bush is a large area contiguous with adjacent forest areas, which provide linkages along Mt Tiger ridge, used by several threatened species. It is representative site for the totara–towai forest type.</p>

	<p>Q07/003 (Waikaraka Stream Remnants). This Level 1 site comprises 331 ha of forest, and 189 ha of shrubland.</p> <p>The site is of significance due to the presence of threatened and regionally significant species (including Kawaka (Sparse), NI brown kiwi (Serious Decline) present in the past, kukupa (Gradual Decline), NI tomtit (Regionally Significant), Longfin eel (Gradual Decline), giant bully (Regionally Significant), banded kokopu (Regionally Significant) and <i>Amborhytida dunni</i> (Gradual Decline). The Waikaraka Stream Remnants comprise a large secondary forest/shrubland area, which is contiguous with several other forest areas. It is a representative site for towai forest type, kanuka/manuka– kahikatea–totara forest type, kanuka/manuka shrubland type, and kanuka/manuka–rimu forest type.</p>
Archaeological sites	Pa sites are located on peaks, particularly overlooking the harbor. Archaeological sites associated with Mmori settlement around the harbour are common.
Heritage Landscapes	None known within unit.

Landscape characterisation

(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

This unit forms the southern portion of the range of forested hills that extends down the east coast from the Russell Forest to Whangarei Harbour. Although reasonably contiguous at the northern end (Russell Forest and North eastern hills), the vegetation on the central and southern hills is more fragmented and discontinuous.

Mt Tiger forms a prominent backdrop to the north east of the city and along the northern edge of the Harbour. Where bush remains of the slopes it provides a strongly natural theme to the hills, and the bush clad ridges extending down to the harbour are a strong element that lends structure to the landscape and assists with the integration of built development on these slopes.

Whilst historically built development has tended to occupy the flatter ground adjacent to the harbour, and frequently within the bays on the harbour edge, more recent development has pushed higher up the slopes.

The western slopes of Mt Tiger, nearest the City and overlooking Onerahi are largely vegetated with pine. To the east of the dividing ridge top, traced by Mt Tiger Road, the hills retain their native forest cover and the steep sided dissected gully provide a dramatic vista for the increasing number of dwellings being constructed along the ridge.

Pockets of clearance are visible within the forest but for the most part the vegetation is contiguous. Further to the north east and east, the broad ridges occupied by Owhiwa, Kohinui, Franklin Roads and some linking side ridges have been cleared for pasture and ribbons of rural residential development have established, benefiting from the panoramic views.

EVALUATION

Criteria	Rank	Comment
Natural Science Factors		
Representativeness Natural landscapes are clearly characteristic of the area, district or region. The key components of the landscape will be present in a way that defines the character of the place and distills its character and essence. Endemic associations.	4	<p>The elevated forested hills are a characteristic feature of eastern Northland and Mt Tiger reflects the pattern of east coast hills that extend between the Bay of Islands and the Brynderwyn ranges.</p> <p>The forest displays strong endemic associations.</p>

<p>Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.</p>	4	<p>The landscape forms one of a number of forested hills that display little modification from built development. They contribute to and characterise the landscape. Along with the other forested hills, they relate strongly to each other to form a landscape of considerable drama and presence</p>
Aesthetic Values		
<p>Coherence The patterns of land cover and land use are largely in harmony with the underlying natural pattern of the landform of the area and there are no significant discordant elements of land cover or land use.</p>	4	<p>The landscape displays a high level of coherence. It reflects the form and pattern of the underlying topography with a largely contiguous vegetation cover of some 250 ha in area. The coherence of the feature is most evident from the the northern harbour edge and from Mt Tiger Road.</p> <p>Development is visible within the unit on ridge tops and the ongoing ribbon of development along Mt Tiger Road is eroding the character of the unit. Away from the road corridors however, the forest retains a strong coherence with minimal fragmentation.</p>
<p>Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.</p>	5	<p>The forest displays a high level of diversity and complexity whilst visually maintaining coherence and harmony.</p>
<p>Vividness Natural features and landscape are widely recognised across the community and beyond the local area and remain clearly in the memory; striking landscapes are symbolic of an area due to their recognisable and memorable qualities.</p>	4	<p>The varied topography, with localized knolls and established vegetation provides for a memorable landscape.</p> <p>Viewed from the south side of the harbour, the extent of the bush on the backdrop hills is evident and an important characterizing element.</p>
<p>Naturalness How affected by human activity is the landscape? Does human activity intrude on the landscape? Eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of buildings and associated built development. • Presence of infrastructure services. • Extent of indigenous forest cover. • Homogeneity of exotic vegetation. • Presence / extent of modified agricultural land use. • Strength of natural processes / ecological patterns. • Unmodified and legible physical relief and landform. • Presence of water. 	4	<p>The landscape possesses a high level of naturalness with limited built development or infrastructure services. The contiguous forest cover contrasts with the rural character of the surrounding landscape and this heightens the perception of its naturalness.</p> <p>The PNAP report indicates that natural processes and ecological patterns are strong and in good health.</p>
<p>Intactness Natural systems are intact and aesthetically coherent and do not display significant visual signs of human modification, intervention or manipulation, visually intact and highly aesthetic natural landscapes.</p>	3	<p>Mt Tiger forms a large area of forest with a high diversity of vegetation types. The contiguous vegetation, although modified in the past for logging displays a high level of intactness with aesthetically coherent vegetation patterns.</p> <p>Development along some of the ridges has eroded the perception of intactness to some degree.</p>
Experiential Values		
<p>Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that</p>	5	<p>The landscape displays a high level of legibility in terms of the hydrological processes that have shaped the valleys and</p>

formed them.		ridges. The complexity and spatial arrangement of vegetation reflects the underlying topographical form of the ranges.
Sensory qualities (These are landscape phenomena as directly perceived and experienced by humans, such as the view of a scenic landscape, or the distinctive smell and sound of the foreshore).	3	Primarily limited to the smells and sounds of the forest, with occasional views to the wider landscape from high points within the forest.
Transient Values The consistent and repeated occurrence of transient features that contributes to the character, qualities and values of the landscape; landscapes are widely recognised for their transient features and the contribution that these make to the landscape.	3	Strongly influenced by light and weather conditions. Seasonal influences of the blooming of trees and shrubs.

Remoteness / Wildness Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence? Eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of remoteness • Accessibility • Distance from built development 	2	The proximity of the unit to settlement and the ease of access diminishes the wildness and remote experience. Some sense of remoteness can be gained within the forest however.
Shared and recognised values Natural features and landscape are widely known and valued by the immediate and wider community for their contribution to a sense of place leading to a strong community association with, or high public esteem for the place.	4	The proximity of the unit to the urban centre and settled areas ensures a high degree of recognition. Similarly, as a backdrop to the harbor, the forest has gained a strong community association.
Spiritual, cultural and historical associations Natural features and landscapes can be clearly and widely known and influenced by their connection to the spiritual, cultural and historical valued in the place and includes associative meanings and associative activities valued by the community. These can include both activities and meanings associative meanings are spiritual, cultural or social associations with particular landscape elements, features, or areas, whilst associative activities are patterns of social activity that occur in particular parts of a landscape, for example, popular walking routes or fishing spots.		Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.

Rank scale between 1 (low) and 5 (high)

Land Types
Coastal cliffs / escarpment
Low escarpment
Bays and headlands
Beach
Dune complex
Reefs and islands
Estuarine / inlet
Open harbour
Coastal plain
Rolling hills
Steep hills; moderate to high relief
Ranges; high relief
Strongly rolling land
Low rolling land
Valley floors and flats
Plains
Volcanic cones
River mouth
Wetland
Watercourses
Lakes and water bodies

Photographs of unit



Mt Tiger Bush



Mt Tiger Bush including pa site