

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

Unit name – **CAPE BRETT PENINSULA**

## DESCRIPTION CHARACTERISATION

| Component  | Comment  |
|--|--|
| <b>Land Types</b><br>(refer to list overleaf)<br>Coastal cliffs / escarpment<br>Bays and headlands<br>Beach<br>Reefs and islands   | Predominantly relatively exposed east and north facing shoreline that runs from north of Bland Bay around to Rawhiti at the Bay of Islands. Typically a relatively complex coastline with numerous small headlands, indented coves and rocky scarps of between 40 & 100 metres in height. Contains numerous small embayments, largely with pebbly beaches & complexes of intertidal reefs. More pronounced headlands adjacent to Cape Brett form the more sheltered waters of Whangamumu Harbour, Te Toroa Bay & Maunganui Bay to the north.   |
| <b>Geology</b><br>(including geopreservation sites)  | Incorporates Geopres Inventory site Motukokako Island scarn with babingtonite & ilvaite along with Motukokako Island sea arch.   |
| <b>Soil Types</b>  | Marua clay loam; Te Ranga steepland soils, clay loam and sandy clay loam.  |
| <b>Ecology</b><br>(including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)  | <p>An area of predominantly indigenous cover including shrubland associations, kanuka / pohutukawa mix, and regenerating coastal broadleaf forest. A broad linkage with Russell Forest adds considerably to the mass and resilience of this peninsula ecology.</p> <p>Contains 19 threatened species of fauna and 3 of regional significance. 8 species of flora found in this unit qualify as threatened and a further 9 are of regional significance.</p>  |
| <b>Archaeological sites</b>  | Numerous recorded sites of pre European activity including Ngatawhero Pa, Pahi Pa.   |
| <b>Heritage Landscapes</b>   | The setting of an historic whaling station in Whangamumu Harbour. Lighthouse installation & related accommodation, WW2 building relics, wharf etc at Cape Brett. Former hotel and deep sea fishing base at Deep Water Cove.  |
| <b>Spiritual, cultural and historical associations</b><br>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. | <p>Tourism and local boating community associations with the Cape, outer Bay of Islands and Piercy Island are very powerful, with that part of the coast being experienced through the “Hole in the Rock” and “Cream Trip” having become one of the “must do” activities for anyone visiting the Bay of Islands area. Also became internationally known through the big game fishing exploits of Zane Grey in his famous book <i>An Angler's El Dorado</i>.</p> <p>Arguably one of New Zealand's best-known and iconic coastal landscapes. Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period</p> |

**CHARACTERISATION**

(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

A rugged & exposed coastline whose consistent weathering by northerly & easterly seas is graphically represented by the stark exposed rock that is typical around much of the coastal flank. The dissective nature of the coastline is echoed by convoluted coastal terrain that gives this portion of presence & domination over the adjacent CMA. This combination of coastal alignment & surrounding landform also makes the embayments of Henderson Bay, Whangamumu Harbour, Te Toheroa Bay, Outu Bay, Deep Water Cove & Oki Bay a sense of particular definition & enclosure. The north easterly projection of Cape Brett makes it one of the defining features of the northland coastline acting as a divide between the southern portions of the region's coast & the entrance to the Bay of Islands. Cape Brett with its lighthouse & nearby Piercy Island (Motukokako Island) are frequently displayed as icons of the Bay of Islands & wider northland, being an important recreational & tourism destination. Land based accessibility to this coastal landscape is very limited & built development is also extremely sparse. This limited level of modification combined with the predominance of indigenous vegetation cover & relatively limited visitor numbers gives the coastline a strong sense of isolation & wilderness.

**EVALUATION**

| Criteria   | Rank | Comment  |
|--|------|--|
| <b>Natural Science Factors</b>   |      |  |
| <b>Representativeness</b><br>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.   | 5    | A highly distinctive portion of coastline that is synonymous with the outer Bay of Islands & the southern approaches to that area. Terrain leading out to Cape Brett is seen to jut seaward from land based vantage points to the south & to the north, & is therefore a defining feature on this part of the region.  |
| <b>Rarity</b><br>Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.   | 5    | A combination of rugged terrain, complex rocky coastline & predominance of indigenous vegetation cover is uncommon with the closest similar examples existing at Bream Head & part of Great Barrier Island.  |
| <b>Aesthetic Values</b>  |      |  |
| <b>Coherence</b><br>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.   | 4    | Repeated patterns of inland and rocky coastal margins are particularly distinctive. Whilst the area has a predominance of indigenous vegetation cover, much of it relatively young, it is also fragmented by pockets of pastoral development in its south eastern extent.  |
| <b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b><br>The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.  |      | Extremely complex, representing an interplay of diverse topography, variable indigenous plant communities and a varied and detailed coastline. Despite those variables, the prevalence of natural processes ensures that the resulting character is united.  |
| <b>Vividness</b><br>Natural features and landscape are widely recognized 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.   |      | A very distinctive portion of Northland's coast that is characterised by both its ridgeline profiles and by its convoluted steep sided coastline. The popularity of the northern parts of this landscape area & the way that these are portrayed in promotional material conveys the vivid character of this portion of coast.   |
| <b>Naturalness</b><br>How affected by human activity is the landscape? Does human activity intrude on the landscape? Eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence of buildings and associated built development.</li> <li>• Presence of infrastructure services.</li> <li>• Extent of indigenous forest cover.</li> <li>• Homogeneity of exotic vegetation.</li> <li>• Presence / extent of modified agricultural land</li> </ul> | 5    | Predominance of naturalness and freedom from development for all but portions of the coast related to Rawhiti Road running through to Elliot Bay & the influence of pine plantations on the headland running to the north of Bland Bay. Small pockets of pasture are present around Ngaioitonga and Elliot Bay but the majority of this landscape has a fast recovering cloak of indigenous vegetation that is also colonizing some historic areas of lightly used pasture and areas near Whangamumu. A close relationship and continuity between this part of the coast and the bush clad hills related to Russell forest that are found inland adds to the sense of naturalness experienced in the |

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|---|-----|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use.</li> <li>Strength of natural processes / ecological patterns.</li> <li>Unmodified and legible physical relief and landform.</li> <li>Presence of water.</li> </ul>  |     | coastal landscape.  |
| <b>Intactness</b><br>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.  | 5   | Typically highly intact in areas that are separated from settlement but subject to the disruption of forestry activities in some small areas and pockets of pasture through the southern and central part of the east coast portion of this landscape.  |
| <b>Experiential Values</b>  |     |   |
| <b>Expressiveness</b><br>The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.  | 5   | Typically provocative coastal landscape where the weathering characteristics of its exposed setting are clearly represented in the exposed rock faces of the coastal flank, intertidal reefs and limits of vegetation cover near the shoreline.   |
| <b>Sensory qualities</b><br>(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).   | 5   | A very evocative portion of the coast with a combination of the characteristics described previously bring an evocative sense of place which is further emphasised by the clarity of water and frequent breaking of waves on reefs and headlands.   |
| <b>Transient Values</b><br>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.  | 5   | The convoluted terrain & projecting small peninsulas generate strong patterns of shadowing & lighting qualities during the day and through the seasons. The seascape is particularly influential on the experience of this coastal landscape ranging from glassy calm conditions to powerful breaking waves battering the coast. Water clarity also varies and is influential upon the character of this landscape/seascape.  |
| <b>Remoteness / Wildness</b><br>Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence?<br>Eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sense of remoteness</li> <li>Accessibility</li> <li>Distance from built development</li> </ul>  | 5   | Very few road corridors lead out to this portion of coast & whilst there are networks of walking tracks in some areas these are not intensively used. Most people would access this area by boat and the rugged shoreline conditions mean that landing is difficult. As such boat uses other than in Whangamumu Harbour and Deep Water Cove is likely to be of short duration.<br><br>The more southern part of this area associated with Elliot Bay and the Rawhiti Road includes small pockets of seaside residences, which are typically well integrated, but the balance of the unit has very few built structures within it. |
| <b>Shared and recognised values</b><br>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.  | 5   | A well known & valued portion of Northland's coastline that is widely recognised, particularly the Cape Brett peninsula and Piercy Island which have a reputation as an "iconic" tourism destination, visited by hundreds of people per day during peak tourism times.  |
| <b>Spiritual, cultural and historical associations</b><br>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. 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. | *** | The strategic position, past habitation and use of this area suggest that these values will be high.<br><br>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









