

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – MANGANUI FOREST RANGE, PEKAPEKA BAY, OHAUORO (PEACH) AND SHARK ISLANDS
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types (refer to list overleaf) Coastal cliffs / escarpment Ranges; high relief Reefs and islands Estuarine / inlet	Highly diverse and dramatic in terms of geology and morphology. Main peaks in range typically between 200m and 400m. Generally steep and dissected inland with a relatively complex catchment pattern reflected by numerous small streams. Hard material on coastal margin also very complex and varied. Incorporates Ohauroro (Peach) Island and Shark Island as being related to Takahi Point
Geology (including geopreservation sites)	<p>Most of the area is formed of Whangaroa Group andesitic lava flows and breccia, but with underlying Tupou Complex greywacke outcrops in the vicinity of Totara North, Waitepipi Bay, and in the valleys of the Wairakau and Tahuna Streams.</p> <p>NZ Geopres Inventory: Whangaroa exfoliation domes – a spectacular area of rocky exfoliation domes and ridges that surrounds Pekapeka Bay. Classified as extremely well defined landforms of scenic value.</p> <p>Wairakau Estuary – best example of a flooded deeply incised valley in Northland. Extremely well defined landform of scientific/educational and scenic value. Whangaroa Harbour lacustrine sequence is the best exposure of this type in the Wairakau Volcanics sequence (2km north east of Totara North). Waitapu Bay Cretaceous unconformity - where late Cretaceous conglomerates and micaceous sandstone unconformably overlies with sedimentary contact an irregular surface of early Cretaceous Tupou Formation. Lies within a large nappe of Northland allocthon.</p>
Soil Types	Huia steepland soils, stony silt loam, Bream clay loam, Marua light brown clay loam and Mangonui clay.
Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	<p>Contains over 20 ecological units and is correspondingly diverse. Primarily composed of second growth broadleaf-podocarp and kauri forest, intermingled with manuka and kanuka shrubland that in most cases has been developing over many years. Whilst the entire area has been logged and/or burnt, there are some areas where vegetation escaped those fates. Contains a high diversity of native plant species numbering over 300.</p> <p>Many threatened, local, endemic regionally uncommon plant species found here. Also habitat for several fauna species which are threatened or regionally significant. Representative site for all of the ecological units found here.</p>
Archaeological sites	There are a number of pa sites recorded within this unit. It also contains a WW2 gun emplacement/lookout and related access track. Numerous recorded sites are focused around the coast of Pekapeka Bay and the Wairakau Stream mouth and valley. The balance of the unit is very lightly covered in terms of archaeological sites that have been identified.
Heritage Landscapes	Site of past kauri forestry, coastal trading and Maori / European activity generally.

Landscape characterisation

(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

An extremely distinctive coastal and forest landscape, particularly in the area associated with Pekapeka Bay, where the exfoliation landforms atop the hills and associated coastal rock formations are dramatic and intriguing. The defining role of this landscape in relation to the northern edge of Whangaroa Harbour, and its integral connection with the harbour mouth landforms (addressed within another ONL worksheet) are central to its importance.

The combination of this bold, complex landform and the indented and varied shoreline bring a unique character to the outer harbour. Projecting headlands combine with Ohauroro and Shark Islands, the steepness of the waterside terrain and the shifting alignment of the main channel heading out to sea to give the outer harbour a measure of separation from the more developed and "production" identity of the inner part of the harbour. These forms also create an inner gateway to the main harbour mouth when moving out to sea.

When combined with a very nominal and locally restricted level of built development and a contiguous cover of almost entirely indigenous vegetation, the landscape unit and related marine area have high levels of natural character. The experiential aspects that make this area an appealing destination are reinforced by very high ecological and geological values, so the area is also of considerable scientific interest. The ONL is also influential on its northern face which is a feature on the trip out to Taupo Bay.

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.	5	Powerfully representative of the northern edge of Whangaroa Harbour, particularly in relation to Pekapeka Bay, with project to the south via Ohauroro and Shark Islands.. Strong indigenous theme to vegetation and very evocative geology.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	5	Unique to this location.
Aesthetic Values		
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.	5	Strongly cohesive and unified. A consistency of native vegetation cover and consistencies in coastal margin, terrain and profile. Virtually unbroken by development, with that which is present limited to a few small dwellings focused on the waterside.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	5	A complex interaction between an unusual geology, diverse terrestrial ecology and the relationship between the landmass and the harbour waters, including the estuarine arm of Wairakau Stream and freshwater continuation of that course.
Vividness 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.	5	Extremely distinctive and well known. The source of recreational interest, paintings and photography over a considerable period.
Naturalness How affected by human activity is the landscape? Does human activity intrude on the landscape? Eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of buildings and associated built development. • Presence of infrastructure services. • Extent of indigenous forest 	5	Very natural with limited and focused development, no roading or general infrastructure and landforms which are intact. An almost complete cover of indigenous native plant associations. The shoreline is also in a highly natural state, modified in a few discrete locations by historic structures such as landings and a small number of more recent jetties

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		<p>and low-key armourings.</p> <p>Ecological and geomorphological processes are seen to be functioning unimpeded (although plant and animal pests have an impact on indigenous ecology).</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.	5	<p>Very intact and appears to be advancing towards a more completely self-sustaining state (subject to pest species) after earlier native forestry and grazing impacts.</p>
Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	5	<p>Highly legible. Geological origins are clearly demonstrated and natural colonisation and forest development processes continue.</p>
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).	5	<p>A very influential coastal landscape that is evocative and engaging. Creates a sense of enclosure and shelter from the open waters beyond the harbour mouth. The native vegetation reaches the water's edge. Much of this side of the harbour is deep and allows boats close access to the shore and the experience of this strongly natural place.</p>
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	<p>Influenced most by light and the movement of the sun through the day. The elevated terrain creates deep shadows which spill out over the water and influence the way that the landscape is perceived.</p>
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 	4	<p>Whilst generally well used by cruising boats and day visitors during the summer, this far side of the harbour is much less populated during the balance of the year. The Pekapeka arm is discrete from the main harbour and physically separated from Whangaroa by the alignment of the coast and substantial intervening terrain. As a result, that part of the harbour and the landscape unit feels particularly remote relative to its spatial isolation.</p>
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.	5	<p>Extensively known and admired. A popular and scenic cruising anchorage and destination for day tourists.</p>
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.	****	<p>Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.</p> <p>As a highly regarded and well used anchorage by the cruising community, including international visitors, the Pekapeka Bay area in particular has strong cultural and recreational connections. It was a popular destination for social outings and picnics in the late 1800's and early 1900's, with those events well documented in photographs.</p>

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









