

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – EASTERN MOTUROA
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types <small>(refer to list overleaf)</small> Reefs and islands Bays and headlands Coastal cliffs / escarpment	The coastal flank and apex of the eastern end of the island. Includes a numbers of small embayments, steep flanks, small headlands and complex of rocks and islets. The latter include “Alcatraz”, the Black Rocks and Battleship Rock. Fringing reefs are a common element on this portion of coast.
Geology <small>(including geopreservation sites)</small>	Torlesse Terrane, greywacke and argillite. Offshore islets and rocks composed of eroded remnants of Kerikeri Volcanics basaltic lava flow.
Soil Types	Rangiora clay, clay loam, and silty clay loam.
Ecology <small>(including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)</small>	Involves three ecological units, comprising kanuka coastal forest, flax-grass species and kanuka/manuka sweet pea shrubland. Whilst kanuka is the dominant species, hardwoods such as karaka, pohutukawa, puriri, kohekohe, kowhai and towai are components of some areas. The island is managed privately as a wildlife refuge. The offshore rocks and isles are known to have highly diverse and interesting marine ecosystems.
Archaeological sites	Unit contains just 3 identified sites, with the remaining larger number on Moturoa being concentrated at the western end of the island and outside of the ONL.
Heritage Landscapes	
Landscape characterisation <small>(including the identification of any specific characteristics)</small> This outstanding landscape focuses on the coastal margin of the eastern, unsettled end of the island, where a combination of steep, coastal flank and a vegetative cover that is predominantly indigenous are key characteristics. The sequence of offshore rocks and islets mentioned above are amalgamated within the unit. The coastal landscape is complex and interesting in its morphology and form. It includes a series of very distinctive islands and rocks in the form of the Battleship Rock and the Black Rocks. Nearer the main body of the island are further small islets, typically related to the Moturoa by connecting and fringing reefs. These include the “blocky” Alcatraz that is just one graphic example of the diverse geology represented around the main island’s coast. The shoreline itself is also very varied, with an intertidal coast that includes sandy and pebble/boulder beaches, reefs and wave-cut platforms.	

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	A very distinctive and diverse geology expressed in the coastline and related island systems found around the eastern parts of Moturoa. Some very specific ecological associations found in conjunction with this underlying parent material/s and soils. Marine ecology is also understood to also be locally distinctive.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	4	Whilst the main coast is not particularly unusual in relation to much of Northland’s eastern coast shore, the related islands are unique in their form and diverse morphology.

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.	3	The coastline and offshore islands are cohesive and in a predominantly natural state, but the coastal flank is compromised by a measure of exotic invasive species and pasture from the inland body of the island emerging out to the coast.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	4	Geologically and morphologically diverse. A measure of ecological complexity, but exotic species and pastoral interrupt the harmony of the coastal flanks in areas.
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	Black Rocks and Battleship Rock are broadly known (largely as fishing and diving destinations) and commonly visited. Very distinctive and memorable due to graphic form and geology.
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 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	This end of the island is free of conspicuous buildings and related roading, access and landform modification. Offshore islands, reefs and intertidal coastline are in a highly natural state, although the vegetation of some of the islands has been recorded as having a measure of exotic species. The coastal flank is less consistent in terms of the indigenous component of vegetation, including a modest component on non-native cover. Overall has a prevailing sense within the unit of being a "product of nature". A strong interaction between land and sea, with those processes being apparently unmodified. Similarly the dynamic of ecological processes appears to be self-determining (but managed in terms of the wildlife refuge).
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.	4	Largely intact, but nominally undermined by the less coherent status of some parts of the coastal flank.
Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	4	A very legible landscape, particular in relation to the small related islands and intertidal shoreline. Coastal flanks express erosive forces of coastal exposure, effectively as an extension of the portions of soft coast and wave-cut reef platforms.
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).	4	This end of the island has a sense of being connected to the outer coast and relatedness with the wider Bay of Islands/Purerua peninsula. Shore and islands strongly related to coastal ambience, tides, waves etc.
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.	4	Tidal changes and shifts in coastal exposure and sea conditions are influential in the character of this unit and the way that it is experienced.
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	Whilst in relative proximity to the settled western end of the island, this eastern portion and its related coast feel discrete and separated. Accessibility of this area, other than by those who live on the island, is restricted to private boat transport.

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	A well known boating destination for fishing and diving, particularly the Black Rocks.
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. 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





