

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – <b>WHANGARURU NORTH HEAD AND COAST NORTH OF WHANGARURU</b>
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
<b>Land Types</b> Low coastal escarpment land type Bays and headlands land type Reefs and islands land type	<p>The North Head is a prominent feature marking the entrance to the Whangaruru Harbour. Rising steeply from the sea, the coastal edge is fringed with rocky shelves, particularly on the exposed ocean eastern side.</p> <p>This character of coastline is reflected around the headland to the north of Bland Bay, and along the coast northwards and creates a rugged and dramatic landscape that reflects the exposed and wild character of the coast.</p> <p>On its eastern, harbour side of North Head, the terrain is more gentle, and the landform dissected by gullies.</p>
<b>Geology</b> (including geopreservation sites)	Bland Bay North headland: Steep, cliffed coastal headland of Waipapa Terrane greywacke with Kerikeri Volcanics basalt flow remnants and associated boulder colluvium.
<b>Soil Types</b>	<p>Bland Bay North headland: The site contains a small area of Kerikeri Volcanics, which is a rare geological type in the District. The site is of regional importance due to its Whananaki soils, as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good examples of Whananaki soils are uncommon.</li> <li>• Most Whananaki soils have been developed for sheep and dairy farming, and market gardening (Arand et al. 1993).</li> </ul> <p>The elevated portion of the unit is overlain with Te Ranga steepland soils – clay loam and stony clay loam, whilst the soils on the western fringe of the unit are predominantly Marua clay loam</p>
<b>Ecology</b> (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	<p>Bland Bay North headland: Identified in the Whangaruru Ecological District PNAP report as Q05/009, this Level 1 site comprises an area of 190 ha forest and 66 ha of shrubland.</p> <p>The PNAP notes that the site represents a good intact example of coastal forest and shrubland, which is a nationally rare forest type. Its significance is based on the presence of threatened and regionally significant plants. It is a representative site for type (a) kanuka coastal forest, type (c) kanuka–taraire coastal forest, and type (d) pohutukawa coastal forest. Only record of type (c) in the Ecological District.</p> <p>Whangaruru North Head: The Whangaruru Ecological District PNAP report identified the Level 1 site as Q05/010. It notes that the vegetated headland comprises a large tract of coastal forest, some 255 ha of forest, 91 ha of shrubland and 9 ha of wetland.</p> <p>The site supports a number of threatened and regionally significant flora and fauna. The forest type is rare both in Northland and throughout the remainder of the country and contains sequential gradients from hill forest to coastal forest.</p> <p>The PNAP reports states that the site is representative for the kanuka/manuka-puriri-rewarewa forest type, the puriri-</p>

	kanuka/manuka-coastal forest type, the kanuka/manuka-pohutukawa coastal forest type, pohutukawa-puriri coastal forest type and raupo reedland type.
Archaeological sites	It is anticipated that numerous archaeological sites exist on the margins of the harbour.
Heritage Landscapes	None known.

### Landscape characterisation

(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

This unit is most notable for the dramatic features that define Bland Bay – being of North Head to the south and the narrow steep sided peninsula to the north. The edges of these two peninsula feature steep rocky banks / cliffs and are predominantly vegetated with native shrubland. This combination of elevation, vegetation and precipitous edges, in conjunction with the aquamarine of the sea and pounding surf of the rocky shoals makes for a vivid and powerful landscape.

In contrast, the tombolo occupied by the Bland Bay settlement links the two features with a low gentle sweep.

At the northern end of the unit the scale of the cliffs diminishes, reflecting the low lying undulating land to the west. Whilst predominantly exposed and eroding rock, with a sequence of small promontories and stony bays, they also include pockets of pohutukawa and feature wide rocky shoals and reefs at sea level.

Built development is mainly confined to the low lying strip of land occupied by the settlement, but ongoing development is occurring on the edges at the west end of North Head – the eastern end being a DoC reserve.

The naturalness of the peninsula on the northern side of Bland Bay is diminished to some degree by the adjoining areas of cut over pine trees.

Pa sites are a feature of the peninsula and promontories within this unit

## EVALUATION

Criteria	Rank	Comment
<b>Natural Science Factors</b>		
<b>Representativeness</b> 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.	<b>5</b>	The sequence of elements including rocky headlands, vegetated coastal slopes, hills and beaches, with limited and localized pockets of built development is very characteristic of the eastern northland coast.  The concentration of vegetation, including pohutukawa on the coastal flank is a powerful contributing theme and highly representative.
<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	<b>5</b>	Generally this land type – including rocky coastal and beach sequences – is common locally, although rare in the national context. The scale and power of the features within this unit – primarily the peninsula features that contain and enclose Bland Bay, are such that they are rare even within the land type.

<b>Aesthetic Values</b>		
<p><b>Coherence</b></p> <p>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>	<b>5</b>	<p>The unit displays a high level of coherence, large areas of contiguous forest and shrubland occupying prominent coastal landform, and significant parts of the coastal slope.</p> <p>The coastal elements, such as the pattern of rocky headlands, shoals and islets, and the interplay between these elements and the ocean displays a high level of coherence.</p> <p>Built development is largely confined to the Bland Bay settlement cluster.</p>
<p><b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b></p> <p>The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.</p>	<b>5</b>	<p>Bush remnants, coastal vegetation and dune vegetation displays a high level of diversity and complexity. In addition, the coastline displays a complexity and diversity whilst also maintaining a high level of coherence.</p>
<p><b>Vividness</b></p> <p>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>	<b>5</b>	<p>The indented rocky coastline, beaches, framing islets within Bland Bay and elsewhere along the coast, along with the colour of the sea is particularly memorable and are highly symbolic of the area.</p>
<p><b>Naturalness</b></p> <p>How affected by human activity is the landscape? Does human activity intrude on the landscape? Eg.</p> <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 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>	<b>4</b>	<p>Although the coast maintains a high level of visual absorption capability – a consequence of the complexity of the coastal edge and landform, strong landscape patterns and vegetation patterns, modification resulting from agricultural practices is evident along the coastal margin.</p> <p>This modification creates the representative Northland coastal character, however at the same time it diminishes the influence of natural (ecological) processes and ecological patterns.</p> <p>For the most part however, this only applies to the coastal hinterland and substantial portions of the unit retains a high level of naturalness.</p>
<p><b>Intactness</b></p> <p>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>	<b>4</b>	<p>With the exception of pockets of development, the coastal margin retains a high level of intactness.</p>
<b>Experiential Values</b>		
<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p> <p>The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.</p>	<b>5</b>	<p>The coastal margin clearly demonstrates the formative and ongoing coastal processes.</p>
<p><b>Sensory qualities</b></p> <p>(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).</p>	<b>5</b>	<p>Visually the unit is very striking, but as with the appreciation of the smell and sound of the coast, the visual qualities are dependant on weather conditions and the sense of exposure can be experienced particularly on the headlands and cliff tops. This said, the unit does offer very distinctive sensory opportunities.</p>

<p><b>Transient Values</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p>The coastal character of the unit and its exposure to prevailing winds means that its character and qualities vary with the seasons, and weather.</p> <p>The flowering of pohutukawa is also a notable transient value.</p>
<p><b>Remoteness / Wildness</b></p> <p>Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence?</p> <p>Eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of remoteness</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Distance from built development</li> </ul>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p>Although it is possible to gain a sense of remoteness on North Head, the proximity of the settlement and built development reduces the sense of remoteness. At the northern end of the unit, limited access over private land lends the area a greater sense of remoteness, although the presence of pasture and cut over pine areas limits the sense of wildness.</p>
<p><b>Shared and recognised values</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p>Northland's eastern coast possesses a distinct character and quality that is valued by the wider community and attracts holiday-makers and tourists during throughout the year.</p>
<p><b>Spiritual, cultural and historical associations</b></p> <p>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>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p>Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.</p> <p>Numerous pa sites are evident particularly on the larger headlands.</p> <p>The coast is highly valued by the community for recreation and this can translate to a spiritual affinity.</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



View north along coast of North Head



View to Karakahurua Point



View of Home Point



**View north west to Ngaiotonga Bay**