

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – <b>TOKERAU – RANGAUNU WETLAND</b>
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
<b>Land Types</b> (refer to list overleaf) Coastal plain Wetland Lakes and water bodies	Spans across southern edge of tombolo (which in turn extends from SH10 through to Whatawhiwhi). Subtle striations run through the seaward edge of unit reflecting underlying relic dune morphology.
<b>Geology</b> (including geopreservation sites)	<p>Western portion that is associated with Lake Ohia is defined by a belt of consolidated foredunes from the last interglacial period to the east and Pleistocene consolidated dune to the west.</p> <p>Eastern portion that is related to the backshore of Tokerau Beach consists of wetland areas ponded by Holocene foredunes.</p> <p>NZ Geopreservation sites: Lake Ohia gumdigging holes – one of the best preserved groups of gumdiggers holes in NZ. Lake Ohia Pleistocene fossil forest – well preserved and now partly exhumed buried Quaternary kauri forest 30,000 years old. Karikari Peninsula tombolo – an extremely large tombolo that is classified as a moderately well defined landform of scientific/educational and scenic value.</p>
<b>Soil Types</b>	Pinaki sand, Ohia sand, Ruakaka peaty silt loam, Te Koporu sand, Tangitiki sandy loam and sand. Takahiwi peaty clay loam (edge of Rangaunu only).
<b>Ecology</b> (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	<p>Eastern portion is a combination of peat bogs, wetlands and some more fertile areas alongside the dune. An example of a nationally threatened habitat type and which contains threatened and regionally significant species, including giant bully.</p> <p>Western area related to Lake Ohia has a diverse range of flora and fauna. It is considered an outstanding habitat that contains the last vestiges of heath and boglands on old sand country on the Karikari Peninsula and forms a continuous sequence from Rangaunu Harbour to Tokerau Beach. Nationally important for its soils and vegetation relationships, particularly in relation to Waipu soils which are almost entirely developed for agriculture.</p>
<b>Archaeological sites</b>	Predominantly clustered around the eastern and western edges of the unit (and just outside of the wettest soils represented by the unit.
<b>Heritage Landscapes</b>	Area of gum extraction associated with Lake Ohia.
<b>Landscape characterisation</b> (including the identification of any specific characteristics)	
<p>An interesting and subtle landscape that spans virtually from the semi-exposed coast of Tokerau Beach to the protected waters of Rangaunu Harbour. It has a predominantly “wet vegetated” character that is interwoven with areas of drier shrubland. It also features a number of bodies of standing open fresh water. The terrain is predominantly flat, but with a subtle contour emerging in a linear pattern that relates to relic dune forms. As such the site has a sense of being very open and expansive (which it is, with an area of over 2000ha). It also has a coastal atmosphere, particularly on its eastern margin where it is most closely related to Tokerau Beach. A large proportion of the ONL is contained within land administered by the Department of Conservation.</p> <p>As a wetland / bog area, this landscape is unusual and of a type that is much reduced from its original</p>	

extent. With the relatively well-used Inland Road running through the midst of the unit, this is one of the few places in Northland where a large number of people pass close by a wetland area in their travel by car. Other than that interface with the main road, much of the unit is relatively inaccessible and remote in its character.

## 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.	5	A strongly indigenous landscape, with subtle patterning and compositional shifts. A remaining representation of a once-common landscape type that is now very limited, so its presence assists to maintain an example that contributes to the broader cross section of natural landscapes found in Northland. Contains a number of species and associations of particular ecological interest.
<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	5	One of few remaining examples of a large wetland in Northland. Dune coast and estuarine coast interface represented to either side of the unit.
<b>Aesthetic Values</b>		
<b>Coherence</b> 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	Highly cohesive and unified by a consistency of indigenous vegetation cover whose character and composition transitions subtly in response to varying conditions within the area.
<b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b> The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	4	Ecologically and physically diverse. At an aesthetic level, the variety within the landscape is subtle and needs to be carefully "read" if it is not to be dismissed as unduly consistent and boring.
<b>Vividness</b> 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	A striking area of wetland that is a feature of travelling along the Karikari Peninsula. Graphically represents the soil / moisture conditions found in this undrained part of the historic tombolo that hasn't been developed for farming.
<b>Naturalness</b> 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 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>	5	<p>Highly natural and free of built development, infrastructure, tracks, drains and other human modification in its midst. Influenced by necessary fencing to its perimeter and the grazed character of land adjoining.</p> <p>Consistent and cohesive cover of indigenous species, but with some evidence of past fires that are likely to have had an impact upon the composition of the vegetation and ecological characteristics.</p> <p>Natural processes apparently intact and interactive with the ecological associations found on the site.</p>

<b>Intactness</b> 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.	<b>5</b>	Very intact and cohesive, subject to preceding comment about possible past fires.
<b>Experiential Values</b>		
<b>Expressiveness</b> The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	<b>5</b>	Highly graphic and legible. Plant associations and patterns are a direct response to soils and moisture regimes within the wetland.
<b>Sensory qualities</b> (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).	<b>3</b>	A distinctive part of the travelling experience and Lake Ohia provides an interesting destination for a closer inspection of the characteristics of the place.
<b>Transient Values</b> 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.	<b>2</b>	Subtle influences such as wind blowing through reedbeds and the resulting patterns, or the shifting visual characteristics and colours of those areas in response to varying light conditions.
<b>Remoteness / Wildness</b> Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence? Eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of remoteness</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Distance from built development</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>	Large areas of this unit are relatively isolated from surrounding farmland. They are also difficult to access in the perennially wet conditions and very limited tracks present. The broader context is one of productive farmland with scattered dwellings and a moderately used road passing through the midst of the ONL.
<b>Shared and recognised values</b> 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.	<b>3</b>	Whilst both distinctive and rare, it is likely that the wider community recognizes the values of this area or places an particular esteem upon it.
<b>Spiritual, cultural and historical associations</b> 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.	<b>***</b>	Possible history of kauri gum extraction over parts of this unit. An important element along the primary travelling route.  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)

<b>Land Types</b>
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









