

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – <b>PUKEARENGA</b>
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
<b>Land Types</b> <small>(refer to list overleaf)</small>  Volcanic cone (remains). Steep hills: moderate high relief.	Clearly volcanic in origin, this unit is visible from State Highway 1 in conjunction with the other elevated and forested features – Pukekaroro and Bald Rock – on the south side of the Brynderwyn Ranges.  The feature comprises a series of peaks, linked by a ridge which continues the east – west trend of the Cattlemount / Bald Rock series.
<b>Geology</b> <small>(including geopreservation sites)</small>	Pukearenga is one of a group of early Miocene dacite domes and associated altered tuff (Pukekaroro Dacites) form dome-like hills protruding above the soft Allochthon lithologies. These outcrop along the Brynderwyn Fault and an apparent WSW-trending splinter fault to the south.  Oligocene calcareous siltstone, sandstone and siltstone (partly alternating with graded sandstone), limestone, and greensand; areas of deeply weathered Miocene flow dacite.
<b>Soil Types</b>	The unit is predominantly overlain by Parakiore steepland soils, stoney clay loam, whilst soils on the northern slopes comprise Maungarei clay.  The site contains good examples of Parakiore soils, which are regionally uncommon (Arand <i>et al.</i> 1993).
<b>Ecology</b> <small>(including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)</small>	This unit is identified within the draft Rodney Ecological District PNAP report as being contained within the more extensive ROD001 which covers an area of 473.7 ha and includes the entire Pukearenga feature.  The draft PNAP report notes that the site is located in the north-western corner of the ED (Northland) and is contiguous with the larger site of Pukepohatu, Cattlemount and Surrounds (ROD003) to the east, which in turn is connected to the Brynderwyn Range (in Waipu Ecological District). There are records of brown kiwi from the site, but these are 15 years old, and it is widely acknowledged that kiwi are no longer present in the Brynderwyns (G. Coulston, DOC, pers. comm. 2012). The site supports two regionally significant bird species and is likely to support two species of 'At Risk' land snails.
<b>Archaeological sites</b>	Not known.
<b>Heritage Landscapes</b>	Not known.
<b>Landscape characterisation</b> <small>(including the identification of any specific characteristics)</small>  Pukearenga comprises a localised highpoint, rising to a maximum height of 274 metres. It is located some 4 – 5 km to the south east of Maungaturoto and is encircled on its west and south sides by the Wairau and Kaiwaka Rivers respectively.	

Due to its elevation and scale the feature is visible for some distance, particularly to the west, south west and south. It appears as a forested rising dome, surrounded by pasture. When viewed from the east, the distinctive form of the feature is less apparent, being softened by the elevated land, which extends to the east to link with Bald Rock and the Brynderwyn Range.

The unit includes only the forested dome at the western end of the previously mentioned series of hills – the presence of the hills to the east being diminished by the discontinuous pattern of forest.

Pukearenga is most visible from Mountain Road which skirts the feature on its southern, south western and western sides. From this road, the steeply rising forested slopes contrast strongly with the undulating pasture and scattered built development in the foreground. The development along the road reflects the relatively recent pattern of subdivision which has seen an increase in the density of dwellings, particularly where building sites offer views of the estuarine rivers.

## 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.	4	The unit forms a component within a number of volcanic features in the context of the Brynderwyn Ranges. These features and the Ranges characterise the area. Similar associations of features and vegetation are present elsewhere is Northland, and their character is one of those that typifies the Northland landscape.
<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	5	Whilst relatively common locally, the unit, when seen in conjunction with other similar volcanic features is rare on a national scale.
<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.	4	The southern flanks of the feature differ from those on the northern side. To the north, and excluded from the unit, the vegetation pattern on the slopes has been modified such that the coherence of the feature is significantly diminished.  On the northern side and within the unit, the vegetation retains a level of contiguousness that displays a greater level of coherence.
<b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b> The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	3	The unit displays a moderate level of diversity and complexity, both in terms of its topography and ecological values.
<b>Vividness</b> 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.	4	The elevation and form of the site, in conjunction with the vegetation cover which serves to elevate its scale. It contrasts with the surrounding landscape and landform and assumes a certain prominence, which draws the eye.  In terms of its wider context, the unit has a strong relationship with nearby vegetated features, and the interplay between these heightens the levels of strength and drama of the landscape, thus increasing vividness.
<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</li> </ul>	4	The feature is devoid of buildings although built development is visible accessed off Mountain Road to the south.  The feature is almost entirely forested with native bush, with the exception of areas of pasture along the ridgetops. These tend to be more visible from the air and are less obvious

<p>services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>		<p>when viewed from ground level.</p> <p>The surrounding pastoral landscape contrasts strongly with the forested slopes of the feature. The cleared and pastured ridgetops are not highly visible and do not detract from the values of the feature to any great extent.</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>3</b>	<p>The unit displays a moderate level of intactness, with the slopes and dissected gullies on the southern flanks of the feature being clad with largely contiguous native vegetation.</p>
<p><b>Experiential Values</b></p>		
<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 feature is clearly volcanic in its geological origin with its form, scale and the prominent rock faces evidencing this fact. The presence of primary growth vegetation with good succession growth and a multi layered structure demonstrates the operation of ecological processes. Natural ecological processes and unmodified character strongly evident.</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>3</b>	<p>The unit presents a striking impression when seen in association with the Wairau and Kaiwaka Rivers. Similarly, the unit contributes to a dramatic landscape character when seen as a component of the cluster of vegetated volcanic features, and the more extensive Ranges.</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>	<b>4</b>	<p>Transient values are mainly associated with the flowering and fruiting of plants coinciding with feeding by native birds. The appearance and character of the unit is also affected by the time of day (sun angle), weather and atmospheric conditions.</p>
<p><b>Remoteness / Wildness</b></p> <p>Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence? Eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of remoteness</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Distance from built development</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>	<p>Sense of remoteness when climbing track to summit and when on summit of the feature.</p> <p>The summit is reasonably easily accessible by foot, bike and 4wd vehicle.</p> <p>When viewed from the State Highway, the feature is seen in the context of relatively proximate built development.</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>	<b>3</b>	<p>The unit is a prominent feature within the context of several other prominent features.</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</p>		<p>Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.</p>

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.		
--	--	--

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

