

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – PAREPAREA BAY TO WHANANAKI INLET
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types Bays and headlands land type Low coastal escarpment land type Bays and headlands land type Reefs and islands land type	This combination of land types creates a rugged and dramatic landscape that reflects the exposed and wild character of the coast. The cliffs and escarpments are punctuated by bays enclosed by headlands, rocky shelves and reefs.
Geology (including geopreservation sites)	Te Rearea Pa/Tauranga Kawau Point are coastal headlands of Waipapa Terrane greywacke. Mimiwhangata Beach/Pareparea Bay are sand beaches backed by low foredunes. Moutara Point is a steep coastal headland of Waipapa Terrane greywacke.
Soil Types	The predominant soil type along the coastal edge within the unit is Marua brown clay loam with Whakapara mottled clay loam present in the gully bottoms.
Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	<p>The unit contains a number of sites identified within the Whangaruru Ecological District PNAP report. These are as follows:</p> <p>Q06/037 (Te Rearea Pa/Tauranga Kawau Point Coastal Remnants) This Level 1 site comprises 29 ha of forest, and 1 ha of shrubland. It includes 4 ecological types, being; pohutukawa coastal forest on headland and hillslope, pohutukawa–puriri–totara coastal forest on hillslope, kanuka/manuka coastal forest on hillslope, and harakeke–grass sp. coastal association on headland/island.</p> <p>The site is of significance due to the presence of a threatened snail species, and examples of a nationally rare forest type. It is a representative site for type pohutukawa–puriri–totara coastal forest, and the only record of this vegetation type in the Ecological District.</p> <p>Q06/039 (Mimiwhangata Beach/Pareparea Bay) This Level 1 site comprises 23 ha and includes three ecological units; spinifex grassland on foredunes, spinifex–buffalo grass–knobby clubrush coastal association on foredunes, buffalo grass–spinifex grassland on foredunes</p> <p>The site is of significance due to the presence of dune vegetation which includes pingao (Gradual Decline), Austrofestuca littoralis (Gradual Decline) and coastal tussock (Range Restricted). A number of fauna species of significance are also present, including reef heron (Nationally Endangered), northern little blue penguin (Gradual Decline), Caspian tern (Nationally Vulnerable), northern NZ dotterel (Nationally Vulnerable), pied shag (Sparse), variable oystercatcher (Regionally Significant), black katipo (Serious Decline), and the snail <i>Succinea archeyi</i> (Serious Decline).</p> <p>Northern NZ dotterel and variable oystercatcher breed in this area, and pateke are found in the streams behind the beaches.</p> <p>It is a relatively unmodified example of a rare habitat type in the Ecological District and is a representative site for type (a) spinifex grassland.</p>

	<p>Q06/033 (Motutara Point Coastal Forest Remnants)</p> <p>This Level 1 site comprises 12 ha and includes the following ecological units; pohutukawa–puriri coastal forest on hillslope, kanuka/manuka–ti kouka–pohutukawa coastal forest on headland, and pohutukawa coastal forest on steep hillslope.</p> <p>The site is of significance as a diverse coastal forest featuring a regionally significant plant (Tawapou (Regionally Significant)).</p> <p>It is an example of coastal forest, which is a nationally rare forest type. The site is representative site for all ecological units.</p>
Archaeological sites	Pa sites are evident on prominent headlands.
Heritage Landscapes	None known.
<p>Landscape characterisation (including the identification of any specific characteristics)</p> <p>This unit is notable for its rugged and dramatic coastline, which includes rocky outcrops, small islets, and steep coastal banks. Pronounced headlands separate small scalloped beaches. Within the smaller more enclosed bays, the complex indented coast, and steep coastal banks, often vegetated with pohutukawa and other coastal associations create an intimate and attractive character, particularly on calm days whilst the larger beaches such as those at Otamure Bay and Moureeses Bay have a more open and more 'populated' feel.</p> <p>In elevated locations, such as on the headlands, or on the 'lips' of the coastal bank there is a sense of exposure which is heightened by the views to the breaking waves on the rocky shoals and islets.</p> <p>These larger beaches, which are generally served by Rockell Road, often include scattered baches. Whilst this development is generally situated on the flats to the rear of the beach, at the northern end of Moureeses Bay a cluster of dwellings have become established.</p> <p>This coast is backdropped by hills clad with forest and from the ocean the contiguous ribbon of vegetation on the skyline provides a strength which mitigates, to some degree the more fragmented vegetation, areas of pasture and scattered built development on the lower slopes.</p> <p>Historically residential development has not occurred on the mid or upper slopes, although recent subdivision inland from Moureeses Bay has provided for dwelling sites in elevated and sensitive locations.</p> <p>In places, fingers or larger areas of bush extend seaward from the inland forested hills to link with the coast. This flow contributes to the structure of the landscape and enhances its coherence.</p>	

EVALUATION		
Criteria	Rank	Comment
Natural Science Factors		
<p>Representativeness</p> <p>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.</p>	5	<p>The sequence of elements including rocky headlands, vegetated coastal slopes and beaches, with limited and localized pockets of built development is very characteristic of the eastern northland coast.</p> <p>The concentration of vegetation, including pohutukawa on the coastal flank is a powerful contributing theme and highly representative.</p>

<p>Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.</p>	5	Although this land type is common locally, it is rare in the national context.
Aesthetic Values		
<p>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.</p>	4	<p>The unit displays a moderate level of coherence, with elements such as the vegetated coastal slope, the backdrop of forest and the linking flow of vegetation down to the coast enhancing the coherence.</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>The intrusion of built development onto prominent locations such as headlands or elevated mid and upper slopes has resulted in the diminishing of coherence, as has the progressive erosion of vegetation patterns.</p>
<p>Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.</p>	5	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>Vividness 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>	5	The indented rocky coastline, beaches and framing islets, along with the colour of the sea is particularly memorable and are highly symbolic of the area.
<p>Naturalness How affected by human activity is the landscape? Does human activity intrude on the landscape? Eg.</p> <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	<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 and building development 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 whilst the coastal margin retains a high level of naturalness.</p>
<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.</p>	4	With the exception of pockets of development, the coastal margin retains a high level of intactness.
Experiential Values		
<p>Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.</p>	5	The coastal margin clearly demonstrates the formative and ongoing coastal processes.

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	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. This said, the unit does offer very distinctive sensory opportunities.
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	The coastal character of the unit, and its exposure to prevailing winds means that its character and qualities vary with the seasons, and weather. The flowering of pohutukawa is also a notable transient value.

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 	3	Although it is possible to gain a sense of remoteness within the smaller bays, the proximity of Rockell Road and built development reduces the sense of remoteness.
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	The eastern Northland coast possesses a distinct character and quality that is valued by the wider community and attracts holiday-makers and tourists during throughout the year.
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.	3	Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period. The coast is highly valued by the community for recreation and this can translate to a spiritual affinity.

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 to Tauwhara and Moureeses Bay



Moutara Point on the northern entrance to the Whananaki Inlet