

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – <b>KAURI MOUNTAIN BUSH</b>
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
<b>Land Types</b> Volcanic cones land type Northern and eastern dissected hills; moderate to high relief land type	The volcanic origins of this land type are evident as a result of its form and elevation and the unit is highly visible as a visual 'stop' at the northern end of the extensive Ocean / Kauri Mountain Beach.
<b>Geology</b> (including geopreservation sites)	Steep coastal hills: northeastern part predominantly Mesozoic greywacke and chert (Waipapa Group), cut by Lower Miocene andesitic dikes and larger subvolcanic intrusions (Coromandel Group); southwestern part consists of a large Lower Miocene subvolcanic andesitic intrusion (Coromandel Group), bounded by melange of Cretaceous to Oligocene sedimentary units (Mangakahia and Motatau complexes).
<b>Soil Types</b>	The more elevated portions of the unit is characterised by Te Ranga steepland soils, light brown clay loam and stony clay loam, with a cap of Tikitohe gravelly silt loam on the peak. The north west slopes and southern slopes of the unit are characterized by Rangiora clay and Rangiora clay, clay loam and silty clay loam respectively.
<b>Ecology</b> (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	<p>The site is identified in the Manaia Ecological District PNAP report as Q07/078 (Kauri Mountain Conservation Area and surrounds). The Level 1 site comprises 327.2 ha of forest, 152.4 ha of shrubland, 0.1 ha of wetland, and 13 ha of rockland)</p> <p>The site is noted as being significance in the PNAP report. It is the largest area of coastal forest between Bream Head and Russell, and is part of the Whangarei Kiwi Sanctuary, providing key habitat for NI brown kiwi.</p> <p>The site also supports two 'At Risk' species of threatened bird, (North Island brown kiwi (Nationally Vulnerable) NZ pipit (Declining), Pycroft's petrel (Recovering) (single dead bird found, R. Pierce pers. comm.), kukupa (regionally significant), NI tomtit (regionally significant), Spotless crane (Relict).</p> <p>The site also supports several fish species of importance (banded kokopu (regionally significant) and shortfin eel.</p> <p>The vegetation is diverse and is reported to be regenerating well. At least three 'At Risk' plant species and six regionally significant plant species inhabit the site (<i>Celmisia adamsii</i> var. <i>rugulosa</i> (Naturally Uncommon), <i>Fuchsia procumbens</i> (Naturally Uncommon), kawaka (Naturally Uncommon), black maire, <i>Hebe parviflora</i>, <i>Olearia albida</i>, northern rata, and toru (all recorded in 2001). The site also contains one of the few areas of pohutukawa coastal forest remaining in Northland.</p>
<b>Archaeological sites</b>	None known.
<b>Heritage Landscapes</b>	None known.

## Landscape characterisation

(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

Kauri Mountain is visually associated with, and arguably part of the landscape sequence formed by the Aubrey, Mt Lion, Manaia, Bream Head features. It is a powerful feature which forms a northern punctuation for Ocean / Kauri Mountain Beach, and balances the vertical scale and stature of Bream Head at the southern end.

In addition, the landscape completes the enclosing sequence that forms a backdrop to Ocean beach and the low lying land behind

Kauri Mountain adjoins the coastal edge and extends inland to the south west as a series of highpoints along a ridge. These diminish in height from Kauri Mountain, at a height of 245 m, to 168 metres.

The Kauri Mountain ridge is bisected by Kauri Mountain Road, which passes through a saddle separating two high points. To the east of the road the feature, with the exception of its northern slopes, is vegetated with a contiguous cover of native forest. At its eastern edge this extends to the rocky coastal edge.

To the west of the road, the vegetation retains some measure of contiguousness, particularly on the northern mid and lower slopes of the ridge, although built development, and associated vegetation clearance along the ridge (Rarangi Heights, a relatively recent subdivision), has fragmented and diminished the values of the landscape.

The northern side of Kauri Mountain is accessed by Harambee Road. Vegetation clearance for grazing has resulted in fragmentation of the forest, although remnants are present on the steeper gully slopes and within gully bottoms. Scattered dwellings and associated development occupies the ridge tops extending to the north.

## EVALUATION

Criteria	Rank	Comment
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### Natural Science Factors

<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>4</b>	Heads sequence including Kauri Mountain is a signature of the Whangarei district and Northland region. Forms a terminal feature at the northern end of Ocean Beach, echoing the Bream Head feature at the southern end.  The landscape also reflects the Northland vegetated hills landscape which is characteristic and highly representative of the region. The lack of visible development within these areas creates a strong impression of naturalness and remoteness.
<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	<b>4</b>	The landscape forms one of a number of forested hills in the region that display little modification from built development. They contribute to and characterize the landscape.  High level of rarity at New Zealand level.

### Aesthetic Values

<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.	<b>4</b>	Strongly unified by rugged landform and contiguity of vegetation cover. Repetition of those key themes, and relationship with adjacent maritime area serves to bring an overarching coherence to the respective discrete areas, despite these being physically separated by lower land and pastoral cover.
<b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b> The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in	<b>5</b>	Convoluted site slopes with multitude of minor catchments.

ecological terms) without creating disharmony.		Diverse ecology.
<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.	5	The interplay between the ocean and forested slopes is highly expressive and memorable, as is the contiguous nature of the forested areas. The relationship between this, and the other local forested hills within the Manaia sequence is important and heightens the vividness of this unit.
<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>	4	Very high levels of naturalness within unit, but influenced by proximity of settlements, subdivision development, and farming. Proximity in turn allows for weed invasion and abutting uses that diminish naturalness, particularly as a result of the planting of invasive exotic species such as palms within gardens.  Indigenous forest cover is largely consistent over the unit, but there are some localized exceptions where elements of pasture are found in elevated locations such on the northern slopes of Kauri Mountain, where paddocks extend up ridgelines on localized areas that are less severe in their terrain.  Closely related to marine waterbody. Small and complex drainage patterns on hill faces, largely ephemeral. Evidence of dramatic drainage and scouring during intense rainfall indicates ongoing formative processes, even in areas where landcover is predominantly natural.
<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.	4	Good level of intactness within unit, although much of the vegetation cover is relatively young.  Influence of natural cover along ridges on visual identity.
<b>Experiential Values</b>		
<b>Expressiveness</b> The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	5	The landscape displays a high level of legibility in terms of the hydrological processes that have shaped the valleys and ridges. The complexity and spatial arrangement of vegetation reflects the underlying topographical form of the ranges.
<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).	5	Powerful views to the ocean and coast from within and adjoining the unit.
<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.	4	Strongly influenced by light conditions. Ridges create extremely distinctive silhouettes during dawn and dusk. Seasonal influences of rata and pohutukawa bloom.
<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>	3	The proximity of settlement and access diminishes the sense of remoteness for this landscape, although visitor numbers tends to be low and thus the landscape maintains a rural remoteness.
<b>Shared and recognised values</b> Natural features and landscape are widely known and valued by the immediate and wider community	5	Landforms definitive in Heads community and physically shape and define where settlement has occurred.

<p>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>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.</p> <p>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>Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.</p>

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



View to Kauri Mountain from north end of Harambee Road



**View to Kauri Mountain from Kauri Mountain Road**