

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

.	Unit name – CAVALLI ISLAND GROUP
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types (refer to list overleaf) Reefs and islands Bays and headlands Coastal cliffs / escarpment	A physically varied network of islands, reefs and offshore rocks that is strung across the CMA approximately 3-5km off of the Matauri Bay / Mahinipua coast. Forms part of a scattered chain that starts at Stephenson Island and winds its way down the coast via Moturoa to the main body of the Bay of Islands and Piercy Island.
Geology (including geopreservation sites)	Torlesse Terrane metasedimentary rocks that include greywacke, argillite, and minor chert and basaltic pillow lava. The Motukawanui pillow lava is classified by the NZ Geopres Inv.
Soil Types	Marua clay loam.
Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	Island group contains a multitude of ecological units and vegetation associations identified under the PNAP. Recurrent plant species include kanuka, pohutukawa, flax, cabbage tree, hangehange, raupo, taupata, houpara and pohuehue. Many of the islands are free of mammal pests and contain a wide spectrum of fauna, some of it a varying level of Threatened category. Motukawanui island (the main one) is DoC administered and most of the others, with the exception of privately-owned Motukawaiti, are Maori Reserve.
Archaeological sites	Extensive archaeological evidence recorded across the main bodies of the islands. Seven pa sites on Motukawanui Island and another on the southern face of Motukawaiti Island.
Heritage Landscapes	History of occupation and ongoing grazing on the largest of the islands until relatively recently.
Landscape characterisation (including the identification of any specific characteristics)	
<p>A collection of islands, islets, rocks and reefs lying as a string offshore. Varying in size, with the largest, Motukawanui, being of more substantial area. This biggest island reaches a height of 117m, whilst the small isles generally range between 50m and 100m. Landforms are typically rugged around the more exposed outer coastal margins, characterised by steep bluffs, flanks, minor rocks and reefs, and a convoluted alignment. The more protected western shores tend to be lower-lying, marked with sequences of sandy beaches.</p> <p>Most of the smaller islands are in a more intact state, ecologically and visually, than the larger islands that have been subject to grazing in the past. The former pasture areas on the DoC administered Motukawanui and nearby privately owned Motukawaiti are now seen as rank kikuyu that indigenous shrubland and coastal margin associations are gradually colonizing. It is thought that the other islands may also have had stock removed. Whilst the prevalent cover of the island chain is manuka/kanuka shrubland associations, pohutukawa are commonly found around the coastal margins and pockets of hardwood/broadleaf vegetation are developing in the more sheltered parts of the land.</p> <p>The Cavalli group is a feature of eastward views from the adjacent mainland and a popular recreational destination for day visitors and cruising boats. The marine area is known as a productive fishing area, whilst big game vessels from the Bay of Islands and Whangaroa frequently troll the area to seaward of the chain.</p>	

EVALUATION		
Criteria	Rank	Comment
Natural Science Factors		
Representativeness 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	Very characteristic of the east coast of this area, sharing much in common with most of the islands within the outer Bay of Islands and parts of the mainland coast. The position and arrangement of the islands makes them distinctive to the local setting however.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	4	Whilst locally abundant, islands, particularly inter-related groupings are not common at a wider regional level and more rare at a national scale.
Aesthetic Values		
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.	4	Very unified and cohesive, with replication of landform, coastal elements and vegetation composition/pattern.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	5	Highly diverse by virtue of an extensive coastal margin, varied levels of exposure, differing vegetative patterns and components, and the complex terrain or morphology of the amongst the island group.
Vividness 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	Extremely graphic and vivid, particularly in the outer extents of the group, and the more exposed eastern and northern faces of the islands.
Naturalness How affected by human activity is the landscape? Does human activity intrude on the landscape? Eg. <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	Generally very natural and being seen to return to a state that may have existed prior to human intervention. Grazed areas are reverting to an indigenous cover and there is an obvious process of transition occurring in areas where a second phase of canopy is emerging. Minor signs of human use on the largest island with minor DoC infrastructure such as signs) and a discrete hut. Motukawaiti hosts a substantial complex of domestic buildings, jetty and ancillary services. This development is, however, well sited, and imposes only a subtle statement of its presence.
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.	4	Generally intact, with past areas of modification by grazing showing signs of natural processes of colonisation in action that will increase the naturalness and intactness of the ONL over time.
Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	5	Distinct and expressive. The interaction of land and sea is strongly expressed, with the more sheltered parts of the islands having a different character to those that are exposed. Colonisation is also a clearly evident process in action.

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).	4	The island group have a strong visual “signature” and identity. Access by boat only introduces sensory experiences of exposure and the smell of the sea. Those sensory factors are then reinforced on the islands and supplemented by the smells of the land and the forest/shrubland (eg the distinctive aroma of manuka).
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	Directly related to sea state and weather conditions. Natural light and sun angles have a limited bearing. Seasonal herald by summer flowering of pohutukawa around the shore.
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 	5	Restricting access to private boat (other than minor charters) limits accessibility. Distance from major centres, and from easy launching facilities, further limits the number of people that can reach the island. Whilst popular, the group tends to be only moderately used, so the sense of wilderness tends to be quite high, particularly on the seaward facing sides of the islands where there is no visual connection back to the mainland.
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.	4	A well known landmark laying off the coast and a popular recreational destination and cruising anchorage.
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.	****	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)

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





