

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – SPIRITS BAY TO CAPE REINGA
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DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION

Component	Comment
Land Types (refer to list overleaf) Coastal cliffs / escarpment Bays and headlands Beach Reefs and islands Steep hills; moderate to high relief	A rugged coastal landscape with a predominance of rocky cliffs, fringing reefs, coastal flanks and inland steep hill country rising up towards the ridge that carries SH1. Rocky coastal margin punctuated by Tapotupotu Bay, a small exposed sandy beach with an exposed aspect and low, narrow dunes.
Geology (including geopreservation sites).	Cretaceous basic submarine volcanic and intrusive and Cenozoic marine sedimentary rocks. Tangihua Complex igneous rock.
Soil Types	Rangiuru clay, Mangonui clay, and Huia steepland soils, stony clay and stony silt loam.
Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	Unit forms a small part of the much more extensive Te Paki Shrublands, a predominantly manuka shrubland on infertile slopes and ridges, where the manuka rarely exceeds 1m in height. High level of species diversity and endemism. Part of a site of National Conservation Significance. A pocket of kohekohe-puriri forest is found just inland of Tapotupotu.
Archaeological sites	Pa are found on a number of high points around Pandora and Tapotupotu. Archaeological sites are scattered across this unit, with a particular concentration around Reinga and Otangawhiti.
Heritage Landscapes	

Landscape characterisation

(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

A powerful, robust coastal landscape that rises steeply from the sea, with repeated sequences of rocky bluffs, tiny coves, fringing reefs and minor headlands. A strong indigenous character is brought by a prevailing windshorne manuka/kanuka shrubland cover, with remnant areas of kikuyu grassland along ridges and some coastal brinks. Highly influenced by sea and weather conditions. Shares a sense of being thrust out into the sea with Cape Reinga and North Cape and is experienced from the state highway as it runs along the ridge above. Has a close connection with Te Rerenga Wairua.

Tapotupotu Bay is distinguished within the unit with its pocket ocean beach character, foredune system, small estuarine creek, mown areas and campground.

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	5	A strong sense of being of the specific area with its various influences. Confirmed by the high level of endemism and ecologies that respond to the severe conditions often found

essence. Endemic associations.		along this portion of coastline.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	4	The area is unique and many of the plants are specific to this ecological district. The assemblages and ecosystems found are also distinct to this immediate area.
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	Generally very cohesive as a result of the relationship between landform, vegetation and coastal influences. Some minor disruption arises from remaining areas of kikuyu and development / management of Tapotupotu Bay. Roading and service tracks also create a relatively minor intrusion.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	5	Highly diverse and intricate. Whilst vegetation patterns and landform may appear superficially quite simple, there is a complex of detail present.
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	Very powerful part of the overall imagery of the northern apex of the Aupouri peninsula that contributes to visitor experiences. Highly memorable and distinctive.
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	Highly natural and devoid of built development for most of its length, but broken by the road and campground facilities at Tapotupotu Bay. Some subtle awareness of the existence of the State Highway and recent Cape facilities development from the western portion of the unit. Vegetation composition primarily indigenous shrubland, with some areas in a state of slow transition from rank kikuyu grassland. Closely related to, and shaped by, the forces of the sea on this exposed stretch of coast.
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	Very cohesive and intact, with the exception of the aspects mentioned immediately above.
Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	5	Highly evocative of the formative and influencing forces, with height of exposed parent material on the coastal margin, windshorne vegetation and the exposure of the coastline to significant ocean swells and wind.
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	A big, open landscape that will be intimidating for some. Sense of being on the coast and exposed to a range of conditions.
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	4	Shaped by wind speeds and direction, light angles on the steepest landscape elements and sea conditions.

contribution that these make to the landscape.		
<p>Remoteness / Wildness</p> <p>Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence?</p> <p>Eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of remoteness • Accessibility • Distance from built development 	4	Other than at Tapotupotu, the majority of this unit is inaccessible, other than by foot. As a “big landscape”, there is scope for people to feel intimidated by the scale involved.
<p>Shared and recognised values</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>	5	Closely associated with Cape Reinga and the end of Aupouri Peninsula. Part of a wider network of walking tracks around the head of the peninsula.
<p>Spiritual, cultural and historical associations</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. 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>	5	<p>Possible involvement in the spirit route that exits the mainland nearby.</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)

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





