

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – BALD ROCK
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types <small>(refer to list overleaf)</small> Volcanic cone (remains).	The site is an eye-catching and notable feature when viewed from the State Highway and bald Rock Road, with steep slopes rising from the valley floor, and a sheer exposed rock face near its summit. Whilst not dramatic in terms of its height, the drama lies in the steepness of its form and its relationship with the surrounding forested hills.
Geology <small>(including geopreservation sites)</small>	The Pukekaroro Hills, between Maungaturoto and Mangawhai are formed of sub aerial dacite domes and associated altered tuff. Bald Rock is composed of dacite lava, which differs from the Pukekaroro dacites, which are mainly tuffs with thin flows.
Soil Types	The unit is almost entirely overlain by Pukekaroro steep lands soils, clay loam – an imperfectly to very poorly drained soil.
Ecology <small>(including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)</small>	<p>The unit is contiguous with the Brynderwyn Ranges and bush margins unit, and the Rodney PNAP report doesn't distinguish between Bald Rock and the ROD003 (Pukepohatu, Cattlemount and Surrounds) site and includes it within that site.</p> <p>The forest associated with the Brynderwyn Hills comprises a mosaic of exotic and native species and covers an area of some 8,300 ha, of which approximately 5,600 ha is in Waipu ED and 2,700 ha is in Rodney ED (around Cattlemount and out to Pukearenga).</p> <p>In terms of forest and shrubland diversity, the Brynderwyn complex is the most ecologically diverse in the Waipu Ecological District, with 60 different ecological units recorded, of which 38 are considered representative of their types. The ten parts of the site are currently linked together by plantation forest, which plays an important role in this area by providing wildlife habitat and connectivity between indigenous forest remnants (e.g. for Hochstetter's frog, tomtit, invertebrates). Ten threatened fauna species (grey duck, North Island kaka, North Island long-tailed bat, bush falcon, Auckland green gecko, the land snail <i>Amborhytida dunni</i>, long-tailed cuckoo, longfin eel, kukupa, and Hochstetter's frog) and five regionally significant fauna species (banded kokopu, giant bully, tomtit, bellbird, and red-crowned kakariki) have been recorded in this site. The Brynderwyn Hills are considered to be the northern stronghold for Hochstetter's frog. Three threatened plant species (mida, kawaka, and <i>Anyzbas rotundifolius</i>) and 11 regionally significant plant species (<i>Brachyglottis kirkii</i> var. <i>angustior</i>, carmine rata, <i>Coprosma parviflora</i>, <i>Grammitis cilata</i>, gully tree fern, <i>Hebe macrocarpa</i> var. <i>macrocarpa</i>, northern rata, <i>Pelargonium inodorum</i>, <i>Pratia angulata</i>, <i>Schizaea bifida</i>, and tree fuchsia) have been recorded in this site.</p>
Archaeological sites	Not known.
Heritage Landscapes	Not known.

Landscape characterisation

(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

A prominent elevated feature located to the north of Kaiwaka at the western end of the Brynderwyn ranges, Bald Rock comprises a localised high point rising to 238m with a large exposed rock slab face visible amongst the surrounding bush. The feature is highly visible from State Highway 1 when heading north and the location and prominence of the feature lends itself to being regarded as a dramatic and recognisable 'waymarker' on the route north.

Bald Rock is contiguous with the Brynderwyn Range unit, despite being identified as a separate and identifiable unit in itself, sitting on the south western edge of that unit. The forest associated with the unit is contiguous with forest on the ranges unit to the north and north east and the wider bush context contributes to the significance, contribution to landscape character and prominence as a 'way-marker' feature.

The feature is used by trampers, accessing the summit via a track, and by climbers – with several climbs being listed in climbing guides.

In the past, quarrying was undertaken in its summit although the resulting quarry is relatively small in scale and not readily seen from public viewpoints.

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.	4	The unit is contiguous with the Brynderwyn Ranges unit to the north and north east a perception which is strengthened by the native forest which envelops the rock dome feature. This lends the unit a strongly endemic character which is, in itself representative of the character of the area and region.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	5	The rock dome is a striking and unusual feature, the exposed rock faces of which are replicated in terms of character by features such as Tokatoka and Mangaraho to the west. Its prominence and rarity makes Bald Rock a feature of significance.
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	In terms of vegetation, the native forest and shrubland is largely continuous from the foot of the steep slopes of the feature to its crest. This lends a strongly coherent appearance and the modifications associated with the unit – the small quarry at the foot of the unit on its southern side, and at the crest, the track and clearance of vegetation along the upper ridge – are not readily visible and so do not detract from the unit's coherence.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	4	As discussed above, it is the vegetation patterns and composition that provide a diversity and complexity to the unit. Added to this, the relationship between the rock dome feature and the contextual vegetation creates an added level of visual complexity.
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.	4	The elevation, prominence and visibility of the rock dome results in the feature being a striking and memorable feature. Visible from the State Highway heading north, the feature is viewed by the majority of travelers heading north

<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 unit is bounded on its southern side by a modified rural landscape, and to the south west by the Absolute Concrete storage yards and depot, it retains a high level of naturalness. This is partly due to the clear delineation between the modified flat landscape, and the unmodified steeper landscape associated with the unit.</p> <p>With the exception of the small disused quarries mentioned previously, the access track and the limited ridge top areas of clearance, the unit is unmodified and no built development or infrastructure is visible.</p> <p>The vegetation displays strong natural patterns and processes and there is little exotic vegetation of any scale.</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	<p>The disused summit quarry is not visible from accessible external locations and the unit appears intact. With the exception of this, and the lower disused quarry and access the unit does not display visible signs of human modification.</p>
Experiential Values		
<p>Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.</p>	5	<p>The unit clearly demonstrates its volcanic formative process and is therefore highly legible.</p>
<p>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).</p>	5	<p>Set amongst the 'foothills' of the Brynderwyn Range, and enveloped in native forest, the unit presents a dramatic appearance that is scenic and memorable, particularly given its prominent location on the State Highway.</p> <p>The view from the top of Bald Rock is also dramatic, with precipitous drops on the southern side, and a panorama which encompasses a wide catchment, including Pukekaroro.</p>
<p>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.</p>	4	<p>Strongly influenced by light and weather conditions, although light conditions on the southern side tend to be more muted in scope. Sunlight on feature. Seasonal influences of blooming and fruiting of trees, shrubs and climbers.</p>
<p>Remoteness / Wildness Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence? Eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of remoteness • Accessibility • Distance from built development 	2	<p>The sense of remoteness associated with the unit is limited by the presence of State Highway 1, Bald Rock Road and nearby built development.</p>
<p>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.</p>	5	<p>Forming a highly visible feature from State Highway 1 when travelling north, the unit is widely recognised and forms a contributing element within the dramatic approach to the Brynderwyns.</p>
<p>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</p>		<p>Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.</p>

<p>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.</p>		
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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 summit of Bald Rock from track



View to Bald Rock from Bald Rock Road