

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

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|   | Unit name – <b>HENDERSON POINT ROCKY COAST</b>  |
| <b>DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION</b>   |   |
| <b>Component</b>  | <b>Comment</b>  |
| <b>Land Types</b><br><small>(refer to list overleaf)</small><br>Coastal cliffs / escarpment<br>Low escarpment<br>Bays and headlands<br>Beach  | A sharp, hard coastal flank that is steeply incised along most of the length of the unit. Features a broad fringing reef that is almost continuous.   |
| <b>Geology</b><br><small>(including geopreservation sites)</small>  | Pleistocene leached consolidated sands, with underlying Houhora Complex greywacke and conglomerate outcropping in coastal cliffs and shore platforms.   |
| <b>Soil Types</b>   | Te Kopuru sand.   |
| <b>Ecology</b><br><small>(including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)</small>  | Henderson Bay shrubland includes a number of manuka, kanuka and harakeke dominant associations on a range of contours and soil types. Coastal margins include groves of pohutukawa, sand coprosma and taupata. Contains 7 species of native orchids and several uncommon coastal habitat types. |
| <b>Archaeological sites</b>   |   |
| <b>Heritage Landscapes</b>  |   |
| <b>Landscape characterisation</b><br><small>(including the identification of any specific characteristics)</small><br><br><p>A distinctive segment of Northland coast, with a diverse shoreline that is dissected into a series of intimate rocky embayments separated by small, angular headlands. The foot of the steep coastal flanks and cliffs is largely lined with a mix of stony or sandy beaches. The shell-derived sand in this area has an unusual golden/pink hue, and is not found on either of the broader open beaches that sit to either side of the unit. The shoreline is overhung with large pohutukawa, whilst those parts of the coastal bank that are not solid rock are colonised with a mixture of windshorne native plants.</p> <p>With a wide fringing reef, this coast has a rugged, rocky intertidal zone that adds to the interest and diversity of the unit. The overlay of sand and pebbles at the landward edge of the reef creates a further dimension. The intertidal coastal ecology found along this sequence is likely to be diverse and valued.</p> |   |

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| <b>EVALUATION</b>   |             |  |
| <b>Criteria</b>   | <b>Rank</b> | <b>Comment</b>   |
| <b>Natural Science Factors</b>  |             |  |
| <b>Representativeness</b><br><small>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.</small> | <b>4</b>    | A distinctive area of coastal landscape that is not replicated elsewhere in Northland. The component elements are brought together in an unusual and interesting assemblage. |
| <b>Rarity</b><br><small>Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.</small>   | <b>4</b>    | Habitat types found in this unit (or immediately adjacent) are uncommon.   |

| <b>Aesthetic Values</b>   |          |   |
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| <b>Coherence</b><br>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>5</b> | Repeated patterns and elements that consistently recur throughout this unit bring a strong level of coherence. Other than minor naturally worn access tracks, the unit is free of discordant factors that would compromise this high measure of harmony.  |
| <b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b><br>The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.   | <b>5</b> | Very diverse combinations of geology, landform, ecology and spatial character. A further dimension is added by coastal exposure and the influence of wave energy.   |
| <b>Vividness</b><br>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.  | <b>5</b> | This portion of coast is not thought to be widely known, but its characteristics are very distinctive and memorable.  |
| <b>Naturalness</b><br>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> | <b>4</b> | Buildings are set back from the coastal margin on flat land and so are not experienced from down on the shoreline or from much of the brink of the coastal flank.<br><br>Landform is intact and reflects the exposure of this unit.<br><br>Vegetation patterns are also consistent and intact, but with a limited intrusion by exotic weeds. Northern limit of unit is affected by adjoining pastoral use spilling into the coastal area.<br><br>Other than a modest, unsurfaced walking track along the edge of the landform, the unit is free of built structures, earthworks and infrastructure. |
| <b>Intactness</b><br>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.  | <b>4</b> | The southern half of the unit is very intact, but the northern segment leading up to Rarawa is affected by pastoral development and less complete coastal flank vegetation.   |
| <b>Experiential Values</b>  |          |   |
| <b>Expressiveness</b><br>The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.  | <b>5</b> | Highly reflective of formative processes, and particularly to influence of high energy seas and winds battering the headlands, flanks and fringing reefs. Much of the shrubland vegetation is windshorn as a reflection of those forces.  |
| <b>Sensory qualities</b><br>(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).   | <b>4</b> | A cliff top walkway and a number of public vantagepoints provide excellent and dramatic views over this unit. The key influence upon sensory experiences is sea state.  |
| <b>Transient Values</b><br>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.  | <b>3</b> | Sea conditions and wind exposure are the two variables that contribute to transient values. Considered unlikely that the transient values of this unit are much recognised in a wider extent.   |
| <b>Remoteness / Wildness</b>  |          | Proximity to the road end, reasonable access via the clifftop   |

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| <p>Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence?<br/>Eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of remoteness</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Distance from built development</li> </ul>   | <b>3</b>     | walkway and adjacent housing all result in a sense of being not far from civilization. Access down to the coastal margin is difficult, so once down on that shoreline there is a greater sense of separation and isolation.   |
| <p><b>Shared and recognised values</b></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>  | <b>3</b>     | It is considered unlikely that the characteristics of this portion of coast are widely known, or valued, but difficult to gauge. The well worn coastal paths and scrambling tracks down the flank indicate a measure of constant use and it is likely that those choosing to live or holiday in this relatively remote location value the area highly.                                |
| <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. 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> | <b>*****</b> | <p>A very distinctive and intimate portion of coast that is likely to engender strong levels of connection and association amongst those who live nearby or are regular users of this portion of coast. Known to be a popular rock fishing destination.</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               |









