

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – CAPE KARIKARI AND SOUTH COAST
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types <small>(refer to list overleaf)</small> Coastal cliffs / escarpment Bays and headlands Beach Reefs and islands	A rocky promontory with repeated patterns of headlands, coastal escarpments, tiny coves and small reefs or near-shore rocks. Includes embayment form of Matai Bay and string of islets projecting north from Cape Karikari.
Geology <small>(including geopreservation sites)</small>	Varied Karikari Plutonics diorite to quartz monzonite intrusions with overlying Pleistocene consolidated dune sands, Houhora Complex greywacke. Holocene coastal foredunes at Matai Bay.
Soil Types	Pukekaroro steepland soils, clay loam, Piroa clay, Te Kopuru sand, Maungarei clay and Pukenui silt loam. Waikato Bay: Whananaki sand.
Ecology <small>(including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)</small>	Typically kanuka / manuka shrublands, pohutukawa forest on steep coastal flanks. Pockets of kohekohe and towai forest on coastal slopes and valleys. Incorporates PNA sites Matai Bay O03/003, Cape Karikari Shrubland O03/005, Whangatupere Bay O03/006, which relate to the majority of this unit. Distinct relationship between plant associations and geology found nowhere else. Only occurrence of towai forest in ED. A range of fauna that are cat B and C threatened, regionally significance and nationally endangered. Moturoa Island group one of Northland's most important seabird breeding sites.
Archaeological sites	Concentrations of high numbers of sites on the northern coast around Pumanawa Point, encircling Matai embayment, around Rangiahiao Pa and Patia Point.
Heritage Landscapes	
Landscape characterisation <small>(including the identification of any specific characteristics)</small>	
<p>The broader peninsular landform is a notable feature of Northland's coastal landscape, standing as a strategic divide between Doubtless Bay, Rangaunu Bay and Rangaunu Harbour. With the exception of Matai Bay, this apex and southern coast of the peninsula are rugged and inaccessible. Hard underlying geology has led to a steep and convoluted rocky coastline, with numerous indentations, small reef structures, minor headlands and coarse scarps.</p> <p>Projecting seaward as it does, this coastline is typically subject to moderate wave action, with periodic severe poundings during storms and offshore low pressure systems. This exposure to big seas results in the coastal flank consisting of bare rock faces and vegetation being kept at bay near the top of the coastal banks and cliffs. That situation in turn leads to the rugged character of the unit (with the exception of Matai Bay) regardless of sea conditions. The continuity of the coastal margin character is reinforced by a consistent pattern of predominant kanuka/manuka shrubland that clothes most of the higher ground above. That shrubland association is broken by a mantle of pohutukawa around much of the brink of the coastal flank and pockets of hardwood forest in marginally more sheltered parts.</p> <p>Matai Bay, by contrast, has a more contained and sheltered character through the protection of the hooked headlands that define it. This area is also periodically subject to the influence of large swell, as reflected by the dunefields that mark the inland edge of each of the beaches.</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	Karikari peninsula is one of the more distinctive coastal landscapes of Northland, with its own unique identity arising from the wider assemblage of rocky coast, ocean beaches and the more protected nature of Matai Bay. The rocky coast sequence represented by this unit is a key part of that identity and the combined influences of geology, vegetation cover/associations and coastal exposure are central.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	4	A number of ecological associations, linked to location and parent material / soils, are specific to the peninsula. Acknowledged habitat for a number of threatened and endangered species.
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.	5	Repetition of underlying rock characteristics, vegetation cover and coastal exposure lead to this unit being highly cohesive. Development associated with Matai Bay compromises that cove, but its indentation leads to the balance of the unit being divorced from that influence. A large pine plantation on the inland of the southern fringe of the unit has similar implications for that portion of the coastal flank.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	4	Physically complex in terms of the interaction between sea and rock having resulted in a diverse coastal margin. Overlay of vegetative associations adds to that complexity. PNA status confirms this ecological dimension.
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	Highly distinctive and memorable. Whilst somewhat discrete from the prevailing exposed rocky coastline theme of the wider unit, Matai Bay has its own unique identity as a subset.
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	<p>Whilst influenced by adjacent built development at Matai Bay, and by an area of pine plantation further south, the majority of the unit conveys a strong level of naturalness and natural character.</p> <p>The rugged conditions and inaccessible nature of the majority of this area has seen it free of buildings, accessways and other infrastructure.</p> <p>Vegetation patterns are generally consistent and cohesive, whilst underlying soils and geology remain in a natural state.</p> <p>The interaction between this landmass and the erosive forces of the sea are clearly expressed and conveyed. This interplay is a key foundation of the unit's character and that naturalness that it expresses.</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.	4	Highly intact, although adversely influenced in two areas by buildings and plantation forestry as previously outlined.

Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	5	Very legible with patterns and formation processes explicitly expressed, particular in relation to the influence of the sea and exposure to considerable wave forces.
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 Matai Bay cove is an alluring landscape, often referred to as one of the most picturesque pieces of coast in the country. The sound and sight of waves crashing on the wider segment of shore represented by this landscape are an important part of its identity and the experience of it.
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	Variable sea conditions and water clarity / colour are the key aspects of change that change during time, season and light conditions.
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	Most of the unit is very difficult to access, other than viewing from the marine area. This inaccessibility, combined with limited development and natural vegetative cover, give the unit a strong sense of wilderness, despite being in quite close proximity to popular tourist areas and residential zones.
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	Likely to be high. Matai Bay regarded as one of Northland's most attractive coastal destinations. The wider peninsula has a presence from wide areas of coast to either side. Well known as a popular destination and highly regarded as a recreational fishing area. Local community appear to have a strong connection with the area and its management.
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







