

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – HIKURANGI BUSH-CLAD RANGE
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types <small>(refer to list overleaf)</small> Ranges; high relief	A pronounced and elevated peak; one of the more lofty in Northland at 626m. Relates to other range country to the west.
Geology <small>(including geopreservation sites)</small>	Cretaceous-Paleocene ophiolitic volcanics (Tangihua Complex)
Soil Types	Te Kie steepland soils, stony clay loam; Tautoro steepland soils, clay loam.
Ecology <small>(including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)</small>	<p>Hikurangi combines with Tokawhero Forest to form a contiguous ecological site. It involves a large and convoluted area of cut-over tall forest and secondary kauri-podocarp-broadleaved forest with a canopy dominated by totara and kanuka, but towai and taraire are also common. Kahikatea, rewarewa, rimu, kauri, pukatea, northern rata, tanekaha and miro are all scattered emergents.</p> <p>This site is part of a large and botanically diverse forest tract that is representative for all 13 ecological units, and has a clear altitudinal gradient. It supports threatened and regionally significant species, including one threatened plant species, seven regionally significant plant species, seven threatened fauna species and two regionally significant bird species.</p> <p>The wider site also provides upper catchment protection for three large river systems (Awarua, Kaikou and Punakitere Rivers) and riparian buffering for Waikerei Stream and Te Hoanga Stream, which are tributaries of the Kaikou River.</p>
Archaeological sites	None recorded
Heritage Landscapes	
Landscape characterisation <small>(including the identification of any specific characteristics)</small>	
<p>A block of steep, elevated land that terminates in a distinct apex. The combination of this demanding terrain and a cover of various associations of predominantly indigenous cover are key aspects of Hikurangi's identity. As something of an accent landform, the Hikurangi range is a one of the more distinctive portions of topography that lies between the north of Whangarei and Kawakawa. It assists to define the Maromako / Pokere valley that runs to its east, and is a landmark when seen from SH1 looking over that valley. Along with its western foothills it is also influential as the Mangakahia Road passes by upstream of Twin Bridges.</p> <p>Whilst topographically discrete in its own right, Hikurangi is spatially and physically connected to forested country to the south and west, providing a collective habitat with greater critical mass and a unity within that wider area of farmed lowlands and hill country. The peak is capped with a transmission mast structure which serves to identify it on one hand, and to compromise its sense of scale and freedom from explicit human modification on the other.</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.	4	An important landmark and structuring element in the swathe of terrain lying north south of Kawaka. Native forest cover is a key accompanying characteristic.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	3	Whilst distinctive and identifiable, the composite elements are found in reasonable measure elsewhere in the district and region. Its role in supporting a number of rare and threatened species contributes to the relative rarity of the ONL itself.
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	Highly cohesive, but with some adverse influence brought by adjacent areas of plantation forestry.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	4	Ecologically varied in terms of species compositions, associations and vulnerable species present. Relatively simple in broader landscape pattern and geophysical terms.
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.	4	A bold landscape that is of some significance as a landmark and defining element in the Pokere and Punakitere Valley areas, as well as from SH1.
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	Largely devoid of built structures, but prominently capped with a substantial communications mast and a subtle service track through the forest. Indigenous vegetation cover is continuous, but influenced by adjacent plantations. Forms an extensive collective cover of native vegetation when combined with other areas of forest to the west.
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.	3	Predominantly cohesive and intact, but compromised by the communication structure mentioned above and by some adjacent and elevated production landuse.
Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	4	Very graphic and bold, its elevation providing a measure of dominance over adjacent lower, rolling hill country.
Sensory qualities (These are landscape phenomena as directly	3	Primarily of influence as a spatial backdrop, divide and

perceived and experienced by humans, such as the view of a scenic landscape, or the distinctive smell and sound of the foreshore).		reference.
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.	3	Largely restricted to the role of light angles and intensity during the day, with most evocative conditions arising during dawn and dusk.
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 	4	Brings a strong sense of being elevated and removed from adjacent areas. Public access is very restricted and it is likely that few would chose Hikurangi over more readily reached and better known wilderness areas.
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.	3	It appears probable that Hikurangi is not widely recognised by name and that awareness of its values – perhaps largely as a local landmark – lies primarily with those who live in areas that are most closely related to this ONL.
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



