

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – <b>MAUNU</b>
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
<b>Land Types</b> Volcanic cones land type	One of a sequence of volcanic cones, which form a family of features and characterise the landscape to the west of Whangarei.
<b>Geology</b> (including geopreservation sites) Kerikeri volcanics basaltic scoria cone	<p>The three large scoria cones of Maunu, Maungatapere and Maungakaramea, were produced as part of a second period of basalt eruptions between 300 000 to 500 000 years ago at a similar time to the four cones to the west of Kamo, and three to the east. More precisely, Mangatapere was formed <math>0.29 \pm 0.05</math> my.</p> <p>The site is listed as being of regional geopreservation importance (Kenny and Hayward. 1993), although modified by farming, minor quarrying and roading. A crater was destroyed as a result of the construction of a television transmitter. Kenny and Hayward report that the cone rises 150 m above the surrounding plateau, whilst lava flows associated with the feature extend approximately 6.0 km east almost as far as Whangarei City.</p>
<b>Soil Types</b>	The entirety of the unit is overlain by Papakauri clay loam.
<b>Ecology</b> (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	The site is identified in the PNAP survey is a Level 1 site and is identified as Q06/026. It comprises three areas of forest with the largest being located on the southern slopes of the cone nearest, and visible from the State Highway. These southern slopes are covered with taraire dominant forest with frequently occurring tawa. Broadleaf volcanic forest is a nationally rare forest type which supports the kukupa and regionally uncommon ornate skink. The forest is a representative site for taraire forest, taraire-tawa forest and taraire-rewarewa forest.
<b>Archaeological sites</b>	None known.
<b>Heritage Landscapes</b>	None known.
<b>Landscape characterisation</b> (including the identification of any specific characteristics)	
<p>The feature lies some 5.0 km to the west of Whangarei and appears as an 'extension' to the hills associated with the Pukenui Forest. This said, Maunu forms a recognizably individual feature and is clearly volcanic in origin with a defined cone shape. It forms one of the 'family' of highly group of volcanic cones, and is particularly evident when travelling along State Highway 14. From this road the cone forms a focus along the State Highway when travelling both from the west and the east.</p> <p>The cone is some 1.0 – 2.0 km in diameter and stands some 395 m asl. It is breached from the west and is very steep sided particularly on its southern face, which is encircled by the State Highway.</p> <p>The west side, the north trending ridge, and the lower slopes on the eastern side of the feature are farmed, however the eastern and southern slopes are vegetated with pines and native forest.</p> <p>A number of telecommunications structures are located on the summit of the cone. These are accessed by an extension of Millington Road.</p>	

<b>EVALUATION</b>		
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Natural Science Factors</b>		
<b>Representativeness</b> 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	The cone is highly representative of the Whangarei volcanic field and forms one of a family of cones that are intervisible and characterise the landscape of the area. Viewed from the south and south west the cone presents a strongly endemic and natural character, although from other directions the pine plantations, pasture and telecommunications masts reduce its natural character.
<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	5	Although there are a number of similar volcanic features in the area, in the wider context of the region similar features only occur in small numbers in defined clusters.
<b>Aesthetic Values</b>		
<b>Coherence</b> 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.	3	The powerful shape of the cone enables the retention of a measure of coherence. Furthermore, the presence of vegetation on the steeper southern, and south eastern faces provides coherence when viewed from the western, southern and eastern quadrants. The geometric form of the pine plantation detracts to some extent from the levels of coherence, and built development and vegetative patterns on the lower slopes tend to be more discordant and only reflect the underlying natural pattern to a limited degree.
<b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b> The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	2	Vegetation on the southern steep slope displays a moderate to high level of complexity and diversity. The remainder of the feature displays limited levels of complexity and diversity.
<b>Vividness</b> 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 volcanic origins of Maunu are clearly evident and as such the feature presents a striking form which is visible and distinct over a wide visual catchment. Like many of the other cones, Maunu is used as an orientating feature, as well as a waymarker for travelers on their way to Dargaville, or travelling in the other direction to Whangarei. Whilst not as 'natural' as Maungatapere, the distinctive form, visibility and level of recognition result in the cone displaying a high level of vividness.
<b>Naturalness</b> 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>	2	As described above, Maunu has been modified in a number of ways such that the level of naturalness has been eroded. This includes the clearance of native vegetation for pasture, the construction of telecommunications masts, the planting of non-native tree species and the construction of buildings on the lower slopes.  Viewed from the south and south west however, the feature retains an appearance of naturalness since from these directions, including along the line of the State Highway to the south west, the slopes are vegetated with native forest.

<b>Intactness</b> 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>3</b>	As described above, only portions of the feature retain a coverage of native forest. The slopes clad with this vegetation, are both aesthetically coherent and retain a moderate level of intactness with respect to the natural systems and processes.
<b>Experiential Values</b>		
<b>Expressiveness</b> The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	<b>5</b>	The feature clearly displays its volcanic origins and therefore possesses a high level of expressiveness.
<b>Sensory qualities</b> (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>3</b>	Climbing Maunu, the visitor experiences rapid gain in height over a limited distance, and a striking contrast between the height at the top of the feature compared to the surrounding landscape. The views from the summit are therefore extensive and impressive, and the visitor can experience the wind exposure associated with an elevated position.
<b>Transient Values</b> 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>2</b>	Limited to the play of light and climatic conditions on the feature.

<b>Remoteness / Wildness</b> Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence? Eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of remoteness</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Distance from built development</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>	The modified character of the feature and its proximity of built development limits the sense of remoteness experienced by the visitor.
<b>Shared and recognised values</b> 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.	<b>5</b>	Maunu is a readily recognised feature which characterised both the immediate area – the nearby suburb shared its name with the feature – and the wider region. As one of a family cluster of similar volcanic features, Maunu enjoys a strong community association.
<b>Spiritual, cultural and historical associations</b> 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

Photograph of unit

