

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – KARAKAHUARUA TO RAWHITI POINT COAST
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types (refer to list overleaf) Coastal cliffs / escarpment Reefs and islands Low escarpment Bays and headlands Beach	A diversity of coastal landforms that are particularly influential in the character of this ONL.
Geology (including geopreservation sites)	Paleozoic – Mesozoic Waipapa Terrane greywacke.
Soil Types	Marua clay loam.
Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	<p>This headland area has been connected with the Cape Brett Peninsula forest in terms of its ecological characteristics. That wider area contains 4 ecological units, all of which are represented within this ONL. They are: kanuka/manuka–tanekaha coastal forest on headland; kanuka/manuka coastal shrubland on headland; kanuka/manuka–puriri–taraire coastal forest on headland; and pohutukawa forest on coastal margin.</p> <p>The area contains a number of threatened or uncommon plants are known from this site including, although it is unclear of how many of those species are present in this small segment of the wider area addressed by the PNAP reporting.</p> <p>The wider area is also considered important as a feeding and breeding site for several coastal species including northern little blue penguin, black shag, and pied shag. The local area also contains NI brown kiwi, kukupa, and common forest birds.</p> <p>Indigenous gecko and snails, some threatened and of regional significance are identified as inhabiting the broader Cape Brett area and some are likely to be present within this ONL.</p> <p>A second discrete area of ecological interest is found at Kohangaatara Point Island. This is characterised by a cover of “harakeke–pohutukawa coastal association on hillslope”, with frequent kanuka interspersed. Coastal maire (Regionally Significant), <i>Hebe</i> “Whangarei” (Regionally Significant) have been found in the wider unit. This island has been assessed as being a representative site, and an example of a nationally rare vegetation type. It is also acknowledged for the presence of threatened and regionally significant species.</p>
Archaeological sites	A large number of recorded archaeological sites present, concentrated particularly around the Rawhiti Point headland (ie that area almost separated from the mainland by the narrow peninsula dropping to Oke Bay) and along the coastline generally.
Heritage Landscapes	Closely related to historic events and activities in the Bay of Islands.

Landscape characterisation

(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

This pair of forked headlands and its associated coastal flank form a defining north eastern edge to the Albert Channel, the eastern passage out of the sheltered waters of the Bay of Islands as it enters the more exposed coast heading towards Cape Brett and Piercy Island. This Rawhiti coast is lined with a scattering of islands and reefs, as is the opposing Urupukapuka shoreline that defines the opposite, north west edge of Albert Channel. The morphology and character of this section of the mainland coast is very similar to those of the islands, as is the allied sequence of headlands related to Parekura Bay further to the west.

The characteristics that align this bit of the mainland with the islands' coastal character include steep, rocky coastal flanks, fringing and offshore reefs, small islets, minor beaches and pronounced coastal ridges and spurs. Vegetation patterns are also similar, with a well developed fringe of pohutukawa, extensive areas of coastal shrubland and pockets of broadleaf and hardwood forest, and remnant areas of coarse kikuyu that signal past grazing.

Rawhiti settlement is excluded from the ONL, but there are a number of scattered houses found within the unit that are generally carefully sited and not unduly distracting of the natural character of this part of the coast. Most are located on large landholdings and are therefore widely spaced.

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	Closely related to the Bay of Islands and sharing many characteristics. Clearly displayed patterns and natural morphology bring a clear signature to this area that is related to this specific area.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	3	The composition and identity of this unit is very similar to a number of coastal areas in the wider eastern area, particularly around the Bay of Islands. At a wider level though, this form of local landscape is less widely found.
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.	3	Intervening areas of settlement and scattered buildings, combined with adjacent inland land uses, serve to fragment this unit to some extent.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	4	A high level of diversity brought by the complexity of the coast and its related reefs and islands, vegetation patterns and interface with the channel.
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	Distinctive and graphic, particularly in relation to its role and connection with the Albert Channel as a navigational gateway and mainland proximity to Urupukapuka.
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. 	3	A clearly "lived in" landscape, with the settlement nearby and scattered housing within the unit. Despite the residential component of the landscape, natural patterns of vegetation cover and the consistency of the coastal margin serve to dominate and unify the settled aspect of this landscape.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence / extent of modified agricultural land use. • Strength of natural processes / ecological patterns. • Unmodified and legible physical relief and landform. • Presence of water. 		
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	The factors mentioned above serve to offset the measure of development that exists and to bring a cohesive quality to the coastal landscape.
Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	4	Strongly expressive and legible. Natural weathering and erosion of coastal landforms is clearly demonstrated and vegetation patterns are also influential.
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	A strong sense of local character and relatedness to the wider Bay of Islands. Passing boat traffic is a feature of this part of the water body and emphasizes the navigational role of Albert Channel.
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	Expressed through light conditions and sea state – particularly around Rawhiti Point and the mouth of the Channel. Summer display of pohutukawa on the cliffs.
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 	2	Closely connected with settlement and recreational activity.
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	A well known area with a strong identity that is experienced from both passing boats and from within the unit on the mainland.
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. 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 Connections with the Bay of Islands and its cultural, recreational, scientific and tourism related aspects.

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









