

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – <b>BREAM TAIL COASTAL HEADLAND</b>
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
<b>Land Types</b> Bays and headlands land type Low coastal escarpment land type Bays and headlands land type Reefs and islands land type	<p>In conjunction with the Brynderwyn Ranges, the Bream Tail headland forms a physical and perceptual 'bookend' to the Whangarei District, as well as representing a 'pivot' between the sweep of Bream Bay to the north, and Mangawhai spit, Te Arai Beach and Pakiri Beach to the south.</p> <p>The headland is a dramatic and powerful feature which is visible from landbased locations a considerable distance to the north and south.</p>
<b>Geology</b> (including geopreservation sites)	<p>Coastal hillsides and gullies underlain by Mesozoic greywacke (Waipapa Terrance). Miocene sandstone and sandy mudstone (waitemata Group); Miocene dacite intrusions (Waitakere Group); and Holocene beach sands.</p> <p>The headland is a geological site of regional importance with the best exposed Miocene dacite dome being located at R08 540 705, just to the south of the tip of Bream Tail (Kenny and Hayward, 1996).</p>
<b>Soil Types</b>	<p>The unit hugs the coast, with its boundaries approximating the underlying soil types. The western arm comprises poorly drained Waioitira brown clay loam, whilst the high points on the north eastern tip comprise a pocket of Parahaki fine silt and Maungarei clay.</p>
<b>Ecology</b> (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	<p>Identified in the Waipu Ecological District PNAP report as R08/001 (Bream Tail Coastal Headland) and straddles the Whangarei and Kaipara district boundary. This Level 1 site encompasses 2.4 ha of duneland, 221.5 ha forest, 25.5 ha rockland, 7.2 ha shrubland and 4.1 ha of wetland.</p> <p>The PNAP reports that the site comprises a unique set of habitats in the Waipu Ecological District. This is because it is the only steep rocky coastal headland with extensive cliffs and steep coastland forest.</p> <p>The PNAP lists twenty six ecological units, twenty of these are considered to be representative. It also lists large numbers of threatened flora and fauna, including six threatened flora species (<i>mida</i>, <i>parapara</i>, <i>Doodia mollis</i>, <i>Streblus banksii</i> x <i>S heterophyllus</i>, <i>Tetragonia tetragonioides</i>, <i>Chionochloa bromoides</i>), five regionally significant flora species (hard beech, wharariki, coastal maire, tawapou, <i>Coprosma rigida</i>). It also lists seven threatened fauna species (North Island kaka, Caspian tern, red billed gull, kukupa, longfin eel, <i>Amborhytida dunniae</i> and northern blue penguin), and four regionally threatened species (red crowned kakariki, variable oystercatcher, and banded kokopu).</p>
<b>Archaeological sites</b>	None known.
<b>Heritage Landscapes</b>	None known.

## Landscape characterisation

(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

Bream Tail is a prominent and recognised feature which punctuates and contains the southern end of Bream Bay. Whilst not as 'iconic' in its form as Bream Head, it acts as a counterbalance to the northern feature and is recognised as such.

Bream Tail also marks the eastern extreme of the Brynderwyn Range and together these landscapes define the southern edge of Whangarei District and the northern edge of Kaipara – a waymarker for many travellers on their journey north.

The landscape rises to a maximum height of some 165 m with the localized high point being located close to the coastal edge. The inland landscape is characterised by a relatively unremarkable rolling to steep landform, with the steeper slopes being vegetated with forest. This inland landscape is lower lying than the adjoining Brynderwyn Range to the west, but it is the dramatic cliffs and associated rocky shoals which define its seaward margin and contribute significantly to the character of the landscape and its recognition as an outstanding landscape.

Some sections of the coastal cliffs are vegetated, forming an almost unbroken swathe of vegetation from coast forest on the hills through to the beach. In other places only the lower edge of the cliffs are vegetated, although recent revegetation associated with the subdivision of Bream tail Farm has seen attempts to restore the grass covered slope. These planting have only realized limited success to date.

The relationship between the Bream Tail landscape, the Sentinal Rock Sandy Coast landscape, the Mangawhai Sandspit and thence the gentle curve of the coast down south to Cape Rodney is particularly striking.

## EVALUATION

Criteria	Rank	Comment
<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	Together with the Brynderwyn Range, the landscape forms the southern 'gateway' to the Whangarei District and is an important 'waymarker' on the journey north. More importantly, the landscape forms a visual stop to views of Bream Bay from land, beach and sea to the north and its form, although not as distinctive as Bream Head, does form its balancing 'twin'.
<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	4	High level of rarity at New Zealand level – very distinctive to this local area in terms of visual identity, geology and ecology.
<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.	4	Strongly unified by the steep cliff and associated rocky shoals, and contiguity of vegetation cover. Repetition of those key themes and relationship with adjacent maritime area serves to bring coherence to the area, despite its context of by lower undulating land, pastoral cover and recent subdivision. Recent planting associated with the subdivision will, over time assist with 'stitching together' the isolated areas of forest and therefore strengthen landscape patterns and increase the level of coherence.
<b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b> The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	4	The increase in elevated in proximity to the coastal edge of the landscape, and the steep and dramatic cliffs dropping to rocky shoals on the shoreline. Extensive pockets of forest, with forest also covering the steep coastal slopes. Diverse ecology.

<p><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.</p>	<b>5</b>	<p>A bold signature and strong part of Northland's identity. Distinctive and memorable when viewed both from the north and from the south. Accessed from, and valued by many people in Mangawhai Heads.</p>
<p><b>Naturalness</b> How affected by human activity is the landscape? Does human activity intrude on the landscape? Eg.</p> <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>	<p>Very high levels of naturalness within unit, but influenced by proximity of settlement, farming and recent subdivision. These modified areas punctuate the forested areas but have been significantly revegetated recently.</p> <p>PNAP report acknowledges the recent revegetation although notes that the planting of non-ecosourced plants has the potential to degrade the naturalness of the forest.</p> <p>Proximity of modified areas also allows for weed invasion and abutting uses that diminish naturalness, although comprehensive weed and pest control strategies are in place at the moment.</p> <p>Closely related to and strongly influenced by marine waterbody.</p>
<p><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.</p>	<b>4</b>	<p>Good level of intactness within unit, although much of the vegetation cover is relatively young.</p>

### Experiential Values

<p><b>Expressiveness</b> The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.</p>	<b>5</b>	<p>Coastal erosive processes clearly evident.</p>
<p><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).</p>	<b>5</b>	<p>Landscape forms a feature which contains the southern end of Bream Bay and is thus a recognised feature.</p> <p>Powerful sense of remoteness and isolation when on the shoreline at the foot of the coastal cliffs, and a strong sense of the presence of the sea.</p>
<p><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.</p>	<b>4</b>	<p>Strongly influenced by light and weather conditions. Seasonal influences of kowhai, rata and pohutukawa bloom, and associated avian activity.</p>

<p><b>Remoteness / Wildness</b> Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence? 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>	<p>Limited sense of isolation or remoteness from within the elevated portion of the site due to the proximity of pastoral landscape and scattered dwellings. As the subdivision becomes more populated this sense will further diminish.</p> <p>Strong sense of remoteness can be experienced along the foreshore due to the separation and containment provided by the coastal cliffs.</p>
<p><b>Shared and recognised values</b> Natural features and landscape are widely known and valued by the immediate and wider community</p>	<b>4</b>	<p>The landscape is recognised and valued for its place as the feature, which contains the southern end of Bream Bay, and also as the eastern end of the Brynderwyn Range.</p>

<p>for their contribution to a sense of place leading to a strong community association with, or high public esteem for the place.</p>		<p>Bream Tail is accessed via a recently constructed coastal path from Mangawhai Heads and forms a valued and proximate landscape for visitors and residents.</p>
<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. 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.</p>		<p>Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.</p> <p>The unit is a visually prominent feature which contains the southern end of Bream Bay. In this regard it is well known to the community.</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

Photograph of unit



**Bream Tail**