

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

| | Unit name – TAPEKA POINT |
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| DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION | |
| Component | Comment |
| Land Types (refer to list overleaf) Coastal cliffs / escarpment Bays and headlands Reefs and islands | A sharp, rocky promontory and apex of the Russell peninsula. Surrounded by broad reefs and minor rocks sitting immediately offshore. |
| Geology (including geopreservation sites) | Paleozoic – Mesozoic Waipapa Terrane greywacke |
| Soil Types | Rangiora clay, clay loam and silty clay loam, Omaiko gravelly silt loam and Marua light brown clay loam. |
| Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites) | Coastal manuka / kanuka shrubland with areas of rank kikuyu grassland. Pohutukawa as a discontinuous fringe around the coastal brink, with scattered specimens elsewhere on the peninsula. |
| Archaeological sites | Tapeka pa located on apex of primary ridgeline. |
| Heritage Landscapes | Classified under the Reserves Act as an historic reserve. |

Landscape characterisation

(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

Tapeka Point is a distinctive and evocative landform lying at the north western apex of a larger peninsula that contains Russell and Long Beach. It has a rugged profile that originates from a razor-back ridge that drops to several minor spurs that terminate at the waterline. When seen from some distance offshore to the east or the west, it appears almost as an island, connected to the main body of land by the tenuous neck of alluvium that the settlement spills across.

Indigenous vegetation tends to occupy the steepest flanks, contained troughs and upper coastal margin, being characterised particularly by manuka/kanuka shrubland and pohutukawa. The ridgeline and some parts of the upper flanks are clad in rank kikuyu that the native growth appears to be slowly colonising.

The coastline of the point is complex, featuring wide, broken reefs and wave-cut platforms, offshore rocks and a convoluted line. Some minor embayments have collected a small beach of coarse, sea-worn pebbles. This part of the bay is subject to seas from most directions, as well as tidal currents that result in it often being quite rough. It is exposed to substantial ocean swells rolling into the Bay from the east past Purerua.

Tapeka Pa occupies the apex of the landform and sits roughly midway along the point.

EVALUATION

| Criteria | Rank | Comment |
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| 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 | Characteristic of rocky coastal headlands that are typically found around the Bay of Islands and other, exposed parts of Northland's east coast. A distinctive local landmark / coastal waymark. |
| Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist. | 3 | A relatively common coastal landform, although distinctive in its own right. |

| Aesthetic Values | | |
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| 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 | The Point is well unified, despite a broken pattern of kikuyu remaining on some of its highest points. |
| Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony. | 4 | A detailed and diverse landform and intertidal shoreline. Vegetation patterns and the scattering of large specimen pohutukawa add to that complexity. Tapeka Pa contributes a cultural dimension to that overall diversity. |
| 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 | Very evocative with its rugged skyline and complex rocky shore, acting as a memorably turning point for most boats moving between the inner bay and the main body of the Bay of Islands (which accounts for the majority of maritime traffic in this area). |
| 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. | 3 | <p>Whilst the ONL itself is free of built structures and recent human modification, the settlement lying immediately adjacent is a partial distraction to the naturalness of the headland. Alternatively the settlement can be seen as contrasting with, and emphasizing the natural qualities of Tapeka Point.</p> <p>The Point is very exposed to a spectrum of wave directions and is often subject to quite large sea conditions when a swell arrives from the east. Offshore reefs provide a natural interface (and potential hazard) to passing boats.</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 | Once again, the Point itself is free of contemporary modification and correspondingly quite intact. It is however, influenced by Tapeka Point settlement nearby. |
| Experiential Values | | |
| Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them. | 5 | Very distinctive and clearly a product of the interaction of underlying geology and the forces of the sea and weather. Patterns of colonising vegetation reflect |
| 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 key turning point in voyages through the Bay of Islands. Often rougher than nearby water and the headland/reef makes that wave energy very obvious. |
| 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 | Highly responsive to sea conditions. Early morning light and shadow make this rough landform very legible. |

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| 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 | Close to Tapeka Point settlement and a busy boating thoroughfare. |
| 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 | An important portion of the coast for anyone involved in boating in the Bay. An indication of some of the characteristics found around the islands that are a typical destination for many. |
| 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. | *** | A key spatial and navigational landmark when moving between Russell / Opuia / Pahia / Waitangi and the main body of the Bay of Islands. 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





