

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – HIKURANGI VOLCANIC CONE
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types Volcanic cones land type	One of a sequence of highly visible volcanic cones, which form a family of features and characterize the landscape to the west of Whangarei.
Geology (including geopreservation sites)	Kerikeri volcanics dacite dome.
Soil Types	The summit of the feature is capped with Maungarei clay whilst Parakiore steepland soils, stony clay loam and Maungarei clay is present on the steeper slopes. A pocket of Aponga clay is evident on the south south-eastern lower slopes.
Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	Identified in Whangarei Ecological District PNAP report as Q06/139. This Level 1 feature comprises a mosaic of forest and shrubland types with 40.8 ha in forest and 6.7 ha in shrubland. The PNAP report identifies the site as representative for manuka-totra shrubland, taraire-towai forest and totara forest and the only site in the Ecological District where kahikatea-rimu totara forest and towai-totara shrubland are recorded. This was the only site in Whangarei Ecological District where pokaka (a regionally uncommon species in Northland) was recorded. NZ brown kiwi (a regionally significant species) was recorded in 1996.
Archaeological sites	None known.
Heritage Landscapes	None known.
Landscape characterisation (including the identification of any specific characteristics)	
<p>Hikurangi, one of the family of volcanic cones within the Whangarei field, is located some 8.0 km north of Kamo, and due north of both Parakiore and Hurupaki, two of the nearest cones.</p> <p>It rises to a height of 365 m, and its form is representative of its volcanic origins, with slopes rising steeply from the surrounding landscape, as such, the extent of the unit is clearly defined by the extent of the steeply slopes.</p> <p>The feature retains a covering of native forest on all of its upper slopes, and a more contiguous cover on its lower and middle slopes on its south eastern, southern, and south western sides. The northern and north western lower and middle slopes have been largely planted with pine. To the south east, where a spur extends from the feature and trends to the east, the slopes are under pasture.</p> <p>A telecommunications mast is located on the feature.</p> <p>The flat and low lying Hikurangi Swamp adjoins Hikurangi on its western and north western sides. Viewed from across the swamp, the form and prominence of the cone is emphasized. The feature is also highly visible from State Highway 1 when traveling north. Traveling south it is less prominent, but forms a familiar way marker on the approach to Whangarei.</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.	5	The cones within the Whangarei volcanic field are important features which typify and lend identity to the area. Whilst a number are unknown or lesser known due to their scale or lack of prominence, some – including Maungatapere – are widely known. This cone clearly represents a member of the family of volcanic cones and is widely recognised as such.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	5	Whilst a number of cone features exist within the Whangarei, Far North and Kaipara Districts, on a national scale these features are relatively rare.
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	Hikurangi retains a measure of coherence when viewed from the south and south west. From these directions the forest that clothes its slopes appears largely intact. From other directions the patchy and varied vegetation patterns lend the feature a lower level of coherence, although the strength of the form of the feature does maintain a measure of strength. With the exception of the cell tower, no other building or structure is visible on the upper slopes of the feature.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	3	Vegetation on the southern and south western slopes displays a diverse range of vegetation types are evident on the feature. These types reflect the variations in underlying soils, the aspect, gradient and level of exposure, and indicates a good level of diversity and complexity. Vegetation on the balance of the feature lacks coherence.
Vividness 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 distinctive form of the feature lends a measure of memorability, as does the contiguous vegetation cover on the highly visible southern and south west slopes.
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	The rural area surrounding the cone, and the lower and mid slopes on the northern, north western and eastern sides have been modified and assume a cultivated character. The steeper mid and upper slopes on the south and south west sides retain an unmodified and natural appearance, and demonstrate strength of natural processes and ecological patterns.
Intactness Natural systems are intact and aesthetically coherent and do not display significant visual signs of human modification, intervention or manipulation.	3	When viewed from the south and south west west, the mid and upper slopes of the cone retain a high level of intactness with little modification of these most visible parts of the

visually intact and highly aesthetic natural landscapes.		feature. From other directions the feature appears modified in terms of its vegetation cover, although with little built development visible in elevated locations.
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Experiential Values

Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	5	The form of the feature clearly demonstrates its origin and formative processes.
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).	3	The form of the cone and its highly visibility and prominence contribute to the sensory quality of the feature. In addition to this, the contiguous cover of native forest on the mid and upper slopes differentiate this feature from others and add to the experience.
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.	2	Limited evidence of transient values evident, although changes in light angle and light conditions resulting from temporal and climatological changes are of importance.

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	The cone is a relatively small scale feature within a highly modified and occupied rural area. A limited sense of remoteness can be gained from being 'within' the landscape, but it is difficult to achieve separation between it and the surrounding landscape.
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.	5	The cone is a widely recognised feature and is highly visible due to the proximity of Hikurangi. It characterises, the nearby settlement and forms part of the wider linked family of cones within the Whangarei field.
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



Hukurangi viewed from the north east