Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name **– TOKATOKA AND ASSOCIATED BUSH**

DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION

Component	Comment
Land Types (refer to list overleaf) Volcanic cone (remains).	The unit comprises a highly visible and prominent volcanic feature, being the remains of a volcanic plug.
Geology (including geopreservation sites) Manaia / Bream Head stratovolcano	Neck of Waitakere Group andesite. The Northland Geopreservation Inventory describes Tokatoka as 'a prominent conical peak, 180 m high, formed by resistant volcanic plug and erosion of softer surrounding rocks'. It states that the feature is the largest and best exposed of numerous Miocene plugs in the Tokatoka area.
Soil Types	With the exception of the exposed rock, the unit is overlain with Huia steepland soils – silty stony loam and stony clay, and Awapuku clay loam.
Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	This site is identified within the Tokatoka Ecological District PNAP report as P08/014. A Level 1 site, it comprises a total of 15.6 ha forest and 24.7 ha shrubland. The site is noted as being a representative site for type for kānuka/mānuka forest, māpou-rangiora shrubland and mānuka-māpou shrubland. The latter two types being unrecorded elsewhere in the Tokatoka Ecological District.
Archaeological sites	Not known.
Heritage Landscapes	Not known.

Landscape characterisation
(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

Tokatoka is a very prominent and recognizable feature located on the eastern bank of the Wairoa River, jutting from the riverine plain with an immediately recognisable form. The feature is a symmetrical cone, clad with indigenous vegetation and capped with a projection of exposed rock.

The shape of the feature ensures that it is readily identifiable within the wider landscape, being visible from within an extensive catchment. In addition, whilst not so easily appreciated from State Highway 12, where it traces the river edge, the rising land on the eastern side of the road, and the 'jig' in the road signals its presence. As such it forms an orientating feature that is appreciated and identified by the community.

The feature sits within a surrounding area of native vegetation and this vegetation also extends up the steep sides of the feature. Several dwellings and associated buildings are scattered around the base of the feature, but these tend to be accommodated within the contextual vegetation. The elevated 'base' of the feature is crossed by Tokatoka Road, which cuts through the bush on its southern flank.

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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**	This small but prominent feature is highly representative and a landmark, visible and recognisable from the surrounding landscape. In addition, it engenders a high level of recognition from the community and characterises the area.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	**5**	Although located in close proximity to Maungaraho, few other comparable examples exist in the region.
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.	**4**	The relationship between landform and vegetation, with the feature rising from the surrounding mantle of vegetation, lends Tokatoka a high level of coherence.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	**3**	The unit is relatively small in area, and isolated within the surrounding landscape. As such its diversity and complexity is constrained.
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.	**5**	Rising from a surrounding landscape that is relatively modest in elevation, Tokatoka presents a contrast that is striking and dramatic, both from proximate and more remote locations. From some locations, views of the feature are unexpected and consequently its vividness is heightened.
Naturalness How affected by human activity is the landscape? Does human activity intrude on the landscape? Eg. • 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.	**4**	Dwellings and agricultural buildings are located on the south western, western, northern and eastern sides of the feature and are accessed from Tokatoka Road. These are evident within the landscape but do not encroach on the feature. In addition, they tend to be reasonably well integrated within vegetation. With the exception of tracks accessing dwellings, and fenced field boundaries, infrastructure services are not evident. Native bush is associated with, and forms an important contextual component of the feature. A mosaic of bush vegetation and open pasture acts as a foreground for views to the feature and the contrast between the feature and the pasture emphasizes its prominence. Although the scale of the unit is small, and its contextual vegetative linkages limited, it does display a moderate strength of ecological processes and patterns. The physical relief of the feature is highly legible and unmodified.
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.	**3**	Although small in area, the presence of primary growth vegetation with good succession growth and a multi layered structure demonstrates the operation of ecological processes. Natural ecological processes and unmodified character are evident.
Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that	**5**	The feature is clearly recognisable as a volcanic feature and thus evidences the geological process and the erosive

formed them.		processes through which it was formed.
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**	Views to the unit from distant locations experience the feature rising unexpectedly from the surrounding landscape are, whilst from more proximate locations it takes on a more dramatic quality. The view from the summit is spectacular, with the precipitous rock faces heightening 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.	**4**	Flowering and fruiting of plants coinciding with feeding by native birds. Time of day (sun angle), weather and atmospheric conditions affect the character of the unit.

Remoteness / Wildness Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence? Eg. • Sense of remoteness • Accessibility • Distance from built development	**2**	The unit is easily accessible from the surrounding road network, although settlement is relatively sparse in the area. Access to the summit is facilitated by a walking track and is popular with visitors. Some sense of remoteness can be gained from the summit.
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 unit is a popular destination for local, regional and national visitors.
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.	**5**	Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period. Mythology talks about the mountains Manaia, Maungaraho and Tokatoka, who once stood together in the ancestral land Hawaiki. Manaia urged them to travel across the ocean to New Zealand, so they raced across, but as the sun rose they were frozen. Then they were separated, Manaia, the largest travelled furthest and reached Whangarei, whilst Maungaraho, and Tokatoka are now close together on the Wairoa River.

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

View of Tokatoka from east

View of Tokatoka from Tokatoka Road