

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – PUKETU ISLAND
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types <small>(refer to list overleaf)</small> Reefs and islands	A tiny, steep sided island. Connected to mainland by intertidal tombolo. Nearby reefs associated with headland to the south also link to the island.
Geology <small>(including geopreservation sites)</small>	Not classified. Appears to share geology underlying adjacent mainland, which may include pillow lava with minor intercalated mudstone and limestone, intruded by sills of gabbro and dolerite. The connecting Puketu Island tombolo is classified by the NZ Geopreservation Inventory as C3, being a rare occurrence of a gravel tombolo in Northland.
Soil Types	Unclassified, but thought to have very limited soil cover.
Ecology <small>(including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)</small>	Not included as a site of significance within the “Natural Areas of Whangaruru Ecological District” reporting. Appears to have a vegetative cover of exotic weed species such as gorse, intermingled with indigenous shrubland species like kanuka and manuka. Has the hallmarks of having been affected by a single, relatively recent, fire, or a pattern of repeated burning. Likely to feature a greater purity of indigenous species on its most severe, northern and eastern rocky flanks that are subject to regular salt spray.
Archaeological sites	Unknown, but likely to have a strong archaeological dimension despite its apparently difficult accessibility due to its inshore coastal position and proximity to Te Rauparore Pa on a headland approximately 700m to the south.
Heritage Landscapes	Thought likely to be limited.
Landscape characterisation <small>(including the identification of any specific characteristics)</small> A pronounced, simple island that appears composed primarily of parent rock, with an area of just 2.0 ha, lying a short distance offshore of a marked headland at the southern end of Aurere Beach. Features a wave-cut reef platform to its seaward face. Stands as a small bastion and coastal landmark, in combination with the adjacent headland, that terminates the extensive sweep of Aurere Beach/Tokerau Beach which extends many kilometres to the north. Also experienced in association with the mouth of the Awapoko River, which discharges a short distance to the west. An important element in a diverse seaward view across low-lying land from State Highway 10, marking the transition from the extensive backshore lowlands comprising the tombolo of Karikari Peninsula and the steeper, rolling coastal terrain that is found running east to Mangonui.	

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	A very distinctive local feature that figures strongly as a part of the river mouth and southern headland that define Aurere Beach.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	4	Stands alone on a segment of coast. Whilst quite abundant along the broader stretch of coast running around Karikari Peninsula south from Mangonui, small islands are not particularly common at a wider regional level and more rare at a national scale.
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.	6	Very unified and cohesive, with a simple assemblage of landform, coastal elements and vegetation composition/pattern.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	4	A simple element in its own right, but derives complexity through its relationship with Aurere Beach, its connecting tombolo, elements of reef and relatedness to the nearby headland.
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	Extremely graphic and vivid.
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. 	4	Generally very “natural” and free of buildings and other structure. Appears to be returning to a state that may have existed prior to human intervention (apparent past clearance or fire), but with component of exotic species in vegetation cover serving to suppress overall naturalness. Indigenous cover seems to have the capacity to progressively dominate the exotic weed species that are present. Highly legible as part of an assemblage of coastal elements and clearly related to the natural processes that have formed the tombolo, along with the geomorphology of Aurere Beach.
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	Generally intact, but with signs of past clearance or, more likely, burning. Appears likely to have been subject to repeated fires over a long period.
Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The ‘legibility’ of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	5	Distinct and expressive. The interaction of land and sea is strongly expressed, with the outer face clearly stratified by wave run-up and salt spray. Intertidal gravel tombolo connecting back to the island is clearly witnessed. Colonisation is also a clearly evident

		process in action.
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	The island has a strong visual “signature” and identity. Seen as a close and slightly mysterious bastion set just offshore. Contrasts strongly with the prevailing coastal landscape context of the river estuary, backshore flats, extensive sandy beaches, and rolling coastal hills that run off to the east.
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	Directly related to sea state and weather conditions, with the seaward face evidently subject to dramatic seas. The simple and steep form lends to shadowing that heighten perceptions of its terrain.
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 	3	Public access is considerably limited by the private land ownership that prevails around the coastal area near Puketū Island. It is, however, set near a highly managed (farmed) part of the mainland and not far from the state highway corridor, which diminishes the sense of remoteness when compared with some of the more far-flung island groups or those set more closely to less developed parts of the coastline.
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.	3	A distinctive landmark laying off the coast that is seen by the large number of people travelling the nearby road corridor. roand a popular recreational destination and cruising anchorage. Despite its visibility, it is thought that the identity of the island is probably not widely known.
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.	****	Wider iwi consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period. The island is in Maori ownership and it is expected that there will be strong associative values related to Puketū Island.

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

