

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – EASTERN BUSH CLAD HILLS
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types Northern and eastern dissected hills; moderate to high relief land type	Extending from the Horahora River south to the Pataua River, this inland elevated and vegetated range of hills forms part of a discontinuous backdrop to the coast that also includes the Mount Tiger hills to the south and echoes the North eastern bush clad hills unit, and the Russell Forest and bush remnants unit to the north.
Geology (including geopreservation sites)	Deeply incised valleys in hill country of Waipapa Terrane greywacke Steep hillcountry in Waipapa Terrane greywacke.
Soil Types	The unit comprises a mix of soil types which are dominated by Te Ranga steepland soils, clay loam and stony clay loam on the upper slopes, with Marua clay loam on the mid slopes.
Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	<p>Q07/014 (Whanui Bush) This Level 1 site comprises 736 ha of forest, and 35 ha of shrubland)</p> <p>The site is significant as a large, contiguous area, which provides habitat for threatened and regionally significant species. These include NI brown kiwi (Serious Decline) (present in very low numbers), kukupa (Gradual Decline), north island tomtit (Regionally Significant), north island kaka (Nationally Endangered), bellbird (Regionally Significant) and red-crowned kakariki (Regionally Significant) visit the area. Banded kokopu (Regionally Significant) have been recorded in streams in the area. The snail <i>Amborhytida dunniae</i> (Gradual Decline) is also present.</p> <p>The site links other large forest remnants in the area. It is a representative site for taraire–towai forest, and kahikatea–totara forest.</p> <p>Q06/114 (Horahora Bush) This site comprises 365 ha of forest, and 457 ha of shrubland) and forms an extensive area of shrubland and forest, linking the Horahora and Pataua estuaries.</p> <p>The site is significant as a large, contiguous area with a high diversity of vegetation types, which supports threatened species including Kawaka (Sparse), north islans brown kiwi (Serious Decline) (present in very low numbers in 2004), kukupa (Gradual Decline), the snail <i>Amborhytida dunniae</i> (Gradual Decline), longfin eel (Gradual Decline).</p> <p>The site is representative site for type kanuka/manuka–totara shrubland, kanuka/manuka shrubland, kauri–rimu–totara forest, rimu–tanekaha–taraire–totara forest, kauri–totara forest, kauri–tanekaha forest, kanuka/manuka–taraire–totara forest, and kanuka/manuka–tanekaha shrubland.</p>
Archaeological sites	None known.
Heritage Landscapes	None known.

Landscape characterisation

(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

Linking the Horahora Estuary with the Pataua Estuary, this small unit comprises an elevated area of land that runs roughly parallel to the coast and forms a backdrop to views from the landscape to the north of Pataua North, including Pataua North Road.

Whilst vegetation within the body of the unit is contiguous, the margins are more fragmented, although they relate well to the surrounding topographical patterns, with fingers of vegetation occupying gullies and steeper slopes.

To the west, in the vicinity of Manganui Road, the unit is bounded by an extensive area of forestry.

The unit is largely contained within the catchment of the Waiparera Stream – which flows into the Pataua River, although a small portion at the northern end flows to the Horahora River.

At its southern end, the unit includes a localized high point, Oruatahi, which is also an important pa site.

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.	4	The unit is strongly representative of the sequence of ranges vegetated with native forest that occurs between the Russell Forest, Mt Tiger and North eastern hills. These features characterize the landscape within this part of the region, and are representative of Northland as a whole.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	4	Whilst a number of examples of this land type exist, the strength lies partly in the repeated occurrence within the region. They are characteristic of Northland and rare in a national sense.
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 unit displays a moderate level of coherence, with the forest clearly reflecting and emphasizing the underlying landform. The vegetation on the lower slopes to the eastern side of the unit is more fragmented, however the natural patterns still display a level of coherence where vegetation has been retained on steeper valley sides and within gullies.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	4	The unit displays a moderate to high level of ecological diversity and complexity, with a variety of vegetation types reflecting the topography, drainage patterns and slope aspect.
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.	3	Viewed from the coast to the east, the unit forms an important backdrop to the landscape which is a repeated theme along the east coast. This land type is not, however particularly spectacular, although memorable in the wider overriding 'landscape character' sense.
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. 	4	The majority of the unit displays a high level of naturalness with minimal evident human activity. Fragmentation of the vegetation to the east tends to diminish the apparent naturalness, as does the presence of pine plantation to the west, but the linking fragments relate well to the underlying topographical and hydrological patterns. Vegetation types and patterns are clearly representative of

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 		topography, drainage patterns and slope aspect, and this suggests a high level of strength of natural processes.
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	The unit displays a moderate level of intactness, particularly when viewed from the landscape to the east.

Experiential Values

Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	4	The landscape displays a high level of legibility in terms of the hydrological processes that have shaped the valleys and ridges. The complexity and spatial arrangement of vegetation reflects the underlying topographical form of the unit.
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).	2	Viewed from the east, the unit forms an elevated and vegetated backdrop that contributes to the character and sense of place of the landscape.
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.	3	Strongly influenced by light and weather conditions, although light conditions on the southern side tend to be more muted in scope. Ridges create extremely distinctive silhouettes during dawn and dusk. Seasonal influences of flowering trees and other plants.

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	The roading network in the area provides reasonably easy access to the unit, and the prevailing sense from the margins is of a rural landscape. The proximity of built development also affects the sense of remoteness.
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	The ranges tend to be less widely recognized than the nearby Russell Forest but forms part of a wider sequence of landscape features.
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



View east over Parawanui Beach to Eastern bush clad hills