

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – CAPE REINGA TO CAPE MARIA VAN DIEMEN (INCLUDING MOTUOPA)
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types (refer to list overleaf) Coastal cliffs / escarpment Bays and headlands Dune complex Beach Reefs and islands Wetland	A complex assemblage of prominent headlands and associated cliffed coast, steep coastal hills to the north, large expanses of active dunefield associated with Te Werahi Beach, an area of wetland captured by the dunefield sands, small islands associated with Cape Maria van Dieman and fringing reefs connected with the portions of hard coast generally.
Geology (including geopreservation sites)	Headlands of hard Tangihua Complex igneous rocks and erosional remnants of late Pleistocene calcareous dune sands. This framework butted and overlaid (near coast on Te Werahi Beach) by largely Holocene dune and slope wash sands.
Soil Types	Mangakahia mottled clay loam, Otakairangi peaty clay loam, Raniguru clay, Mangonui clay, Huia steep land soils, stony clay and stony silt loam.
Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	An equally complex mixture of terrestrial ecologies, including the shrublands to the east and others to the west, dunefields of Te Werahi, inland wetland area, and islands. These are represented by category 1: M02/007, sites M02/010, M02/012, M02/063, M02/071, and M02/074. A small, but highly individual ecological district that features some of the most diverse and distinctive ecologies in the country, including a high level of endemism and dwarfism, a relatively large and diverse land snail population, along with an intensity of diversity amongst vegetation compositions.
Archaeological sites	A number of pa, campsites, midden, and garden areas are recorded as having existed in the wider area. Wetlands and coastal areas were of vital importance as a source of food and other resources. Identified archaeological sites are generally scattered within the unit, with a measure of concentration around wetland margins and on the islets and headlands at the western apex.
Heritage Landscapes	Contains a number of sites of importance associated with European heritage, including the Reinga lighthouse and the remains of the Motuopau Island lighthouse.
Landscape characterisation (including the identification of any specific characteristics) <p>An exposed and powerful landscape, with a bold scale and simple, evocative patterns. Conveys a sense of being projected out into the surrounding and expansive marine area, with the clashing tidal wash off of the Cape being a feature of the outlook that reinforces the drama of the place.</p> <p>For travelers, the Cape represents a very clear and abrupt end to the highway (the majority of those visiting would come by road) and there is a sense of being at the top of the landmass.</p> <p>Vegetation patterns represent something of a continuum of those found inland, but are obviously more stunted and dwarfed, and with a composition that is reflective of the maritime conditions. Whilst the setting is predominantly natural, with the exception of the road corridor, parking and lighthouse with its access, the lighthouse itself has a symbolic role that extends beyond its navigational function.</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	An exceptionally strong, indeed unique, sense of being of the specific area with its various influences. Confirmed by the high level of endemism and ecologies that respond to the severe conditions often found at the Cape.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	5	The area is unique and many of the plants are specific to this ecological district. The assemblages and ecosystems found are also distinct to this immediate area.
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.	5	Entirely harmonious relationship between terrain and vegetation cover. Some minor disparity arises from remaining areas of kikuyu grass cover, but these are being colonised by indigenous species advancing from surrounding areas.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	5	Highly complex, with a range of coastal landforms and related vegetative associations. A diversity of coastal conditions commonly experienced – ranging from flat water in the lee of headlands to pounding swells on the opposite side of those elements – adds a further dimension of complexity.
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 well-known and recognised on a national level. Cape Reinga is an “iconic” landscape that appears to be related to national identity. Whilst imagery typically includes reference to the lighthouse, the natural elements of the surrounding coast are very distinctive in their own right.
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. 	5	State Highway 1 and the destination carpark areas, access tracks and lighthouse have an influence on the immediate area and diminish the natural character of that area; the wider extent of the unit is predominantly isolated from those influences. Vegetation composition and patterns are natural, although some areas of kikuyu remain from greater expanses of exotic grass that previously existed. Current areas appear to be diminishing rapidly through indigenous colonisation. Natural processes are entirely intact and prevail in terms of the character of this landscape.
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	Area of influence of road, access, lighthouse platform and parking has impacted upon the natural contour and cover of the landscape, but the wider area is almost entirely free of modification, the only exception being a limited number of walking and light vehicle access tracks.
Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The ‘legibility’ of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	5	A highly expressive landscape, where coastal processes are a clearly major force in shaping shoreline landforms and dune systems. Vegetation patterns, composition and the physiology of several endemic species are a direct reflection of local conditions.

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).	5	A very interactive landscape, where wind and sea conditions are closely experienced by those visiting the site. Exceptional panoramas across a stretch of coastal landscape and oceans that surround. Sound and smell of the sea is influential.
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.	5	Highly influenced by sea conditions, tidal changes, light angles and season, this landscape is amongst the most responsive to various factors that bring transient changes.
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 	4	Highly accessible in the small area around the end of SH1, the balance of this landscape is accessible by foot only and brings about a sense of remoteness within a short distance of that most developed area. The scale of the terrain and relationship with the expansiveness of the surrounding sea contribute to that experience of wilderness and unmodified 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	A widely known and visited area that features frequently in imagery about New Zealand, including tourism publicity. An “iconic” landscape that is recognised by many New Zealanders (but may rely upon the lighthouse being within imagery to allow that recognition).
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	Te Rerenga Wairua is of special significance to Maori as the confluence of Te Ara Wairua – the spirit pathway – which terminates at an ancient pohutukawa on the rocky slopes below the lighthouse. This is the launching place for spirits departing to return to Hawaiki-Nui 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







