

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – WARAWARA FOREST RANGES
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types <small>(refer to list overleaf)</small> Ranges; high relief	Elevated and diverse hill ranges, defined by the open coast to the west, and estuarine harbours to the north and south. Apex peaks in the order of 600-700m ASL, with a lower tier of typically pointed hills of around 300-400m ASL. Steep flanks generally rise from lower surrounding ground to ascend this range.
Geology <small>(including geopreservation sites)</small>	Tangihua volcanics masif
Soil Types	Matrix of Awapuku clay loams, Te Kie steepland soils, stony clay loams, light brown stony clay loams and reddish clay loam. Small pockets of Tutamoe friable clay.
Ecology <small>(including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)</small>	Sequence of podocarp/hardwood forest that spans from coastal elevation up to the apex of the range. Kauri found at an unusually high altitude on the swampy plateau. Area of outstanding wildlife habitat that includes bats, rifleman and possibly kokako. Forest margins phase into manuka / kanuka shrubland on somemargins where areas of past clearance is recolonising.
Archaeological sites	Numerous pa, middens and terraces found on lower slopes, with many thought to be adjacent to, but outside, this landscape unit.
Heritage Landscapes	Known to be wahi tapu in body of the forest. History of logging and kauri extraction, along with kauri gum bleeding.
Landscape characterisation <small>(including the identification of any specific characteristics)</small> A powerful landscape that is part of a broader sequence of elevated topography that defines the western edge of the region (and district) between Ahipara and Manganui Bluff. The southern edges of the range, in particular, feature a number of pronounced peaks (including Pukepoto, Te Reinga, Tauwahare, Poare and Tarakeha) that create a strong identity to the related settlements of Panguru, Waihou and Mitimiti. This side of the range also provides a distinctive northern backdrop to the outer mid section of the Hokianga Harbour. Many small watercourses drain the complex terrain of the range, with the perimeter of the landform being punctuated by a regular pattern of streams. The two most major channels effectively bisect the range through its centre, with the Wharerimu Stream forming a tributary to the Rotokakahi River that drains into the Whangape Harbour to the north, whilst the Waihou River discharges into the Hokianga Harbour to the south. The eastern and northern flanks of the range are somewhat simpler, but characterized by a steep face of terrain, some of which has been developed as pastoral grazing whilst other portions retain a forested cover. As a general observation, it is the combination of elevated, dissected terrain and a cloak of indigenous vegetation, much of it displaying a reasonable level of diversity, that characterize the Rawarawa Forest ranges.	

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 important defining landmass and indigenous forest cover in the western portion of the region, relating strongly to the Hokianga and Whangape Harbours.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	4	Shares many characteristics with nearby ranges like Ratea, Mangamukas and Herekino, but has particular relationship with adjacent estuaries and several distinctive ecological aspects.
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	Very high level of cohesiveness due to recurrent combination of elevated, dissected terrain and consistent (but subtly diverse) cover of indigenous vegetation.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	5	Complex topography – particularly on the southern portion of the range – combines with distinctive ecological associations.
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	A strong landmark and feature of the surrounding hinterland. Forms a unique backdrop to a number of small rural communities that are positioned on the coastal flats on the northern and southern edges of the range.
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	Predominantly in a natural state, although most of the area has seen a history of timber extraction and areas of unsustainable grazing that sees the forest canopy in phases of transition. A consistent cover of native vegetation and lack of built structures, roads or other infrastructure contribute to a high level of naturalness. Terrain is almost entirely in an unmodified state. The main body of the range is administered by DoC as conservation estate.
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.	5	Forest canopy is in a sequence of “recovery” from earlier extraction, but is typically quite diverse and well developed.
Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The ‘legibility’ of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	5	Range clearly reflects its geology and defines the harbour basins that drain the hinterland to the north and south. A distinctive landscape that is a central part of the area to the north of the Hokianga.
Sensory qualities (These are landscape phenomena as directly perceived and experienced by humans, such as the	4	An important part of local identity for adjacent communities and those travelling the roads to Mitimiti and Pawarenga.

view of a scenic landscape, or the distinctive smell and sound of the foreshore).		Strong connection with the open coast along western margin, and harbours to the north and south.
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	Importance of light angles and patterns of shadow cast by peaks that gives variety and depth to the landscape through the day, particularly on the southern edges.
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	Central and north western portions of the ranges have a very remote and disconnected atmosphere. Much of the range's perimeter meets farmland and small local settlements, so the outer flanks are more influenced by those surrounding pastoral landscapes. However, even those settled areas have their own sense of remoteness due to the separation from more major centres of settlement and the narrow, winding road access to the area.
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	Believed to be a strong part of local community identity. Ranges tend to overshadow the settlements and farms that lie immediately adjacent, so spatially influence. A number of marae, schools, halls and urupa/cemeteries are sites immediately adjacent to the flanks or foothills where they are closely connected to this landscape.
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. 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.	***	Serves as a context and "anchor" to many surrounding areas, as outlined above. Relates to the Golden Stairs walkway, west coast walking trail and a number of DoC tracks within the forest. 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







