

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

| | Unit name – PARAKIORE VOLCANIC CONE |
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| DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION | |
| Component | Comment |
| Land Types Volcanic cones land type | The unit is a recognizably volcanic landform of considerable scale. It displays a variety of different characters and levels of naturalness which vary depending on the location from which it is viewed. |
| Geology (including geopreservation sites) | Kerikeri Volcanics dacite dome. Identified in the Geopreservation Inventory as a feature of regional importance with two peaks. It is one of two dacite domes in the Whangarei area. |
| Soil Types | The unit is characterised by a complex mix of similar soils including Maungarei clay, Maungarei clay with large boulders and Parakiore steepland clay soils, stony clay loam. Waipu clay is present on the northern fringe. Waiotu friable clay and Maungarei clay is present on the southern fringes. |
| Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites) | <p>This Level 1 site is identified as Q06/156 in the Whangarei Ecological District PNAP report. It comprises a large mosaic of partially fragmented shrubland and forest and adjacent riverine forest associated with the Waikoropupu Stream (a total of 275.7 ha in forest and 80 ha in shrubland).</p> <p>The PNAP report states that the area of mamuku-towai shrubland on hillslope, kahikatea-totara forest on toeslope and totara-towai forest on hillslope are all representative vegetation types. In addition, totara riverine forest on alluvium is an uncommon vegetation types in this district.</p> <p>The habitat supports a remnant population of NI brown kiwi.</p> |
| Archaeological sites | Archaeological sites and sites of significance to Maori illustrate the heritage and cultural values of Kamo and the unit. Recent archaeological excavations have revealed settlement dating back to 1230-1275AD in the Kamo area. |
| Heritage Landscapes | None known |
| Landscape characterisation (including the identification of any specific characteristics) | |
| <p>Parakiore is a highly visible and familiar feature on the northern approach to Kamo and Whangarei. It is located to the west of State Highway 1 at Springs Flat and, on its eastern side rises steeply to a high point of 391 m. It is the eastern face that is visible from the State Highway when heading south and the precipitous vegetation clad slope, with exposed rock features forms a dramatic gateway to the northern edge of the city.</p> <p>Unlike Maungatapere or Hurupaki, Parakiore displays less of a characteristic 'cone' form, although from some directions the peaks are visible and hint at the volcanic origins of the feature.</p> <p>Parakiore has been subject to some modification and the naturalness of the feature varies depending on the direction from which it is viewed. From the east, as described above, the vegetated eastern face presents a strongly natural appearance, although the presence of a number of dwellings near the crest of the slope diminishes this perception.</p> <p>The unit also presents a natural character when viewed from the west, from Pipiwai and Crane Roads</p> | |

from where one of the peaks is visible, clothed with native vegetation. From this direction though, rural residential development has encroached on the lower slopes, and is orientated to benefit from views over the Hikurangi Swamp.

From the north, south / south west Parakiore appears more modified, with, on the northern side, highly visible earthworks cut up the pastured slopes. On the southern and south western sides the feature is seen with the golf course as a foreground, and the pastured slopes with scattered dwellings on the upper slopes. It is on this south western side that access to the feature is provided by Parakiore Road. Numerous dwellings are located on the upper part of the feature, including a Buddhist monastery, and a cluster of telecommunications masts.

| EVALUATION | | |
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| 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 | The cones within the Whangarei volcanic field are important features, which typify and lend identity to the area. Whilst a number are unknown or lesser known due to their scale or lack of prominence, some – including Parakiore – are widely known. This cone clearly represents a member of the family of volcanic cones and is widely recognised as such. |
| Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist. | 5 | Whilst a number of cone features exist within the Whangarei, Far North and Kaipara Districts, on a national scale these features are relatively rare. |
| 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. | 2 | The Parakiore cone has been modified as a result of vegetation clearance, the planting of exotic trees, and construction of buildings and infrastructure. Despite this it retains a moderate level of coherence particularly from some quadrants. This is a consequence of the shape of the feature, and the contiguous character of the remaining vegetation. |
| Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony. | 3 | Where native vegetation has been retained, its complexity is evident and reflects the variations in underlying soils, the aspect, gradient and level of exposure and indicates a good level of diversity. The form of the feature, when viewed from the west appears complex and adds to its interest. |
| 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 | The scale and form of the feature, in relation to the surrounding gently undulating rural landscape tends to emphasise the contrast between the it and its immediate context. The view of the feature from the State Highway to the east is particularly striking and memorable, as is the view of its distinctive form along Pipiwai Road near Matarau to the west, where Parakiore is seen along the axis of the road. |
| 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. | 2 | The appearance of the feature has been significantly modified over time, particularly with regard to the construction of buildings along Parakiore Road and near the summit of the feature. Parakiore retains a measure of naturalness when viewed from locations to the west, and to a lesser extent to the east, from where the vegetation-clad slopes provide the illusion of a lack of modification. |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence / extent of modified agricultural land use. • Strength of natural processes / ecological patterns. • Unmodified and legible physical relief and landform. • Presence of water. | | |
| <p>Intactness</p> <p>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.</p> | 2 | <p>From locations to the west and east the feature appears reasonably intact. Viewed from other quadrants however, the level of modification is evident.</p> <p>The telecommunications masts on the summit tend to diminish the scale of the feature by providing a yardstick against which its height can be gauged.</p> |

Experiential Values

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| <p>Expressiveness</p> <p>The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.</p> | 4 | The form of the feature clearly demonstrates its origin and formative processes. |
| <p>Sensory qualities</p> <p>(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).</p> | 4 | <p>The form of the cone and its highly visibility and prominence contribute to the sensory quality of the feature. The impact of views to south bound travelers on the State Highway is of particular importance.</p> <p>Views from the summit of the feature are extensive and impressive.</p> |
| <p>Transient Values</p> <p>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.</p> | 2 | Limited evidence of transient values evident, although changes in light angle and light conditions resulting from temporal and climatological changes are of importance. |

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| <p>Remoteness / Wildness</p> <p>Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence? Eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of remoteness • Accessibility • Distance from built development | 2 | The cone is a relatively small scale feature within a highly modified and occupied rural / semi urban area. Access to, and development on the summit has eroded any sense of remoteness. |
| <p>Shared and recognised values</p> <p>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.</p> | 5 | The cone is a widely recognised feature and is highly visible due to the proximity of Kamo. It characterizes, the nearby settlement and forms part of the wider linked family of cones within the Whangarei field. |
| <p>Spiritual, cultural and historical associations</p> <p>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.</p> | | 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 |
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| 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 |
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Photographs of unit



Parakiore from Pipiwai Road



Parakiore from Pipiwai Road