

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

| | Unit name – MANGAKAHIA FOREST AND BUSH MARGINS |
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| DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION | |
| Component | Comment |
| Land Types Steep hills: moderate high relief. | Steeply sloping dissected ranges bounded on the south western, southern and north eastern sides by the broad flat bottomed valleys of the Mangakahia and Kaikou Rivers. |
| Geology (including geopreservation sites) | Steep hill country underlain by Cretaceous-Paleocene ophiolitic volcanics (Tangihua Complex). |
| Soil Types | The majority of the steep and elevated portion of the unit is overlain by Te Kie steepland soils, with pockets of Waimatenui clay loam on the lower lying margins. The soils associated with the lower lying eastern part of the unit comprise Hukerenui silt loam and Wharekohe silt loam. |
| Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites) | The Mangakahia Forest is identified as P06/001 within the Tangihua Ecological District PNAP report. This Level 1 site comprises 3,404.3 ha of forest, and 238.9 ha of shrubland The site is of significance as it forms a large area of hinterland forest which supports many threatened and regionally significant plants and animals. It also contains a high floral diversity and a significant range of altitudinal sequences for Northland. Mangakahia Forest includes areas of unmodified mature kauri and uncommon and unusual high altitude broadleaved forest. It also includes the unusual features of tawa-dominated forest and kaurinorthern rata forest (both uncommon in Northland), and tawapuriri forest (very rare in Northland). Despite it being heavily logged, the site contains some fine examples of healthy northern rata, a very large kauri, and has good floral diversity and intactness The site provides habitat for five threatened fauna species, one regionally significant bird species, two threatened plant species and 24 regionally significant plant species. |
| Archaeological sites | None known. |
| Heritage Landscapes | None known. |
| Landscape characterisation (including the identification of any specific characteristics) | |
| Separating the broad valleys of the Mangakahia and Kaikou Rivers, the range associated with the Mangakahia Forest unit rises to a maximum height of 697 metres (Te Taraiorahiti). The unit is separated into two areas, with the smaller and less elevated portion of the unit comprising the eastern flank of the Range, and rising to some 350 metres. Both parts of the unit are characterised by steeply dissected slopes and sharply defined ridges, clad | |

with native forest and scrubland vegetation.

Although the Mangakahia Forest ranges are more extensive than the area identified within this unit, the areas not contained within the unit display considerable modification as a result of clearance of vegetation for pastoral or forestry uses. Plantation forestry within the Pipiwai Stream catchment separates the western and eastern parts of this unit.

It is the prominence, elevation and naturalness of this southern part of the Forest that distinguishes this unit, and the unit, vegetated with a largely contiguous cover of native forest is recognizable as a repeated theme in the area, also represented by the Waima Range, Malborough and Motatau Forests,

EVALUATION

| Criteria | Rank | Comment |
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| 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 landscape is strongly representative of the sequence of ranges vegetated with native forest that occurs to the north and west. These features characterise 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. | 3 | The unit displays a high level of coherence, with the forest clearly reflecting and emphasizing the underlying landform, despite patches of pasture on flatter ridge tops and slopes. The vegetation within south east part of the ranges – most notably within the valley of the Manu Korihi stream 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 ranges display a 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. | 5 | The contrast between the flat and modified valley bottoms, and the steep vegetated slopes of the Range are particularly striking with the scale of the ranges clearly evident. This characteristic is heightened both by the contiguous vegetation cover. |
| 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. | 4 | The majority of the unit displays a high level of naturalness with minimal evident human activity, despite being separated and bordered to the north by plantation forestry. Past clearance for agriculture is evidenced by the diversity of the kanuka forest, but the contiguous character of the forest lends the ranges a high level of natural character when viewed from the south, south west and south east. The Ranges also include areas of unmodified mature kauri. Vegetation types and patterns are clearly representative of topography, drainage patterns and slope aspect, and this suggests a high level of strength of natural processes. |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strength of natural processes / ecological patterns. Unmodified and legible physical relief and landform. Presence of water. | | |
| 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 | The southern part of the Range displays a high level of intactness. |
| Experiential Values | | |
| Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them. | 5 | The unit 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 ranges. |
| 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). | 3 | The contrast between the flat, modified and worked valley bottoms is striking and abrupt, and as such the apparent scale of the Range is immediately appreciated. |
| 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 | 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 around the range, and the prevailing sense from the margins is of a rural landscape. A greater sense of remoteness can be gained from within the forest where its scale and elevation provide a sense of separation from the surrounding rural 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 | The ranges tend to be less widely recognised than the nearby Waipoua Forest and Tutamoe but form part of a wider sequence of elevated 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



Mangakahia Forest from Henare Road



Mangakahia Forest from Pipiwai Road