

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – TE WHANGAI HEAD TO AWARUA ROCK
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types Bays and headlands land type Low coastal escarpment land type Bays and headlands land type Reefs and islands land type	This combination of land types creates a rugged and dramatic landscape that reflects the exposed and wild character of the coast. The cliffs and escarpments are punctuated by bays enclosed by headlands, rocky shelves and reefs.
Geology (including geopreservation sites) Manaia / Bream Head stratovolcano	Coastal headland of Waipapa Terrane greywacke. Coastal hills of Waipapa Terrane greywacke adjoining the Taiharuru Estuary. Coastal cliffs of Waipapa Complex greywacke.
Soil Types	The predominant soil type along the coastal edge within the northern portion of the unit is Marua brown clay loam whilst Tikitohe gravelly silt loam is evident within the mid portion. Along the coastal edge of Kauri Mountain, Bream clay loam is present.
Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	The unit contains a number of sites identified within the Whangaruru Ecological District PNAP report. These are as follows: Q07/010 (Ngamatengau Point Coastal Remnants) The Level 1 site comprises an area of 23 ha and contains four small coastal remnants and is of significance as it contains old-growth pohutukawa forest, which is a rare forest type in Northland and a nationally threatened habitat type. Representative site for kanuka/manuka–pohutukawa coastal forest, and pohutukawa coastal forest. In addition, threatened bird species, and two plants of regional significance are present. These are <i>Calystegia tugoriorum</i> (Regionally Significant), tawapou (Regionally Significant), and kukupa (Gradual Decline). Q07/009 (Taiharuru Estuary Remnants) The Level 1 site comprises 48 ha of forest, and 32 ha of shrubland. The site is significant since the remnants contain a relatively high diversity of vegetation types, and are the few estuarine forest areas left on the Taiharuru Estuary. The remainder of the estuarine margin has been modified, and consists primarily of pasture. These remnants provide an important buffer function. In addition, the site is representative site for pohutukawa coastal forest. Q07/115 (Taiharuru Head Coastal Remnants) This Level 1 site comprises 14 ha of Pohutukawa coastal forest on the headland. It forms a narrow strip of coastal forest around the headland from Taiharuru Bay to the mouth of the Taiharuru Estuary. It is a representative site, and an example of a nationally rare forest type.
Archaeological sites	Pa sites are evident on prominent headlands.

Heritage Landscapes	None known.
<p>Landscape characterisation (including the identification of any specific characteristics)</p> <p>Characterised by rocky bays and indented beaches, this unit has a striking and attractive coastline that contrasts with the predominantly mild, pastoral and low lying landward backdrop.</p> <p>This said, dramatic and elevated features bookend the two ends of the unit. At the northern end, the volcanic and steep sided Te Whangai Head marks the entrance to Pataua River, whilst at the southern end, the forest clad slopes of Kauri Mountain drop steeply to the rocky coastal edge.</p> <p>Between, the exposed coastal margin is largely defined by a steep rocky coastal bank with a near continuous belt of pohutukawa. This rocky coastal edge is punctuated by two sandy and enclosed bays at Taiharuru and Awahoa bays. The former contains the majority of the built development contained within the unit as a clustered bach settlement.</p> <p>Rural residential development has also occurred on the northern slopes of Kauri Mountain and is accessed off Harambee Road.</p>	

EVALUATION		
Criteria	Rank	Comment
Natural Science Factors		
<p>Representativeness</p> <p>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.</p>	5	<p>The sequence of elements including the convoluted rocky coast with promontories, vegetated coastal slopes and enclosed beaches, with limited and localized pockets of built development is very characteristic of the eastern northland coast.</p> <p>The concentration of vegetation, including pohutukawa on the coastal flank is a powerful contributing theme and highly representative.</p>
<p>Rarity</p> <p>Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.</p>	5	<p>Although this land type is common locally, it is rare in the national context.</p>
Aesthetic Values		
<p>Coherence</p> <p>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.</p>	4	<p>The unit displays a moderate to high level of coherence, with elements such as the vegetated coastal slope, the sometimes immediate and associated backdrop of forest associated with Kauri Mountain.</p> <p>The coastal elements such as the pattern of rocky headlands, shoals and islets, and the interplay between these elements and the ocean displays a high level of coherence.</p> <p>Built development has tended to focus within Taiharuru Bay, but where it has intruded onto prominent locations such as the mid and upper northern slopes of Kauri Mountain, this has resulted in the diminishing of coherence, as has the progressive erosion of vegetation patterns.</p>
<p>Diversity & Complexity</p> <p>The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.</p>	5	<p>The larger areas of forest, and coastal edge vegetation displays a high level of diversity and complexity. In addition, the coastline displays a complexity and diversity whilst also maintaining a high level of coherence.</p>

<p>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.</p>	5	The indented rocky coastline, near continuous belt of pohutukawa, beaches and framing islets, along with the colour of the sea is particularly memorable and are highly symbolic of the area.
<p>Naturalness How affected by human activity is the landscape? Does human activity intrude on the landscape? Eg.</p> <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. 	4	<p>Inland from the unit the rural landscape has undergone a marked and dramatic transformation which has resulted – for the majority of the length of the unit – in the almost total loss of all native vegetation. This has left the low lying coastal hinterland exposed and open.</p> <p>In contrast the coastal margin retains an almost continuous ribbon of native vegetation. The landscape and vegetation patterns associated with the coastal edge display a high level of naturalness with limited intrusion from buildings.</p> <p>The southern extreme of the unit – Kauri Mountain – also maintains a high level of naturalness with forest vegetation flowing from ridge to coastal edge.</p>
<p>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.</p>	4	With the exception of the pocket of development at Taiharuru Bay, the coastal margin retains a high level of intactness.
Experiential Values		
<p>Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.</p>	5	The coastal margin clearly demonstrates the formative and ongoing coastal processes.
<p>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).</p>	5	Visually the unit is very striking, but as with the appreciation of the smell and sound of the coast, the visual qualities are dependant on weather conditions and the sense of exposure can be experienced particularly on the elevated parts of the unit such as Te Whangai head, and on the cliff edge. This said, the unit does offer very distinctive sensory opportunities.
<p>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.</p>	4	<p>The coastal character of the unit and its exposure to prevailing winds means that its character and qualities vary with the seasons, and weather.</p> <p>The flowering of pohutukawa is also a notable transient value.</p>
<p>Remoteness / Wildness 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 	3	It is possible to gain a sense of remoteness within the smaller bays in the mid section of the unit, however the proximity of built development and the adjoining pastoral rural landscape character reduces the sense of remoteness.
<p>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</p>	5	Northland's eastern coast possesses a distinct character and quality that is valued by the wider community and attracts holiday-makers and tourists during throughout the year.

strong community association with, or high public esteem for the place.		
<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>	3	<p>Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.</p> <p>Numerous pa sites are evident particularly on the larger headlands.</p> <p>The coast is highly valued by the community for recreation and this can translate to a spiritual affinity.</p>

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 to north west to Te Whangai Head and Pataua River



View of Taiharuru Head and entrance to Taiharuru River



View north along coast from Kauri Mountain