

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – ORUAEA BAY TO NGUNGURU RIVER
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)	The unit includes cliffed coastal headlands in Waipapa Terrane greywacke, and steep coastal headlands, hillcountry and island in Waipapa Terrane greywacke.
Soil Types	The predominant soil type within the unit is Marua clay loam whilst Whakapara mottled clay loam is present within gully bottoms.
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: Q06/070 (Matapouri Coastal Remnants) This Level 1 site comprises 81 ha of forest, and 1 ha of shrubland. The significance of the site is due to the high diversity of animal and plant species, several of which are threatened or regionally significant (<i>Fireweed Senecio scaberulus</i> (Nationally Endangered), <i>Fuchsia procumbens</i> (Sparse), large-leaved milk tree (Sparse), <i>Hebe "Whangarei"</i> (Regionally Significant) and <i>Psilotum nudum</i> (Regionally Significant). Kukupa (Gradual Decline). The site is an example of a habitat type which is rare nationally, with a relatively high diversity of coastal forest types and is representative site for totara-pohutukawa coastal forest, pohutukawa-puriri coastal forest, pohutukawa-nikau coastal forest, kauri-rimu coastal forest, kauri-pohutukawa coastal forest, kauri-pohutukawa-rimu coastal forest, and kowhai-pohutukawa-puriri coastal forest. Q06/093 (North Gable Remnants) This Level 1 site comprises 44 ha of forest The site is an example of a rare forest type of limited distribution in Northland, which provides habitat for threatened and regionally significant plants and animals including the threatened fireweed <i>Senecio scaberulus</i> (Nationally Endangered), <i>Myrsine aquilonia</i> (Sparse), parapara (Sparse), tawapou (Regionally Significant) and the Northland endemic fern <i>Asplenium northlandicum</i> (Regionally Significant), NI brown kiwi (Serious Decline), Kukupa (Gradual Decline), Northern little blue penguin (Gradual Decline), pied shag (Sparse) roost site, and bellbird (Regionally Significant). Q06/095 (South Gable Remnants) This Level 1 site comprises 28 ha of forest and 4 ha of shrubland. It is composed of several coastal forest and shrubland remnants on the cliffs of the South Gable headland, and the adjacent Rocky Bay. The northern remnant is separated from the other remnants, and is dominated by pohutukawa, with kauri common on the ridge. Kowhai is frequent throughout, with occasional totara and rimu. There is a small

	<p>clearing in its centre, with ti kouka and the odd nikau growing. The northern remnant on the South Gable is dominated by pohutukawa.</p> <p>The site is of significance due to the presence of a high diversity of coastal vegetation types, which are rare nationally, and contains one of the best examples of coastal forest in the District. It is also a representative site for pohutukawa–kauri coastal forest, pohutukawa coastal forest, kanuka/manuka–houpara coastal shrubland, houpara–karaka–pohutukawa coastal forest.</p> <p>Q06/099 (Rehuotane Headland) This site comprises an area of 62 ha of forest, and 72 ha of shrubland.</p> <p>It is significant due to the presence of several threatened and regionally significant species, including <i>Hibiscus</i> aff. <i>trionum</i> (Nationally Endangered/Taxonomically Indeterminate), <i>Calystegia marginata</i> (Sparse), <i>Metrosideros carminea</i> (Regionally Significant) and <i>Olearia albida</i> (Regionally Significant), long-tailed bat (Nationally Vulnerable), matuku (Nationally Endangered), kukupa (Gradual Decline), NI fernbird (Sparse), NI tomtit (Regionally Significant), banded kokopu (Regionally Significant), and koaro (Regionally Significant).</p> <p>There are past records of kiwi.</p> <p>Although modified in places, the site is a relatively large coastal forest area for the District, and is a forest type which is rare in Northland.</p> <p>It is representative site for pohutukawa–houpara coastal forest, kanuka/manuka–kauri–rimu coastal forest, taraire coastal forest, and rimu–taraire–totara coastal forest.</p>
Archaeological sites	Pa sites are evident on prominent headlands and high points.
Heritage Landscapes	None known.
<p>Landscape characterisation (including the identification of any specific characteristics)</p> <p>The unit extends from the southern end of Whananaki Sandspit to the entrance to the Ngunguru River – a rocky convoluted coastline which comprises prominent rocky headlands which separate contained bays. The coastal edge is dominated by steep coastal banks and cliffs with reef outcrops and rocky outcrops. The character of the open portion of the coast is wild and exposed, whilst some shelter is afforded within the bays, such as the Tutukaka Harbour, Matapouri Inlet and Horseshoe Bay where a strong sense of enclosure is experienced.</p> <p>Extensive pockets of pohutukawa are visible on coastal banks and headlands, whilst in places, forest and shrubland flows down to the ocean from inland.</p> <p>The sequence of sandy bays and rocky coast displays a complexity and strength that characterises and symbolizes the eastern Northland coast.</p> <p>With the exception of the area around the Tutukaka settlement, the majority of built form is contained within the bays, although more recent development has seen the subdivision of land between the bays and the construction of scattered dwellings on elevated cliff tops and landward backdrop. In places</p>	

development is highly visible, with prominent cuts associated with accessways. In places where built development, where development is situated amongst vegetation and is of a simple form and dark and recessive colour, it has been integrated more successfully.

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	<p>The sequence of elements including rocky headlands, vegetated coastal slopes and 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>
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	5	<p>Although this land type is common locally, it is rare in the national context.</p>
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.	4	<p>The unit displays a moderate level of coherence, with elements such as the coastal cliffs and vegetated coastal slope, and the linking flow of vegetation down to the coast enhancing the coherence.</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>The intrusion of built development onto prominent locations such as headlands or elevated mid and upper slopes has resulted in the diminishing of coherence, as has the progressive erosion of vegetation patterns. Despite this, the scale and rugged power of the coastal edge and its associated features, particularly where coastal vegetation frames the edge or extends inland, ensures that a relatively unbroken margin along the coast maintains a high level of coherence.</p>
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	5	<p>Bush remnants, coastal vegetation and dune 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>
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	<p>The indented rocky coastline, beaches and framing islets, along with the colour of the sea is particularly memorable and are highly symbolic of the area. Where coastal riparian vegetation is present, the vividness of the unit is further enhanced.</p>
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 	4	<p>Although the majority of the coast maintains a high level of visual absorption capability – a consequence of the complexity of the coastal edge and landform, strong landscape patterns and vegetation patterns, modification resulting from agricultural practices and building development is evident along the coastal margin.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 		<p>Historically, this modification has created the representative Northland coastal character, however at the same time it diminishes the influence of natural (ecological) processes and ecological patterns.</p> <p>More recent subdivision development for lifestyle blocks has resulted in further modification in the landscape character of this part of the coast, for example with the planting of olive trees, or with facilitated revegetation.</p> <p>This latter modification is a continuation of a process that has been evident over the past 20 – 50 years where economic drivers has resulted in large areas of the coastal hills being allowed to regenerate into shrubland and forest.</p> <p>Residential pockets around Whangaumu Bay, Tutukaka, Wooleys Bay, Matapouri and Sandy Bay display high levels of modification and diminished naturalness.</p>
<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>	4	<p>With the exception of pockets of development, the coastal margin retains a high level of intactness.</p>

Experiential Values

<p>Expressiveness</p> <p>The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.</p>	5	<p>The coastal margin clearly demonstrates the formative and ongoing coastal processes.</p>
<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>	5	<p>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. This said, the unit does offer very distinctive sensory opportunities.</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>	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 and kowhai is also a notable transient value.</p>

<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 	4	<p>Although it is possible to gain a sense of remoteness within the smaller bays where public access is limited. Where Matapouri Road provides easy access, and near the settlements opportunities for the experiencing of remoteness are limited.</p>
<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	<p>The eastern Northland coast possesses a distinct character and quality that is valued by the wider community and attracts holiday-makers and tourists during throughout the year.</p>
<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.</p>	4	<p>Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.</p> <p>The coast is highly valued by the community for recreation and this can translate to a spiritual affinity.</p>

<p>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>		
--	--	--

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 north to Sheltered Bay and Oruaea Bay



Looking north from Middle Gable



Entrance to Tutukaka Harbour