

# Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes Values and Characteristics Assessments (the Assessments)

## Assessments of Characteristics and Values

Landscape Unit 1 – Northern Peninsula Tip		
<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A series of foothills that fan out from the main north – east orientated ridgeline at the ‘top’ (northern) crest of Moehau.</li> <li>• Multiple phases of tectonic uplift formed the foothills so that most of Moehau Range comprises greywacke surrounding the main peaks of the Range, which are volcanic in origin, with prominent andesite and rhyolite outcrops along the coastline.</li> <li>• The exposed western and eastern to northern slopes of the foothills generally fall steeply towards the Firth of Thames and Pacific Ocean respectively.</li> <li>• At the coast, the foothills culminate in a complex sequence of dramatic cliffs and headlands, white sandy beaches, stony beaches, and rocky outcrops and shoals.</li> </ul>
		<b>Vegetation</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most coastal and mid-level slopes are dominated by pasture interspersed with pockets of remnant bush / forest.</li> <li>• Larger stands of native bush / forest are prominent on the upper slopes and ridges north of Moehau, including such species as rewarewa, totara, mountain totara, miro, rimu, tawa, maire, some kauri, nikau and ponga.</li> </ul>
		<b>Ecology</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remnant pockets of forest – often following stream courses – provide a range of both connected, and isolated, habitats for insects, forest birds and hawks, geckos / skinks, and some invertebrate species.</li> <li>• Identified as a Natural Area of National Significance<sup>1</sup>.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Significant Natural Areas of the Thames Coromandel District: Terrestrial and Wetland Ecosystems, Environment Waikato Technical Report 2010/36; Kessels Associates; October 2010

## Landscape Unit 1 – Northern Peninsula Tip

	<p><b>Human</b></p> <p>(land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key structures include Port Jackson Road, scattered farmhouses and sheds.</li> <li>• Farm fencing &amp; tracks.</li> <li>• DoC camping grounds at Port Jackson and Fletcher Bay.</li> <li>• DoC walkways are apparent near the coast.</li> <li>• There are significant pa works between Cape Colville to Fletcher Bay that mark ancient settlement and habitation, surrounded by areas of cultivation.</li> <li>• Parts of the dune system are nationally significant urupa and mark the important human element of this area for mana whenua.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rolling, to steeply rolling, profile of the ridges and main hill slopes flanking the Moehau Range are highly expressive of the sedimentary geology that underpins most of most of this unit. The sharper, more serrated, profile of the hill crest and spine highlight their volcanic origins.</li> <li>• The cirque-like profile of the main bay at Port Jackson highlights its sunken valley origins at the coastal edge.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The interplay between natural landforms and the sea creates a dynamic, and often dramatic, landscape.</li> <li>• The amalgam of pasture-covered landforms, remnant forest and stream corridors suggests a high level of naturalness and aesthetic appeal; these qualities are enhanced by the unit's interrelationship with the Moehau Range's more elevated slopes and peaks (above) and the CMA (below).</li> <li>• The obvious natural processes at play along the coastline, and its highly exposed nature lend it feelings of wildness and remoteness.</li> <li>• The local landscape can appear raw and elemental at times.</li> <li>• It is also highly memorable, with the interplay of landforms with both the Pacific Ocean forest higher up generating very considerable aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Picturesequeeness/ composition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landscape around Port Jackson reveals an array of raw coastal features, including bays, headlands and coastal ridges, that contribute strong feeling of structure, patterning and 3 dimensional layering.</li> <li>• The clear pattern and structure of the landforms is positively reinforced by vegetation patterns and the counterpoint of open pasture with pockets / tracts of bush.</li> <li>• The prominent headlands and steep coastal slopes that enclose Goat Bay, Fletcher Bay, and Port Jackson Bay create a sense of intimacy, that contrasts – in a positive sense – with the outward / seaward aspect of most of the terrain around these bays.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 1 – Northern Peninsula Tip

	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sequence of land based natural elements and features, described above, together with the open plane of the Pacific Ocean and the mouth of the Firth of Thames has a high level of cohesion and continuity: it is subject to only sporadic and limited interruption by man-made structures and buildings.</li> <li>The farm houses / sheds and other structures within this landscape integrate comfortably with its large scale, bays and other landscape catchments: they do not dominate or overly impose themselves on the landscape as a whole.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea birds &amp; some forest bird life are apparent in parts.</li> <li>The surf and tidal motion of the ocean / Firth of Thames add to the drama and dynamic nature of this landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A location that is widely known by those within and outside the District.</li> <li>Strong associations with both the open seas that batter the local coastline and the spine of hill country and forest remnants that focus on Moehau Range.</li> <li>The ‘top’ of the Coromandel Peninsula.</li> <li>Associations with farming on the southern slopes of Cape Colville.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powerful interplay of the sea and a mostly natural coastline with natural hill country and forest margins.</li> <li>New Zealand ‘as it once was’.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long standing associations with local farm families, such as the Wards.</li> </ul>
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A location renowned for summer recreation: camping, fishing, tramping.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>	
	(Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>	
(of cultural/heritage value and meaning)		
<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>		

## Landscape Unit 1 – Northern Peninsula Tip

(whakapapa/matauranga  
Maori / other

## Landscape Unit 2 – Moehau Range

### Physical characteristics

### Natural science

(geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).

### Geology, geomorphology, topography

- The Moehau Range's landforms are among the most dramatic and conspicuous on the Coromandel Peninsula: the towering greywacke / volcanic massif of Mt Moehau rises to a height of 892m that rise steeply above both the Firth of Thames and Pacific Ocean. Exposed, weathered, cliffs, escarpments, and rock outcrops are prevalent along the main ridgeline, forming a series of jagged features that are the product of multiple phases of volcanic activity.
- At the coastal edge, the foothills culminate in a complex sequence of dramatic cliffs and headlands, white sandy beaches, stony beaches, and rocky outcrops and shoals.

### Vegetation

- Extensive tracts of coastal forest cover the entire mid to upper slopes of the Range, giving way to coastal scrub on steep coastal slopes. The Range displays a unique range of indigenous forest types, including combinations of southern rata, kauri, kaikawaka, silver and pink pine, and pohutukawa forest - which can be found down to sea level.
- The peak of Moehau contains the northern most occurrence of alpine plants in New Zealand, including snow daisy, snow totara, and bristle tussock.

### Ecology

- The remnant pockets of forest – often following stream courses – provide a range of connected habitats for insects, forest birds, geckos / skinks, and invertebrate species.
- Identified as a Natural Area of International Significance along the main spine of the hills, extending towards Port Charles, and as an area of National Significance on the lower slopes falling towards the Firth of Thames.

### Human

(land uses, buildings, structures, settlements,

- The only structures of note comprise the coastal road connecting Sandy with Stony Bay.
- DoC walkways / trails.

Landscape Unit 2 – Moehau Range		
	roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).	
<b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b>	<b>Expressiveness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The exposed andesite peak of Moehau, and its rock outcrops, highlight the landscape’s volcanic origins and geology.</li> <li>• The progression from coastal pohutukawa and scrub into mature podocarp forest and pockets of alpine shrubland (interposed with areas of scree and exposed regolith), highlights the natural succession of vegetation that occurs from sea level to nearly 900m (asl).</li> <li>• Coastal erosion, wind swept, vegetation and rocky outcrops highlight the landscape’s exposed nature and reinforce the variability of its relief.</li> </ul>
	<b>Legibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Near the coast, this landscape is defined by the interplay between natural landforms and the sea – in an often dynamic and dramatic fashion.</li> <li>• A high level of naturalness and aesthetic appeal is associated with the sequence of both landforms and shrubland / forest across the Range, with other natural processes – related to wind and salt exposure – closer to the coastline.</li> <li>• Much of the coastline and mountain landscape is raw and elemental, wild and remote; and is highly memorable as a result.</li> <li>• The dramatic interplay of volcanic landforms and mature forest has very considerable aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landscape’s array of coastal and mountain landforms, vegetation cover and sea margins display a high degree of cohesion, structure, and patterning, as well as considerable diversity.</li> <li>• Forest remnants up the main valleys and catchments with side of the Range’s peaks accentuate its layering of valleys and ridges, and its 3 dimensional qualities overall.</li> <li>• The counterpoint of open pasture with pockets / tracts of bush creates an attractive interplay of visual elements.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landscape is dominated by the natural elements and features described above, together with the open plane of the Pacific Ocean and the mouth of the Firth of Thames: although interspersed with pockets of open pasture on the lower fringes of the Moehau Range and its forests, this coastal / hill country landscape displays a high degree of cohesion and continuity.</li> <li>• The farm tracks, fencing and DoC tracks within this landscape integrate comfortably into its sequence of bush / forest and landforms: they do are subservient components of an otherwise natural landscape.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds &amp; some forest bird life are evident.</li> <li>• The surf and tidal motion of the ocean / Firth of Thames add to the drama and dynamic nature of this landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values –</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A location that has a strong natural signature.</li> <li>• Strong associations with the open seas and Firth of Thames that enclose the Moehau Range and batter its base.</li> <li>• The ‘top’ of the Coromandel Peninsula.</li> </ul>

Landscape Unit 2 – Moehau Range		
<b>District community</b>	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A powerful interplay of the sea and a mostly natural coastline with the Range’s natural hill country and forest margins is revealed.</li> <li>• New Zealand ‘as it once was’.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long standing associations with local farm families, such as the Wards.</li> </ul>
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A location renowned for summer recreation: camping, fishing, tramping.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

Landscape Unit 3 – Stony Bay		
<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stony Bay is contained within a steep basin, enclosed by extending ridges breaking northwards off the main northeast – southwest orientated ridgeline of the Moehau Range.</li> <li>• A distinctive semi-circular, stony beach backs onto a narrow coastal terrace, flanked on both sides by towering ridges that fall steeply into the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• The western end of the beach is also steeply sloped, while the eastern end of the beach is flatter and framed by a small stream estuary.</li> <li>• Steep, rolling foothills rise around the coastal terrace and adjoin a wider sequence of ridges that climb up into the main body of the Moehau Range.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 3 – Stony Bay

		<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large, wind swept, pohutukawa and puriri containing epiphytes are scattered along the edge of the beach, while the bulk of the landscape is dominated by pasture.</li> <li>• A narrow strip of coastal forest follows the margins of Doctors Creek and Stony Bay Creek, winding its way down through open pasture near the beachfront and sea.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The remnant pockets of forest – often following stream courses – provide a range of connected habitats for insects, forest birds, geckos / skinks, and invertebrate species.</li> <li>• The areas of pasture are mainly of use for insects and birds foraging at the forest / coastal edges.</li> <li>• The coastal forest margins above Stony Bay’s camping ground and open pasture are identified as a Natural Area of International Significance, while the rest of Stony Bay is identified as being of either Local Significance or Not Significant.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b></p> <p>(land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A DoC ranger hut, and several small ancillary structures, which service the Stony Bay campground occupy the coastal terrace behind the beach.</li> <li>• Both the Stony Bay Track and Coromandel Walkway begin and terminate at Stony Bay.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bay’s stony beachfront is distinctive, while its enclosed, semi-circular, form is reflective of the geomorphic process that have created the wider, Moehau Range.</li> <li>• The remnant pohutukawa / puriri near the shoreline and streamside remnants climbing into the main forest canopy are linked to the natural processes evident across the Moehau Range as whole, and around its coastal margins (see Landscape Units 1, 2 and 4-6).</li> <li>• Coastal erosion, wind swept, vegetation and rocky outcrops highlight the landscape’s exposed nature and reinforce the variability of both its relief and vegetation cover.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stony Bay’s landscape displays a powerful amalgam of natural elements, raw coastal features and processes that have a high degree of cohesion, structure, and patterning.</li> <li>• The steep coastal slopes enclosing the Bay reinforce its sense of visual unity and focus on the embayed sea area, and also lend the bay a sense of attractive intimacy.</li> <li>• Stony Bay also reveals a strong sense of isolation and remoteness.</li> </ul>

### Landscape Unit 3 – Stony Bay

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of these factors contribute to a high level of memorability and a very significant level of aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Views are generally focused internally within the site, apart from a framed view out to the Pacific Ocean and up the valley towards the enclosing slopes and peaks of the Moehau Range.</li> <li>The open plane of the sea at the centre of the bay contrasts very markedly with the rising headlands and bush margins that enclose the bay: this central plane of sea is the main focal element within the bay, although the enclosing terrain and vegetation are just as significant.</li> <li>Prominent headlands and steep coastal slopes enclose Stony Bay offering it a sense of intimacy and framing views out to sea.</li> <li>The stony beachfront and open pasture behind it create a feeling of strong, and positive, counterpoint with the widespread tracts of bush / forest above and around the bay.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The landscape is dominated by the interplay of three key elements: the central area of sea at the centre of the bay, the rising pasture above its beachfront and the towering, forest covered, slopes and peaks of the Moehau Range that wrap around most of Stony Bay. Although these elements are different, they are complementary and create a highly appealing and coherent / structured / patterned landscape that is predominantly natural and rural.</li> <li>The DoC camping ground, tracks and gravel road to both sit comfortably within this landscape and are subservient components of it: they do not disrupt its more natural interplay of elements and patterns.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea birds &amp; some forest bird life are evident.</li> <li>Remnant windswept vegetation and variations in that cover, associated with exposure to marine elements, the time of day/year, tides, and weather conditions, reinforce the landscape's natural state and processes.</li> <li>The surf and tidal motion of the Pacific Ocean is a key facet of Stony Bay's character which often adds to its dramatic and dynamic nature.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A location that has a strong natural signature.</li> <li>Strong associations with the open seas that enclose the Moehau Range.</li> <li>The 'top' of the Coromandel Peninsula.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powerful interplay of the sea and a mostly natural coastline with the Range's natural hill country and forest / pastoral margins.</li> <li>New Zealand 'as it once was'.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A location renowned for summer recreation: camping, fishing, tramping.</li> </ul>

### Landscape Unit 3 – Stony Bay

<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

### Landscape Unit 4 – Moehau Range – Western foothills

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A linear sequence of foothills that fan out from the main forests and upper slopes of the Moehau Range – linking that range to the coastline abutting the Firth of Thames.</li> <li>• The coastal slopes generally fall progressively towards the coastal flats around Port Jackson Road, but in places plunge straight into the sea via coastal promontories and a rocky / stony shoreline.</li> <li>• Numerous stream courses run down the side slopes of the Moehau Range at the centre of most valley systems falling to the coast, while the foothills and headlands between them project out into the margins of Firth of Thames.</li> <li>• Both natural and human-induced / enhanced erosion is evident throughout this landscape’s sequence of foothills, while coastal erosion is also prevalent along parts of its rocky shoreline.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 4 – Moehau Range – Western foothills

		<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of the coastal and mid-level slopes are dominated by pasture interspersed with pockets of remnant bush / forest.</li> <li>• Larger stands of native bush / forest are prominent on the upper slopes and ridges north of Moehau, including such species as rewarewa, totara, mountain totara, miro, rimu, tawa, maire, some kauri, nikau and ponga.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The remnant pockets of forest – often following stream courses – provide a range of both connected, and isolated, habitats for insects, forest birds and hawks, geckos / skinks, and some invertebrate species.</li> <li>• Identified as a Natural Area of National and Regional Significance.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b>  (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human settlement is largely limited to scattered farmhouses and sheds located close to the coastline and a DoC campground at Fantail Bay.</li> <li>• The coastal road to Port Jackson also traverses parts of this landscape unit.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rolling to steeply rolling profile of the ridges and main hill slopes rising out of the Firth of Thames is highly expressive of the sedimentary geology of most of the landscape unit.</li> <li>• The coastline’s sedimentary profile is accentuated by the rounded profile of its array of foothills and ridges closer to the CMA, which is periodically intersected by stream courses and the occasional coastal escarpment.</li> <li>• Even so, significant local landmarks include the craggy / rocky coastline at the northwestern and southeastern ends of the unit, and the steeply enclosed rocky shores of Fantail Bay.</li> <li>• Stream gullies and courses throughout this landscape are still predominantly filled with bush and coastal forest that is connected with the larger tracts of native forest and habitat higher up the Moehau Range, whereas the open pasture between these gullies highlights the sedimentary terrain of the lower foothills.</li> <li>• The stone / shingle beaches at the edge of the CMA are also a distinctive feature of the western Coromandel coastline.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A relatively high level of naturalness and aesthetic appeal is associated with the hills, ridges, escarpments, coastal forest evident along this coastline – juxtaposed with both the open pasture that dominates the Moehau Range’s foothills and the open waters of the Firth of Thames.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 4 – Moehau Range – Western foothills

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The interplay between pasture and more alluvial / colluvial landforms lower down with the forest and volcanic peaks of the upper Moehau Range is very marked.</li> <li>• The local landscape can appear wild, remote, raw and elemental at times.</li> <li>• It is part of a highly memorable, wider landscape that includes Units 2, 3 and 5.</li> <li>• This landscape also displays very considerable aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The interplay between areas of pasture and forest, as well as between mountains and the sea is very powerful; it results in a landscape that benefits from this interaction and ‘tension’.</li> <li>• In particular, the clear pattern and structure of the coastline’s landforms is reinforced by vegetation patterns and the counterpoint of open pasture with pockets / tracts of bush.</li> <li>• The shingle beaches and their patchwork of remnant pohutukawa also lends the coastal edge a distinctive character and considerable appeal.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landscape is dominated by the array of natural elements and features described above, together with the open plane of the Firth of Thames.</li> <li>• Subject to only sporadic and limited interruption by man-made structures and buildings, this coastal / hill country landscape displays a high degree of cohesion and continuity.</li> <li>• The farm houses / sheds and other structures within this landscape integrate comfortably with its large scale, sequence of ridges, hills and bush blocks: they do not dominate or overly impose themselves on the landscape as a whole.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds &amp; some forest bird life are apparent.</li> <li>• The surf and tidal motion of the ocean / Firth of Thames add to the drama and dynamic nature of this landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A location that is widely known by those within and outside the District.</li> <li>• Strong associations with both the open seas that batter the local coastline and the spine of hill country and forest remnants that focus on Moehau.</li> <li>• Strong association with the ‘top’ of the Coromandel Peninsula.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powerful interplay of the sea and a mostly natural coastline with natural hill country and forest margins.</li> <li>• New Zealand ‘as it once was’.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long standing associations with local farm families, such as the Wards.</li> </ul>
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A location renowned for summer recreation: camping, fishing, tramping.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values –</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>	

### Landscape Unit 4 – Moehau Range – Western foothills

<b>Tangata whenua</b>	(Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

### Landscape Unit 5 – Moehau Range – Western Coastline

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This landscape unit comprises a narrow strip of coastal plain / terrace between the western edge of the Moehau Range and the exposed, craggy coastline around Port Jackson Road – from near Urarima Pa to south of Fantail Bay.</li> <li>• The unit’s relatively flat, sedimentary, landform contrasts with the rising hill country of the Moehau Range that dramatically frames it – both visually and physically.</li> <li>• It also contains a series of dramatically enclosed, pastoral valleys that sit at the base of the Range and a broad, rocky (shingle), shoreline at the edge of the Firth of Thames.</li> </ul>
		<b>Vegetation</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although the landscape is predominantly covered in pasture, its character is dominated by large wind- shaped pohutukawa, which follow the shoreline: these also run up local stream corridors.</li> </ul>
		<b>Ecology</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remnant pockets of forest and pohutukawa within this unit provide a range of both connected, and isolated, habitats for insects, forest birds and hawks, geckos / skinks, and some invertebrate species.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 5 – Moehau Range – Western Coastline

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified as a Natural Area of Regional Significance in pockets around the stream courses and their stands of remnants forest / pohutukawas; not significant elsewhere.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b></p> <p>(land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastoral farming is evident throughout this unit.</li> <li>Farm houses and other buildings (sheds and baches) are much less conspicuous, typically tucked in against stands of trees and near the base of the Moehau Range.</li> <li>Port Jackson Road also cuts across this unit.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The landscape's rocky / stony shoreline interface emphasises its raw, elemental, qualities and the coastal landscape's distinctive interplay between the Firth of Thames and the Moehau Range.</li> <li>The planar, terracing immediately inland of this 'edge' is clearly part of the geomorphic sequence between the Firth and the steep, volcanic uplands of the Moehau Range: its flat to gently undulating profile evocative of the sedimentary / colluvial processes that have created this coastal strip.</li> <li>Windswept vegetation and erosion reinforce the unit's 'coastal qualities.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The landscape is defined near coast by the interplay between natural landforms and the sea: this is often dynamic and dramatic.</li> <li>A relatively high level of naturalness and aesthetic appeal is associated with the hills, ridges, escarpments, coastal forest evident along this coastline – juxtaposed with both the open pasture that dominates the unit's coastal plain / terrace and the open waters of the Firth of Thames.</li> <li>A strong visual counterpoint is evident between this unit's open pasture with the pohutukawa and forest remnants around its margins, as well as with the volcanic profile of the Moehau Range and the open waters of Firth of Thames.</li> <li>The local landscape can appear wild, remote, raw and elemental at times.</li> <li>It is also highly memorable and generates considerable aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The interplay between areas of pasture with stands of pohutukawa and remnant forest is very marked.</li> <li>The interplay between different landforms and the sea, is also very powerful; in particular, the coastal plain is defined by its contrast with the rising slopes and forests of the Moehau Range.</li> <li>The shingle beaches and their patchwork of remnant pohutukawa also lends the coastal edge a distinctive character and considerable appeal.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Coherence</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The landscape is dominated by the array of natural elements and features described above, together with the open plane of the Firth of Thames: this creates a sense of continuity and cohesion.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 5 – Moehau Range – Western Coastline

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subject to only sporadic and limited interruption by man-made structures and buildings, this coastal / hill country landscape displays a high degree of cohesion and continuity.</li> <li>Farm houses / sheds and other structures within this landscape integrate comfortably with its large scale, sequence of ridges, hills and bush blocks: they do not dominate or overly impose themselves on the landscape as a whole.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea birds &amp; some forest bird life are apparent.</li> <li>The surf and tidal motion of the ocean / Firth of Thames add to the drama and dynamic nature of this landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A location that is widely known by those within and outside the District.</li> <li>Strong associations with both the open seas that batter the local coastline and the spine of hill country and forest remnants that focus on Moehau.</li> <li>Strong connection with the ‘top’ of the Coromandel Peninsula.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powerful interplay of the sea and a mostly natural coastline with natural hill country and forest margins.</li> <li>New Zealand ‘as it once was’.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long standing associations with local farm families, such as the Wards.</li> </ul>
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A location renowned for summer recreation: camping, fishing, tramping.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

## Landscape Unit 8 – Mt Onekura and eastern coastline

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mt Onekura is both visually and physically separated from the Moehau Range (to the west) by a low saddle at the head of the Waikawau River and Tangiaro Stream.</li> <li>• Its conical, volcanic landform splays outwards to enclose both Port Charles and – to the southeast – Waikawau Bay.</li> <li>• This array of ridges culminates in a continuous line of steep, exposed, bluffs and very steep escarpments that extend from the harbour entrance to Port Charles through to the margins of the Waikawau River and estuary.</li> <li>• A number of major stream corridors scour the local foothills, notably the Waikawau River, and the Okiore and Parakete Streams.</li> </ul>
	<b>Human</b>  (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).	<b>Vegetation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regenerating to mature podocarp forest covers much of Mt Onekura, giving way to pioneer coastal shrubland on ridgelines and exposed coastal slopes (particularly north of Mt Onekura).</li> <li>• Pockets of remnant indigenous shrubland and forest follow the coastal fringe – and lie just inside it – from the mouth of Port Charles to Waikawau Bay.</li> <li>• Wilding pines and several small pine plantations are apparent within the valleys and along some of the ridges inside the coastal edge, directly north of Mt Onekura.</li> </ul> <b>Ecology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The remnant pockets of forest within this unit provide a range of both connected, and isolated, habitats for insects, forest birds and hawks, geckos / skinks, and some invertebrate species.</li> <li>• Most of this unit – apart from the areas of open pasture and cliff-line directly abutting the CMA and near Port Charles – is identified as a Natural Area of International Significance, while smaller pockets of bush and coastal margins north to west of Mt Onekura are also identified as being of Local and Regional Significance.</li> </ul>

<b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b>	<b>Expressiveness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mt Onekura's conical 'cap' is expressive of its volcanic origins, whereas the array of more rolling, to steeply rolling, ridges and slopes falling towards Port Charles and inland transition into very steep scarps and cliffs that line the 'outside' coastline between the entrance to Port Charles and Waikawau Bay.</li> <li>• The coastline's sequence of craggy, dramatic, headlands, steep bluffs, and stony beaches amplify these qualities, with outcrops of andesite, dacite, tuff breccia and other volcanic formations.</li> <li>• The rugged landforms at this edge, combined with the surf and open expanse of the Pacific Ocean, lend this stretch of coastline powerful, elemental, quality that is reinforced by its eroded faces and the windswept nature of much of the vegetation along the coastline.</li> <li>• Stream downcutting and entrenchment is also apparent within parts of the unit.</li> </ul>
	<b>Legibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The visual engagement between the unit's coastal landforms and the sea is often dynamic and dramatic.</li> <li>• These factors, together with the unit's direct exposure to the open waters and surf of the Pacific Ocean, contribute to the feeling of being within a landscape that is also remote, often raw and wild.</li> <li>• The landscape unit is highly distinctive and memorable.</li> <li>• The dramatic interplay of often sheer landforms, headlands and shoals with the Pacific Ocean has very considerable aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The unit reveals an array of natural elements and coastal features that display a high degree of cohesion, structure, and patterning, as well as considerable diversity.</li> <li>• The prominent headlands and steep coastal slopes stretching from Port Charles' harbour entrance through to the Waikawau River / Estuary act as punctuation marks that enclose local bays and add to the drama of the wider edge.</li> <li>• The natural qualities of this unit's landforms are positively reinforced by the remnant coastal shrubland and pockets of bush that flank the southern half of the coastal edge.</li> <li>• The open pasture found elsewhere helps to articulate the underlying structure and geomorphology of both coastal and volcanic landforms.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The layering of natural elements and features described above, together with the open plane of the Pacific Ocean creates a coastal / hill country landscape that displays a high degree of cohesion and continuity.</li> <li>• The farm houses / sheds and other structures within this landscape integrate, for the most part, quite comfortably with the large scale, bays and other landscape catchments: they do not dominate or overly impose themselves on the landscape as a whole.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds and some forest bird life are apparent.</li> <li>• The surf and tidal motion of the Pacific Ocean is a key facet of the coastline from Port Charles to Waikawau Bay, which clearly reinforces its dramatic and dynamic nature.</li> </ul>

<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A remote, isolated, part of the Coromandel Peninsula, much of which conveys the feeling of being relatively untrammelled by human activity.</li> <li>• Strong associations with both the open seas that batter the local coastline and the spine of hill country and forest remnants that focus on Moehau.</li> <li>• The coastline southeast of Port Charles is among the most dynamic and visually dramatic around the Coromandel Peninsula.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powerful interplay of the sea and a mostly natural coastline with natural hill country and forest margins.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A location used for recreational fishing.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A pa site (including defensive terracing and ‘moat’), kumara pits and areas of past habitation / defence is located on the main headland north of Mt Onekura, near the entrance to Port Charles.</li> </ul>
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

## Landscape Unit 12 – Waikawau Beach

### Physical characteristics

### Natural science

(geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).

### Geology, geomorphology, topography

- Waikawau Bay is a large bay enclosed by a hill country and coastal ridges / escarpments to the northwest, west and south to southeast.
- The main beachfront and associated dune corridor, including the expansive sandy beachfront at the edge of the Waikawau River Valley and estuary / wetland arcing in a south easterly direction from Kawetoto Reef towards Kamakakura Point.
- At the northern end of the Bay, the mouth of the Waikawau River and its linkages to several converging tributaries (including Gisbourne Stream and Matamataharakeke Stream).
- The large estuary, progressing inland into a lagoon then wetland to the southwest.
- The transition of the beach foreshore into rock shelves, cliffs and grass / bush covered slopes near Kamakakura Point.
- The physical containment of the bay and beach is very evident.
- To the north by a series of exceptionally steep, bush covered, escarpments, hills and promontories extending via Te Karaka and Potiki Bays, then Motokauri and Te Anaputa Points, towards Port Charles.
- To the south-east by bush clad, headland and ridges of Kamakakura Point, providing separation from the settlement of Little Bay.
- The backshore area to the beach with its sequence of moderately large foredunes to back dunes behind the beachfront being partially interrupted / curtailed by the Waikawau Beach Road corridor and farming activity at the rear of the bay.
- A series of ridges behind the beach covered in a mixture of scrub pine woodlots, wilding pines and retired pasture falling towards the beach.
- The large valley corridor of low-lying coastal flats and terraces extending inland (to the west and northwest) that frame the beach area.

### Vegetation

- There is a clear dominance of spinifex and pingao from the fore-dune to mid-dune corridor while muehlenbeckia dominates the mid to back-dune area.
- Scattered mature cabbage trees are found across the back-dunes with a few mature pohutukawa near the road and DoC facilities.
- Mature native scrubland and coastal forest species dominate the slopes of Kamakakura Point and above Kawetoto Reef at the estuary mouth.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mature pohutukawa are very prominent, especially at the interface of Kamakakura Point with both the beachfront and sea.</li> <li>• Young to semi-mature native revegetation and planting is emerging within the fenced off, dune corridor and around the DoC camping ground and buildings.</li> <li>• Grass pasture, old pines, some macrocarpa and cypresses line part of the interface between the dunes and Waikawau Beach Road.</li> <li>• There is a prevalence of open pasture near the estuary wetland at the western end of the beach and around the DoC camping ground at the southeastern end of the bay.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of wading and sea birds are evident at the foreshore, including Gulls, Terns, Variable Oyster Catchers and Kingfishers.</li> <li>• Rare wetland species, including Fernbirds, Banded Rail, Spotless Crake, Pateke (NZ Brown Teal), Bittern and NZ Dotterel, are also found near the dune corridor / beachfront and its interface with the adjoining wetland.</li> <li>• Most of this unit is identified as a Natural Area of National Significance.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b></p> <p>(land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waikawau Beach Road, farming activities, scattered farmhouses and sheds mark much of the western edge of the dune system.</li> <li>• The southern edge of Waikawau Beach is occupied by a DoC camping ground. A small settlement at Little Bay marks the western edge of Kamakamakura Point.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is clear articulation of the biophysical nature of the beach focussed on its sedimentary beach / valley area and surrounding volcanic hill country.</li> <li>• A clear sequence is apparent from beach front to fore-dunes, mid-dune corridor, then back-dune area and coastal flats / terraces.</li> <li>• There is also a very clear progression from the open sea to the outer estuary / lagoon, then tributaries and wetland margins.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high degree of legibility and memorability is derived from the physical scale, profile and interplay of Waikawau Bay with adjoining coastal landscapes.</li> <li>• There is very marked contrast between the enclosed inshore reaches behind the Bay and its expansive 'viewshaft' to the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• The combination of beachfront, dunes, lagoon, surrounding headlands, and the open expanse of the Pacific Ocean has very significant aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>

	<b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansiveness uninterrupted views are apparent along and out from the dune corridor and beachfront.</li> <li>• The beach and its headlands offer framed views out to sea.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a strong sense of cohesion and continuity throughout the dunes and beachfront.</li> <li>• A moderate to high level of coherence is also associated with the sea and lagoon.</li> <li>• Coherence near the wetland and lagoon margins is more limited due to the influence of farming activities and structures.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The surf and tidal variations are very apparent.</li> <li>• The character of the coastal landscape is clearly influenced by the time of day, year and weather patterns on the 'mood' of the beachfront and its margins.</li> <li>• The presence of sea birds, wading birds and migratory bird species on the beachfront and lagoon / estuary contributes to the beach's character.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The beach's arc-like form and sense of expansiveness and openness – focused on the Pacific Ocean – is very marked.</li> <li>• The planar character of the Bay lagoon and lagoon combined is accentuated by the limited scale and height of vegetation across the dunes and around the estuary.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strong sense of naturalness is associated with the sequence of cliffs and escarpments north of Waikawau Bay, though to the lagoon, beach / dune area, then Kamakakura Point headland.</li> <li>• The presence of farm buildings and pasture around Waikawau Beach Road affects the sense of naturalness near the estuary / wetland, as does the presence of buildings associated with the DoC camping ground at the southwestern end of the Bay and residential development on the margins of Little Bay.</li> <li>• Even so, the beachfront and dune corridor, together with the adjacent estuary / wetland, remain symbolic of the Peninsula's natural, coastal qualities, and Waikawau Beach still registers as an important 'remnant' landscape.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A location strongly associated with camping, swimming, surfing and picnicking.</li> <li>• The camping ground at Waikawau Bay is one of DoC's most significant camping areas on the Coromandel Peninsula.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	

	<p><b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b></p> <p>(whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)</p>	
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Landscape Unit 16 – Northeastern Islands		
<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<p><b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scattered offshore along the northeastern coast of the Coromandel Peninsula are a series of small, yet prominent volcanic island landforms.</li> <li>Volcanic tuff and pavement is evident around the margins, as well as below the tide line, of most of the islands.</li> <li>The vast, open surface of the Pacific Ocean contrasts with the highly weathered, rock formations of each island.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Windswept coastal scrub, flax and stunted pohutukawa cling to the rock formations and their thin layers of soil, particularly on the more sheltered, southern side of most islands, while smaller, more exposed, rock outcrops and shoals remain bare.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea birds are an integral part of the islands’ landscape character and values.</li> <li>The islands are identified as part of a wider Natural Area of National Significance stretching from Little Bay to Tuataewa.</li> </ul>
	<b>Human</b>  (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No human activities or structures exist or are apparent on the Islands.</li> </ul>
<b>Sensory/aesthetic characteristics</b>	<b>Expressiveness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The islands are outliers of the main Coromandel Range and mostly comprise volcanic remnants whose sedimentary surrounds and mantle have been eroded away by the sea.</li> <li>Coastal erosion, tidal processes, seasonal change, atmospheric conditions, and windswept vegetation combine to create a dynamic interplay between these landforms and the Pacific Ocean.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 16 – Northeastern Islands

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The jagged volcanic forms of the outcrops are clearly illustrative of the formative geological processes that have given rise to them as island ‘remnants’.</li> </ul>
	<b>Legibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Islands are completely unmodified rocky outcrops and shoals, with a character that expresses both natural processes and evokes a strong sense of being divorced from human activity.</li> <li>The sculpted rocky landforms and battered vegetation are both highly dramatic and expressive of their coastal nature.</li> <li>The islands’ exposed landforms contrast markedly with the open expanse of the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>The interplay of the islands with the often turbulent, but sometimes placid, seas of the Pacific Ocean generates considerable aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The islands’ physical isolation amid the sea, but also their repeated occurrence around the coastline between Little Bay and Tuataewa, is very apparent.</li> <li>Each island and rocky shoal is a landmark in itself: named islands and rocks include – Square Top Island, The Pinnacles, Motukokopu Island, Honepoto, Motuturua , Motutupapaka, and Tokaroa Rocks, Motukopu Island, and Pungapunga Island.</li> <li>Together, they continue the natural theme evident in the coastal margins and forest of the nearby ‘mainland’.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The distinctive island landforms, indigenous vegetation, and consistent weathering and patterning from coastal exposure, combine to create a cohesive group of Islands along the northeastern coast.</li> <li>All of the islands have a dramatic profile, dynamic interaction with the sea and are highly natural.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea birds and some forest bird life are evident.</li> <li>Remnant windswept vegetation and variations in that cover, associated with exposure to marine elements, the time of day/year, tides, and weather conditions, reinforce the landscape’s natural state and processes.</li> <li>The surf and tidal motion of the Pacific Ocean is a key facet of the seascape which enhances the islands’ dramatic and dynamic character.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The coastline and island surrounds have a strong natural signature.</li> <li>They are closely linked to the main body of the Peninsula.</li> <li>They convey a strong sense of being remote, and often ‘wild’, part of the Peninsula.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The powerful interplay of the sea and islands – both individually and cumulatively – is highly significant.</li> <li>New Zealand ‘as it once was’.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An area used for recreational fishing and diving.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 16 – Northeastern Islands

<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

## Landscape Unit 18 – Coromandel Range - Northwest

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The northwestern Coromandel Range’s landforms are highly dramatic, providing the ‘backbone’ to the surrounding peninsula as they rise to over 500m.</li> <li>• Unlike the Moehau Range, further north, most of the landforms within the Range are underpinned by past andesite volcanoes, giving rise to sharply profiled bluffs, scarps and peaks – like Mt Kaipawa (586m) – in which basalt is combined with volcanic sandstones and some residual marine sediments.</li> <li>• The resulting hill country landscape combines predominantly west facing slopes of moderate to high relief, steep peaks and ridges with deeply incised stream valleys that abut pastoral foothills and some exotic forestry.</li> <li>• At the head of the Waiwhango Stream and Umangawha River a prominent ridge breaks west from the main ridgeline towards the coast and other exposed cliffs, escarpments, and rocky outcrops are a prominent feature along western coastline.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 18 – Coromandel Range - Northwest

		<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive tracts of regenerating to mature podocarp forest cover the entire Range, giving way to shrubland closer to the Range’s more exposed ridge crests and open scarps. The Range displays a wide range of indigenous forest types, including combinations of rata, kauri, hinau, maire, miro, tawa, tanekaha, kohokohe, Halls totara, rewarewa and puriri.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The remnant pockets of forest – often following stream courses – provide a range of connected habitats for insects, forest birds, geckos / skinks, and invertebrate species.</li> <li>• Identified as a Natural Area of International Significance along the main spine of the Range and its main slopes, with areas of National and Regional Significance on the lower slopes falling towards the Firth of Thames and Coromandel township.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b></p> <p>(land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The only structures of note comprise the connecting roads over the Range from Coromandel to Kennedy Bay and Whangapoua Harbour.</li> <li>• DoC walkways / trails.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The exposed peaks and outcrops of the Range reveal their underlying, predominantly volcanic, geology.</li> <li>• The expanse of mature indigenous forest across most of the Range and the vegetative sequence from coastal scrubland to podocarp forest, combined with exposed jagged peaks, reinforces the Range’s pronounced relief.</li> <li>• The progression from coastal shrubland and areas of regeneration through mature podocarp forest and pockets of alpine shrubland to areas of scree and mosses with pincushion species highlight the natural succession of vegetation throughout the Range.</li> <li>• Coastal erosion, wind swept, vegetation and rocky outcrops highlight the landscapes exposure and evident natural processes.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Near the coast, this landscape is defined by the interplay between natural landforms and the sea – in an often dynamic and dramatic fashion.</li> <li>• Higher up, the Range is defined by its dramatic, steeply rising, landforms and crenelated profile, which is reinforced by a relatively homogeneous ‘carpet’ of native forest.</li> <li>• A high level of naturalness and aesthetic appeal is derived from the resulting amalgam of natural elements and features.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 18 – Coromandel Range - Northwest

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Much of the coastline and main ranges landscape is raw and elemental, wild and remote; and is highly memorable as a result.</li> <li>• The dramatic interplay of volcanic landforms and mature forest has very considerable aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant landmarks include Mt Kaipawa (586m) and the sequence of similarly elevated peaks to the south that frame Coromandel Harbour and township.</li> <li>• The landscape’s array of coastal and mountain landforms, vegetation cover and sea margins display a high degree of structure, and patterning, as well as considerable diversity.</li> <li>• Forest remnants up the main valleys and catchments wither side of the Range’s peaks accentuate its layering of valleys and ridges, and its 3 dimensional qualities overall.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landscape is dominated by the natural elements and features described above, displaying a very high degree of cohesion and continuity.</li> <li>• The expanse of forest and the Range’s array of elevated peaks and ridges merge with both the main body of the Coromandel Range to the south and the Moehau Range to the north to create a unified, ‘spinal column’ of mountain through the centre of the Coromandel Range.</li> <li>• The farm tracks, fencing and DoC tracks within this landscape integrate comfortably into its sequence of bush / forest and landforms: they do are subservient components of an otherwise natural landscape.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds &amp; some forest bird life are evident.</li> <li>• The surf and tidal motion of the Firth of Thames add to the drama and dynamic nature of this landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A location that has a strong natural signature.</li> <li>• Part of a sequence of ranges that frames Coromandel township and most of the other settlements found around the Peninsula’s coastline.</li> <li>• The same sequence physically and visually anchors the Coromandel Peninsula.</li> <li>• Conveys a very strong sense of the Peninsula’s origins.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powerful interplay of the sea and a mostly natural coastline with the Range’s natural hill country and forest margins.</li> <li>• It conveys a very strong sense of the Peninsula’s natural heritage: New Zealand ‘as it once was’.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A location renowned for tramping and hunting, and fishing around its coastal margins.</li> </ul>

### Landscape Unit 18 – Coromandel Range - Northwest

<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

### Landscape Unit 19 – Coromandel Range - Northeast

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The northeastern Coromandel Range’s landforms are highly dramatic, providing the ‘backbone’ to the surrounding peninsula in rising to over 500m.</li> <li>• Ridges branching off the main Range and projecting eastwards, wrap around Kennedy Bay (north and south of it), with a very steep and prominent headland – Mt Kahutara – enclosing Kennedy Bay to the north, as part of a wider sequence of coastal foothills extending towards Little Bay.</li> <li>• Most of the landforms within the Range are underpinned by past andesite volcanoes, giving rise to sharply profiled ridges, scarps and peaks in which basalt combines with volcanic sandstones and residual marine sediments: these sedimentary sequences are more pronounced directly west of Kennedy Bay.</li> <li>• Exposed weathered cliffs and escarpments dominate the eastern coastline.</li> <li>• Overall the landscape combines predominantly east-facing slopes orientated towards Kennedy Bay of moderate to high relief, with a wider array of steep peaks and ridges with incised stream valleys.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 19 – Coromandel Range - Northeast

		<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive tracts of regenerating to mature podocarp forest cover the entire Range, giving way to shrubland closer to the Range’s more exposed hill tops and open scarps, as well as near the eastern coastline. The Range displays a wide range of indigenous forest types, including combinations of rata, kauri, hinau, maire, miro, tawa, tanekaha, kohokohe, Halls totara, rewarewa and puriri.</li> <li>• The Range’s high peaks also contain a range of alpine plants including snow daisy, snow totara, and bristle tussock.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The remnant pockets of forest – often following stream courses – provide a range of connected habitats for insects, forest birds, geckos / skinks, and invertebrate species.</li> <li>• Identified as a Natural Area of International Significance near the main spine of the Range, with areas of National Significance both north and south of Kennedy Bay.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b>  (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The only structures of note within this landscape comprise the roads over the Range from Coromandel to Kennedy Bay and Whangapoua Harbour, and the coastal road both north and south of Kennedy Bay.</li> <li>• This unit also abuts the coastal settlements of Kennedy Bay, Tuatēawa and Little Bay.</li> <li>• DoC walkways / trails.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The exposed peaks and outcrops of the Range reveal their underlying, predominantly volcanic, geology.</li> <li>• The expanse of mature indigenous forest across most of the Range, combined with exposed jagged peaks, reinforces the Range’s pronounced relief.</li> <li>• The progression from coastal shrubland and areas of regeneration through mature podocarp forest and pockets of alpine shrubland to areas of scree and mosses with pincushion species highlight the natural succession of vegetation throughout the Range.</li> <li>• Coastal erosion, wind swept, vegetation and rocky outcrops highlight the landscapes exposure and evident natural processes.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Near the coast, this landscape is defined by the interplay between natural landforms and the sea – in an often dynamic and dramatic fashion.</li> <li>• Higher up, the Range is defined by its dramatic, steeply rising, landforms and crenelated profile, which is reinforced by a relatively homogeneous ‘carpet’ of native forest.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 19 – Coromandel Range - Northeast

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high level of naturalness and aesthetic appeal is derived from the resulting amalgam of natural elements and features.</li> <li>• Much of the coastline and main ranges landscape is raw and elemental, wild and remote; and is highly memorable as a result.</li> <li>• The dramatic interplay of volcanic landforms and mature forest has very considerable aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The exposed eastern coastline is strongly focused towards the Pacific Ocean and affords dramatic views of Great Mercury Island.</li> <li>• In contrast, the Range envelops Kennedy Bay creating an intimate tidal bay.</li> <li>• Significant landmarks include Mt Kaipawa (586m) the highest point on the main Range, Mt Kahutara - Tokangawha Point– Motukuku Point – and Anarake Point enclosing Kennedy Bay. Other landmarks include the craggy, rocky eastern coastline comprising numerous bays, points, and bluffs.</li> <li>• Spectacular views of northwest Coromandel Range are offered throughout the east coast of the Coromandel Peninsula, particularly within Kennedy Bay, travelling north &amp; south along Tuateawa Road, and travelling north along Kennedy Bay Road.</li> <li>• The landscape’s array of coastal and mountain landforms, vegetation cover and sea margins display a high degree of structure, and patterning, as well as considerable diversity.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landscape is dominated by the natural elements and features described above, displaying a very high degree of cohesion and continuity.</li> <li>• The farm tracks, fencing and DoC tracks within this landscape integrate comfortably into its sequence of bush / forest and landforms: they do are subservient components of an otherwise natural landscape.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds and some forest bird life are evident.</li> <li>• The surf and tidal motion of the sea within and around Kennedy Bay add to the drama and dynamic nature of this landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A location that has a strong natural signature.</li> <li>• The Range provides a strong physical and visual ‘frame’ for Kennedy Bay.</li> <li>• It conveys a very strong sense of the Peninsula’s origins.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powerful interplay of the sea and a mostly natural coastline with the Range’s natural hill country and forest margins.</li> <li>• Conveys a very strong sense of the Peninsula’s natural heritage: New Zealand ‘as it once was’.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A location renowned for tramping and hunting, and fishing around its coastal margins.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values –</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>	

Landscape Unit 19 – Coromandel Range - Northeast		
Tangata whenua	(Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

Landscape Unit 22 – Motukawao Island Group		
Physical characteristics	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<p><b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scattered offshore along the west coast of the Coromandel Peninsula are a cluster of conspicuous and prominent volcanic island landforms: their weathered, dome-like, landforms rise up sharply from the outer Firth of Thames.</li> <li>Volcanic tuff and pavement is evident around the margins, as well as below the tide line of most of these basalt islands.</li> <li>The open surface of the Firth of Thames contrasts with these highly weathered, rock formations and ‘weaves’ between them.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stunted pohutukawa, together with windswept coastal scrubland – containing hupara, manuka, coprosma, olearia, astelia, rengarenga, and other species – cling to the islands’ rock formations and their thin layers of soil, particularly on the more sheltered, southern side of most islands, while smaller, more exposed, rock outcrops and shoals remain bare.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea birds are an integral part of the islands’ landscape character and values.</li> <li>The islands are identified as part of a wider Natural Area of National Significance offshore off Papaaroha and Amodeo Bay.</li> </ul>
	<b>Human</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No human activities or structures exist or are apparent on the Islands.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 22 – Motukawao Island Group

	(land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).	
<b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b>	<b>Expressiveness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands are outliers of the main Coromandel Range and mostly comprise volcanic remnants whose sedimentary surrounds and mantle have been eroded away by the sea.</li> <li>• Coastal erosion, tidal processes, seasonal change, atmospheric conditions, and windswept vegetation combine to create a dynamic interplay between these landforms and the outer Firth of Thames.</li> <li>• The volcanic ‘plug’-like form of the islands are clearly illustrative of the formative geological processes that have resulted in this small island chain.</li> </ul>
	<b>Legibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands are completely unmodified rocky outcrops and shoals, with a character that expresses both natural processes and evokes a strong sense of being divorced from human activity.</li> <li>• The sculpted rocky landforms and battered vegetation are both highly dramatic and expressive of their coastal location.</li> <li>• The islands’ exposed landforms contrast markedly with the open expanse of the outer Firth of Thames and Hauraki Gulf.</li> <li>• They convey a strong sense of being remote, wild, dynamic and part of the Peninsula’s remaining coastal ‘wilderness’.</li> <li>• The interplay of the islands with the waters of the Firth of Thames generates significant aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands’ physical isolation amid the sea is very apparent.</li> <li>• Each island and rocky shoal is a landmark in itself: including Moturua Island, Square Island, Motuwi Island and Motukahaua Island.</li> <li>• The islands’ close proximity to one another also means that they read as a small collection, or chain, of islands off the coast of Papaaroa and Amodeo Bay, in which their overlapping forms and the sea channels between them strongly articulate the 3 dimensional qualities of the Firth of Thames.</li> <li>• The islands are visible from various points along Coromandel’s western coastline, and are particularly prominent in views from SH25 and Waitete Bay.</li> <li>• Together, they continue the natural theme evident in the coastal margins and forest of the Northwestern Coromandel Range.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The distinctive island landforms, indigenous vegetation, and consistent weathering and patterning from coastal exposure, combine to create a cohesive group of Islands along the coast near Amodeo Bay.</li> <li>• All of the islands have a dramatic profile, dynamic interaction with the sea and are highly natural.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 22 – Motukawao Island Group

	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds &amp; some forest bird life are evident.</li> <li>• Remnant windswept vegetation and variations in that cover, associated with exposure to marine elements, the time of day/year, tides, and weather conditions, reinforce the landscape's natural state and processes.</li> <li>• The wave fetch and tidal motion of the outer Firth of Thames contribute to the islands' character appreciably.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands, together with the coastal edge nearby, have a strong natural signature that is, in turn, closely associated with the 'SH25 experience'.</li> <li>• They are closely linked to the main body of the Peninsula.</li> <li>• They convey a strong sense of being remote, and often 'wild', and thus contribute appreciably to the natural heritage of the Peninsula.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The powerful interplay of the sea and islands – both individually and cumulatively – is highly significant.</li> <li>• They capture the feeling of New Zealand 'as it once was'.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An area used for recreational fishing and diving.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>'Cultural Landscape' values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

## Landscape Unit 24 – Coromandel Harbour Islands

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anchored by the pyramidal forms of Motutapere Island and Motuotuhi Island, this grouping of undeveloped islands lies offshore of Ruffin Peninsula and Oamaru Bay – amid other islands near Coromandel township that are much more modified.</li> <li>• Motutapere Island and Motuotuhi Island are large and imposing, whereas the other islands captured by this unit are much smaller and more isolated: even so, like the Motukawao Group further north, they are notable for their volcanic profiles – rising up sharply from the Firth of Thames.</li> <li>• Steep exposed bluffs and escarpments, rocky shoals, and stony beaches line the margins of each island, while the pyramidal form of both larger islands is carpeted in native shrubland and coastal forest.</li> <li>• The open surface of the Firth of Thames contrasts with the islands’ weathered, rock formations and shrubland / forest.</li> </ul> <b>Vegetation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Windswept coastal scrubland – containing hupara, manuka, coprosma, olearia, astelia, rengarenga, and other species – together with pohutukawa, clings to the islands’ rock formations and (often) thin layers of soil, particularly on the more sheltered, southern side of most islands, while smaller, more exposed, rock outcrops and shoals remain bare.</li> </ul> <b>Ecology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds are an integral part of the islands’ landscape character and values.</li> <li>• All of the islands are identified as being of National Ecological Significance, except for Motutapere Island which is identified as having Regional Significance.</li> </ul>
	<b>Human</b>  (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No human activities or structures exist or are apparent on the Islands.</li> </ul>
<b>Sensory/aesthetic characteristics</b>	<b>Expressiveness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands of this unit, together with a number of other, much more modified, islands are outliers of the main Coromandel Range and mostly comprise volcanic remnants whose sedimentary surrounds and mantle have been eroded away by the sea.</li> </ul>	

## Landscape Unit 24 – Coromandel Harbour Islands

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal erosion, tidal processes, seasonal change, atmospheric conditions, and windswept vegetation combine to create a dynamic interplay between these landforms and the Firth of Thames.</li> <li>The often quite sheer, rising profile of the islands, including Motutapere Island and Motuotuhi Island – which are both significantly larger and more rounded – is clearly illustrative of the formative geological processes that have resulted in this small island grouping.</li> </ul>
<b>Legibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The islands within this unit are unmodified rocky outcrops and shoals, or are in a state of regeneration: their character expresses both natural processes and evokes a strong sense of being largely divorced from human activity – in contrast to other islands and the ‘mainland coastline’ nearby.</li> <li>Their sea sculpted, rocky landforms and wind-shorn vegetation cover are both highly dramatic and expressive of their coastal location.</li> <li>The islands’ exposed landforms contrast markedly with the open expanse of the main body of the Firth of Thames.</li> <li>The interplay of the islands with the waters of the Firth of Thames generates significant aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
<b>Picturesequeeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The islands’ physical isolation amid the sea, but also their grouping – together with other islands - off the coast of Ruffin Peninsula and Coromandel is very apparent.</li> <li>Each island and rocky shoal is a landmark in itself, with Motutapere Island and Motuotuhi Island especially prominent.</li> <li>The islands’ close proximity to one another – as well as to other islands outside the unit – means that they clearly read as a collection, or chain, of islands whose overlapping forms – and the sea channels between them – strongly articulate the 3 dimensional qualities of the Firth of Thames.</li> <li>The islands are visible from various points along the eastern coastline, and are particularly prominent in views from Ruffin Peninsula and SH25 within Kikowhakarere Bay, Oamaru Bay and Koputauaki Bay.</li> <li>Together, they continue the natural theme evident in the coastal margins and forest of the Northwestern Coromandel Range.</li> </ul>
<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The distinctive island landforms, indigenous vegetation, and consistent weathering and patterning from coastal exposure, combine to create a series of islands that are cohesive individually, but less so as a whole due to the presence of other islands that are much more modified in close proximity.</li> <li>Individually, the islands have a dramatic profile, dynamic interaction with the sea and are highly natural – less so a group because of the other, modified, islands nearby.</li> </ul>
<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea birds and some forest bird life are evident.</li> <li>Remnant windswept vegetation and variations in that cover, associated with exposure to marine elements, the time of day/year, tides, and weather conditions, reinforce the landscape’s natural state and processes.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 24 – Coromandel Harbour Islands

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The wave fetch and tidal motion within the Firth of Thames contribute to the islands' character.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The islands, together with parts of the coastal edge nearby, have a strong natural signature that is, in turn, closely associated with the 'SH25 experience'.</li> <li>They are closely linked to the main body of the Peninsula.</li> <li>They are closely associated with the natural heritage of the Peninsula – in part because of their juxtaposition with much more modified islands nearby.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The powerful interplay of the sea with the islands – both individually and cumulatively – is highly significant.</li> <li>They depict a small part of "New Zealand as it once was" – in contrast other nearby islands and Coromandel township.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An area used for recreational fishing and diving.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>'Cultural Landscape' values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

## Landscape Unit 31 – New Chums Beach

### Physical characteristics

### Natural science

(geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).

### Geology, geomorphology, topography

- The iconic and extensive white sandy arc of New Chums Beach stretches between two prominent landforms: the conspicuous basalt formation of Motuto Point, which wraps around the southern end of the beach, and Mt Pukenui, part of the northeastern Coromandel Range, which frames its northern end.
- A ridgeline also extends eastwards from Mt Hapapawera, terminating in a steep escarpment that further encloses the southern half of the Beach, while two valleys extend inland from the centre and northern end of this coastal landscape, at the edge of Wainuiototo Bay.
- The landforms framing and enclosing the beach are notable for their volcanic profile, especially so around Motuto Point, which is lined by basalt pavement and ‘clinker’ near the sea line, as well as near Anareke Point and Motukopu Island at the opposite end of the beach and across the high ridges and peaks closer to the crest of Mt Hapapawera.
- The beach is notable for its remarkably white, silica sand, while a sequence of low dunes is found behind the main beachfront, together with a small lagoon near its centre.

### Vegetation

- Large, mature, pohutukawa dramatically line the rear of the beachfront, backed by a narrow strip of dense coastal forest, including nikau palms, that covers the escarpment backing the southern half of the beach: this part of the remnant coastal forest that is also found – along streams and in pocket behind this unit, extending towards Mt Hapapawera.
- A much larger and more cohesive tract of forest backs the beach north of its central stream – extending towards Mt Pukenui and Anareke Point. Species within this tract include pohutukawa, kauri, puriri, karaka, kohekohe, nikau, mapou, kanuka / manuka and rewarewa.
- Coastal shrubland across the top of the southern escarpment marks the western edge of this unit and provides transition into the pasture and exotic forestry inland of it.
- Coastal scrub, spinifex, and pingao grasses cover the dunes behind the beachfront.
- A small stand of pines follows the stream corridor at the centre of beach marking part of the area of transition out of the ONL into its hinterland.

## Landscape Unit 31 – New Chums Beach

		<p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of wading and sea birds are evident at the foreshore, including Gulls, Terns, Variable Oyster Catchers and Kingfishers.</li> <li>• Motuto Point is identified as a Natural Area of Regional Significance, while the escarpment, beachfront and areas dominated by native forest behind it are all identified as being of National Significance.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b>  (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A farmhouse and farm building, together with a track to both, an area of lawn and small area of pasture sit within the lowland margins of the Pungapunga River, below the ridge behind Motuto Point, at the southern edge of the ONL.</li> <li>• A narrow DoC track traverses the coastal forest escarpment from Whangapoua Beach and is the only human development within the actual beach area.</li> <li>• There are no other structures or other signs of development within this unit, although open pasture, large areas of gorse and production forestry are found behind it, climbing towards Mt Hapapawera.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is clear articulation of the beachfront and Pungapunga River / estuary margins, with a strong sense of enclosure created by the volcanic pinnacle of Motuto Point, the ridges and headlands near Anareke Point and the steep escarpment that directly flanks the southern half of the beach.</li> <li>• The conical profile of Motuto Point and the basalt pavement / clinker at its base highlight the feature's volcanic origins. The serrated profile of the ridges near Anareke Point is also very symbolic of the locality's volcanic origins.</li> <li>• These landforms contrast very markedly with the curving profile of a white, silica beach backed by pohutukawas, a dramatic escarpment and large tract of native forest; this combination of represents the archetypal, natural, Coromandel beach.</li> <li>• A clear sequence is apparent from beachfront to its dune corridor and small lagoon, into the rising sequence of escarpment, hill slopes and volcanic ridges and peaks.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high degree of legibility and memorability is derived from the physical and visual interplay of a spectacular 'white sand' beachfront, the pohutukawa and escarpment immediately behind it, the native forest stretching inland from the northern half of the Bay, and its clear blue waters.</li> <li>• The interplay between key natural elements – notably the beachfront, volcanic landforms and native forest – is very marked.</li> <li>• There is very marked contrast between the enclosed inshore reaches of the inner Bay and its expansive 'viewshaft' out to the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• The beach often feels remote and isolated; in some weather and tidal conditions, it can also feel very wild and elemental.</li> <li>• It is very memorable, even iconic.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 31 – New Chums Beach

	<b>Picturesequeeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansive, uninterrupted sea views are apparent along, and out, from the beachfront.</li> <li>• The landforms lend New Chums Beach and the inner reaches of Wainuiototo Bay a quite high degree of attractive containment and enclosure.</li> <li>• The beach and its headlands offer framed views out to sea.</li> <li>• The interplay between key natural elements – notably the beachfront, volcanic landforms and native forest – is very marked.</li> <li>• Motuto Point and its southern escarpment are highly visible from Whangapoua settlement as they flank the northern margins of Whangapoua Beach.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a strong sense of cohesion and continuity throughout the beachfront and its immediate margins, including Motuto Point and the outer margins of the Pungapunga River, that is derived from the amalgam of natural elements described above: this sequence merges with the large tract of native forest that wraps around Anareke Point and extends through to Kennedy Bay.</li> <li>• The sense of cohesion is less apparent above the beach escarpment – at the outer edge of the ONL – where pasture and gorse becomes much more prevalent.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The surf and tidal variations are very apparent.</li> <li>• The character of the coastal landscape is clearly influenced by the time of day, year and weather patterns on the 'mood' of the beachfront and its margins.</li> <li>• The presence of sea birds, wading birds and forest bird species along the beachfront and within the adjoining forest.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Chums Beach evokes contrasting feelings of enclosure and expansiveness – related to the containment of the beach by landforms and forest, and open views out to the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• The beach also evokes very strong feelings of a natural coastal environment, despite the nearby pasture, gorse and production forestry.</li> <li>• It has a strong sense of being remote, secluded and – at times – wild and elemental.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A very strong sense of naturalness is associated with the sequence of volcanic landforms, beachfront, mature pohutukawas, native forest, beachfront and clear, azure waters.</li> <li>• The presence of farm buildings, lawn and pasture near Pungapunga River has a limited effect in relation to the overall naturalness of the unit.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A location strongly associated with swimming, picnicking, boating and fishing / diving.</li> <li>• One of the Coromandel Peninsula's most scenic destinations for tourists and locals alike.</li> </ul>

Landscape Unit 31 – New Chums Beach		
Associative values – Tangata whenua	<b>Natural features/elements</b>	
	(Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>	
	(of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>	
	(whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

Landscape Unit 38 – Otama Beach		
Physical characteristics	<b>Natural science</b>	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b>
	(geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Otama Bay contains a very open, expansive, beachfront at base of a broad, pasture – dominated that faces out to the Pacific Ocean – backed by a lagoon and wetland fed by the Otama River: it is framed by Motuhua Point to the west and a combination of rising hills and a headland to the east (separating Otama Bay from Opito Bay); and this landscape unit focuses on the beachfront and wetland / lagoon area west of the estuary.</li> <li>• A clearly articulated, quite extensive, dune system backs the beach from Motuhua Point to the Otama River inlet, comprising several dune sequences that extent form the beachfront and fore dune to the pasture in its valley hinterland.</li> <li>• Behind the beach and running out to sea at its eastern end, the Otama is flanked by a small escarpment along its southwest edge.</li> <li>• The valley behind the beach is mostly underlain by sedimentary sandstone, the landforms and geology east of the river mouth are more volcanic in origin, with a mixture of alluvial sediments and dune material found under most of the actual unit.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 38 – Otama Beach

		<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spinifex and pingao dune grasses cover the majority of the dune sequence, particularly the fore dunes and exposed back dunes.</li> <li>• Coastal scrub shelters in between dune sequences and along the rear of the dune corridor.</li> <li>• Salt marsh and other wetland species line the edges of the Otama River inlet.</li> <li>• Large mature, pohutukawa spill over the inlet along its southwest edge.</li> <li>• Pasture covers the prominent headland to the east while Motuhua Point retains its coastal forest cover – including such species as karo, Manuka, coprosma, mapou, rewarewa and kawakawa.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of wading and sea birds are evident at the foreshore, including Gulls, Terns, Variable Oyster Catchers and Kingfishers.</li> <li>• Some rare wetland species, including Fernbirds, Banded Rail, Spotless Crake and Bittern are also found near the dune corridor / beachfront and its interface with the adjoining wetland.</li> <li>• Most of this unit is identified as a Natural Area of National Significance.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b></p> <p>(land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Otama Beach settlement is located east of this unit, across the Otama River, and the Black Jack Road, runs immediately south of it, and partly through, the wetland.</li> <li>• Farm houses and sheds, together with some rural-residential / holiday dwellings are also located south of the road corridor and wetland, as well as on the rising terrains near Motuhua Point.</li> <li>• There is no apparent development within the landscape unit.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is clear articulation of the biophysical nature of the beach focussed on its sedimentary beach / valley area with steeply climbing, sedimentary, hill country to the west and volcanic hills to the east.</li> <li>• A clear sequence is apparent from beachfront to fore-dunes, mid-dune corridor, then back-dune area, wetland and estuary – before further progressing (beyond the unit) into the Otama valley.</li> <li>• The beachfront’s interplay with the open Pacific Ocean is very powerful: a key physical and visual characteristic.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high degree of legibility and memorability is derived from the physical scale, profile and interplay of Hot Water Beach with the volcanic promontory adjoining and hills / ridges / headlands.</li> <li>• There is very marked contrast between the semi-enclosed inshore area of the beachfront and its margins, and the expansive 'viewshaft' afforded out to the Pacific Ocean.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 38 – Otama Beach

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The combination of the beachfront, dunes, wetland often turbulent, seas, has considerable aesthetic appeal.</li> <li>• The beachfront can, in some weather and tidal conditions, feel very wild and elemental.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansive, uninterrupted sea views are apparent along, and out from, both the dune corridor and beachfront contribute very significantly to the beach's appeal.</li> <li>• The rising hill country at each end of the beach offers an appealing sense of enclosure and definition, that is complemented by the dunes and wetland shrubland behind the beach.</li> <li>• The beach and its partially enclosing, headlands offer framed views out to sea.</li> <li>• The contrast between the beach and both its hinterland and the sea is very marked and dramatic.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a strong sense of cohesion and continuity throughout the dunes and beachfront – extending into the wetland / estuary / river as far as Black Jack Road.</li> <li>• A moderate to high level of coherence is also associated with the area closer to the road, in which there is more awareness of the farm houses and other dwellings behind the beach; this is also the case at the margins of the unit closer to the Otama settlement and Motuhua Point.</li> <li>• Coherence near the wetland and lagoon margins is also more limited due to the influence of farming activities and structures across Black Jack Road.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The surf and tidal variations are very apparent.</li> <li>• The character of the coastal landscape is clearly influenced by the time of day, year and weather patterns on the 'mood' of the beachfront and its margins.</li> <li>• The presence of sea birds, wading birds and migratory bird species on the beachfront and lagoon / estuary contributes to the beach's character.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The beach's linear form, together with its sense of expansiveness and openness – focused on the Pacific Ocean – is very marked.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strong sense of naturalness is associated with the sequence of hills that frame both ends of the beach, despite the 'shorn', pastoral, nature of the hills near Opito Bay.</li> <li>• The beachfront and dune corridor, together with the adjacent estuary / wetland, remain symbolic of the Peninsula's natural, coastal qualities.</li> <li>• The presence of farm buildings, residential development and farming activities around Otama Bay affects the sense of naturalness near the estuary / wetland, as well as at each end of the beach, so that it tends to register as an important 'remnant' landscape.</li> </ul>

Landscape Unit 38 – Otama Beach		
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A location strongly associated with swimming, surfing, walking and picnicking.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>	
	(Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>	
	(of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>	
	(whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

Landscape Unit 40 – Opito Bay		
<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b>
	(geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extensive white sandy arc of Opito Bay beach stretches between two prominent landforms – Papatai Point in the north and Opito Point to the south, while a well-defined, moderately large scale, dune system, backs the northern end of the beach – between Papatai Point and just north of the Waitaha Stream mouth.</li> <li>• This comprises a sequence of intact fore-dunes and several back dunes that abut a flat coastal terrace which is intersected by several low lying, foothills and an alluvial valley.</li> <li>• The gently arcing form of the beach is backed by foothills that have a rolling to steeply rolling profile, which becomes more markedly weathered and eroded near Papatai Point, while the actual beach has a quite shallow gradient below its dunes.</li> <li>• Behind the beach and running out to sea at its eastern end, the Otama is flanked by a small escarpment along its southwest edge.</li> <li>• The beach and its immediately hinterland mainly comprises dunes, merging with some weathered alluvial material, the hills behind it are of volcanic origin, underlain by basalt formations that emerge as small outcrops closer to Papatai Point.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 40 – Opito Bay

		<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spinifex and pingao dune grasses cover the majority of the dune sequence, particularly the fore dunes and exposed back dunes.</li> <li>• Coastal scrub shelters in between dune sequences and along the rear of the dune corridor.</li> <li>• Pasture covers virtually all of the hill country and strip of coastal terrace behind the dunes and this landscape unit.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of sea birds are evident at the foreshore, including Gulls, Terns and Variable Oyster Catchers.</li> <li>• The narrow beachfront strip of this unit, and part of its dune corridor, are identified as a Natural Area of National Significance.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b>  (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Opito Bay settlement is located southeast of this unit, across the Black Jack Road, and a second, smaller strip of development has recently occurred directly behind the southern half of the dune system.</li> <li>• Farm sheds are also found further north, again behind the dune strip, but slightly more visible from the beachfront.</li> <li>• There is no development within the confines of the landscape unit.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sweeping, 'basin'-like, form of Opito Bay is very pronounced, together with its framing by Papatai Point and – across the Bay (outside this unit) – the amalgam of Opito Point and Rabbit Island.</li> <li>• This contributes to a clear articulation of the biophysical nature of the beach focussed on its dune / beachfront strip tightly enclosed, and framed, by steeply climbing, hill country.</li> <li>• A clear sequence is apparent from the low lying, beachfront into quite steeply rising fore-dunes, then an elevated mid-dune corridor and back-dunes, that descend into a narrow coastal terrace that is – in turn – hemmed in by the coastal hill country and ridges beyond.</li> <li>• The beachfront's interplay with the open Pacific Ocean is very powerful: a key physical and visual characteristic.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high degree of legibility and memorability is derived from the physical scale, profile and interplay of Opito Bay's beach area and dunes with both the hills that surround it and the open expanse of the bay's sea area – merging with the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• There is very marked contrast between the semi-enclosed inshore area of the beachfront and its margins, and the expansive 'viewshaft' afforded by the beach out to the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• The amalgam of beachfront and dunes retained, until recently, a very marked natural quality that contrasted with the strip settlement following Black Jack Road. Some of that naturalness has now been lost.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 40 – Opito Bay

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Even so, the northern end of the beach often still feels remote and isolated, sometimes ‘wild’ and dynamic – particularly when battered by high seas and surf.</li> <li>• The combination of the beachfront, dunes and often turbulent, seas has significant aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansive, uninterrupted sea views are apparent along, and out from, both the dune corridor and beachfront: these contribute very significantly to the beach’s appeal.</li> <li>• The rising hill country behind the beach offers an appealing sense of enclosure and definition, that is complemented by the dunes and wetland shrubland behind the beach.</li> <li>• The beachfront leads the viewer’s eye towards Papatai Point, Tokarahu Point and Tokaiti Rock which combine to create a ‘feature’ at the outer edge of the bay.</li> <li>• The beach and its partially enclosing, headlands offer framed views out to sea.</li> <li>• The contrast between the beach and both its hinterland and the sea is very marked and dramatic.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strong sense of cohesion and continuity is retained throughout most of the dunes and beachfront at the northern end of the Bay: displaying an excellent example of a relatively intact dune system.</li> <li>• A high level of naturalness is derived from an amalgam of its natural elements, the dynamic and obvious natural processes at play along the beach, its orientation, relative remoteness, and wildness.</li> <li>• A moderate to high level of coherence is also associated with the area closer to Black Jack Road, although the recent subdivision behind the dunes has had an adverse effect on the perceived integrity of this part of the landscape unit.</li> <li>• Coherence around the rear of the dune corridor is now significantly compromised by the combination of farming activity, farm buildings and the residential subdivision behind the southern half of the unit.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The surf and tidal variations are very apparent.</li> <li>• The character of the coastal landscape is clearly influenced by the time of day, year and weather patterns on the ‘mood’ of the beachfront and its margins.</li> <li>• The presence of sea birds, wading birds and migratory bird species on the beachfront contributes to the beach’s character.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The beach’s linear form, together with its amalgam of sizeable dunes and an expansive beachfront, result in a ‘remnant’ landscape that is very distinctive.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The combination of a significant dune system, expansive beachfront and large inter-tidal area – that is often subject to large seas – creates a landscape that is dynamic, visually dramatic and natural, albeit moreso at its northern end.</li> <li>• The beachfront and dune corridor, together with nearby Papatai Point, remain symbolic of the Peninsula’s natural, coastal qualities.</li> </ul>

Landscape Unit 40 – Opito Bay		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The presence of farm buildings, residential development and farming activities around Opito Bay affects the sense of naturalness around the unit’s margins, especially so at this unit’s southern end, but it still registers as an important and intact ‘remnant’ landscape.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A location strongly associated with swimming, surfing and picnicking.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

Landscape Unit 42 – Great Mercury Islands		
<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located northeast of Kauwera Point, the Great Mercury Islands are a cluster of conspicuous volcanic islands, and these highly weathered, landforms range in size from isolated rock features to significant island landforms, the largest of which is Red Mercury Island measuring over 2km across.</li> <li>Comprised primarily of volcanic basalt, the islands rise sharply from the surface of the sea, gradually levelling out to create a more rolling profile on their crests. The islands’ coastal edges feature exposed craggy bluffs and outcrops, together with stony beaches extending out into rock shoals.</li> <li>Some of the islands comprise little more than bare basalt ‘mounts’ rising out of the sea, with their protrusions of bare rock surrounded by shoals.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 42 – Great Mercury Islands

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volcanic tuff and pavement is evident around the margins of some islands, as well as below the tide line of most of them.</li> <li>• The open surface of the Pacific Ocean contrasts with these highly weathered, rock formations and 'weaves' between them.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stunted pohutukawa, together with windswept coastal scrubland – containing hupara, manuka, coprosma, olearia, astelia, rengarenga, and other species – cling to the islands' rock formations and their thin layers of soil, particularly on the more sheltered, southern side of most islands, while smaller, more exposed, rock outcrops and shoals remain bare.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds are an integral part of the islands' landscape character and values.</li> <li>• Stanley and Red Mercury Islands are identified as being Natural Areas of National Significance, while the remaining, smaller, islands are mostly identified as being of International Significance.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b></p> <p>(land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No human activities or structures exist or are apparent on the Islands.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands are outliers of the main Coromandel Range and mostly comprise volcanic remnants whose sedimentary surrounds and mantle have been eroded away by the sea.</li> <li>• Coastal erosion, tidal processes, seasonal change, atmospheric conditions, and windswept vegetation combine to create a dynamic interplay between these landforms and the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• The steep sided, serrated, profile of these volcanic 'outcrops' are clearly illustrative of the formative geological processes that have resulted in this island chain.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands are completely unmodified rocky outcrops and shoals, with a character that expresses both natural processes and evokes a strong sense of being divorced from human activity.</li> <li>• The sculpted rocky landforms and battered vegetation are both highly dramatic and expressive of their coastal location.</li> <li>• The islands' exposed landforms contrast markedly with the open expanse of the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• They convey a strong sense of being remote, wild, dynamic and part of the Peninsula's remaining coastal 'wilderness'.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 42 – Great Mercury Islands

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The interplay of the islands with an often turbulent, but also frequently placid, Pacific Ocean has very significant aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The islands' physical isolation amid the sea is very apparent.</li> <li>Each island and rocky shoal is a landmark in itself: including Stanley Island and Red Mercury Island.</li> <li>The islands' close proximity to one another and distance from the main body of the Coromandel Peninsula means that they more commonly read as a collection, or chain, of islands off the coast of Opito Bay and Te Kauwera Point, in which their overlapping forms and the sea channels between them strongly articulate the 3 dimensional qualities associated with their co-location and physical grouping.</li> <li>The islands are visible from various points along the eastern coastline, and are particularly prominent in views from Opito Bay and its eastern headland (Opito Point).</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The distinctive island landforms, indigenous vegetation, and consistent weathering and patterning from coastal exposure, combine to create a cohesive group of Islands offshore of Kauwera Point and Opito Bay.</li> <li>All of the islands have a quite dramatic profile, dynamic interaction with the sea and are highly natural.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea birds and some forest bird life are evident.</li> <li>Remnant windswept vegetation and variations in that cover, associated with exposure to marine elements, the time of day/year, tides, and weather conditions, reinforce the landscape's natural state and processes.</li> <li>The wave fetch and tidal motion of the outer Firth of Thames contribute to the islands' character appreciably.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The islands, together with the coastal edge nearby, have a strong natural signature.</li> <li>They are closely linked to the main body of the Peninsula.</li> <li>They convey a strong sense of being remote, elemental, and often 'wild', and thus contribute appreciably to the natural heritage of the Peninsula.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The powerful interplay of the sea and islands – both individually and cumulatively – is highly significant</li> <li>They capture the feeling of New Zealand 'as it once was'.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An area used for recreational fishing and diving.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	

## Landscape Unit 42 – Great Mercury Islands

	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

## Landscape Unit 43 – Hole in the Wall Islands/Tahanga

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scattered offshore – east and south – of Tahanga peak are a cluster of prominent volcanic island landforms: these highly weathered landforms range in size from isolated rock features to significant islands, the largest being Ohinau Island measuring approximately 1.7km in length and 300m in width.</li> <li>Comprised primarily of volcanic rock, the islands rise sharply from surface of the sea, but levelling out into more undulating, tops (like the Great Mercury Islands).</li> <li>Their coastal edges feature exposed craggy bluffs and outcrops, together with stony beaches extending out into rock shoals.</li> <li>Some of the islands comprise little more than bare basalt ‘mounts’ rising out of the sea, with their protrusions of bare rock surrounded by shoals.</li> <li>The open surface of the Pacific Ocean contrasts with these highly weathered, rock formations and ‘weaves’ between them.</li> </ul>
		<b>Vegetation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stunted pohutukawa, together with windswept coastal scrubland – containing hupara, manuka, coprosma, olearia, astelia, rengarenga, and other species – cling to the islands’ rock formations and their thin layers of soil, particularly on the more sheltered, southern side of most islands, while smaller, more exposed, rock outcrops and shoals remain bare.</li> </ul>

**Landscape Unit 43 – Hole in the Wall Islands/Tahanga**

		<p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds are an integral part of the headlands’ landscape character and values.</li> <li>• The islands are mostly identified as being Natural Areas of National Significance offshore.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b>  (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No human activities or structures exist or are apparent on the Islands.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands are outliers of the main Coromandel Range and mostly comprise volcanic remnants whose sedimentary surrounds and mantle have been eroded away by the sea.</li> <li>• Coastal erosion, tidal processes, seasonal change, atmospheric conditions, and windswept vegetation combine to create a dynamic interplay between these landforms and the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• The steep sided, serrated, profile of these volcanic ‘outcrops’ are clearly illustrative of the formative geological processes that have resulted in this island chain.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands are completely unmodified rocky outcrops and shoals, with a character that expresses both natural processes and evokes a strong sense of being divorced from human activity.</li> <li>• The sculpted rocky landforms and battered vegetation are both highly dramatic and expressive of their coastal location.</li> <li>• The islands’ exposed landforms contrast markedly with the open expanse of the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• They convey a strong sense of being remote, wild, dynamic and part of the Peninsula’s remaining coastal ‘wilderness’.</li> <li>• The interplay of the islands with an often turbulent, but also frequently placid, Pacific Ocean has very significant aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands’ physical isolation amid the sea is very apparent.</li> <li>• Each island and rocky shoal is a landmark in itself: including Stanley Island and Red Mercury Island.</li> <li>• The islands’ close proximity to one another and distance from the main body of the Coromandel Peninsula means that they more commonly read as a collection, or chain, of islands off the coast of Red Bay, Opito Bay and Tahanga, in which their overlapping forms and the sea channels between them strongly articulate the 3 dimensional qualities associated with their co-location and physical grouping.</li> <li>• The islands are visible from the northwestern end of Opito Bay and its eastern headland of Opito Point.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 43 – Hole in the Wall Islands/Tahanga

	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The distinctive island landforms, indigenous vegetation, and consistent weathering and patterning from coastal exposure, combine to create a cohesive group of Islands offshore of Red Bay and Tahanga.</li> <li>All of the islands have a quite dramatic profile, dynamic interaction with the sea and are highly natural.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea birds and some forest bird life are evident.</li> <li>Remnant windswept vegetation and variations in that cover, associated with exposure to marine elements, the time of day/year, tides, and weather conditions, reinforce the landscape's natural state and processes.</li> <li>The wave fetch and tidal motion of the outer Firth of Thames contribute to the islands' character appreciably.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The islands, together with the coastal edge nearby, have a strong natural signature.</li> <li>They are closely linked to the main body of the Peninsula.</li> <li>They convey a strong sense of being remote, elemental, and often 'wild', and thus contribute appreciably to the natural heritage of the Peninsula.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The powerful interplay of the sea and islands – both individually and cumulatively – is highly significant.</li> <li>They capture the feeling of New Zealand 'as it once was'.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An area used for recreational fishing and diving.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>'Cultural Landscape' values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

## Landscape Unit 45 – Devil’s Point and Humbug Bay Headlands

### Physical characteristics

### Natural science

(geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).

### Geology, geomorphology, topography

- The Devils Point and Humbug Bay headlands act as the terminus for a sequence of coastal hills, ridges and escarpments stretching over 8 kilometres east of Wharekaho Beach and Maungatawhiri – with their prominent headlands framing a rocky, shoal-strewn shoreline east of Matapaua Bay.
- These steep, escarpment lined, promontories enclose the eastern end of Matapaua Bay – and its small residential settlement – as well as defining the northern interface between outer Mercury Bay and the open expanse of the Pacific Ocean.
- The headlands interact directly, and dynamically, with the Pacific Ocean, providing a dramatic ‘terminus’ to the wider (non ONL) coastal landscape between Opito Bay / Red Bay and the coastal settlement within Matapaua Bay.
- Underpinned by a mixture of andesite and basalt rock formations, the headlands’ jagged profiles and steep fall into the sea testify to their volcanic origins.
- A number of small streams scour both headlands’ foothill margins.
- The open surface of the Pacific Ocean batters against this headland landscape, together with nearby Motukoranga Island (part of LU43).

### Vegetation

- Regenerating, podocarp forest – with manuka, kanuka, kawakawa, karaka, coprosma, karo and hebes prominent – covers the bulk of both coastal headlands and adjoining hills, giving way to coastal scrub on exposed ridgelines and coastal slopes, while remnant pohutukawa line the coastal fringe.
- Pasture occupies the mid to lower slopes on the western flank of Devils Point, but this is punctuated both by scrub and remnant forest surviving within gullies and along its coastal fringe.
- Wilding pines and the edge of a pine plantation are apparent above the Humbug Bay headland and Humbug Bay (excluded from this unit).

## Landscape Unit 45 – Devil’s Point and Humbug Bay Headlands

		<p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds are an integral part of the coastline’s landscape character and values.</li> <li>• The coastline near Red Bay is identified as being a Natural Area of Regional Significance, whereas the coastline closer to Devils Point and Motukoranga Island is identified as being of National Significance.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b>  (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No human activities or structures exist or are apparent within the unit.</li> <li>• A line of pines above Humbug Bay marks the edge of a forestry block (outside the landscape unit) that lies within the adjoining headwaters catchment of the Otama River.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The headlands’ serrated, often jagged and steep-faced, topographic profile highlights their volcanic origins.</li> <li>• It also reveals the processes of weathering generated both by the sea and coastal winds.</li> <li>• This is further accentuated by the interplay between rugged, steep sided, terrain and the flat plane of the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• The rugged landforms at this edge, combined with the surf and open expanse of the Pacific Ocean, lend this stretch of coastline a powerful, elemental, quality that is reinforced by its eroded faces and the windswept nature of much of its vegetation cover.</li> <li>• Stream/river downcutting and entrenchment is also apparent either side of each headland.</li> <li>• The sequence of vegetation above both headlands’ bluffs and rocky shoreline is very expressive of natural processes and succession – from scattered coastal scrub and shrubland into wind-shaped forest, and then into more mature, developed forest canopies within the gullies and stream courses that flank both promontories.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The visual engagement between the unit’s coastal landforms and the sea is often dynamic and dramatic.</li> <li>• These factors, together with the unit’s direct exposure to the open waters and surf of the Pacific Ocean, contribute to the feeling of being within a landscape that is also remote, often raw and wild.</li> <li>• The landscape unit is distinctive and memorable, and has significant aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The unit reveals an array of natural elements and coastal features that display a high degree of cohesion, structure, and patterning, as well as considerable diversity.</li> <li>• The prominent headlands and steep coastal slopes stretching from Red Bay to Matapaua Bay combine with Motukoranga Island to enclose local bays and add to the drama of the wider edge.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 45 – Devil’s Point and Humbug Bay Headlands

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The natural qualities of this unit’s landforms are positively reinforced by the remnant coastal shrubland and pockets of bush /forest that flank both headlands.</li> <li>The coastal landscape conveys a marked feeling of being natural, notwithstanding the presence of the pines near Humbug Bay.</li> <li>The headlands and forest are clearly visible from coastal settlements lining the southern side of Mercury Bay and to boaties with the Bay – thus acting as a local known landmark.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The layering of natural elements and features described above, together with the open plane of the Pacific Ocean, create a coastal edge and hill country landscape that displays a relatively high degree of cohesion and continuity.</li> <li>The pine forest touching on the edge of this unit is mostly concealed by the crests of both headlands and the ridges between and outside them.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea birds and some forest bird life are apparent.</li> <li>The surf and tidal motion of the Pacific Ocean is a key facet of the coastline from Opito Bay through to Matapuaa that reinforces its dramatic and dynamic nature.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A remote, isolated, part of the Coromandel Peninsula, much of which conveys the feeling of being relatively untrammelled by human activity.</li> <li>The headlands are significant, natural coastal ‘remnants’ that link with Motukoranga Island (LU43) and the coastal forest landscape west of Matapuaa Bay (LU46).</li> <li>There are strong associations with both the open seas that batter the local coastline and the dramatic, volcanic headlands the define the northern ‘edge’ of outer Mercury Bay.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powerful interplay of the sea and a natural sequence of coastal shrubland and forest.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A location used for recreational fishing.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	

## Landscape Unit 45 – Devil’s Point and Humbug Bay Headlands

	<p><b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b></p> <p>(whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)</p>	
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## Landscape Unit 46 – Maungatawhiri and Waitaia Coastal Hills

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b>
	<p>(geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Together, Maungatawhiri and Waitaia act as the ‘anchors’ for a sequence of coastal hills, ridges and escarpments that stretch over 8 kilometres east of Wharekaho Beach and Maungatawhiri – with their sequence of prominent headlands, white sandy beaches and rocky outcrops defining the northern edge of outer Mercury Bay.</li> <li>• The headlands interact directly, and dynamically, with Mercury Bay – framing and enclosing its broad body of sea.</li> <li>• Underpinned by a mixture of volcanic, andesite and dacite formations, the terrain of both this coastline and its foothill hinterland is, in places, both steeply incised and physically dramatic – especially so in relation to the conical profile of Maungatawhiri, near Wharekaho Beach, and at the coastal edge where sharply defined, headlands ‘bookend’ open, sandy beaches.</li> <li>• A number of stream corridors and their tributaries scour both headlands and their foothill margins, the most significant of these comprising the Whauwhau, Woodcock, Waitaia, and Kohuraorao Streams.</li> </ul>
		<b>Vegetation</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regenerating, semi-mature, to mature, podocarp forest dominates most of the coastal edge and its hinterland – with species including kauri, puriri, tanekaha, rewarewa, manuka, kanuka, kawakawa, karaka, coprosma and nikau particularly evident.</li> <li>• Around the coastal edge and up the lower flanks of Maungatawhiri, mature pohutukawa are especially prominent.</li> <li>• Pasture occupies the mid to lower slopes of Maungatawhiri and is found in smaller pockets behind Whauwhau Beach.</li> <li>• Wilding pines and several pine plantations are also apparent above, and just beyond, the upper catchment of Waitaia Bay, at the head of the Otama River, as well as on the western slopes of Waitaia (excluded from this unit).</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 46 – Maungatawhiri and Waitaia Coastal Hills

		<p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds are an integral part of the islands' landscape character and values.</li> <li>• This landscape unit is identified as being a Natural Area of National Significance, except for the pastoral 'pockets' on the side of Maungatawhiri – which are not identified as being of ecological significance.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b>  (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baches are scattered through the native bush / forest behind Whauwhau Beach, as well as in a cluster within part of Waitaia Bay, but are generally subservient to their more natural, surrounds.</li> <li>• The eastern end of the unit also abuts the settlement and recent subdivision within Matapaua Bay – just outside the landscape unit.</li> <li>• A line of pines above Waitaia Bay mark the edge of a forestry block (outside the landscape unit) that lies within the adjoining headwaters catchment of the Otama River.</li> <li>• Pasture interrupts the sequence of forest and other natural elements on the lower to mid slopes of Maungatawhiri.</li> <li>• Most of this large landscape unit remains reasonably free of obvious human incursion and development</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The often jagged and steep-faced, topographic profile of most headlands and the pyramidal form of Maungatawhiri highlight the coastline's volcanic origins.</li> <li>• The stream courses and beaches between these features emphasise the more alluvial down-cutting that has occurred over more recent millennia.</li> <li>• Both the beach areas and headlands reveal the processes of weathering by sea and wind that have also helped to shape the coastline.</li> <li>• The rugged landforms at this edge, combined with the surf and open expanse of Mercury Bay, lend this stretch of coastline a powerful, elemental, quality that is reinforced by its eroded promontories and the windswept nature of much of its vegetation.</li> <li>• The sequence of vegetation above the beaches, headlands and stretches of rocky shoreline, progress from scattered coastal scrub and shrubland into wind-shaped forest, and then into more mature, developed forest canopies – all in close proximity to the edge of Mercury Bay: this highlights the natural successional processes at play along this coast.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The visual engagement between the unit's coastal landforms, forest and the sea is often dynamic and dramatic.</li> <li>• This, together with the unit's limited physical access and modification, and direct exposure to the open waters of Mercury Bay, contributes to the feeling of being within a landscape that is remote and (at times) raw and wild.</li> <li>• The combination of landforms, forest and sea has very significant aesthetic appeal, and the land the landscape unit, as a whole, is distinctive and memorable.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 46 – Maungatawhiri and Waitaia Coastal Hills

	<p><b>Picturesequeeness/ composition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The unit reveals an array of natural elements and coastal features that display a high degree of cohesion, structure, and patterning, as well as considerable diversity.</li> <li>• The natural qualities of this unit’s landforms are greatly enhanced by the unified swathe of native forest and coastal shrubland that carpets most of them.</li> <li>• The prominent headlands and stretches of rocky shoreline between Maungatawhiri and Matapaua Bay combine with the broad tract of coastal forest behind the coastline to enclose local beachfronts – such as Whauwhau and Waitaia Bay – to add to the appeal, naturalness and drama of the wider coastal edge.</li> <li>• The coastal landscape conveys a marked feeling of being natural, notwithstanding the presence of the housing near Matapaua Bay, as well as within both Waitaia and Whauwhau Bays, and the pines also near Waitaia Bay.</li> <li>• Maungatawhiri is a very prominent and distinctive landmark at the northern end of Wharekaho, that is also exposed to motorists on SH25.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Coherence</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The layering of natural elements and features described above, together with the open plane of Mercury Bay creates a coastal edge and hill country landscape that displays a relatively high degree of cohesion and continuity.</li> <li>• The pine forest touching on the edge of this unit is mostly concealed behind the coastal forest and ridges at the back of Waitaia Bay.</li> <li>• The housing within, and on the edge of, this unit is subservient to its more natural features and elements.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Transient</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds and some forest bird life are apparent.</li> <li>• The surf and tidal motion of within Mercury Bay is a key facet of the coastline from Maungatawhiri to Matapaua Bay that reinforces its dramatic and dynamic nature.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Associative values – District community</b></p>	<p><b>Sense of place/identity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A remote, relatively isolated, part of the Coromandel Peninsula, much of which conveys the feeling of being largely (albeit, not entirely) untrammelled by human activity.</li> <li>• This coastline comprises a large scale, natural coastal ‘remnant’ that links with the coastal headlands directly east of Matapaua Bay (LU45) and Motukoranga Island (LU43).</li> <li>• There are strong associations with both the open seas that batter the local coastline and the dramatic, volcanic headlands the define the northern ‘edge’ of outer Mercury Bay.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Natural heritage values</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This unit reveals an important amalgam of coastline (addressing Mercury Bay) and coastal shrubland to forest: a sequence that retains a high degree of unity and cohesion for the most part.</li> <li>• It is a significant part of the wider ‘remnant’ / ONL coastline east of Wharekaho Beach.</li> </ul>

### Landscape Unit 46 – Maungatawhiri and Waitaia Coastal Hills

	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A location used for swimming, tramping, recreational fishing and diving.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>	
	(Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>	
	(of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>	
	(whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

### Landscape Unit 48 – Wharekaho and Ohuka Headlands

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b>
	(geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Wharekaho and Ohuka headlands form the tip and southern extremities of a ridgeline that branches southeast from a much wider sequence of foothills behind Wharekaho and Ohuka Beach.</li> <li>• Steep cliffs and escarpments wrap around the combined headlands, while a continuous sequence of rock outcrops extends down to shoals that line their coastal edge.</li> <li>• The headlands and steep escarpments between them interact directly, and dynamically, with the Pacific Ocean, providing a dramatic ‘terminus’ to coastline at the foot of Maungatawhiri.</li> <li>• Underpinned by a mixture of andesite and basalt rock formations, the headlands’ jagged profiles and steep fall into the sea testify to their volcanic origins.</li> <li>• The open seas of Mercury Bay batter against this headland landscape, together with nearby Round Island (part of LU43).</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 48 – Wharekaho and Ohuka Headlands

		<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mature pohutukawa spill dramatically onto the rocky shoreline.</li> <li>• These are backed by, and integrate with, a wealth of relatively mature forest climbing up both the headlands and escarpments: species within this forest include manuka, kanuka, puriri, tanekaha, kawakawa, karaka, coprosma and nikau.</li> <li>• Pasture occupies northern side of both headlands, extending up to the ridge behind them and the interlinking ridgeline (outside the unit).</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds are an integral part of the islands' landscape character and values.</li> <li>• The coastline of this unit is identified as a Natural Area of National Significance.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b></p> <p>(land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No human activities or structures exist or are apparent within the unit.</li> <li>• Pasture and farming activities are prevalent north of both headlands and the ridgeline that connects them – extending down to the settlement at Wharekaho. The western end of the unit is also close to residential development within Ohuka Beach and SH25.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic The characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ohuka headlands' pyramidal profile highlight its volcanic origins.</li> <li>• The sculpted, basalt escarpments and rock outcrops around the Wharekaho headland reinforce this quality, and highlight the processes of weathering generated both by the sea and coastal winds.</li> <li>• In views from around Buffalo Beach, both headlands are linked with the rising profile beyond of Maungatawhiri to further enhance this volcanic and imagery.</li> <li>• These landforms, including their eroded rock outcrops and the wind-shaped, nature of much of the coastline's vegetation cover combine with the surf and open expanse of Mercury Bay to lend this stretch of coastline a strong sense of being a repository of natural elements and values within part of the wider coastline that is quite developed (from Wharekaho through to Whitianga, especially).</li> <li>• The sequence of vegetation across both headlands and wrapping around the rocky shoreline is a very important component of this imagery.</li> <li>• The combination of landforms, forest and sea has significant aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 48 – Wharekaho and Ohuka Headlands

	<b>Legibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The visual engagement between the unit's coastal landforms and the sea is often dynamic and dramatic.</li> <li>• This, together with the unit's direct exposure to the open waters and surf of Mercury Bay, contributes to the feeling of being within a landscape that is often raw and – at times – elemental.</li> <li>• The landscape unit is distinctive and memorable, especially so, given the coastal settlements nearby.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The unit reveals an array of natural elements and coastal features that display a high degree of internal cohesion, structure, and patterning, as well as considerable diversity.</li> <li>• The prominent headlands and steep coastal slopes stretching between southern Wharekaho and Ohuka Beach combine with Round island to enclose create a distinctive node of natural features and elements that also add to the drama and appeal of the wider coastline.</li> <li>• The natural qualities of this unit's landforms are positively reinforced by the remnant coastal bush / forest across both headlands.</li> <li>• The headlands and forest are clearly visible from coastal settlements lining Mercury Bay and to boaties with the Bay – thus acting as a local known landmark, together with nearby Maungatawhiri.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The layering of natural elements and features described above, together with the open plane of Mercury Bay creates a coastal edge and rising hinterland that displays a relatively high degree of cohesion and continuity.</li> <li>• The margins of the settlement at Ohuka Beach, together with SH25, reduces this sense of cohesion at the unit's western end.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds and some forest bird life are apparent.</li> <li>• The surf and tidal motion of the Pacific Ocean is a key facet of the coastline from Opito Bay through to Matapaua Bay that reinforces its dramatic and dynamic nature.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A remote, isolated, part of the Coromandel Peninsula, much of which conveys the feeling of being relatively untrammelled by human activity.</li> <li>• The headlands are significant, natural coastal 'remnants' that link with Motukoranga Island (LU43) and the coastal forest landscape west of Matapaua Bay (LU46).</li> <li>• There are strong associations with both the open seas that batter the local coastline and the dramatic, volcanic headlands the define the northern 'edge' of outer Mercury Bay.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powerful interplay of the sea and a mostly natural coastline that incorporates a natural sequence of coastal shrubland and forest.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	

### Landscape Unit 48 – Wharekaho and Ohuka Headlands

	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A location used for recreational fishing.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A pa site (including defensive terracing and ‘moat’) is evident near the crest of the Wharekaho headland.</li> </ul>
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

### Landscape Unit 50 – Whitianga Harbour Headland

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the eastern end of Buffalo Beach a headland frames the entrance to Whitianga Harbour. The headland comprises a dramatic linear cliff face extending southwards from Whakapenui Point that frames the entry channel to Whitianga Harbour. A series of large, pumice rich, ignimbrite columns and outcrops directly flank the harbour entrance and permeate the extensive forest cover that follows the harbour channel southwards; in places rock spurs also jut out into the harbour margins, and the resulting cliffs and escarpments are interspersed by a combination of rocky outcrops, loose boulders, and small sandy beaches.</li> <li>These rock formations within a rising escarpment directly opposite Whitianga’s township and very small ‘port’, contrast with the low lying, dune terrain that the town is founded on, so that there is a very evident juxtaposition between contrasting geomorphic formations either side of the harbour entrance.</li> <li>The cliff, escarpments and outcrops of this unit culminate in a very sharply defined, Whakapenui Point, flanked by rock shelving and outcrops, at the outer entrance to Whitianga Harbour.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 50 – Whitianga Harbour Headland

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The headland, rising escarpments and ignimbrite outcrops contrast very markedly, with the deep, clear waters of the harbour channel.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mature pohutukawa combine with coastal shrubland and forest species – including manuka, kanuka, kawakawa, karaka, puriri, tanekaha, rewarewa, coprosma and nikau – dominate the slopes and ridgelines facing Whitianga.</li> <li>Wilding pines are also prevalent, especially on higher ground towards the southern end of this unit.</li> <li>For the most part, this cover is continuous and quite extensive, but some pockets of remnant pasture and open areas around scattered residential development are also apparent.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea birds are an integral part of the islands' landscape character and values.</li> <li>The area around Ferry Landing, and the road to it, is identified as a Natural Area of Regional Significance, while the rest of the unit is identified as being of National Significance.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b> (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most of the unit is covered in native forest / bush and shrubland.</li> <li>Houses line part of the ridge between Ferry Landing and Whakapenui Point. The ferry terminal at Ferry Landing and the road through to Cooks Beach also interrupt part of the sequence of this unit.</li> <li>A few, small pockets of residual open space / pasture are also apparent.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rock outcrops and escarpments lining the margins of the harbour entrance contrast with the both the deep waters at their edge and the flat, dune landform of Whitianga across that channel. The often columnar, profile of the outcrops and their 'karst'-like appearance (similar to limestone outcrops in terms of colouring and profile) is very distinctive.</li> <li>They stand apart from the geology otherwise found around Whitianga and much of the wider Peninsula – in part because of their dramatic visual juxtaposition with the dark green waters of the harbour entry channel, but also because of the way in which they project out of the surrounding bush.</li> <li>The processes of weathering generated both by the sea and coastal winds are also apparent.</li> <li>These landforms, together with the unit's vegetation cover, lend this stretch of coastline a strong sense of being a repository of natural elements and values within part of the wider coastline that is very developed (from Whitianga to Cooks Beach, especially).</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 50 – Whitianga Harbour Headland

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sequence of vegetation across Whakapenui Headland and wrapping around the rocky shoreline is a very important component of this imagery.</li> </ul>
	<b>Legibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The natural qualities of the unit are very distinctive, clearly apparent and well defined, lending it the sense of being a significant natural 'remnant'.</li> <li>The visual engagement between the unit's coastal landforms and the harbour channel is both dramatic and has a high level of aesthetic appeal.</li> <li>This is reinforced by its significant contrast with the quite different qualities of Whitianga.</li> <li>The landscape unit is distinctive and memorable, especially so, given the major coastal settlement directly opposite it.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The unit reveals an array of natural elements and coastal features that display a relatively high degree of internal cohesion, structure, and patterning.</li> <li>These values are exacerbated by the contrast with the harbour entry channel and Whitianga – as already described.</li> <li>The amalgam of a prominent headland, exposed rock outcrops and steep coastal slopes stretching across the backdrop to the harbour entrance create a distinctive node of natural features and elements that add to the drama and appeal of the wider coastline.</li> <li>The natural qualities of this unit's landforms are positively reinforced by the remnant coastal bush / forest across both headlands.</li> <li>The unit is clearly visible from various parts of Whitianga, together with parts of Buffalo Beach and Ohuka Beach. Boaties pass the unit when entering and leaving Whitianga Harbour: it is a well known, local landmark.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The layering of natural elements and features described above, together with the flat waters of the harbour entrance creates a coastal edge and rising hinterland that displays a relatively high degree of cohesion and continuity.</li> <li>The landscape unit is disrupted in part by the Ferry Landing and road to it, as well as housing on the ridge extending towards Whakapenui Point.</li> <li>Some wilding pines disrupt the continuity of the forest cover across this unit, albeit to a limited degree.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea birds and some forest bird life are apparent.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The headland, rock outcrops and afforested framing the harbour entrance are highly distinctive and expressive.</li> <li>This unit is a significant natural coastal 'remnant' that links with the rest of the bush covered ridge / escarpment extending southwards next to the harbour, and also with nearby Shakespeare Cliff Motukoranga Island (LU54).</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The headland, rock outcrops and afforested area framing the harbour entrance have the strong feeling of being both a natural 'remnant' and a distinctive natural heritage 'feature'.</li> </ul>

### Landscape Unit 50 – Whitianga Harbour Headland

	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A location used for recreational fishing.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>	
	(Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>	
	(of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>	
	(whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

### Landscape Unit 54 – Shakespeare Cliff

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b>
	(geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shakespeare Cliff is one of the most conspicuous landscape features within Mercury Bay, an outward projecting promontory notable for its, sheer, white cliffs that is located between the inset, linear, beachfronts of Maramaratotara Bay and Cooks Beach: faced by pumice rich, ignimbrite formations, its cliffs have a dramatic profile and appearance, which is aligned with much of the steeply cliffed, coastline further east, around Cathedral Cove.</li> <li>• A much more gently rolling, cliff top tapers back to the adjoining coastal ridge enclosing both adjoining bays and beaches: the much smaller, indented, cove of Lonely Bay sits within an indentation on the northeastern side of Shakespeare Cliff. Sheer cliffs jut out into Mercury Bay flanking both ends of the white sandy beach area.</li> <li>• The volcanic formations underpinning the Shakespeare Cliff promontory are quite different to the dune and alluvial outwash formations associated with both Maramaratotara Bay and Cooks Beach, so that it projects well seaward of those adjoining beaches.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 54 – Shakespeare Cliff

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both the elevated profile of the headland, and its crest of remnant forest / bush, also contrast very markedly with both adjacent beachfronts, together with the more confined beachfront of Lonely Bay and the open seas of Mercury Bay.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mature pohutukawa combine with coastal shrubland and forest species – including manuka, kanuka, kawakawa, karaka, puriri, tanekaha, rewarewa, coprosma and nikau – dominate the headland crest, side</li> <li>For the most part, this cover is continuous, wrapping around, and framing, the cliffs, while large, mature pohutukawa flanks the steeper escarpment faces and the margins of Lonely Bay.</li> <li>An area of open space follows the crest of the headland behind the cliffs, for use by the public as part of the reserve that covers this unit.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea birds are an integral part of the islands’ landscape character and values.</li> <li>The headlands and cliffs are identified as a Natural Area of Regional Significance.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b> (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most of the unit is covered in native forest / bush and shrubland.</li> <li>A pocket of reserve open space (a grassed with scattered native trees in it) traverses part of the crest of the headland / ridge.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The white cliff faces and rock outcrops lining the margins of the headlands, its side slopes and Lonely Bay contrast very dramatically with both the open waters of Mercury Bay and the flat expanse of both adjoining bays – to the west and east.</li> <li>The Cliff’s ‘karst’-like appearance (similar to limestone outcrops in terms of colouring and profile) is very distinctive and even more dramatic than the outcrops of LU50: whereas most of the volcanic formations found up and down the Coromandel Peninsula are basalt based, and quite dark, the ‘white’ appearance of the pumice infused, ignimbrite cliffs is very stark and dramatic.</li> <li>This is accentuated by the Cliff’s steep rise from the seas around them.</li> <li>The processes of weathering generated both by the sea and coastal winds are also apparent in the crumbling and collapsing of the cliff faces.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 54 – Shakespeare Cliff

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These landforms, together with the unit’s coastal vegetation cover, lend this headland / promontory a very strong sense of naturalness, and of being a repository of natural elements and values within part of the wider coastline that is very developed (from Whitianga to Cooks Beach, especially).</li> <li>• The sequence of vegetation across the headland – above the cliffs, escarpments and Lonely Bay – makes a very important contribution to this imagery.</li> </ul>
<b>Legibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a strong interplay between the dramatic cliff line and elevated headland, with both the open waters of Mercury Bay and the adjacent beachfronts.</li> <li>• This also results in the Cliffs displaying a very high level of aesthetic appeal, that is further reinforced by the unit’s significant contrast with the quite different qualities of the settlements within Maramaratotara Bay and at Cooks Beach.</li> <li>• Lonely Bay and the outer edge of this unit convey the strong feeling of being appealingly remote and – at times – wild, despite the close proximity to nearby settlements.</li> <li>• The landscape unit is very distinctive and memorable.</li> </ul>
<b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The headland retains a collection of natural elements, features and processes, which when combined with its visual prominence and the open waters of Mercury Bay, creates a strong sense of juxtaposition and visual drama.</li> <li>• These values are further exacerbated by the contrast with nearby residential areas – as already described.</li> <li>• The natural qualities of this unit’s landforms are positively reinforced by the remnant coastal bush / forest across both headlands.</li> <li>• The natural elements and qualities of the Shakespeare Cliffs, together with its physical prominence, result in it being a clearly identifiable feature and landmark within the wider coastline.</li> <li>• The unit is clearly visible from various parts of both Maramaratotara Bay and Cooks Beach, together with parts of Buffalo Beach and the water body of Mercury Bay, accentuating its landmark status.</li> <li>• It is linked visually to a wider sequence of landscape features: Whakapenui Point, the cliffs between Cooks Beach and Hahei and the bush covered ridgeline at the rear of Maramaratotara Bay and (in part) Cooks Beach</li> </ul>
<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The layering of natural elements and features described above, together with the open waters of Mercury Bay create a coastal edge and rising promontory that displays a relatively high degree of cohesion and continuity.</li> <li>• This cohesion dissipates near Pukenui Road, at the edge of the unit, because of adjacent residential development.</li> <li>• The open space within the reserve slightly reduces the overall cohesion of the unit internally.</li> </ul>
<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds and some forest bird life are apparent.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 54 – Shakespeare Cliff

<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The headland, cliffs, rock outcrops, pohutukawa and bush across the headland are highly distinctive and expressive.</li> <li>• This unit is a significant natural coastal ‘remnant’.</li> <li>• It has strong associations with the other coastal cliff features found between Cooks Beach and Hahei (LU50 and LU58).</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This headland landscape conveys the very strong sense of being both a natural ‘remnant’ and a distinctive natural heritage ‘feature’.</li> <li>• Its landmark value reinforces this.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A location used for recreational fishing.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

## Landscape Unit 58 – Cook Bluff

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cook Bluff and its adjoining coves and bays are one of the most conspicuous, and well known, landscapes within the Coromandel Peninsula. A band of sheer bluffs and dramatically steep escarpments wrap around the northern edge of a prominent headland / ridge that encloses the eastern end of Cooks Beach and the western side of Hahei.</li> <li>• Exposed cliff faces at the seaward edge of this broad headland / ridge reveal a pumice infused, ignimbrite formation that lends the cliffs their distinctive white appearance – similar to limestone. East of Cook Bluff itself sheer, sculpted, cliffs jut out into the sea and flank a series of sandy coves and bays; the most distinctive and famous of which is Cathedral Cove.</li> <li>• An almost flat to gently rolling, cliff-top tapers back to meet a broad ridge behind this cliff sequence: extending both west and east of Lees Road, this ridge flanks both the Cooks Beach estuary and the valley that provides the foundation for Hahei's beach and settled area.</li> </ul>
	<b>Human</b>  (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).	<p style="background-color: #e6e6e6;"><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some areas of remnant native shrubland / scrub are found near the crest of the cliffs and within gullies, while revegetation is occurring near rural-residential development down the western side of the ridge above Cooks Beach.</li> <li>• Most of the vegetation on the crest of the ridges comprises pasture, with some shelterbelts also prominent: these lie outside the landscape unit.</li> </ul> <p style="background-color: #e6e6e6;"><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds are an integral part of the islands' landscape character and values.</li> <li>• The headland, cliffs, beaches and shrubland margins are identified as a Natural Area of National Significance.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of the unit comprises step bluffs and cliffs, beaches and some shrubland.</li> <li>• Several large residential houses have recently been established at the northeastern end of Hahei Beach, as well as on the crest of Cook Bluff, and partly down it (mostly outside the landscape unit).</li> <li>• The majority of the headland south of the vegetated escarpment is highly modified due to farming, with exotic forestry, and horticultural activities prominent (outside the landscape unit).</li> <li>• DoC's Cathedral cove walkway traverses the eastern coastal slopes from Hahei.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 58 – Cook Bluff

<b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b>	<b>Expressiveness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The white cliff faces, the ‘hole in the wall’ at Cathedral Cove, and other dramatic outcrops, define this landscape unit very dramatically – contrasting with both the open waters of Mercury Bay and the flat sandy beachfronts of the coves and bays between such features.</li> <li>• The ‘karst’-like appearance (similar to limestone outcrops in terms of colouring and profile) of the pumice- laden, ignimbrite cliffs and scarps is highly distinctive, but also very emblematic of this type of volcanic formation: it clearly reveals the formative processes that underpin this sequence of cliffs and bays.</li> <li>• This geomorphological sequence is accentuated by the Cliff’s steep rise from the seas around them.</li> <li>• The processes of weathering generated both by the sea and coastal winds are also apparent in the crumbling and collapsing of the cliff faces.</li> <li>• These landforms, together with the native shrubland scattered though parts of the unit lend this landscape unit a strong sense of naturalness, and of being a repository of natural elements and values, despite the close proximity of farmland, land previously used for horticulture and rural-residential development.</li> </ul>
	<b>Legibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a strong interplay between the dramatic cliff line with the open waters of Mercury Bay.</li> <li>• The ‘white cliffs’ and related volcanic landforms are highly distinctive and dramatic, especially so around Cathedral Cove.</li> <li>• This also results in the Cliffs displaying a very high level of aesthetic appeal, that is further reinforced by the unit’s significant contrast with the quite different qualities of the nearby settlements at Cooks Beach and Hahei.</li> <li>• The cliffs create strong sense of enclosure for those visiting Cathedral Cove and the adjoining coastline that enhances the apparent naturalness of the landscape, together with its feeling of remoteness and – at times – ‘wildness’, despite the close proximity of development.</li> <li>• As a result, the unit is very distinctive and has a very high level of aesthetic appeal that also makes it highly memorable.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The drama and appeal of this landscape resides in its drama and contrast with the other landscapes around it, while the enclosure of several sandy bays by sheer cliffs jutting out into the sea creates a sense of intimacy, and of the landscape being devoid of human activity, which further reinforces its sense of unity.</li> <li>• The headland retains a collection of natural elements, features and processes, which when combined with its visual prominence in relation to the open waters of Mercury Bay, creates a strong sense of juxtaposition and visual drama.</li> <li>• These values are further exacerbated by the contrast with nearby residential areas – as already described.</li> <li>• The natural qualities of this unit’s landforms are positively reinforced by the remnant coastal scrub and shrubland.</li> </ul>

Landscape Unit 58 – Cook Bluff		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The white cliffs are a key feature in views from the majority of the settlements surrounding Mercury Bay, and key views of them can be gained from Buffalo and Wharekaho Beaches; the local boating fraternity within Mercury Bay are also afforded key views of the Bluff and its secluded coves and bays.</li> <li>This landscape unit is linked, visually, to a wider sequence of landscape features: Whakapenui Point and the Shakespeare Cliffs – that is particularly apparent in views from Mercury Bay’s sea area.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cliff line, local beaches and even the areas of coastal scrub / shrubland have a high level of internal cohesion and integrity.</li> <li>This cohesion dissipates once at the top of the cliffs and near both Cooks Beach and Hahei – with residential development and open pasture / grassland becoming clearly apparent.</li> <li>Some rural-residential development among regenerating bush is also apparent near Cook Bluffs itself.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea birds are apparent.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The headland, cliffs, rock outcrops, and coves within this unit are highly distinctive and expressive.</li> <li>This unit is a significant and highly unusual natural coastal ‘remnant’.</li> <li>There are strong associations with the other coastal cliff features found between Whitianga and Cooks Beach (LU50 and LU54).</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This landscape conveys the very strong sense of being both a natural ‘remnant’ and a highly distinctive natural heritage ‘feature’.</li> <li>Its landmark value in many views across Mercury Bay reinforces this.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A location used for swimming, picnicking, walking and some recreational fishing.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	

## Landscape Unit 58 – Cook Bluff

	<p><b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b></p> <p>(whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)</p>	
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## Landscape Unit 60 – Mercury Bay Islands

	<p><b>Physical characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Natural science</b></p> <p>(geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).</p>	<p><b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mercury Bay islands comprise a number of prominent volcanic islands located off the coast of Mercury Bay and along the coast to the south – as far as Hot Water Beach: their physical characteristics are very similar to other islands addressed for LUs 42 and 43: individually, they consist of (from north to south) Little Hole in the Wall, Mahungarape Island (Round Island), Motukorure Island (Centre Island), Moturoa Island (Tower Rock), Poikeke Island, Mouteka Island (Pigeon Island), Waikaranga Island, Okorotere Island, Mahurangi Island (Goat Island), Te Tio Island, Te Karaka Island, Te Pupuha Point and Castle Island.</li> <li>• The larger islands rise sharply from the Pacific, then even out into a rolling, sometimes flat-topped, landscape. The larger islands coastal edges feature exposed craggy rocks, stony beaches and rocky shoals, while the smaller islands are characterised by protruding bare rocks surrounded by rocky shoals.</li> <li>• Comprised primarily of volcanic basalt, the islands rise sharply from the surface of the sea, gradually levelling out to create a more rolling profile on their crests. The islands’ coastal edges feature exposed craggy bluffs and outcrops, together with stony beaches extending out into rock shoals.</li> <li>• Some of the islands comprise little more than bare basalt ‘mounts’ rising out of the sea, with their protrusions of bare rock surrounded by shoals.</li> <li>• Volcanic tuff and pavement is evident around the margins of some islands, as well as below the tide line of most of them.</li> <li>• The open surface of the Pacific Ocean contrasts with these highly weathered, rock formations and ‘weaves’ between them.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stunted pohutukawa, together with windswept coastal scrubland – containing hupara, manuka, coprosma, olearia, astelia, rengarenga, and other species – cling to the islands’ rock formations and their thin layers of soil, particularly on the more sheltered, southern side of most islands, while smaller, more exposed, rock outcrops and shoals remain bare.</li> </ul>
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## Landscape Unit 60 – Mercury Bay Islands

		<p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds are an integral part of the islands' landscape character and values.</li> <li>• The Islands are identified as being Natural Areas of National Significance.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b></p> <p>(land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No human activities or structures exist or are apparent on the Islands.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands are outliers of the main Coromandel Range and mostly comprise volcanic remnants whose sedimentary surrounds and mantle have been eroded away by the sea.</li> <li>• Coastal erosion, tidal processes, seasonal change, atmospheric conditions, and windswept vegetation combine to create a dynamic interplay between these landforms and the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• The steep sided, serrated, profile of these volcanic 'outcrops' is clearly illustrative of the formative geological processes that have resulted in this island chain.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands are completely unmodified rocky outcrops and shoals, with a character that expresses both natural processes and evokes a strong sense of being divorced from human activity.</li> <li>• The sculpted rocky landforms and battered vegetation are both highly dramatic and expressive of their coastal location.</li> <li>• The islands' exposed landforms contrast markedly with the open expanse of the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• They convey a strong sense of being remote, wild, dynamic and part of the Peninsula's remaining coastal 'wilderness'.</li> <li>• The interplay of the islands with an often turbulent, but also frequently placid, Pacific Ocean has very significant aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands' physical isolation amid the sea is very apparent.</li> <li>• Each island and rocky shoal is a landmark in itself: including Te Karaka Island, close to Hahei, and Goat Island, further offshore.</li> <li>• The proximity of some islands to one another means that they often read as a collection, or chain, of islands off the coast of Hahei, in which their overlapping forms and the sea channels between them (including Wigmore Pass between Hereheretaura Point and Te Karaka Island) strongly articulate the 3 dimensional qualities associated with their co-location and physical grouping.</li> <li>• Some of the smaller islands east of Hahei read as an 'extension' of both Te Pare / Hereheretaura Point and Te Pupuha Point.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 60 – Mercury Bay Islands

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The islands are visible from various points along the eastern coastline, and are particularly prominent in views from Hahei and its eastern headland of Hereheretaura Point.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The distinct volcanic Island landforms, indigenous vegetation, and consistent weathering and patterning from coastal exposure, combine to create a cohesive group of Islands.</li> <li>All of the islands have a quite dramatic profile, dynamic interaction with the sea and are highly natural.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea birds and some forest bird life are evident.</li> <li>Remnant windswept vegetation and variations in that cover, associated with exposure to marine elements, the time of day/year, tides, and weather conditions, reinforce the landscape's natural state and processes.</li> <li>The wave fetch and tidal motion of the Pacific Ocean contribute to the islands' character appreciably.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The islands, together with the coastal edge southeast of Hahei – through to Hot Water Beach – have a strong natural signature.</li> <li>They are closely linked to the adjacent coastline and headlands – as described above.</li> <li>They convey a strong sense of being remote, elemental, and often 'wild', and thus contribute appreciably to the natural heritage of the Peninsula.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The powerful interplay of the sea and islands – both individually and cumulatively – is highly significant.</li> <li>They capture the feeling of New Zealand 'as it once was'.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An area used for recreational fishing and diving.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>	
	(Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>	
(of cultural/heritage value and meaning)		
<b>'Cultural Landscape' values</b>		

## Landscape Unit 60 – Mercury Bay Islands

(whakapapa/matauranga  
Maori / other

## Landscape Unit 61 – Hahei and Hot Water Beach Headlands

### Physical characteristics

### Natural science

(geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).

### Geology, geomorphology, topography

- This unit picks up the stretch of coastline located between Hereheretaura Point and the headlands that enclose the northern end of Hot Water Beach. It includes Hereheretaura Point, Te Pupuha Point and Orua Bay: it comprises a dramatic, stretch of coastline that is typically rocky, steep and heavily weathered.
- This coastal edge is underpinned, geologically, by basalt / rhyolite formations that have been slowly weathered and that rise dramatically out of the Pacific Ocean.
- Sheer, eroded cliffs and escarpments rise out of the Pacific Ocean, with a sequence of small headlands and indented coves framed by a rocky / stony shoreline at their base: large basalt outcrops and small islets create ‘fingers’ that extend out into the Ocean from the mainland.
- The open surface of the Pacific Ocean batters against this eroded, cliff-line landscape, together with the small islands directly off it (part of LU60).

### Vegetation

- Coastal shrubland and small pockets of remnant forest cling to the crest of the cliffs and gullies between the main cliff faces, including such species as pohutukawa, karo, manuka, kawakawa, karaka, coprosma, and hebes.
- Most of this vegetation is wind shaped and shorn, sitting atop the coastline’s exposed coastal cliffs and sheltering within its gullies; pohutukawa-dominate these locations.
- Planting is limited on the steep sided cliffs, with just small pockets surviving on and between these sheer landforms.
- Pasture and residential open space occupy the crest of the cliffs near Hahei – just outside the landscape unit.
- Wilding pines and the edge of a pine plantation become more apparent near Hot Water Beach.

## Landscape Unit 61 – Hahei and Hot Water Beach Headlands

		<p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds are an integral part of the islands' landscape character and values.</li> <li>• The coastline between Hereheretaura Point and Te Pupuha Point is largely identified as being a Natural Area of Regional Significance, whereas the coastline south of Te Pupuha Point is not attributed any ecological significance.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b> (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within this landscape unit, there are very few signs of human incursion or intrusion.</li> <li>• On its margins near Hahei, the gently undulating crest of the coastal ridge has been cleared and are largely in pasture: a number of residential properties and associated roads, buildings and plantings are also located along the ridge.</li> <li>• Closer to Hot Water Beach, wilding pines are prolific above the coastal cliffs, transitioning into a pine plantation: these are visually associated with the landscape unit, especially in views from Hot Water Beach.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The unit's jagged cliff faces, sculpted into dramatic shapes, and their fall to a series of stony shoals and coves, highlights the coastline's volcanic origins, together with the processes of weathering generated both by the sea and coastal winds.</li> <li>• This is further accentuated by the interplay between rugged, steep sided, terrain and the flat plane of the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• The rugged landforms at this edge, combined with the surf and open expanse of the Pacific Ocean, lend this stretch of coastline a powerful, elemental, quality that is reinforced by its eroded faces and the windswept nature of much of its vegetation cover.</li> <li>• The sequence of vegetation above both headlands' bluffs and rocky shoreline is very expressive of natural processes and succession – from scattered coastal scrub and shrubland into wind-shaped forest, and then into more mature, developed forest canopies within gullies and around the cliff tops.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The visual engagement between the unit's coastal landforms and the sea is often dynamic and dramatic.</li> <li>• These factors, together with the unit's direct exposure to the open waters and surf of the Pacific Ocean, contribute to the feeling of being within a landscape that is also remote, often raw and wild, despite the close proximity of residential development.</li> <li>• The landscape unit is distinctive and memorable.</li> <li>• It has very significant aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The unit reveals an array of natural elements and coastal features that display a high degree of cohesion, structure, and patterning, as well as considerable diversity.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 61 – Hahei and Hot Water Beach Headlands

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The localised headlands, rocky islets and steep coastal cliffs stretching from Te Hereheretaura Point to the northern end of Hot Water Beach enclose a number of small coves that add to the drama of this coastal edge.</li> <li>• They also contrast with the more open, expansive and low lying, nature of the beachfronts at both Hahei and Hot Water Beach.</li> <li>• The natural qualities of this unit's landforms are positively reinforced by the remnant coastal shrubland and pockets of bush / forest that intersect them.</li> <li>• The coastal landscape conveys a marked feeling of being natural, notwithstanding the presence of both the aforementioned housing and pines.</li> <li>• Te Hereheretaura / Te Pare headland is very prominent in views from Hahei, while the line of cliffs and the rugged coastline further south is prominent from Hot Water Beach.</li> <li>• Both the unit's headlands and forest are clearly visible from coastal settlements lining the southern side of Mercury Bay and to boaties with the Bay – thus acting as a local known landmark.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The layering of natural elements and features described above, together with the open plane of the Pacific Ocean, create a coastal edge that displays a relatively high degree of cohesion and continuity within and the unit and from there seaward.</li> <li>• The pine forest and residential development touching on the 'crest' of this coastline erodes some of its inherent naturalness and some of the integrity of the unit at its margins.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds are apparent and contribute to the unit's natural character.</li> <li>• The surf and tidal motion of the Pacific Ocean is a key facet of the coastline from Hahei through to Hot Water Beach that reinforces its dramatic and dynamic nature.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cliffs, headlands, coves and rugged shoreline of this unit are natural coastal 'remnants' that link with the Mercury Bay Islands (LU60) immediately offshore.</li> <li>• There are strong associations with both the open seas that batter the local coastline and the contrasting beach landscapes either side of this unit – at Hahei and Hot Water Beach.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powerful interplay of the sea and dramatic coastal landforms that is complemented by 'patches' of natural coastal shrubland and forest.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A location used for walking, picnicking (Te Hereheretaura Point), recreational fishing and diving.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 61 – Hahei and Hot Water Beach Headlands

<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A pa site is located on Te Pare Reserve at Te Hereheretaura Point, with its defensive ditch and terracing clearly visible.</li> </ul>
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

## Landscape Unit 62 – Hot Water Beach

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hot Water Beach comprises an expansive, white ocean beach that is enclosed at its northern and southern ends by volcanic cliff headlands at: the headland to the south also forms the northern boundary of the Taiwawe Stream and provides separation between the Hot Water Beach settlement and the beach itself.</li> <li>A clearly articulated, quite extensive, dune system backs the beachfront from its northern end at the mouth of the stream and estuary that lie behind the beach, to Taiwawe Stream in the south.</li> <li>This system contains a sequence of foredunes, mid dunes and back dunes – the latter facing an extensive (modified) coastal plain and estuarine/ wetland area that are not included in the landscape unit.</li> <li>A small volcanic dome / knoll also backs the beachfront, flanking the northern edge of the Taiwawe Stream corridor, near the southern end of Hot Water Beach.</li> <li>Most of the unit is notable for its dune morphology, this small dome is volcanic, basalt protrusion that has resisted erosion both by the sea and adjoining stream course.</li> <li>The presence of natural thermal hot springs accessible two hours either side of low tide (and one of the primary tourist drawcards of the beach) further emphasises the geothermal / volcanic origins of the local landscape.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 62 – Hot Water Beach

		<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spinifex and pingao dune grasses cover much of the dune sequence, particularly the foredunes and exposed back dunes.</li> <li>• Coastal shrubland and a small stand of coastal forest occupies the volcanic ‘dome’ near Taiwawe Stream, including a prominent stand of pohutukawa flanked by other, more scattered, pohutukawa and such species as karo, manuka, coprosma, olearia, mapou, rewarewa, wheki, and kawakawa.</li> <li>• Large, mature pohutukawa also spill out over part of Taiwawe Stream.</li> <li>• Salt marsh and other wetland species line the edges of the estuary / wetland behind the main dune corridor at Hot Water Beach.</li> <li>• Pasture covers much of the coastal terrace abutting, and extending partly into, the estuarine margins behind Hot Water Beach; pasture / open space also abuts the car park at the end of Domain Rd and an area of former pasture is found atop the volcanic promontory near Taiwawe Stream.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of wading and sea birds are evident at the foreshore, including Gulls, Terns, Variable Oyster Catchers and Kingfishers.</li> <li>• Some rare wetland species, including Fernbirds, Banded Rail, Spotless Crake and Bittern are also found near the dune corridor / beachfront and its interface with the adjoining wetland.</li> <li>• All of the beachfront and dune system are identified as a Natural Area of National Significance, while the volcanic promontory next to Taiwawe Stream is identified as being of Regional Significance.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b>  (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A public car park is located at the interface between the dune / beach area and the northern side of the volcanic promontory, with its pohutukawa and other vegetation.</li> <li>• The Hot Water Beach settlement, a small commercial area, and car park are located south of this unit, directly across the Taiwawe Stream.</li> <li>• Wilding pines and a large stand of pine occupy the coastal ridge north of Hot Water Beach, outside the unit.</li> <li>• An area of former pasture, now open space intermixed with recent revegetation, rises behind the public carpark and is also found on the crown of the volcanic promontory.</li> <li>• Hot Water Beach Rd runs past the unit, with Domain Rd connecting to the car park described above – inside the unit.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 62 – Hot Water Beach

<b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b>	<b>Expressiveness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is clear articulation of the biophysical nature of the beach focussed on its sedimentary beach / valley area running down to the dune corridor and beachfront, while the basalt ridge to the north (LU61), together with the volcanic promontory then foothills around Taiwawe Stream represent quite different geomorphic formations.</li> <li>• A clear sequence is apparent from beachfront to fore-dunes, mid-dune corridor, then back-dune area, and estuary margins – before further progressing (beyond the unit) into the Otama valley.</li> <li>• The beachfront’s interplay with the open Pacific Ocean is very powerful: a key physical and visual characteristic.</li> </ul>
	<b>Legibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high degree of legibility and memorability is derived from the physical scale, profile and interplay of Hot Water Beach with the adjoining valley system and surrounding hills / ridges / headlands.</li> <li>• There is very marked contrast between the gently arcing, semi-enclosed, area of the beachfront and its margins, and the expansive 'viewshaft' afforded out to the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• The beachfront can, in some weather and tidal conditions, feel very wild and elemental.</li> <li>• The combination of the beachfront, dunes, wetland often turbulent, seas, has considerable aesthetic appeal.</li> <li>• This is amplified by the presence of the volcanic promontory with its ‘top knot’ of pohutukawa and other coastal species.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansive, uninterrupted sea views are apparent along, and out from, both the dune corridor and beachfront.</li> <li>• The rising hill country at each end of the beach offers an appealing sense of enclosure and definition, that is complemented by the dunes and coastal forest / shrubland atop the volcanic promontory.</li> <li>• The beach and its partially enclosing, promontory offer framed views out to sea.</li> <li>• The contrast between the beach and both its hinterland and the sea is very marked and dramatic.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a strong sense of cohesion and continuity throughout the dunes and beachfront – extending to the edge of the wetland / estuary / river near Hot Water Beach Rd.</li> <li>• There is appreciable awareness of the Hot Water Beach settlement, car park, etc closer to Taiwawe Stream and south of the volcanic promontory.</li> <li>• The pines on the coastal ridge near Hahei reduce the coherence of the unit overall, but not to a significant degree.</li> <li>• This is also true of the public car park and Hot Water Beach Rd / Domain Rd, which remain subservient components of the wider coastal landscape.</li> <li>• Coherence near the wetland / lagoon is more limited due to the influence of farming activities and structures within and beyond the estuary.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 62 – Hot Water Beach

	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The surf and tidal variations are very apparent.</li> <li>• The character of the coastal landscape is clearly influenced by the time of day, year and weather patterns on the 'mood' of the beachfront and its margins.</li> <li>• The presence of sea birds, wading birds and migratory bird species on the beachfront and lagoon / estuary contributes to the beach's character.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The beach's linear form, together with its sense of expansiveness and openness – focused on the Pacific Ocean – is very marked.</li> <li>• The hot springs are a key feature in relation to the beach as a public 'drawcard'.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The beachfront and dune corridor, together with the volcanic knoll, are symbolic of the Peninsula's natural, coastal qualities.</li> <li>• The presence of development, roads and pasture around Hot Water Beach affects the sense of naturalness around the unit's margins, especially so near Taiwawe Stream, but it still registers as an important and intact 'remnant' landscape.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A location strongly associated with use of the beach's geothermal resource together with swimming, surfing, walking, picnicking and fishing.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>'Cultural Landscape' values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

## Landscape Unit 63 – Coromandel Range – Castle Rock

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The central Coromandel Range’s landforms are among the most dramatic and visually important on the Coromandel Peninsula: the weathered, andesite / dacite massif of Castle Rock lies at the southern end of a north-south aligned ridge that extends almost as far north as SH25 traversing the Peninsula, with this saddle sitting between the harbour catchments of Coromandel and Whangapoua.</li> <li>• The Range was formed through multiple phases of tectonic uplift and volcanic activity resulting in prominent andesite, dacite and rhyolite outcrops along the ridgeline, with Castle Rock (526m) as the most conspicuous and visually noteworthy of these: it has the distinctly eroded profile of a volcanic ‘plug’ or column.</li> <li>• Numerous water bodies (rivers, streams and creeks) drain this section of the Range to the west and east, which in turn feed into the larger river systems filtering out to the coastline around the Coromandel and Whangapoua Harbours.</li> </ul> <b>Vegetation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive tracts of forest cover this entire unit, with a predominance of podocarp rainforest, including combinations of rata, nikau, kauri and pohutukawa forest. Isolated patches of alpine vegetation can also be found on Castle Rock itself.</li> <li>• Large blocks of exotic, production forestry are located on the lower slopes either side of this unit, across large stretches of both the western and eastern coastlines and hinterland.</li> </ul> <b>Ecology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The remnant pockets of forest – often following stream courses – provide a range of connected habitats for insects, forest birds, geckos / skinks, and invertebrate species.</li> <li>• The entire unit is identified as a Natural Area of International Significance.</li> </ul>
	<b>Human</b>  (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The only structures of note comprise SH25, and a network of both public gravel roads and forestry roads that link one side of the Peninsula (Coromandel) with the other (Whangapoua).</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 63 – Coromandel Range – Castle Rock

<b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b>	<b>Expressiveness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The exposed andesite peak of Castle Rock, with its dramatically eroded, profile is the centrepiece of the ridge through this unit, bearing testament to the largely volcanic origins of both the ridgeline itself and surrounding landforms.</li> <li>• The progression from pohutukawa and scrub into mature podocarp forest and pockets of sub-alpine shrubland (interposed with areas of exposed regolith and scree) highlights the natural succession of vegetation that occurs within the upper levels of the Coromandel Range.</li> <li>• Both water based, and wind derived, erosion, together with wind shaped, vegetation and rocky outcrops highlight the landscape’s exposed nature and reinforce the variability of both its relief and climatic conditions.</li> </ul>
	<b>Legibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high level of naturalness and aesthetic appeal is derived from the combination of varied, highly articulated, volcanic landforms and layered shrubland / forest.</li> <li>• The sheer extent and relative intactness of the forestry within this unit is key facet of its appeal.</li> <li>• Much of the mountain landscape is raw and elemental, wild and remote; and is highly memorable as a result.</li> <li>• Castle Rock’s distinctive profile is a dramatic ‘punctuation mark’ and feature within this part of the Coromandel Range.</li> <li>• The ridgeline’s serrated profile, focused on Castle Rock, has a high degree of aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landscape’s array of mountain landforms and vegetation cover and sea margins display a reasonably high degree of cohesion, structure, and patterning – although this is compromised in places by the presence and extent of exotic, production forestry.</li> <li>• The linear profile of the main ridgeline, including Castle Rock, is very dramatic and visually prominent.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Much of the forest area retains significant internal integrity and cohesion.</li> <li>• The forest area breaks down somewhat at the edge of the unit: the geometric patterning of production forestry and large areas of harvested forest scar the slopes below the main ridgeline.</li> <li>• The various roads through this landscape integrate comfortably into its sequence of bush / forest and landforms: they remain subservient components of an otherwise mostly afforested landscape.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some forest bird life is evident.</li> </ul>
	<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>
<b>Natural heritage values</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A powerful interplay of volcanic peaks and ridges with a largely continuous swathe of native forest and shrubland is revealed to coastlines both sides of the Peninsula.</li> </ul>
<b>Historical associations</b>		
<b>Recreational value</b>		

### Landscape Unit 63 – Coromandel Range – Castle Rock

<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

### Landscape Unit 64 – Coromandel Range

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Coromandel Range is a large rugged landscape consisting of a north-south orientated main ridge sequence with multiple lateral side ridges / spurs and valleys off it: rising as high as 825m (asl) at the Camels Back (Maumaupaki), the Range is the central ‘spinal column’ of the Peninsula and acts as the backdrop to most inland views from its settled and heavily visited coastlines.</li> <li>• The unit’s rugged profile and terrain was formed in the course of multiple phases of tectonic uplift and volcanic activity, resulting in prominent andesite and rhyolite outcrops that are evident on and near the main ridgeline.</li> <li>• The unit’s western slopes fall steeply to the Firth of Thames and Hauraki Gulf, while its eastern ridges and slopes fall, for the most part, more gently towards the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• Although much of the Range is covered by native forest (and production forestry outside this unit), the Range’s volcanic heritage is evident in the array of basaltic outcrops that punctuate the main ridge and its more elevated sides lopes – often in a very dramatic, even sculptural, fashion.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 64 – Coromandel Range

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numerous water bodies (rivers, streams and creeks) drain the Coromandel Range to the west, northeast and east: these tributaries feed into the larger river systems running down through the Range, including the Manaia River, the Waikawau River, the Te Mata River, the Kauaeranga River, the Waiwawa River and 5 Mile Stream.</li> <li>These stream and river systems provide the focus for often deeply incised, valleys that cut into the flanks of the Range and are especially pronounced near Hikuai, around the Kauaeranga River, either side of the Camels Back and inland of both Manaia and Coroglen.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extensive tracts of forest cover this entire unit, with a predominance of podocarp rainforest, including combinations of rata, nikau, kauri and pohutukawa forest, but also secondary regeneration species such as tanekaha and rewarewa. Isolated patches of alpine vegetation can also be found on the elevated peaks at the centre of the Range.</li> <li>Large blocks of exotic, production forestry are located on the lower slopes that flanks the northern margins of this landscape unit, notably near Manaia, south of Whangapoua Harbour and west of Whitianga.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The remnant pockets of forest – often following stream courses – provide a range of connected habitats for insects, forest birds, geckos / skinks, and invertebrate species.</li> <li>Most of this very extensive unit is identified as a Natural Area of International Significance, although its margins – notably south of Coromandel and Manaia, and near Thames – are identified as being of National and Regional Significance.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b></p> <p>(land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The only structures of note within this unit comprise the Kopu Hikuai part of SH25, the 309 Rd, the Tapu Coroglen Rd, the road into DoC's very extensive forest park estate next to the Kauaeranga River, and some forestry roads on the unit's periphery.</li> <li>DoC tracks also penetrate much of the hill country within this unit.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The jagged profile of the central ridgeline's main peaks, and offshoots from them, act as the main points of visual focus atop the Range, highlighting the volcanic foundation of both the central range system and many of its related ridge / peak landforms.</li> <li>The progression from pohutukawa and scrub into mature podocarp forest and pockets of sub-alpine shrubland (interposed with areas of exposed regolith and scree) highlights the natural succession of vegetation that occurs within the upper levels</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 64 – Coromandel Range

		<p>of the Coromandel Range: this is evident in species that range from secondary colonising species like tanekaha and rewarewa into the mature kauri that remain in pockets near the 309 Rd.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both water based, and wind derived, erosion, together with wind shaped, vegetation and rocky outcrops highlight the landscape’s exposed nature and reinforce the variability of both its relief and climatic conditions.</li> <li>• The continuous and extensive, native forest cover across the Range is highly expressive of the upland forests that would have once covered much of northern New Zealand.</li> </ul>
	<b>Legibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high level of naturalness and aesthetic appeal is derived from the combination of varied, highly articulated, volcanic landforms and layered shrubland / forest.</li> <li>• The sheer extent and relative intactness of the forestry within this unit is key facet of its appeal.</li> <li>• Much of the mountain landscape is raw and elemental, wild and remote; and is highly memorable as a result.</li> <li>• Large rock outcrops and the serrated, skyline profile of much of the Range – including such features as Pukewhakataratara above Mania Harbour – act as local landmarks that help to reinforce the Range’s high visual profile and presence in relation views from many parts of the Peninsula.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landscape’s array of mountain landforms and vegetation cover and – near parts of the Firth of Thames – its sea margins, display a very high degree of cohesion, structure, and sequencing / succession.</li> <li>• The serrated profile of the main Range, punctuated by massive rock outcrops and features, is very dramatic and distinctive.</li> <li>• Much of the Range has strong connotations of being remote, wild and a ‘wilderness’.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of the forest area retains significant internal integrity and cohesion.</li> <li>• Although this diminishes near settlements like Thames, Manaia and Whitianga, the landforms and forested areas within this unit retain a high degree of cohesion, intactness and integrity overall.</li> <li>• The various roads through this landscape integrate comfortably into its sequence of bush / forest and landforms: they remain subservient components of an otherwise mostly afforested landscape, with the exception of the Kopu-Hikuai section of SH25 that is also accompanied by pockets of residential development and pine forestry.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some forest bird life is evident.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Range’s dramatic landform profile and extensive native forests – of various kinds and stages of regeneration – result in a landscape that has a very strong natural, endemic signature.</li> <li>• It is one of the few true wilderness areas in northern North Island.</li> </ul>

Landscape Unit 64 – Coromandel Range		
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A powerful array of volcanic peaks, ridges and valleys, together with an extensive and cohesive, tract of native forest is revealed to coastlines both sides of the Peninsula, as well as SH25.</li> <li>• This unit epitomises the sense of ‘New Zealand as it once was’.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This part of the Coromandel Peninsula is highly valued for tramping, walking, hunting and even swimming in the local rivers.</li> <li>• DoC’s camping facilities in the Kauaeranga Valley are heavily used during most summers.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>	
	(Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>	
	(of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>	
	(whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

Landscape Unit 70 – Tapuaetahi and Kohungahunga		
<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b>
	(geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This landscape unit captures the forested peaks, coastal slopes and ridges associated with Tapuaetahi (elevation 277m) and Kohungahunga (elevation 270), as well as the stretch of coastline located between Hot Water Beach and Tairua.</li> <li>• The coastline south of Hot Water Beach is rugged, exposed and contains a number of rocky headlands and outcrops, small islands / islets and bluffs, as well as a number of sandy beaches and rocky bays in the south; these include – from north to south – Tapuaetahi Bay, Neaves Bay, Otara Bay and Te Karo Bay).</li> <li>• Both the coastline’s headlands and rocky coves face the open seas of the Pacific Ocean, interacting dynamically, and often quite dramatically, with them.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 70 – Tapuaetahi and Kohungahunga

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Underpinned by a mixture of volcanic, andesite dacite and rhyodacite formations, the terrain of both this coastline and its foothill hinterland is, in places, both steeply incised and physically dramatic – increasingly so near Te Karo Bay / Sailors Grave and at the northern end of Tairua Beach.</li> <li>• A number of streams and tributaries drain the hills inland of the coastal edge, running along the base of the deep valleys and gullies that cut downward towards the coast.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vegetation of Tapuaetahi and Kohungahunga is predominantly remnant and regenerating native forest with coastal scrub on more exposed coastal slopes: species within the more sheltered parts of this unit include kauri, puriri, tanekaha, rewarewa, manuka, kanuka, kawakawa, karaka, coprosma and nikau.</li> <li>• The vegetation along the coastal edge takes on a more windswept character, with pohutukawa particularly apparent clinging to steep cliffs and outcrops, and lining the rear of most beaches and coves.</li> <li>• Regenerating, semi-mature, to mature, podocarp forest dominates most of the coastal edge and its hinterland – with species including particularly evident.</li> <li>• A small, and somewhat incongruous, pine plantation near Kohungahunga is also apparent near the head of the Te Karo Stream at the northern end of Te Karo Bay, but mostly inland of the main coastal ridge.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds are an integral part of the islands’ landscape character and values.</li> <li>• Nearly all of this landscape unit is identified as being a Natural Area of National Significance, except for a small coastal strip near Waipapa Island and another along the beachfront of Te Karo Bay.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b> (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of this large landscape unit remains relatively free of obvious human incursion and development.</li> <li>• Baches and dwellings are scattered though the valley behind Te Karo Bay, accessed via Sailors Grave Rd and residential development is also scattered through the bush and slopes of Pumpkin Hill (just outside this</li> <li>• The southern end of the unit also abuts the settlement of Tairua, while the northern end is close to, but largely separated from, the settlement at Hot Water Beach.</li> <li>• The block of aforementioned pines at the head of the Te Karo Stream slightly interrupts the flow of native bush through this unit from north to south, behind the coastline.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 70 – Tapuaetahi and Kohungahunga

<b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b>	<b>Expressiveness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The often jagged and steep-faced, topographic profile of most coastal headlands within this unit, and the rugged profile of this coast as a whole, highlights its volcanic origins.</li> <li>• Stream courses and beaches between these features emphasise the more alluvial down-cutting that has occurred over more recent millennia.</li> <li>• Both the local beaches and headlands reveal the processes of weathering by sea and wind that have also helped to shape the coastline.</li> <li>• The rugged landforms at this edge, combined with the surf and open expanse of the Pacific Ocean lend this stretch of coastline a powerful, elemental, quality that is reinforced by its eroded promontories and the windswept nature of much of its vegetation.</li> <li>• The sequence of vegetation above the beaches, headlands and stretches of rocky shoreline, progress from scattered coastal scrub and shrubland into wind-shaped forest, and then into more mature, developed forest canopies – all in close proximity to the edge of the Pacific Ocean: this highlights the natural successional processes at play along this coast.</li> </ul>
	<b>Legibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The visual engagement between the unit's coastal landforms, forest and the sea is often dynamic and dramatic.</li> <li>• This, together with the unit's limited physical access and modification, and direct exposure to the open waters of the Pacific Ocean, contributes to the feeling of being within a landscape that is remote and (at times) raw and wild.</li> <li>• The combination of landforms, forest and sea has very significant aesthetic appeal, and the land the landscape unit, as a whole, is distinctive and memorable.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The unit reveals an array of natural elements and coastal features that display a high degree of cohesion, structure, and patterning, as well as considerable diversity.</li> <li>• The natural qualities of this unit's landforms are greatly enhanced by the largely unified swathe of native forest and coastal shrubland that carpets most of them.</li> <li>• The prominent headlands and stretches of rocky shoreline between Hot Water Beach and Tairua combine with the broad tract of coastal forest behind the coastline to enclose local beachfronts – notably, Te Karo Bay – to add to the appeal, naturalness and drama of the wider coastal edge.</li> <li>• The coastal landscape conveys a marked feeling of being natural, notwithstanding the presence of the housing near Hot Water Beach, Pumpkin Hill and Tairua, as well as at the back of Te Karo Bay.</li> <li>• The forested coastline between Pumpkin Hill and Te Ororoa Point is very prominent in views from SH25 north of Tairua and Te Karo Bay, while the Tairua beachfront exposes the rugged, often quite dramatic, coastline stretching north of that settlement.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 70 – Tapuaetahi and Kohungahunga

	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The layering of natural elements and features described above, together with the open plane of the Pacific Ocean creates a coastal edge and hill country landscape that displays a relatively high degree of cohesion and continuity.</li> <li>• The pine forest near the head of the Te Karo Stream has a quite limited impact on the overall integrity and continuity of the native forest and hill country around it.</li> <li>• The housing within, and on the edge of, this unit is subservient to its more natural features and elements.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds and some forest bird life are apparent that contribute to the natural qualities and character of the unit.</li> <li>• The forest also provides habitat for kiwi and other native bird life, skinks / lizards and a range of invertebrates.</li> <li>• The surf and tidal motion of the Pacific Ocean is a key facet of the coastline that reinforces its dramatic and dynamic nature.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A remote, relatively isolated, part of the Coromandel Peninsula, much of which conveys the feeling of being largely (albeit, not entirely) untrammelled by human activity.</li> <li>• This coastline comprises a large scale, natural coastal ‘remnant’.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This unit reveals an important amalgam of coastline (addressing the Pacific Ocean) and coastal shrubland to forest: a sequence that retains a high degree of unity and cohesion, for the most part.</li> <li>• It is also large enough to provide a sense of ‘New Zealand as it once was’ north of Te Karo Bay.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A location used for swimming, tramping, recreational fishing and diving.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

## Landscape Unit 76 – East Coast Islands

### Physical characteristics

### Natural science

(geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).

### Geology, geomorphology, topography

- The east coast island group consists of six larger islands, anchored by Slipper Island, and numerous rocky outcrops located off the coast between Tapuaetahi Bay and Opoutere Beach.
- As with most other islands chains around the Peninsula, the larger islands have typically craggy, rocky, steep sided, profile and a more rounded to 'domed'-topped crest: Slipper Island – the largest of the group – has a gently undulating, almost horizontal, profile that generally rises from south to north. The other islands vary considerably in terms of both their size and profile – with the smaller islands typically having a more bare, eroded, form.
- Slipper Island contains a number of small golden sandy beaches, located in sheltered positions between rocky outcrops and headlands.
- The islands are again volcanic in origin, the product of andesite and dacite 'intrusions' – like the main ranges of the Peninsula, and some of the smaller islands comprise little more than bare basalt 'mounts' rising out of the sea, with their protrusions of bare rock surrounded by shoals.
- Volcanic tuff and pavement is evident around the margins of some islands, as well as below the tide line of most of them.
- The open surface of the Pacific Ocean contrasts with these highly weathered, rock formations and 'weaves' between them.

### Vegetation

- The smaller islands – notably Waipapa Island, Shoe Island, Watchman Rock, Penguin Island and Rabbit Island – are topped by windswept native shrubland and, quite often, a dense mantle or fringe of coastal pohutukawa: other coastal species include hupara, manuka, coprosma, olearia, astelia, and rengarenga, that cling to the islands' rock formations and their thin layers of soil.
- Even so, many of the smaller, more exposed, rock outcrops and shoals remain bare.
- Most of Slipper Island is covered in pasture, with a fringe of native shrubland and pohutukawa around its coastal edge.

### Ecology

- Sea birds are an integral part of the islands' landscape character and values.
- The Islands are identified as being Natural Areas of National Significance, except for most of Slipper Island which is not identified as having any ecological significance, apart from part of its southern coastline which is also identified as being Nationally Significant and three pockets of eastern to northern coastline that are identified as being Regionally Significant.

## Landscape Unit 76 – East Coast Islands

	<p><b>Human</b></p> <p>(land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Framing activity and a grass airstrip dominate the centre of Slipper Island, while some farm houses and sheds are located within and overlooking one of its western beaches.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands are outliers of the main Coromandel Range and mostly comprise volcanic remnants whose sedimentary surrounds and mantle have been eroded away by the sea.</li> <li>• Coastal erosion, tidal processes, seasonal change, atmospheric conditions, and windswept vegetation combine to create a dynamic interplay between these landforms and the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• The steep sided, and domed to rolling, profile of many of these volcanic ‘outcrops’ is clearly illustrative of the formative geological processes that have resulted in this island chain.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other than Slipper Island, the islands are completely unmodified rocky outcrops and shoals, with a character that expresses both natural processes and evokes a strong sense of being divorced from human activity: even Slipper Island retains these qualities around its margins.</li> <li>• The sculpted rocky landforms and battered vegetation are both highly dramatic and expressive of their coastal location.</li> <li>• The islands’ exposed landforms contrast markedly with the open expanse of the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• Most of the islands convey a strong sense of being remote, wild, dynamic and part of the Peninsula’s remaining coastal ‘wilderness’.</li> <li>• The interplay of the islands with an often turbulent, but also frequently placid, Pacific Ocean has very significant aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands’ physical isolation amid the sea is very apparent and their interaction with the open waters of the Pacific Ocean is both dynamic and dramatic at times.</li> <li>• Each of the larger islands is a landmark in its own right, but the closer proximity of Slipper Island to Penguin and Rabbit Islands, especially, results in them also reading as grouping of islands off Opoutere that have some appeal because of their 3 dimensional interplay with one another.</li> <li>• Despite the modification of most of Slipper Island, they all retain a natural to largely natural coastal edge that contributes to their appeal.</li> <li>• They often appear remote and part if a ‘wild’, elemental, seascape that has significant aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 76 – East Coast Islands

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The islands are visible from various points along the eastern coastline, and are particularly prominent in views from the Opoutere beachfront.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The distinct island landforms, indigenous vegetation, and consistent weathering and patterning from coastal exposure, combine to create a cohesive group of Islands, with the possible exception of Slipper Island.</li> <li>All of the islands have a quite dramatic profile, dynamic interaction with the sea and are highly natural – again with the exception of Slipper Island.</li> <li>Slipper Island’s modification affects its overall naturalness, but it retains its natural landform profile and more natural coastal fringe, its dynamic and often dramatic interaction with the Pacific Ocean, and a high degree of integrity as an island.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea birds and some forest bird life are evident.</li> <li>Remnant windswept vegetation and variations in that cover, associated with exposure to marine elements, the time of day/year, tides, and weather conditions, reinforce the landscape’s natural state and processes.</li> <li>The wave fetch and tidal motion of the Pacific Ocean contribute to the islands’ character appreciably.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The islands, except for Slipper Island’s modified ‘centre’, have a strong natural signature.</li> <li>They convey a strong sense of being remote, elemental, and often ‘wild’, and thus contribute appreciably to the natural heritage of the Peninsula.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The powerful interplay of the sea and islands – both individually and cumulatively – is highly significant.</li> <li>Most of the islands capture the feeling of New Zealand ‘as it once was’.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An area used for recreational fishing and diving.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	

## Landscape Unit 76 – East Coast Islands

	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	
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## Landscape Unit 81 – Momoparaua – Southern slopes

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The southern slopes of Momoparaua pick up a relatively isolated, dome shaped landform, covered in native forest, that falls away in a southeasterly direction from the ridgeline located along its northern and western boundaries. It also picks up the steeper slopes of the Stony Stream escarpment running along the unit’s western boundary. At a macro level this landform is located in the tract of land separating the Coromandel Range and its foothills from the eastern coastline.</li><li>• This part of the Range’s eastern flanks was formed during successive periods of volcanic activity and is underlain by a combination of pumice-infused andesite and rhyolite / dacite: its rugged profile and terrain has been further modified by alluvial downcutting, but is not as dramatic as that of the main Range’s and their central ridgeline.</li><li>• Even so, rocky outcrops are evident on some of the steeper slopes along the Stony Stream escarpment reveals evidence of erosion and of the underlying bedrock material.</li><li>• Numerous water bodies (rivers, streams and creeks) drain through, and out of, Momoparaua to the south then – via Stony Stream – to the Tairua River.</li><li>• These stream and river systems provide the focus for often deeply incised, valleys that cut into the southern and western flanks of Momoparaua above Stony Stream.</li></ul>
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## Landscape Unit 81 – Momoparaua – Southern slopes

		<p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive tracts of mostly regenerating and mature podocarp forest cover this entire unit, including combinations of rata, kauri, tawa, totara, tanekaha, kohekohe, rimu and nikau.</li> <li>• The unit is also flanked by pastoral farming to the south and southeast.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The remnant pockets of forest – often following stream courses – provide a range of connected habitats for insects, forest birds, geckos / skinks, and invertebrate species.</li> <li>• This unit is identified as part of wider Natural Area of National Significance.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b></p> <p>(land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no structures or activities within this landscape unit.</li> <li>• Framing activity and pasture are found on its margins, but outside the unit.</li> <li>• Some wilding pines are present within the unit.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ‘dome’-like profile of Momoparaua reflects its volcanic formation and geology.</li> <li>• The regenerating to mature, forest across most of Momoparaua highlights the natural succession of vegetation that occurs within the lower levels of the Coromandel Range: this is evident in species that range from secondary colonising species like tanekaha and rewarewa into the mature podocarp species found within its valley areas.</li> <li>• Alluvial / Colluvial erosion of local landforms, together with some wind shaped, vegetation and rocky outcrops highlight the landscape’s exposed nature and reinforce the variability of both its relief and climatic conditions.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high level of naturalness and aesthetic appeal is derived from the combination of varied, highly articulated, volcanic landforms and layered shrubland / forest.</li> <li>• The extent and relative intactness of the forestry within this unit is a key facet of its appeal.</li> <li>• Large rock outcrops near Stony Creek and the domed skyline profile of the hill landscape enhance its visual presence and sense of naturalness.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landscape’s array of landforms and vegetation cover display a high degree of cohesion, structure, and sequencing / succession.</li> <li>• The domed to undulating profile of Momoparaua, punctuated in places by rock outcrops, is dramatic and distinctive.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 81 – Momoparaua – Southern slopes

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The interplay of forest with deeply etched stream courses and rock outcrops – especially so near Stony Stream and its tributaries – is an important feature of this landscape.</li> <li>• The scale, cohesion and extent of the mountain landform and forest cover contribute to its high level of aesthetic appeal.</li> <li>• It also has strong connotations of being remote and part of a wider ‘wilderness’.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of the forest area retains significant internal integrity and cohesion.</li> <li>• Although this diminishes near the farmed pasture to the south and southeast, it does not impact on the integrity of the forest area and volcanic landforms at the core of this landscape unit.</li> <li>• McBeth Rd and part of SH25 running past Momoparaua have little effect on the unit’s overall coherence and continuity.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some forest bird life is evident and contributes to its sense of naturalness.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mountain’s distinctive landform profile and extensive native forest – of various kinds and stages of regeneration – result in a landscape that has a very strong natural, endemic signature.</li> <li>• It complements the forests, volcanic peaks and streams of the nearby Wharekawa River, Paritu and Kaituna Stream Southern Escarpments (LU82) and the Coromandel Range (LU64).</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This unit conveys a sense of ‘New Zealand as it once was’.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

## Landscape Unit 82 – Wharekawa River, Paritu and Kaituna Stream Southern Escarpments

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This landscape unit consists of a series of rolling hill landforms and river/stream escarpments located between the Coromandel Range and foothills, and the Wharekawa Harbour catchment at the edge of Opoutere and the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• Its volcanic, ridged landform – underpinned by both pumice-rich ignimbrite and more enduring, rhyolite formations – rises steeply up from the relatively flat, to gently sloping, valley terrain around McBeth Rd and (to the west) Kitahi Rd; its profile is clearly legible, but is also suppressed in places by the broad swathe of regenerating to mature, native forest covering its main slopes and ridges.</li> <li>• This unit is flanked by the Kaituna Stream to the west, by the Wharekawa River to the south, and by the Paritu and Tawatawa Streams to the east and northeast: with the Kaituna and Paritu Stream systems cutting into, and through, the landscape unit to form steeply incised, valleys.</li> <li>• A number of smaller streams and tributaries also cut through this unit, scouring its slopes.</li> </ul>
	<b>Human</b>  (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).	<p style="background-color: #e6e6e6; margin: 0;"><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive tracts of mostly regenerating and mature podocarp forest cover this entire unit, including combinations of rata, kauri, tawa, totara, tanekaha, kohekohe, rimu and nikau.</li> <li>• The unit is also flanked by pastoral farming within the adjoining river valleys – near McBeth and Kitahi Roads: this includes a section of pastoral land located in the centre of this unit that runs along a north-south aligned ridge, which has been excluded from this unit.</li> </ul> <p style="background-color: #e6e6e6; margin: 0;"><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The remnant pockets of forest – often following stream courses – provide a range of connected habitats for insects, forest birds, geckos / skinks, and invertebrate species.</li> <li>• This unit is identified as part of wider Natural Area of National Significance.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 82 – Wharekawa River, Paritu and Kaituna Stream Southern Escarpments

<b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b>	<b>Expressiveness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ox-bow shape and sharp relief of both the ridges and valleys found within this unit reflect its volcanic formation and geology.</li> <li>• The regenerating to mature forest also found throughout it highlights the natural succession of vegetation that occurs within the lower levels of the Coromandel Range: this is evident in species that range from secondary colonising species like tanekaha and rewarewa into the mature podocarp species found within its more incised, valley areas.</li> <li>• Alluvial / Colluvial erosion of local landforms, together with some wind shaped, vegetation and rocky outcrops highlight the landscape's exposed nature and reinforce the variability of both its relief and climatic conditions.</li> <li>• The continuous and extensive, native forest cover is expressive of the hill country forests that would have once covered much of northern New Zealand.</li> </ul>
	<b>Legibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high level of naturalness and aesthetic appeal is derived from the combination of varied, well articulated, volcanic landforms and layered shrubland / forest.</li> <li>• The extent and relative intactness of the forestry within this unit makes an important contribution to its overall sense of naturalness.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landscape's array of landforms and vegetation cover display a high degree of cohesion, structure, and sequencing / succession.</li> <li>• The undulating landforms found within this unit are distinctive in places.</li> <li>• The interplay of forest with deeply etched stream courses and their stony fairways – especially so near the Paritu and Tawatawa Streams and their tributaries – is an important feature of this landscape.</li> <li>• The scale, cohesion and extent of the mountain landform and forest cover contribute to its high level of aesthetic appeal.</li> <li>• It also has strong connotations of being remote and part of a wider 'wilderness'.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of the forest area retains significant internal integrity and cohesion.</li> <li>• Although this diminishes near the farmed pasture areas near McBeth and Kitahi Roads, it does not impact on the integrity of the forest area and volcanic landforms at the core of this landscape unit.</li> <li>• McBeth Rd and Kitahi Rd have little effect on the unit's overall coherence and continuity.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some forest bird life is evident and contributes to its sense of naturalness.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landscape unit's well articulated, landforms and extensive native forest – of various kinds and stages of regeneration – result in a landscape that has a very strong natural, endemic signature.</li> <li>• It complements the forests, volcanic peaks and streams of both Momoparaua nearby (LU81) and the wider Coromandel Range (LU64).</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 82 – Wharekawa River, Paritu and Kaituna Stream Southern Escarpments

	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This unit conveys a sense of 'New Zealand as it once was'.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>	
	(Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>	
	(of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>'Cultural Landscape' values</b>	
	(whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

## Landscape Unit 83 – Southeastern Coastline

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b>
	(geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This unit includes a length of coastline approximately 10km long, stretching from Wharekawa Harbour to the north side of Whangamata Harbour: the northern half of the coastline is typically very steep, rugged and remote, with elevated and exposed, bluffs and steep rocky embankments flanking a series of small coves and rocks shoals.</li> <li>South of Onemana, a series of small sandy bays is apparent, separated and defined by rocky bluffs, headlands and islands to create a very indented and convoluted stretch of coast, most of which is backed by more rolling to gently rolling, hill country.</li> <li>These landforms are founded on the rhyolite formations that extend south of Wharekawa Harbour, with erosion by the sea, sculpting the coastal edge into a sequence of spectacular bluffs, escarpments and islets.</li> <li>The volcanic origins of this coastline are occasionally evident in the weathered volcanic pavement found at the foot of cliffs and small islands.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 83 – Southeastern Coastline

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of small streams scour the slopes and main coastal ridge behind this landscape, resulting in evident downcutting at locations like Onemana.</li> <li>• The resulting beachfronts at Onemana and further south, with their small backshore terraces, contrast very markedly with the eroded cliffs and crags of the rest of this coastline.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native windswept vegetation fringes the majority of the length of this coastline, backing its array of rocky bluffs and escarpments, and its sandy beaches – apart from a developed Onemana Beach – and also fill in many of the stream gullies that wind down to the coast: species within these areas include pohutukawa, manuka, kanuka, kawakawa, karaka, coprosma, karo and hebes.</li> <li>• Stands of large, mature, pohutukawa help to define much of the coastal edge.</li> <li>• Behind this fringe, large blocks of pines climb up the coastal ridge – moreso at the northern and southern ends of the unit – and wilding pines permeate much of the shrubland / scrub closer to the coastline, often within this unit.</li> <li>• Large areas of pasture are also prominent on the coastal ridge behind this landscape unit.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds are an integral part of the islands’ landscape character and values.</li> <li>• Much of this unit – from Onemana southwards to just north of Patuhamo Point – is identified as a Natural Area of National Significance, while a strip of coastline from Patuhamo Point to the end of the unit, just west of Te Karaka Point, is identified as being of Regional Significance.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Human</b></p> <p>(land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The settlement of Onemana is located about half way down this stretch of coastline, set into the base and southern slopes of a small, low-lying valley. The properties are set back from the beach and separated from it by a grassed public reserve.</li> <li>• A number of other sizable residential properties are located south of Onemana in prominent positions on the ridgeline behind this unit.</li> <li>• Other built structures inland of the unit comprise a number of farm houses, sheds, and ancillary buildings, while Peninsula Rd runs down the inland length of the unit.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The unit’s jagged cliff faces, sculpted into dramatic shapes, and their fall to a series of stony shoals and coves, highlights the coastline’s volcanic origins, together with the processes of weathering generated both by the sea and coastal winds.</li> <li>• This is further accentuated by the interplay between rugged, steep sided, terrain and the flat plane of the Pacific Ocean.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 83 – Southeastern Coastline

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rugged landforms at this edge, combined with the surf and open expanse of the Pacific Ocean, lend this stretch of coastline a powerful, elemental, quality that is reinforced by its eroded faces and the windswept nature of much of its vegetation cover.</li> <li>• The sequence of vegetation above both headlands' bluffs and rocky shoreline is moderately expressive of natural processes and succession – from scattered coastal scrub and shrubland into more mature, developed forest pockets within gullies and on some cliff tops, although the prevalence of pines in parts of this unit dilutes this imagery somewhat.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Legibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The visual engagement between the unit's coastal landforms and the sea is often dynamic and dramatic.</li> <li>• These factors, together with the unit's direct exposure to the open waters and surf of the Pacific Ocean, contribute to the feeling of being within a landscape that is also remote, often raw and wild, despite the close proximity of residential development within Onemana and southwards.</li> <li>• The landscape unit is distinctive and memorable.</li> <li>• It has very significant aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Picturesequeness/ composition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The unit reveals an array of natural elements and coastal features that display a high degree of cohesion, structure, and patterning, as well as considerable diversity.</li> <li>• Significant landmarks down this coastline include: Ruahiwihiwi Point, Pakahakaha Bay, Omatupotiki Point, Tokakahakaha Island, Te Ananui Point, Patuhamo Point, Te Puia Point and Te Karaka Point.</li> <li>• The localised headlands, rocky islets and coastal cliffs of this coastline enclose a number of small coves and beaches that add to the drama of its coastal edge.</li> <li>• They also contrast with the more open, expansive and low lying, nature of the beachfront at Onemana.</li> <li>• The natural qualities of this unit's landforms are positively reinforced by the remnant coastal shrubland and pockets of bush / forest that intersect them.</li> <li>• The coastal landscape conveys a marked feeling of being natural, notwithstanding the presence of both the aforementioned housing and pines.</li> <li>• Onemana is attractively enclosed, both by the beach at its 'front' and the prominent headlands either side of it.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Coherence</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The layering of natural elements and features described above, together with the open plane of the Pacific Ocean, create a coastal edge that displays a relatively high degree of cohesion and continuity within and the unit and from there seaward.</li> <li>• The pine forest and residential development along the rear of this coastline erodes some of its inherent naturalness and some of the integrity of the unit at its margins.</li> <li>• This is also the case around the settlement of Onemana.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 83 – Southeastern Coastline

	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea birds are apparent and contribute to the unit's natural character.</li> <li>The surf and tidal motion of the Pacific Ocean is a key facet of the coastline from Hahei through to Hot Water Beach that reinforces its dramatic and dynamic nature.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cliffs, headlands, coves and rugged shoreline of this unit are natural coastal 'remnants' that both contrast with, and link, the Wharekawa and Whangamata Harbours at each end of this landscape unit.</li> <li>There are strong associations with both the open seas that batter the local coastline and the contrasting beach landscape at the centre of this unit fronting Onemana.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A very powerful interplay is evident between the sea and the sequence of dramatic coastal landforms down this coastline – that are complemented by 'patches' of natural coastal shrubland and forest.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A location used for walking, picnicking (Onemana), recreational fishing and diving.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>'Cultural Landscape' values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	

## Landscape Unit 87 – Southeastern Islands

<b>Physical characteristics</b>	<b>Natural science</b>  (geology, geomorphology, topography, soil and natural vegetation, ecology).	<b>Geology, geomorphology, topography</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The southeastern islands are a collection several rocky islands and outcrops located along the east coast from Wharekawa Harbour to Whangamata Beach: these islands vary in size, with Hauturu Island near Whangamata being the largest, but are characterised by their exposed, rugged forms in some cases intersected by small, sandy beaches at low tide.</li> <li>• As with other islands further north, the larger islands rise sharply from the Pacific, levelling out into a rolling, sometimes flat-topped, landscape; their coastal edges feature exposed craggy rocks, stony to (in some cases) sandy beaches and rocky shoals.</li> <li>• The smaller islands often comprise little more than protruding rock ‘mounts’ and shoals; some smaller islets near Wharekawa Harbour appear to be little more than a collection of jumbled rock forms.</li> <li>• Comprised primarily of volcanic rhyolite, the islands rise sharply from the surface of the sea, gradually levelling out to create a more rolling profile on their crests. The islands’ coastal edges feature exposed craggy bluffs and outcrops, together with stony beaches extending out into rock shoals.</li> <li>• Volcanic tuff and pavement is evident around the margins of some islands, as well as below the tide line of most, while low tide affords a sandy bridge out to Hauturu directly offshore of Whangamata’s ocean beach. them.</li> <li>• The open surface of the Pacific Ocean contrasts with these highly weathered, rock formations and ‘weaves’ between them.</li> </ul>
	<b>Human</b>  (land uses, buildings, structures, settlements, roads and utility networks, artificial vegetation patterns).	<b>Vegetation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stunted pohutukawa, together with windswept coastal scrubland – containing hupara, manuka, coprosma, olearia, astelia, rengarenga, and other species – cling to the islands’ rock formations and their thin layers of soil, particularly on the more sheltered, southern side of most islands, while smaller, more exposed, rock outcrops and shoals remain bare.</li> </ul> <b>Ecology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds are an integral part of the islands’ landscape character and values.</li> <li>• The Islands are identified as being Natural Areas of Regional Significance.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No human activities or structures exist or are apparent on the Islands.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 87 – Southeastern Islands

<b>Sensory/ aesthetic characteristics</b>	<b>Expressiveness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands are outliers of the main Coromandel Range and mostly comprise volcanic remnants whose sedimentary surrounds and mantle have been eroded away by the sea.</li> <li>• Coastal erosion, tidal processes, seasonal change, atmospheric conditions, and windswept vegetation combine to create a dynamic interplay between these landforms and the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• The steep sided, serrated, profile of these volcanic ‘outcrops’ are clearly illustrative of the formative geological processes that have resulted in this island chain.</li> </ul>
	<b>Legibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands are completely unmodified rocky outcrops and shoals, with a character that expresses both natural processes and evokes a strong sense of being divorced from human activity.</li> <li>• The sculpted rocky landforms and battered vegetation are both highly dramatic and expressive of their coastal location.</li> <li>• The islands’ exposed landforms contrast markedly with the open expanse of the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• They convey a strong sense of being remote, wild, dynamic and part of the Peninsula’s remaining coastal ‘wilderness’.</li> <li>• The interplay of the islands with an often turbulent, but also frequently placid, Pacific Ocean has very significant aesthetic appeal.</li> </ul>
	<b>Picturesequeeness/ composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands’ physical isolation amid the sea is very apparent.</li> <li>• Each island and rocky shoal is a landmark in itself: including Hauturu Island the Maukaha Rocks and Whenuakura Island, close to Whangamata and Hikunui Island off the mouth of the Wharekawa Harbour.</li> <li>• The islands off Whangamata also ‘read’ as a grouping of islands, in which their overlapping forms and the sea channels between them strongly articulate the 3 dimensional qualities associated with their co-location and physical grouping.</li> <li>• This grouping of islands also helps to visually ‘contain’ Whangamata’s beachfront, adding to its appeal.</li> <li>• Some of the smaller islands south of Onemana, also read as an ‘extension’ of the Southeastern Coastline (LU83).</li> <li>• The islands are visible from various points along the eastern coastline, and are particularly prominent in views from Opoutere Beach next to Wharekawa Harbour, and the ocean beach at Whangamata.</li> </ul>
	<b>Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The distinctive island landforms, indigenous vegetation, and consistent weathering and patterning from coastal exposure, combine to create a cohesive group of Islands.</li> <li>• All of the islands have a quite dramatic profile, dynamic interaction with the sea and are highly natural.</li> </ul>
	<b>Transient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea birds and some forest bird life are evident.</li> <li>• Remnant windswept vegetation and variations in that cover, associated with exposure to marine elements, the time of day/year, tides, and weather conditions, reinforce the landscape’s natural state and processes.</li> <li>• The wave fetch and tidal motion of the Pacific Ocean contribute to the islands’ character appreciably.</li> </ul>

## Landscape Unit 87 – Southeastern Islands

<b>Associative values – District community</b>	<b>Sense of place/identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The islands, together with the coastal edge of LU83 and the Waikaukau Point Headland at the southern end of Whangamata, have a strong natural signature.</li> <li>• They are closely linked to these adjacent coastlines and headlands – as described above.</li> <li>• They convey a strong sense of being remote, elemental, and often ‘wild’, and thus contribute appreciably to the natural heritage of the Peninsula.</li> </ul>
	<b>Natural heritage values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The powerful interplay of the sea and islands – both individually and cumulatively – is highly significant.</li> <li>• They capture the feeling of New Zealand ‘as it once was’.</li> </ul>
	<b>Historical associations</b>	
	<b>Recreational value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An area used for recreational fishing, diving and – in the case of Hauturu Island – walking and swimming.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative values – Tangata whenua</b>	<b>Natural features/elements</b>  (Waahi tapu /significant, meaningful)	
	<b>Sites/places/trails</b>  (of cultural/heritage value and meaning)	
	<b>‘Cultural Landscape’ values</b>  (whakapapa/matauranga Maori / other)	