

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – TE POUAHI HEADLAND
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types <small>(refer to list overleaf)</small> Dune complex Coastal cliffs / escarpment Reefs and islands	<p>The southern end of a much larger beach system.</p> <p>Dunefields continue north, but are planted in plantation at their landward extent. Landform rises from the west and plunges over vegetated flanks to the harbour off the back of Rangitira (the highest point).</p>
Geology <small>(including geopreservation sites)</small>	<p>Dunes formed of quarternary sands. Outcrops of basalt on beach, and small areas of sandstone and limestone at the highest point of the landform.</p> <p>NZ Geopres Inventory: Hokianga sand dunes – a large area of active sand dunes reaching heights of 200m. Classified as an extremely well defined landform of scientific, educational and scenic value.</p>
Soil Types	Extensive mobile sands. Small pockets of Arapohue clay and Omanaia clay loam on harbour side flanks.
Ecology <small>(including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)</small>	Active sand dunes with scattered cover of <i>Spinifex</i> and indigenous shrubland on Hokianga Harbour flank. As part of a wider ecological area, noted as a representative site for 6 ecological units, and location of 4 species of threatened flora and 5 species of threatened fauna.
Archaeological sites	Contains numerous midden, terraces and several pa. Possible shipwreck remains in nearby CMA. Approximately 40 recorded archaeological sites, primarily focused around the open and harbour coastlines and related flanks.
Heritage Landscapes	General area known to be the site of a large number of shipwrecks.
Landscape characterisation <small>(including the identification of any specific characteristics)</small>	
<p>An extremely distinctive landscape marking the northern mouth of Hokianga Harbour. Unique in terms of the scale of the apex of the dunes/landform and the way in which the active sand spills into the more sheltered and vegetated context of the harbour. Seen to have a close relationship with the breaking seas of the Hokianga bar when looking out. Pairs with the harder, vegetated form of South Head to define the harbour mouth. The area ramps up in an undulating fashion from the west coast to an apex around the peak called Rangitira, then drops steeply to the harbour in the vicinity of Whanui Creek. This face of exposed sand is arguably the most recognised and influential aspect of Te Pouahi for the majority of people when seen from SH12, Omapere and Opononi. It is a central component of the identity of the outer Hokianga.</p> <p>Whilst some of the least mobile, seaward faces of Te Pouhi feature pockets of <i>Spinifex</i>, the majority of the area is characterised by open, moving sand. Some of the slopes dropping down to the harbour are heavily vegetated in manuka-dominant associations, with those areas coinciding with pockets of Arapohue clay.</p>	

EVALUATION		
Criteria	Rank	Comment
Natural Science Factors		
Representativeness Natural landscapes are clearly characteristic of the area, district or region. The key components of the landscape will be present in a way that defines the character of the place and distills its character and essence. Endemic associations.	5	An extremely distinctive landform that is specific to the Hokianga mouth. Brings a very graphic example of a natural process into a more modified context of the settled mouth of the harbour. Vegetation associations almost entirely natural.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	5	Whilst the component elements are not especially rare, this assemblage and its relationship with the harbour mouth is.
Aesthetic Values		
Coherence The patterns of land cover and land use are largely in harmony with the underlying natural pattern of the landform of the area and there are no significant discordant elements of land cover or land use.	5	Highly unified and cohesive, reflective active processes and underlying soil types.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	4	Bold and graphic, composed of a limited number of components. Despite a relatively simple morphology, Te Pouahi interacts with, and is a product of, a diversity of forces, from the harbour mouth currents and waves, west coast exposure, wind, influences from within the harbour.
Vividness Natural features and landscape are widely recognized across the community and beyond the local area and remain clearly in the memory; striking landscapes are symbolic of an area due to their recognisable and memorable qualities.	5	Extremely distinctive, powerful and memorable. A key part of the outer Hokianga's character and with layers of meaning for those with a spiritual involvement with the place.
Naturalness How affected by human activity is the landscape? Does human activity intrude on the landscape? Eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of buildings and associated built development. • Presence of infrastructure services. • Extent of indigenous forest cover. • Homogeneity of exotic vegetation. • Presence / extent of modified agricultural land use. • Strength of natural processes / ecological patterns. • Unmodified and legible physical relief and landform. • Presence of water. 	5	Almost entirely natural, free of buildings and infrastructure. Shifting sands and vegetation patterns are a function of natural forces and underlying geology / soils. Highly dynamic in the ongoing face of those powers. Strong relationship with the outer west coast, harbour mouth and inner harbour, each of which bring a discrete and different coastal character to that segment of Te Pouahi. Minor adverse influence from pine plantation in the background, but this is distant and relatively minor, placed in a subservient mode by the greater presence of this ONL.
Intactness Natural systems are intact and aesthetically coherent and do not display significant visual signs of human modification, intervention or manipulation, visually intact and highly aesthetic natural landscapes.	5	Extremely intact and functional. No visible sign of human modification with the exception of the pine plantation on the northern boundary of the unit.
Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	5	Graphically expressive, with the mass of sand and coastal interface clearly reflecting the impacts of wind and water in shaping the identity of Te Pouahi.

Sensory qualities (These are landscape phenomena as directly perceived and experienced by humans, such as the view of a scenic landscape, or the distinctive smell and sound of the foreshore).	5	A powerful landscape experience that is widely regarded as one of Northland's most impressive and scenic views.
Transient Values The consistent and repeated occurrence of transient features that contributes to the character, qualities and values of the landscape; landscapes are widely recognised for their transient features and the contribution that these make to the landscape.	5	The pale colouring of the sand and angles of the dune face make Te Pouahi highly responsive to light conditions. Glows in the morning sun and lies in subtle shadow late in the day when seen from the opposite side of the harbour. Also very interactive with the "mood" of the harbour.
Remoteness / Wildness Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence? Eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of remoteness • Accessibility • Distance from built development 	3	In close proximity to the settlement clustered along the opposite shore, and therefore influenced by that development, but physically separated by the broader channel of the harbour.
Shared and recognised values Natural features and landscape are widely known and valued by the immediate and wider community for their contribution to a sense of place leading to a strong community association with, or high public esteem for the place.	5	A key component of the local area's character and a backdrop to a popular tourism destination. Combines with the harbour mouth and the water of the outer harbour to give Omapere and Opononi their unique feel.
Spiritual, cultural and historical associations Natural features and landscapes can be clearly and widely known and influenced by their connection to the spiritual, cultural and historical valued in the place and includes associative meanings and associative activities valued by the community. These can include both activities and meanings associative meanings are spiritual, cultural or social associations with particular landscape elements, features, or areas, whilst associative activities are patterns of social activity that occur in particular parts of a landscape, for example, popular walking routes or fishing spots.	5	Sacred landmark to Niua, local tangata whenua, with connections to Arai Te Uru on the southern side of the harbour via ancestor Kupe. Strong associative meanings related to the local area's character and recreational use of the dunes. Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period

Rank scale between 1 (low) and 5 (high)

Land Types
Coastal cliffs / escarpment
Low escarpment
Bays and headlands
Beach
Dune complex
Reefs and islands
Estuarine / inlet
Open harbour
Coastal plain
Rolling hills
Steep hills; moderate to high relief
Ranges; high relief
Strongly rolling land
Low rolling land
Valley floors and flats
Plains
Volcanic cones
River mouth
Wetland
Watercourses
Lakes and water bodies

Photographs of unit





