



6.0 OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPES

Within this assessment, an outstanding landscape or natural feature will have some of the following elements:

- Some of the physical elements are visually dominant and have an identified pattern that adds to the landscape setting of the surrounding areas.
- Natural processes are reflected in the extent and composition of the elements.
- Endemic processes or vegetation form a significant component of the landscape.
- The landscape should be outstanding by itself, and not just in relation to adjacent landscape areas.

The land units rated as outstanding include natural features, coastal landforms, and coastal and upland forest areas (Table 4). The forest areas fall within both coastal and terrestrial units. Four of the areas identified are amalgamations of several land units that have consistent characteristics and levels of quality.

The areas chosen reflect significance within the region and which are outstanding within the catchment. Those that are outstanding within Kawhia and Aotea tend to be natural features and include distinctive stone piers, headland promontories, and large sand dune formations. Of regional significance are the extensive sub-montane forest areas of the mid Pirongia slopes and the upland areas of east and south Kawhia Harbour. These forest areas are well structured and show a clear succession of species and also represent a forest type which is no longer common in the Waikato region. The extent of this forest, when considered in its proximity to working rural landscapes and the habitated coastal edge, qualifies as outstanding within the region as well as within the Otorohanga, Waikato and Waitomo Districts (Figure 18).

Table 4: Outstanding landscapes.

Title, land units	Description	Wakatipu criteria
Natural features – Kawhia		
Limestone piers Unit T112 Figure 26	Three outcrops of limestone remnants have been left suspended above the further eroded host slopes both sides of the Te Kauri Stream valley. Rising 150 m from the valley floor they are widely visible.	Natural science factors. Legibility and expression of formative processes.
Limestone outcrop and escarpments Unit T128 Figure 26	This outcrop and associated escarpment presents a striking natural feature that marks the south side entrance of Awaroa valley.	Natural science factors. Legibility and expression of formative processes. Aesthetic values.
Coastal outcrops and escarpments Unit C55, C60 Figure 26	This series of vertical escarpments and pinnacles mark the entrance to Rakaunui Inlet and the east boundaries of Tuapu Island. Semi mature and mature coastal vegetation has established on the rocks.	Natural science factors. Legibility and expression of formative processes. Aesthetic values.
Ahiti Headland (<i>Motutarakuao and Motutarakatua Pts</i>) Unit C34 Figure 22	Motutarakuao and Motutarakatua Points extend into Kawhia harbour in pincer form that is visible from the descent of Kawhia Road and prominent within the wider harbour. The escarpments separate north-east Kawhia from Kawhia Township.	Legibility and expression of formative processes. Shared values associated with the landscape. Value to tangata whenua. Historical association.



WEST COAST LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

Coastal landforms – Aotea		
<p>Rauiri Head sand dune complex</p> <p>Unit C1, C2 Figure 22</p>	<p>The sand dunes' complex land form and associated planting demonstrates natural process. Its large size, and regularity of form, gives it a unique landscape characteristic within Aotea Harbour in addition to forming the gateway to the open sea.</p>	<p>Legibility and expression of formative processes. Aesthetic values. Natural science values. Shared values.</p>
Coastal forest - Aotea		
<p>Between Piritoka Point and Pakoka Landing and between the sea edge and Phillips Rd above.</p> <p>Unit C6, T4 Figure 20</p>	<p>This area of native scrub and regenerating forest provides the landscape setting for the upper west side of Aotea harbour. The vegetation cover continues the natural cover association of the west headland to the harbour which extends from Rauiri Headland/Motutere Is wetland/scrublands, via the Tauranga Stream valley, to this unit.</p>	<p>Aesthetic values (naturalness and memorability). Legibility and expression of formative processes. (Continuation of a process of vegetation succession which begins at the harbour entrance).</p>
<p>Urewera Point to Te Wharemataiti Point.</p> <p>Unit C16 Figure 20 & 22</p>	<p>Native forest and pockets of pasture land extending north to south along the upper east harbour coastline on two ridge systems and small coastal hills associated with Pirau Rise and Te Kopua Stream headwaters. The forest cover continues the pattern of pastoral cover and forest characteristic of the harbour.</p>	<p>Natural science factors (Geological, topographical, ecological and dynamic processes). Legibility and expression of formative processes. Aesthetic values.</p>
<p>West of Te Maari Stream</p> <p>Unit T24 Figure 20 & 21</p>	<p>Large tract of mature to pioneer native forest that covers a prominent ridgeline to the east of Aotea Harbour. The underlying relief is pronounced and the forest has high level of natural values which are evident from the unsealed road which passes through.</p>	<p>Natural science factors. Legibility and expression of formative processes. Aesthetic values, Shared values.</p>
Coastal forest – Kawhia		
<p>Te Umuroa / Te Rangiora / Pakingahau Point</p> <p>Unit C68 Figure 25</p>	<p>Te Umuroa, Te Rangiora, and Pakingahau Point's extend westward from Whakaongaonga Hill pastoral slopes. They have coastal forest cover and are a focus for the harbour headland areas across tidal flats. A low coastal form, indigenous vegetation and limestone features reinforce the broad horizontal scale of the surrounding tidal flats.</p>	<p>Natural science values, geology, ecological processes. Legibility in surrounding landscape. Aesthetic values.</p>
<p>South West Kawhia Harbour</p> <p>Unit C85, T184 Figure 25</p>	<p>The forest rises steeply from harbour edge on a series of regular spurs and valleys and forms the south harbour boundary. The landform reflects a series of folded and uplifted planes of siltstone influenced by volcanic activity. The forest cover reflects this distinctive topography, provides a continuous cover, and contributes to the landscape setting of the harbour.</p>	<p>Natural science factors. Legibility and expression of formative processes. Aesthetic values.</p>



WEST COAST LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

Uplands forest - Aotea		
<p>Bridal Veil Falls Unit T14 Figure 21</p>	<p>Partial catchment to the Pakoka River, large pioneer to mature native forest, significant water fall feature, steep slopes broadening along ridge areas, high relief, endemic - naturalness qualities. Elements of upper montane forest species e.g., tawa, rimu, rewarewa, kohekohe.</p>	<p>Natural science factors (geological processes). Aesthetic values. Legibility. Transient values.</p>
<p>Raglan Road forest Unit T51 Figure 22</p>	<p>Steep slopes descend from Raglan Rd with dense native shrub and tree canopy extending up the banks and past the carriageway. The steeply incised river valley, mature forest trees nikau and tree fern provide a sense of process and succession.</p>	<p>Natural science factors. Aesthetic values. Legibility and expressiveness. Transient season values, shared values associated with the landscape.</p>
<p>Lower West Pirongia Forest Unit T19 Figure 21, 23, 24</p>	<p>This extensive south-east to north-west block of native forest wraps around, and is an extension of, the upper slopes of Mt Pirongia. Its cover emphasises the volcanic form from Kawhia.</p>	<p>Natural science factors, Aesthetic values, Shared values associated with the landscape.</p>
<p>Kawaroa Catchment forest Unit T49 Figure 23</p>	<p>An extensive forest that appears on the south-west faces of Oparau River. While this forest area is widely observable in north-east and east Kawhia the majority is located on the north and east upper slopes of Kawaroa Stream catchment.</p>	<p>Natural science factors. Aesthetic values. Transient values such as wildlife, season.</p>
<p>Te Kauri Forest Unit T98 Figure 23 & 26</p>	<p>This forest scenic reserve extends both north and south of Kawhia Road. The north slopes forest descends into Waikuku Stream catchment while on the south side a series of pronounced north-east to south-west slopes descend to Te Kauri stream. A gorge system has developed around Maturangi stream, which is emphasised by the forest cover as it clings to steep bluffs in between the limestone escarpments.</p>	<p>Natural science factors (geological, topographical, ecological and dynamic processes). Aesthetic values (naturalness and memorability). Legibility and expressiveness, with particular reference to evident formative processes.</p>
<p>Kawhia Hills Forest (between Owhiro inlet and Te Kauri Stream) Unit T118, T123, T139 Figure 26, 27, 28</p>	<p>An area of coastal and uplands forest which extends from Te Kauri Stream to Owhiro inlet and crosses the Awaroa River valley. The forest covers the broad north-south ridge line which separates Owhiro and Awaroa catchments and is mostly over 200 m above sea level.</p> <p>The forest is significant, both for size, and for its accessibility. It is a significant contributor to the natural character of Kawhia and provides the landscape setting for the coastal edge and rural land of the lowland areas.</p>	<p>Aesthetic values (naturalness and memorability). Legibility and expressiveness, with particular reference to evident formative processes. Transient values such as wildlife, season.</p>



7.0 VISUAL AMENITY LANDSCAPES AND NO RATING AREAS

7.1 Visual Amenity

The land areas identified as 'Visual Amenity' within this assessment reflect both the presence of the elements of landscape character included in the Wakatipu criteria and the wider resource management contribution the land unit might make to surrounding areas (Figures 18 – 28). A visual amenity landscape will often include elements of landform, natural feature, and native vegetation that will add to the pattern of the surrounding landscape and may contribute to the ecological value or quality of water ways, forest areas, or harbour margins.

The assessment of landscape character considers both perceptual and physical elements, and these are included in the field assessment sheets for the study. Perceptual issues include:

- Naturalness;
- Endemic NZ values; and,
- Visibility and prominence in the wider landscape.

Physical elements include:

- Land relief (elevation);
- Patterns (vegetation in combination with catchment patterns and open areas, land and water, ridges and valleys); and,
- Coherence of pattern (an obvious natural pattern, developmental sequence and process).

The basis of assessment is the same as for other land units within the catchment (Section 4 and Table 2) but the rating of 'visual amenity' reflects a score of between 18 – 27 out of a possible score of 30 for landscape character (Table 3 – Column A1). For the purposes of this assessment, the visual amenity units have been divided into 'medium visual amenity' (18 – 24 score range) and 'high visual amenity' (25 – 27 score range) to better reflect the spread of results for management purposes. Those areas which fall within the category of 'high visual amenity' are most likely to have a high visibility and strategic importance in the coastal environment (Figure 18). This pattern is evident in the areas surrounding Aotea Harbour and the south-east margins of Kawhia Harbour.

The rating of 'Visual Amenity' does not automatically imply that protection measures are required but does indicate that the land area has landscape value that should be given consideration when making land use decisions.

Within the Kawhia and Aotea catchments visual amenity units include areas of lowland and upland pasture slopes that either mark the boundaries of harbour areas or are elevated and exposed pastoral slopes which are part of the landscape setting of an area. Examples of 'landscape setting' include the upper steep area of pasture and stone fields above the south-east corner of Aotea Harbour and the prominent and steep slopes that extend along the Oparau River fault line (Figure 18 - Units T53 and T49 and T79).

The areas of 'medium visual amenity' apply broadly to the coastal lowland hills of south-east Kawhia Harbour and upland pasture areas.

7.2 Land Units with No Rating

The areas with 'no landscape rating' are those which lack the range of land cover, elevation, natural features, or elements of natural character required to be rated within the assessment system (Figure 18B).

This rating does not indicate low landscape quality but rather an absence of the landscape aspects that attract recognition in the RMA definition of landscape. The land units may have high environmental quality and visual quality but do not include landscape elements of pattern of vegetation, elevation, natural process, notable features.

The areas of 'no landscape rating' include the upland pasture areas of south Kawhia and the pasture areas of north-east Kawhia and north-east Aotea.



8.0 AREAS OF HIGH NATURAL CHARACTER

The assessment of natural character is a separate assessment which concerns those land units considered to form the coastal environment (Figure 17) and is undertaken in response to the requirements of Section 6 (a), RMA being *'the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment..., wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins...'* Identification of the areas of natural character is the initial step and areas of high natural character are those coastal land units which either have strong natural character values or levels of naturalness (Section 2.4 and Figure 29). They can be recognisable natural features in themselves, and also include significant elements of naturalness and natural process. The sand dune headland Rauiri Head is recognisable for both its form and natural coastal process and for the gradient of ecological coastal plant succession found at its margins (Unit C1).

Areas of high natural character may also be rated as of high landscape quality in the assessment of landscape character which applies to all land areas within the catchments, whether inland or within the coastal environment. However, but the assessment of landscape character does not affect the criteria set out by the 1992 MfE workshop (Section 2.4).

Areas of high natural character are those with a score of 27 – 35 from a possible score of 35 in the gradient of natural character set out in Table 3 – Column A2. Within this assessment, those units which achieve a score of 33-35 are identified as being of outstanding natural character within this assessment.

A rating of outstanding or high natural character indicates a coastal area of high natural value, apart from its status within the rating of 'outstanding landscape' or 'visual amenity landscape', and which should be considered within planning policy, and the development consent process.

Both catchments exhibit areas of high and outstanding natural character (Section 2.5). Kawhia has areas of distinct geological character which have formed through the process of erosion or tidal action and includes large estuary areas which are not found to the same extent in Aotea Harbour. The areas and pattern of natural character in Aotea Harbour are more consistent and almost all areas of high natural character reflect the relationship between the gentle grades of the harbour margins and the abutting coastal land.

Several patterns of coastal landform, natural process and marine and coastal vegetation that reoccur within both harbours and add to both natural character and landscape values that resource management measures should seek to preserve. These are listed as follows:

- Abiotic factors (landform): the sunken river valley forms that give the harbours their distinctive coastlines and long ridgelines, sand dunes, headland promontories, inlet rock escarpments.
- Vegetation type: indigenous coastal and forest species including sea meadow, salt marsh, sedge, kanuka scrub, podocarp forest.
- Vegetation cover and patterns: coastal forest descending from ridge tops to beach areas, patterns of vegetation succession from sand dune species to salt marsh, scrub and emerging forest, mature forest trees clinging to escarpments and headlands in association with the tidal flats.
- Landuse/activities: building & structures: Aotea Harbour has no observable structures in most parts of it harbour margins.
- Seascapes and water features: tidal harbour flats and estuary areas.
- Natural processes: headland sand dune forms change with tide and storm variations.
- Natural science factors: tidal harbour flats ecology - areas of salt marsh and sea meadow, shell fish beds, fish breeding areas, sea birds.
- Aesthetic values (naturalness and memorability): extensive undisturbed foreshore areas backed by salt marsh, escarpment cliffs, mature native coastal forest with no evidence of built structures or habitation.
- Transient effects: Seasonal birds include godwits, pied oyster catchers, black stilt and banded dotterels, climatic effects of morning mist on Mount Karioi and afternoon spray and haze with the on shore sea breeze.



Table 5: High natural character.

Title, Land units	Description
<p>Aotea Aotea Harbour has seven separate geographical areas of HNC which are formed from a combination of eleven land units.</p>	
<p>Potahi Point Unit C1 Figure 33</p>	<p>Potahi Point is the north harbour bar for Aotea Harbour. It offers the first protection from the West Coast sea, and reflects its formative processes. The sand dunes extend up the entire length of the west side of Aotea Harbour. They have been converted to pasture, east of the Point, and contain extensive coastal forest on their protected harbour south side.</p>
<p>Rauriri Head Unit C2 Figure 33</p>	<p>Rauriri Head extends eastward into Aotea Harbour from Potahi Point and contains the beginning of harbour vegetation. This vegetation is an example of succession from estuarine edge wetland, to low scrub, and pioneer coastal tree species. The landform sweeps around from the heads and reinforces the iconic sand dune forms behind it.</p>
<p>Tauranga Stream basin Unit C4 Figure 31</p>	<p>This area of native bush lies below the 100 m contour and follows the sweep of headland as it runs out towards Rauriri Head. The upper areas are steep and the vegetation expresses the underlying land form and continues the repeating pattern of forest and pastoral land adjacent to each other around the Aotea Harbour coastal slopes. The land unit is also widely visible within the inner harbour coastline.</p>
<p>Piritoka Point/Pakoka Landing Unit C6 Figure 31</p>	<p>Refer to description in outstanding landscapes (Section 'Coastal Forest – Aotea).</p>
<p>Pakoka River Inlet Unit C7 Figure 31</p>	<p>The Pakoka River inlet is part of an established coastal wetland system and a large tract of native forest to the north. The basin encloses the majority of views towards the harbour and reinforces the remoteness and naturalness of this land unit. Coastal and wetland vegetation provide an interface between harbour and fresh water and enhances the dynamic quality of this landscape.</p>
<p>Mowhiti Point Unit C9 Figure 31</p>	<p>The vegetated headland forms part of a regular landscape pattern, at the north end of Aotea Harbour, of alternating forest and pasture. This landform consists of a series of small and low coastal hills of pronounced conical and spherical form and which spread along the harbour edge. The forest cover is highlighted by the continuous light green of the pastoral slopes above, contrasts with the water margin and adjacent pasture.</p>
<p>Makomako River inlet and inland wetland Unit C13 Figure 32</p>	<p>The Makomako River inlet has an excellent example of salt marsh and raupo wetland which exhibits a high degree of natural form and processes. The dynamic quality of this area is enclosed by coastal escarpments to the north and south. The vegetation composition and cover of these escarpments contributes a visual amenity to the area. The tidal area of the river has been influenced through farming practice in parts, but it still retains an established wetland with a variety of mature coastal wetland vegetation.</p>
<p>Urewera Point to Te Wharemataiti Point Unit C16/Figure 31 & 32</p>	<p>Refer to description in outstanding landscapes.</p>
<p>Matakowhai Point Unit C19</p>	<p>Matakowhai Point is a low pastoral land form that extends into Aotea Harbour. Sculptured kanuka trees extend along its south escarpments and native coastal headland vegetation creates a focal point at its tip. The simple composition of</p>



WEST COAST LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

Figure 33	this coastal landform, endemic vegetation, and close relationship to the harbour tidal flats express of the relationship between the harbour and rural land.
South Aotea Harbour coastline Unit C24 Figure 33	The south Aotea Harbour headland rises from low pastoral headlands, and salt marsh gully wetlands to culminate with the steep coastal forest covered escarpments of Tahuri Point. This landform reflects the tough coastal environment of the harbour entrance and the ability of indigenous vegetation to establish. The headland marks the south side of the harbour entrance and is widely visible.
Taranaki Point Unit C89 Figure 31	Taranaki Point is a steep, rocky, cliff formation that juts out from the surrounding sand dune formation, north of Potahi Point, and extends 3 kilometres north to Schnackenberg Bay. This is an undeveloped coastline with a dramatic interface between the beach and cliff margins and rural landscape above.
Kawhia	
Kawhia Harbour has a longer coastline than Aotea Harbour due to size and the indentation of its shoreline. The land units vary in geology and land form to a greater degree although the evenness of natural character values is less across the coastline. Eleven areas are rated as having high natural character within the catchment and are formed from twenty landscape character units.	
Te Ariaotewiwini Inlet beach Unit C27 Figure 36	A sand beach wraps around Tauratahi Point, to form Te Ariaotewiwini Inlet, and marks the entrance to Kawhia Harbour. Its form reflects the strong tidal pattern of the harbour mouth and the beach has an unspoiled character that reflects the open sea and west coast beaches immediately beyond this unit. It is part of the harbour mouth landscape setting of Kawhia.
Kaiwhai Island Unit C33 Figure 33	Kaiwhai Island lies just off Motutarakua Pt and is directly visible from the Kawhia Road. It has a low form with a high level of pioneer and juvenile forest species contained within its boundary. It is an example of a natural succession and contributes to the visual amenity of Te Wharu Bay.
Ahiti Headland C34	See description in outstanding landscapes.
Te Kauri & Ngahunga Stream, Awaroa River, Waikorire Creek Unit C46, C48, C49 Figure 37	These wetlands form at the outlets of the associated streams and valleys and spread along the coast and inlets. The coastal landscape is very indented in this area, and characterised by small conical hills rising suddenly from the harbour edge flat lands, Kahikatea grow on the river plains and the wetland areas extend inland.
Rakaunui Inlet and Tuapu Island Unit C55, C58, C60, C62, C65 Figure 36	Rakaunui Inlet and Tuapu Island mark the entrance to several small inlets. Mature specimens of kahikatea are growing, with kanuka, on steep slopes of limestone outcrops which stand either side of the narrow inlet. Pinnacles and escarpments are surrounded by headland vegetation, and salt marsh and sea meadows along the small and irregular inlets.
Arapatiki Bay Unit C67 Figure 36	Arapatiki Bay extends east from the forest areas of Te Umuroa/Te Rangiora/Pakingahau Point headland on the north side of the headland. It is a long and flat beach edged with estuarine wetland of rush, flax, raupo, manuka and kanuka. This is an extension of the scrubland above it and is representative of a coastal association that is not extensive in the harbour area.
Te Rangiora Point Unit C68/Figure 36	Refer to description in outstanding landscapes.
Owhiro inlet	Owhiro Inlet headland is a prominent landform which raises above a large tidal inlet with steep valley slopes either side. Mature forest cover expresses the



WEST COAST LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

Unit C74, C76 Figure 36	geometric hill form as it descends sharply to estuary edge. Coastal forest remnants grow along the unsealed road on the north Inlet banks and abut the lower valley wetland
Kinohaku Settlement Unit C80 Figure 36	Scarp slopes of the low headland extend north from Kinohaku settlement contain native forest which rises from water edge to the road above. This vegetation creates a continuous band of vegetation above salt marsh vegetation below. This small forest provides the landscape setting for the settlement which sits at the head of the small inlet associated with this land unit.
South West Kawhia Harbour C85/Figure 36	Refer to description in outstanding landscapes.
Motu Island Unit C87 Figure 36	Motu Island is covered in scrub, trees (native and exotic) and coastal grass species and is one metre above sea level. While showing evidence of having been farmed, and containing a pine shelter belt, it has a wind swept form and isolation that reflects the dynamic natural processes that surround it.
Forest lake Unit C88/Figure 39	This area is a lake, or tarn, that is surrounded by forest. Its extent, associated wetlands, and isolation give it unique qualities in the Kawhia and Aotea catchments.
Raukumara Beach Unit C90	A long ocean beach that lies direct to the west coast ocean between Tauratahi Point, in the south, and Nihinihi Point to the north. Backed by high dunes the sand beach is constantly shifting under the effects of tide and wind. With sea spray and mist blowing into the harbour channel to the south and views to Taranaki Point to the north this beach has a remote and elemental character.



9.0 LANDSCAPE PATTERNS

9.1 Outstanding and Visual Amenity Landscapes and No Rating

The rating outstanding landscape indicates that a land unit contains landscape qualities that have a strategic significance for planning purposes and merit protection.

All land units rated as outstanding contained aspects of coastal forest, apart those natural features also rated. Forest occurs as part of wider areas of landscape quality, is a feature in itself and is the major element of the wide area of uplands outstanding landscape in south-east Kawhia. Factors contributing to the high rating of forest areas, included harbour setting, the intrinsic structure and quality of the species and patterns of growth, the relationship of forest to landform and contribution to surrounding landscape pattern.

A contributing factor to the landscape quality of Aotea Harbour is the relationship between landform, forest and the harbour margins. The forest areas give emphasis to the apparent naturalness of the harbour landscape, and mitigate the presence of roads and other infrastructure items, while the tidal flats provide the setting for views to many of the forest and land forms.

Natural features formed the second group of outstanding landscape units. The features are evenly distributed from south-east Kawhia to north Kawhia Harbour and the entrance of Aotea Harbour and included rock based features apart from the Rauiri Heads sand forms. All features have a landscape presence by themselves, exhibit natural process and are focal points and landscape markers in their locality.

The rating of visual amenity indicates that the land unit is sensitive to change and this should be considered in a planning context. The land units of 'high visual amenity' include elevated and exposed pastoral slopes, areas of coastal forest, the Oparau River fault line ridge and the Te Maika harbour entrance spit. These areas are strategically important to the visual quality of the surrounding areas and to wider character.

Units of 'medium visual amenity' are included in east Kawhia coastal land forms and Awaroa River valley. Other areas include upland pasture in Kawhia and Aotea. These are rural low lying to elevated landforms and often seen in the context of distant harbour areas or from upper valley roads. They provide a boundary landform, or the setting, for more dominant land forms but also provide the predominant rural pastoral character of the most visible areas of east Kawhia Harbour.

Units of 'no landscape rating' are those which comprise the Kawhia peninsula and the north-east Kawhia pastoral valley areas and the extension of this pastureland into north-east Aotea (Figure 18B). These land units are developed for forestry, Kawhia Township, recreation (golf) and active pasture farming areas and without the distinct natural landscape features of forest or ridgeline. However, they are seen in the context of the harbour from the main elevated highway view and within the surrounding landscape framework of natural features. They also provide the landscape setting for views up from Kawhia harbour area to the forest surrounding Mt Pirongia.

9.2 Natural Character

The areas assessed as having high natural character, all fall within the coastal environment and those areas with high rating are mostly in the same areas or similar to those identified as outstanding landscape, although with a different emphasis and slightly different results.

Many areas defined as having high natural character were located in the boundary areas between the tidal flats and harbour coastline. These shore line areas include clay banks, small headlands, escarpments and stone scarp formations and tidal channels. Coastal forest trees cling from escarpments and cliffs on the larger and more prominent headlands. Salt marsh and sedge shorelines backed by kanuka scrubland and emerging forest are commonly visible from the Kawhia coastal road, or across fields and estuary areas.

The headlands of Motutarakuao and Motutarakaua, Kawhia Harbour, are strong geological forms which also demonstrate patterns of colonising coastal vegetation. The adjacent and low lying Kawhai Island reflects both indigenous coastal vegetation and natural plant succession and rated as outstanding natural character although a small land area.

Aotea Harbour is a landscape with fewer observable land uses and the patterns of pastoral cover and native bush covered gullies and foreshore areas on the west harbour margins and increasing forest cover towards



the north and north-east. The lack of a navigable channel is a significant influence in this respect and the shore line is undisturbed by roads, bridges, and other elements common in Kawhia Harbour. The more prominent areas of natural character include the sand dune headlands and associated shore line areas, and the extensive areas of semi-mature coastal forest.

9.3 Common Themes

The themes and patterns that are apparent for most land units in the assessment are that:

- The outstanding landscapes and features of both catchments reflected high levels of naturalness or natural character values;
- Native coastal forest is common to most outstanding landscape units and many areas of high natural character, and is the most visible landscape element within the two catchments, following the harbour tidal flats.
- The harbour tidal flats contain high to outstanding levels of natural character and, although not included in this assessment, add significantly to the value and appreciation of adjacent coastal land areas; and;
- Pastoral areas define harbour edge character for the majority of Kawhia Harbour and half of Aotea Harbour, and elevated pasture slopes provide the setting for wide harbour views, and as a backdrop to the long ridges of native forest which frequently extend inland from their upper margins.

Points of difference between the catchments include:

- Kawhia Harbour contains areas of high landscape quality that are located separately from each other within a developed coastal environment.
- Aotea Harbour includes a range of elements and features which are often inter-related and located within a smaller and less developed landscape.

9.4 Pressures on Landscape and Natural Character

There are a range of existing pressures on landscape and natural character values but they do not include activities or effects of large scale, although several have the potential for cumulative effects. Most apply to the coastal environment and involve physical effects on the tidal margins and adjacent coastal vegetation or forest (Table 6). In addition existing rural activities have the potential to expand significantly if commodity prices hold or increase due to world demand. These include dairy farming and forestry, but other crops and rural activities may emerge that challenge the present rural landscape pattern, and in a rapid time frame. Non traditional activities have already begun to have an effect in this respect and include coastal subdivision and wind farm development.

Dairy farming is a mechanised activity with infrastructure requirements which include milking sheds, races, and reasonable road access. Within the wider Waikato dairy shed sizes are increasing with the corresponding increase of stock rates per land unit. This has the attendant visual effects of large new buildings in the rural landscape and possible road requirements where dairying is a new activity. Attendant effects include potential down stream effects of cattle effluent and nitrates. The joint dairy industry 'clean streams accord' and the EW 'clear waters' programmes would have a mitigating effect on the downstream effects but not visual effects. Dairy development need not lead to adverse effects on the areas of high landscape and natural character value if visual and environmental effects are managed, particularly near the coastline. Measures would include the removal of streamside native bush and scrub.

Forestry has a very different visual and physical character to pastoral use and therefore has the potential to effect widespread change in landscape character, as evidenced in the Coromandel. It also involves a crop cycle which provides a marked change in visual character when it occurs. The extension of forestry along the edges of either harbour would result in a wide change in visual character, but there are many inland areas where there would be little or nil effect from its establishment.



The cumulative effect of subdivision in the coastal environment and the subsequent loss of natural character is a national policy concern which both the RMA and NZCPS seek to address (RMA, Section 6(a) & (b) and NZCPS Policy 1.1.1 (a)). However, development is also to be catered for under the RMA and subdivision is also recognised as a mechanism for the rehabilitation of coastal environment. Strategic district plan objectives, existing land use patterns, visibility, precedent and existing landscape values are key considerations. The effects of subdivision are difficult to reverse as the process involves a change of land ownership. Recent NZ coastal development has been characterised by road construction, houses in elevated locations, and strip development and the introduction of suburban housing settlements along areas of popular coastline. Subdivision has other longer term effects with respect to road maintenance and provision of other infrastructure for local authorities, and the subsequent potential rating effects.

The present subdivision sites within Aotea Harbour both feature elevated sites. In the case of Aotea Harbour, further subdivision development has the potential to visually affect wide areas of the harbour due to the simple and regular form of the ridgelines and slopes which bound the harbour. Existing pastoral cover would provide little context or visual absorption for new housing, and its introduction would detract from the present remoteness and lack of development which characterises the harbour, other than pastoral activity.

Subdivision development could adjoin existing settlements, or locate in low lying coastal settlement areas in adjacent bays, without these effects. The restriction of other potential coastal land areas would potentially enhance the desirability of these locations. In addition, planning provisions for these areas that sought to allow similar density of development to existing settlement would potentially assist with its integration.

Three wind farm applications have recently been lodged in adjacent catchments and visual effects will be experienced within Kawhia Harbour from at least one of these applications. Wind farms often have the potential to affect wide visual catchments and, in the case of Kawhia and Aotea, the natural character of Mt Karioi and Mt Pirongia. Recent designs have both increased and lowered the size of the turbine towers, and subsequently amended the visual effects. Other effects include the construction of substations, road, and overhead transmission corridors. Similar to coastal subdivision, the choice of site will determine the effects.

The main issues are:

- The introduction of structures in open landscape areas, or in elevated positions, with wide viewing catchments.
- Change in land use leading either the establishment of a new and different crop which has the potential to change the visual character of its surrounding areas.
- Change in land use or increase in productivity leading to removal of native scrubland or coastal forest cover, and downstream pressures on the harbour water quality and ecology.
- Changes in activity, or residential development, leading to the establishment of new roads, potentially across coastal slopes.

Kawhia and Aotea are both working rural environments and constant change is part of this environment. The consideration for landscape and natural character values is the potential effects on native forest cover, water quality and the present qualities and visual amenities attached to the harbour areas and the low coastal margins and elevated ridgelines and slopes surrounding them.



Table 6: Pressures and effects on coastal environment.

Pressures	Effects	Remedy
Access to coastal forest and tidal flats areas for farm and feral animals e.g. cattle, possums, goats, pigs.	Loss of forest canopy, destruction of riparian margins through browse, pugging of tidal flats, pollution from cow pats, rooting and foraging in coastal margin vegetation.	Fencing of farm paddocks abutting the harbour edge. Objectives and policy in Regional Coastal Plan. Pest control.
Invasive terrestrial plants including willow, acacia, pampas, gorse, privet, honeysuckle and establishment of salt water paspalum and spartina in the harbour areas.	Establishment of seed sources for further weed dispersion. Loss of habitat and food sources for native species.	Targeted spray programme by territorial authorities and by DoC. Assistance by volunteer harbour management groups.
Loss of freshwater wetlands through drainage and development of farm land.	Loss of plant/bird/fish/insect habitat. Loss of filtration and increased silting of harbour.	Regional Policy Statement encouraging retention of wetlands. Control of dairy development.
Removal of native forest for farm development.	Loss of habitat for native vegetation, insects, and bird life. Loss of filtration of water and increased run off to harbour.	Purchase of areas of strategic native forest areas. Negotiate QEII covenants where mutual benefit can be reached.
4-wheel drive vehicle access	Compaction of estuary and destruction of shellfish.	Policy in Regional Coastal Plan to prohibit access.



10.0 PLANNING APPROACHES

10.1 Statutory Plans

The Shores Future group are seeking to implement an integrated catchment management approach to Kawhia and Aotea as part of the development of statutory objectives and policies. This strategy is spatially based around the natural boundaries and is also applicable to landscape issues. The approach allows for local and non technical input to the planning process and may or may not include further public meetings and workshops. The catchment management plans that may result will not be binding statutory documents but will inform the development of regulatory policy to be incorporated in the district plans that apply to the catchments.

The implementation of regulatory landscape management policy will be within the boundaries of the following statutory documents:

- 1) New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.
- 2) Waikato Regional Policy Statement.
- 3) Waikato Regional Coastal Plan.
- 4) Waikato Regional Plan.
- 5) Otorohanga District Plan.
- 6) Waikato District Plan.
- 7) Waitomo District Plan.

All these plans have some degree of landscape policy although at present the Waikato Regional Policy Statement is concerned more with natural resources rather than specific landscape issues. None of the plans, apart from the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan (WRCP) address the coastal landscape, and the WRCP incorporates a very limited area of the coastline immediately adjacent to mean high water.

10.2 Department of Conservation (DoC)

An additional statutory management role is undertaken by DoC. DoC undertakes its own review of district plans on conservation issues, and issues its own Reserve Management Plans. The Minister of Conservation and DoC has a specific role in the coastal environment through the preparation of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, approval of regional coastal plans and as consent authority for certain resource consents in the coastal marine area. Extensive areas of public estate land can be found in the catchments and are managed by DoC. In addition, DoC publishes data about native birds, endangered plants, and a wetland inventory for the catchments.

10.3 Best Practice Examples

Landscape assessments and district plans are constantly evolving. The following examples illustrate principles that are generally considered to underlie successful landscape policy and management. Further examples can be found at <http://www.qualityplanning.org.nz/>.

- Providing a clear definition of 'landscape' within the context of the relevant plan is important. Where there is an underlying assessment this should be identified.
Example: Waitakere District Plan 2003, Policy Section, Chapter 3, Clause 3.6.
- Successful policy rests on a methodical landscape assessment, consultation, and public support for the areas chosen for protection or development.
Example: Hurunui District Council District Plan includes landscape policy that refers directly to the landscape assessment that underpins it. Although now out of date (1995) the assessment involved rural and town workshops that had the support of the mainly rural stakeholder residents. Hurunui District Plan 2003, Policy 7.1 Methods.



- Landscape policy should be easy to understand and its provisions appear as reasonable.
Example: The Hurunui District Rural Subdivision Guide is a good example.
- The use of catchment and structure plans provides a method of policy development that is open to local input, and the approach being proposed for Kawhia and Aotea catchments. Planning boundaries that correspond with physical boundaries helps policy to appear more understandable and applicable.
Example: The Mangawhai Structure Plan, prepared by the Kaipara District Council, sets out a development strategy for 20 years and includes small areas for different policy objectives. This process provides a strong indication of both community, and other stakeholder, objectives. This is important, when issues of landscape and natural character value are considered within the planning process, and Environment Court, and inform District Plan review.

Each of the documents discussed above are available on the websites of the city and district councils mentioned.

10.4 Planning Recommendations

The West Coast Landscape and Natural Character Assessment is part of an integrated catchment management approach to the catchments being undertaken by 'Shore Futures'. Landscape values within Kawhia and Aotea are required to be considered under the RMA and there is also public pressure and from residents seeking to maintain the present amenity of the catchments. The following recommendations set out a draft approach to maintaining and enhancing present landscape and natural character values, while accepting that the catchments are primarily rural in character and change is part of this environment.

The strategy seeks to protect the existing native forest areas and enhance natural character values and water quality of the harbour areas and to maintain the coastal environment as rural in the majority of its harbour length. This last objective requires that coastal residential development and subdivision is restricted to the areas adjacent to existing settlement or conforms to the pattern of location within valleys or inlets, in the areas outside Kawhia Township. It also proposes that Aotea Harbour be maintained in its present character as far as possible, and that future non rural development be undertaken in the much larger and more developed Kawhia catchment. The adoption of common policies in the Waikato Regional Policy Statement and the relevant district plans, as far as possible, will increase the opportunities for success.

- 1) Promote rural activity as the continuing permitted land use in the coastal environment through the development of common objectives and policies in district plans. This policy should both identify areas where subdivision and residential development are provided for and prohibit subdivision in the remaining areas of the coastal environment;
- 2) Continue to develop a public landscape strategy through a separate catchment management plan process for both Kawhia and Aotea;
- 3) Adopt the outputs of this report which identifies areas defined as being 'outstanding landscape and natural features', and 'high natural character'. These areas should have a high level of protection via regulatory and non-regulatory means. Areas of 'visual amenity' should have a degree of protection through both regulatory and non-regulatory mechanisms, with an emphasis on mechanisms that maintain and enhance these aspects;
- 4) Seek the development of common objectives, policies and, where relevant, rules that recognise and protect areas of outstanding landscape and natural character, and maintain and enhance areas of visual amenity landscape areas within the Waikato Regional Policy Statement and reviews of Otorohanga, Waikato and Waitomo District Plans;
- 5) Develop management policy for Aotea Harbour to maintain and enhance its present landscape and natural character values within the process of a separate catchment management plan. Future development strategies should aim to protect the harbours present values as far as possible;



- 6) Protect and enhance the elements of harbour ecology and natural character through continued agency co-operation, support for volunteer groups and inclusion of coordinated objectives and policies within the Waikato Regional Policy Statement;
- 7) Seek the development of regulatory and non regulatory policies in district plans to protect existing areas of coastal native forest considered to have a development that is beyond a scrubland stage of development. These policies should have an emphasis on mechanisms that maintain and enhance forest areas while recognising the commercial interests of the land owner as far as possible;
- 8) Support the management of forest areas in private ownership through technical assistance and undertake to establish QEII trust covenants where possible; and;
- 9) Promote funding of in-house technical staff to develop strategic policy on a common basis for the stakeholder councils within the two harbour areas.

10.5 Discussion

The study seeks both to fulfil the requirements of the 'Shore Futures' study brief and set out the results in a structure that may assist in the development of landscape resource management objectives and policies for Kawhia and Aotea catchments.

The assessment method has its origins in the requirements of the RMA which include:

- Preserving Natural Character (section 6 (a));
- Protecting Outstanding Landscapes and Natural Features (section 6(b)); and;
- Maintaining and enhancing amenity (section 7(c)).

The assessment approach taken includes a combination of the criteria of landscape and natural character, as defined by the Wakatipu judgement and the 1992 Natural Character Workshop (Section 4), and expert opinion applied within a framework of field observation, GIS, and aerial photography. EW staff conducted a series of public workshops in Kawhia and Aotea catchments in early 2007, in which the draft landscape assessment results received general support. The next stage of the process may or may not include further consultation, however any changes to the Waikato regional Policy Statement, or regional and district plans, will involve public consultation.

Field work was undertaken with the expectation that GIS would be used to view the results. Due to the extent of the coastline and inland areas a large number of land units were mapped and these character units are most concentrated around shoreline areas. The most change in land cover and physical topography occurs within these areas.

Not all of the units are of high landscape quality and the boundaries represent the change between one set of common land cover, land form and land use factor occurs with another, for example, the boundary between flat pasture land and steep pasture land with rock outcrops and gully bush areas.

The land units were amalgamated into landscapes of different quality rating and including those areas with no immediate resource management requirements (Figures 18 and 29). These figures represent 'outstanding and visual amenity' landscape and areas of 'high natural character', while Figures 19 -28 and 30 – 39 provide the detail of each of the categories of landscape quality and natural character. Figure 9 provides an amalgamation of land areas based on similar character and may assist in the development of management strategy. This character mapping describes trends of land use and characteristic rather than identifying the extent of different rating areas.

Different levels of landscape protection are implied by the rating, and the physical boundaries of these land areas can be derived from these results. The boundary on a particular aerial plan should 'make sense' when checked on site. However an assessment provides a snap shot of landscape values at the time of field work, whereas planning maps may require strategic decisions about where to focus on the maintenance of values and where to encourage, or provide for development. In this respect there is a strong correlation between ecological values and landscape values in many parts of the harbour areas, which may require clarification in some areas.



Three possible levels of protection can be drawn from the assessment results:

- The areas that need to be protected strongly to preserve landscape values and natural character;
- Those areas where development might proceed with due reference to potential impact and efforts to mitigate those impacts; and
- Areas of low concern where development can occur as it has done in the past.

These three levels generally accord with the categories of 'outstanding', 'visual amenity', and 'high natural character'. 'Outstanding' and 'high natural character' fall within Category A (Figure 18 and 29), and 'visual amenity' landscapes fall within Category B (Figure 18). Within the visual amenity maps there is a relatively wide spread of values and these are indicated as two levels to provide a differentiation for policy development. Within the definitions provided by Environment Court findings these two areas are one category of 'visual amenity landscapes'.

The 'high visual amenity' units are mostly elevated and coastal land units. These are primarily in rural use but are of prominence and contain landforms that are important to the landscape structure and quality of the areas surrounding them. Those land units identified as 'visual amenity' tend to include low land coastal areas which are visible within harbour areas, but of lower landscape value. It is these areas, in particular, where strategic judgements will have to be made in future.

The study did not include the production of view shed analysis plans for different management scenarios for the harbour areas, and this technique would help inform policy development. Figure 7 provides a broad scale elevation plan, which gives an overview of the catchments, and main ridges. This figure provides a very general view shed plan, and an indication of how it might be used. Areas of low land elevation are separated, or screened, by area of higher elevation, such as ridgelines, that intervene between the land area and the wider and more visible landscape. In the same way development, whether rural, or infrastructure, or residential, can be sited to sit within these 'visual catchments'.

Ecological and cultural values and evidence of community support are being increasingly looked for by the Environment Court. This combination of elements can be considered to comprise wide amenity values that can be protected by non regulatory methods as well as traditional regulatory mechanisms. The protection and enhancement of native forest areas falls into this category.

A comparison with the NZ Map 260 topographical maps and current aerials of the catchments indicate an incremental reduction in native forest cover over the past 20 years, although not dramatic (Section 3.4). Protection of native forest areas is a first principle of the recommendations for maintaining the present landscape framework (Section 10.4). In addition to attempting to provide protection under a regulatory framework (regional policy statement, district plan), the amenity value of the native forest could potentially be recognised for the wider community benefits it provides. Recognition of this wider amenity could also include a compensatory benefit for the landowner, if development opportunities were foregone that protected the area of value.

There are obvious pitfalls with respect to the quality of the land being claimed by either party. However the present long term protection of large native forest areas within private ownership, indicate that the forests wider values are already recognised.



11.0 CONCLUSIONS

The assessment indicates significant areas of landscape value and coastal natural character in both catchments. The combination of rural landscape, coastal forest, volcanic forms and coastal setting provide many areas of landscape that rate highly within the RMA framework. This range of characteristics will be difficult to maintain while actively developing the catchments' resources, but possible.

The landscape framework of Kawhia and Aotea reflect the abundance of natural elements remaining within the environment, while co-existing with a working rural landscape with a pastoral grazing base. Maintaining coastal land as a location for rural production will assist in the preservation of the present character values and this is a key recommendation. This strategy also accepts some of the adverse effects from farming activity. A co-principle of this strategy is the active protection of both native coastal forests, whether in private or public domain, and the maintenance and enhancement of the natural character and ecological quality of both tidal flat harbours.

The areas of outstanding landscape all include elements of naturalness, of which native coastal forest and the tidal flats are the two most significant elements. The inclusion of landscape policy within the Waikato Regional Policy Statement, and relevant district plans, will assist in maintaining these values in the coastal environment, particularly as they are inter related and activity in one area affects another.

Some of the factors contributing to the landscape quality of catchment areas have also restricted their potential development and economic sustainability. Road infrastructure is limited in some harbour and upland valley areas. However, there is also a correlation between lack of roads and areas of higher landscape quality. Aotea Harbour is noticeable in this respect, where the concentration of outstanding landscape and high natural character areas are in the areas where there is a lack of access. The same pattern applies to South Kawhia Harbour.

The relatively undeveloped character of Aotea Harbour, its smaller and contained area, low utility for commercial boating, and high landscape, natural character and ecological values provide an opportunity, and strong strategic case for protecting the harbour as an area of outstanding landscape as a whole. There are few remaining coastal harbour areas with a similar combination of natural process, visual and landscape values, and the sense of remoteness and lack of development in this part of New Zealand. The harbour is also a venue for ecotourism ventures.

Coastal subdivision is an anticipated development activity within the RMA and provision is required to indicate areas where this may be undertaken. However the low elevation of the coastal land surrounding Kawhia Harbour, and the contained nature of Aotea and its bare and elevated pasture land, make both harbours vulnerable to the visual effects of coastal residential development. It is recommended that residential subdivision be a prohibited activity except where areas are designated as suitable. There are several existing settlement areas within the catchments which could sustain further development in this respect and as a general principle the present settlement pattern should be maintained.

The West Coast Landscape and Natural Character Assessment (Kawhia and Aotea Catchments) technical report is a further part of the wider planning process that is being undertaken by the 'Shore Futures' group within the two catchments. It is intended to adopt an integrated catchment management plan approach which will also enable a strategic approach to be taken to the landscape values. Within this context, it is hoped to maintain the high natural character and landscape values of many parts of Kawhia and Aotea catchment while providing for the development of natural resources in a sustainable manner.








The findings of this assessment support this approach.



APPENDIX A

Inventory of Land Units, Areas, Character and Rating

Appendix A: Inventory of Land Units, Areas, Character and Rating

	Coastal peninsula and sand dunes (25 units)		Harbour native forest (20)		Hill country, forest and alluvial valleys (40)
	Harbour estuary and coastal lowlands (70)		Inland native forest (17)		
	Coastal slopes, hills and valleys (36)		Upland pasture (67)		

Coastal Units:

Landscape Character

Natural Character

Land Unit No.s	Area of Units (Ha's)	Character Area	Score (L.Ch)	Outstanding Landscapes & Features	Visual Amenity	Units with no rating	Score (N.ch)	Outstanding Natural Character	High Natural Character
C1	463.95	Coastal peninsula	30	1			35	1	
C2	191.43	Coastal peninsula	30	1			35	1	
C3	70.76	Harbour estuary	13			1	9		
C4	113.91	Harbour forest	27		1		30		1
C5	27.27	Harbour estuary	17			1	16		
C6	210.31	Harbour forest	30	1			35	1	
C7	25.13	Harbour estuary	22		1		27		1
C8	45.9	Harbour estuary	18		1		17		
C9	61.23	Harbour forest	23		1		28		1
C10	12.77	Harbour estuary	11			1	12		
C11	102.14	Harbour estuary	22		1		12		
C12	10.19	Harbour estuary	22		1		24		
C13	26.13	Harbour estuary	19		1		27		1
C14	60.47	Harbour estuary	13			1	13		
C15	4.66	Harbour estuary	23		1		26		
C16	250.79	Harbour forest	28	1			28	1	
C17	85.89	Harbour estuary	16			1	17		
C18	142.22	Harbour estuary	15			1	17		
C19	75.72	Harbour estuary	22		1		25		1
C20	49.32	Harbour estuary	10			1	14		
C21	134.93	Harbour estuary	14			1	17		
C22	26.76	Harbour estuary	10			1	13		
C23	14.62	Harbour estuary	9			1	11		
C24	12.16	Harbour estuary	23		1		29		1
C25	11.29	Coastal peninsula	19		1		26		

Land Unit No.s	Area of Units (Ha's)	Character Area	Score (L.Ch)	Outstanding Landscapes & Features	Visual Amenity	Units with no rating	Score (N.ch)	Outstanding Natural Character	High Natural Character
C26	21.82	Coastal peninsula	17			1	23		
C27	28.29	Coastal peninsula	22		1		29		1
C28	4.68	Harbour estuary	9			1	10		
C29	15.28	Harbour estuary	14			1	14		
C30	15.78	Coastal peninsula	18		1		19		
C31	27.29	Coastal peninsula	20		1		22		
C32	63.36	Harbour estuary	14			1	17		
C33	1.2	Harbour estuary	25		1		30	1	
C34	119.04	Harbour forest	33	1			33	1	
C35	25.46	Harbour estuary	17			1	20		
C36	53.01	Harbour forest	23		1		23		
C37	4.31	Harbour estuary	7			1	7		
C38	8.5	Coastal slopes	19		1		19		
C39	62.09	Harbour estuary	17			1	19		
C40	21.05	Harbour estuary	21		1		19		
C41	21.26	Harbour estuary	3			1	9		
C42	51.97	Harbour estuary	13			1	12		
C43	85.27	Harbour estuary	20		1		20		
C44	28.56	Harbour estuary	19		1		18		
C45	112.49	Harbour estuary	21		1		23		
C46	73.5	Harbour estuary	18		1		27		1
C47	10	Harbour estuary	19		1		23		
C48	43.37	Coastal slopes	20		1		28		1
C49	61.88	Harbour estuary	20		1		27		1
C50	51.12	Coastal slopes	22		1		26		
C51	42.24	Coastal slopes	14			1	18		
C52	35.84	Harbour estuary	20		1		26		
C53	63.79	Harbour estuary	18		1		20		
C54	180.39	Harbour estuary	20		1		19		
C55	57.48	Harbour estuary	33	1			33	1	
C56	9.95	Harbour estuary	18		1		23		
C57	26.61	Harbour estuary	18		1		18		
C58	35.95	Harbour estuary	20		1		27		1
C59	83.22	Harbour estuary	18		1		25		
C60	20.69	Harbour estuary	33	1			33	1	

Land Unit No.s	Area of Units (Ha's)	Character Area	Score (L.Ch)	Outstanding Landscapes & Features	Visual Amenity	Units with no rating	Score (N.ch)	Outstanding Natural Character	High Natural Character
C61	40.76	Harbour estuary	18		1		16		
C62	13.01	Harbour estuary	25		1		30		1
C63	137.12	Harbour estuary	17			1	15		
C64	146.98	Harbour estuary	24		1		21		
C65	12.22	Harbour estuary	21		1		28		1
C66	22.23	Harbour estuary	20		1		22		
C67	27.72	Harbour estuary	23		1		27		1
C68	83.04	Harbour forest	33	1			33	1	
C69	11.26	Coastal slopes	10			1	14		
C70	3.35	Harbour estuary	19		1		23		
C71	11.89	Harbour estuary	17			1	23		
C72	5.18	Harbour estuary	72		1		23		
C73	27.74	Harbour estuary	19		1		22		
C74	41.24	Harbour forest	23		1		30		1
C75	9.49	Harbour estuary	17			1	23		
C76	229.13	Harbour forest	23		1		33	1	
C77	47.67	Coastal slopes	17			1	16		
C78	73.18	Coastal slopes	15			1	17		
C79	25.74	Harbour estuary	18		1		19		
C80	18.25	Harbour forest	22		1		30		1
C81	59.01	Coastal slopes	18		1		20		
C82	129.27	Coastal slopes	20		1		22		
C83	6.62	Harbour estuary	21		1		22		
C84	88.59	Coastal slopes	22		1		22		
C85	832.83	Harbour forest	35	1			35	1	
C86	74.78	Coastal peninsula	23		1		26		
C87	14.94	Coastal peninsula	22		1		28		1
C88	9.65	Hill country_forest	21		1		35	1	
C89	388.72	Coastal peninsula	20		1		29		1
C90	144.83	Coastal peninsula	23		1		29		1
C91	24.48	Harbour estuary	17			1	21		

Totals 6558 Ha. **9** **55** **27** **12** **19**

Coastal Units **91** Outstanding Visual Amenity No rating **ONC** **HNC**

Terrestrial Units

Landscape Character Assessment

Land Unit No.s	Area of Units (Ha's)	Character Area	Score (L.Ch)	Outstanding Landscapes & Features	Visual Amenity High	Units with no rating
T1	774.77	Coastal peninsula	22		1	
T2	12.99	Harbour forest	18		1	
T3	29.45	Harbour forest	17			1
T4	255.68	Harbour forest	30	1		
T5	30.43	Upland pasture	13			1
T6	316.36	Upland pasture	9			1
T7	68.53	Harbour estuary	17			1
T8	35.28	Harbour estuary	16			1
T9	34.75	Coastal Slopes	14			1
T10	157.24	Harbour forest	27		1	
T11	150.26	Upland pasture	9			1
T12	156.5	Native forest	20		1	
T13	159.96	Upland pasture	14			1
T14	292.31	Native forest	29	1		
T15	1612.99	Upland pasture	12			1
T16	295.25	Hill country_forest	9			1
T17	322.82	Upland pasture	10			1
T18	213.3	Upland pasture	8			1
T19	5837.11	Native forest	30	1		
T20	270.06	Upland pasture	18		1	
T21	24.75	Hill country_forest	19		1	
T22	429.55	Upland pasture	9			1
T23	515.08	Upland pasture	15			1
T24	320.67	Native forest	29	1		
T25	98.01	Coastal Slopes	19		1	
T26	123.9	Harbour estuary	18		1	
T27	58.98	Harbour forest	21		1	
T28	77.88	Harbour estuary	9			1
T29	132.49	Upland pasture	13			1
T30	885.77	Upland pasture	14			1

Land Unit No.s	Area of Units (Ha's)	Character Area	Score (L.Ch)	Outstanding	Visual	Units with no rating
				Landscapes & Features	Amenity High	
T31	721.31	Harbour forest	24		1	
T32	15.89	Upland pasture	7			1
T33	772.49	Upland pasture	13			1
T34	128.53	Native forest	21		1	
T35	43.27	Native forest	22		1	
T36	1352.35	Upland pasture	9			1
T37	74.81	Hill country_forest	21		1	
T38	51.99	Upland pasture	16			1
T39	58.95	Upland pasture	6			1
T40	826.38	Upland pasture	17			1
T41	29.27	Upland pasture	13			1
T42	36.57	Upland pasture	15			1
T43	42.3	Upland pasture	15			1
T44	2131.44	Upland pasture	16			1
T45	112.26	Coastal Slopes	10			1
T46	854.66	Hill country_forest	23		1	
T47	209.24	Upland pasture	16			1
T48	425.98	Hill country_forest	27		1	
T49	757	Native forest	30	1		
T50	480.31	Upland pasture	14			1
T51	332.15	Native forest	28	1		
T52	77.16	Hill country_forest	13			1
T53	380	Upland pasture	23		1	
T54	76.48	Harbour estuary	13			1
T55	124.74	Coastal peninsula	18		1	
T56	42.6	Coastal peninsula	9			1
T57	130.38	Coastal peninsula	12			1
T58	38.77	Harbour estuary	19		1	
T59	232.3	Coastal peninsula	11			1
T60	18.26	Coastal peninsula	12			1
T61	11.53	Coastal peninsula	9			1
T62	6.84	Coastal peninsula	13			1
T63	94.45	Coastal peninsula	22		1	

Land Unit No.s	Area of Units (Ha's)	Character Area	Score (L.Ch)	Outstanding	Visual	Units with no rating
				Landscapes & Features	Amenity High	
T64	201.15	Coastal peninsula	14			1
T65	1263.98	Coastal peninsula	12			1
T66	34.76	Coastal peninsula	14			1
T67	11.32	Coastal peninsula	18		1	
T68	77.9	Harbour estuary	9			1
T69	79.45	Coastal peninsula	14			1
T70	131.35	Harbour estuary	13			1
T71	52.05	Coastal slopes	16			1
T72	34.09	Harbour forest	22		1	
T73	53.77	Coastal Slopes	18		1	
T74	271.71	Coastal Slopes	21		1	
T75	70.88	Hill country_forest	14			1
T76	236.38	Upland pasture	14			1
T77	19.64	Coastal slopes	16			1
T78	113.76	Upland pasture	15			1
T79	141.41	Coastal Slopes	22		1	
T80	51.97	Harbour estuary	11			1
T81	253.78	Harbour estuary	9			1
T82	61.63	Harbour estuary	12			1
T83	1420.27	Upland pasture	12			1
T84	41.24	Hill country_forest	17			1
T85	313.45	Upland pasture	10			1
T86	22.68	Hill country_forest	17			1
T87	79.17	Hill country_forest	19		1	
T88	385.3	Upland pasture	12			1
T89	35.4	Hill country_forest	20		1	
T90	22.48	Hill country_forest	21		1	
T91	545.71	Upland pasture	12			1
T92	12.24	Hill country_forest	23		1	
T93	92.87	Hill country_forest	18		1	
T94	222.96	Upland pasture	18		1	
T95	260.69	Upland pasture	23		1	
T96	110.66	Native forest	25		1	

Land Unit No.s	Area of Units (Ha's)	Character Area	Score (L.Ch)	Outstanding	Visual	Units with no rating
				Landscapes & Features	Amenity High	
T97	580.58	Upland pasture	17			1
T98	1729.62	Native Forest	30	1		
T99	11.48	Upland pasture	5			1
T100	27.84	Upland pasture	11			1
T101	128.42	Upland pasture	10			1
T102	249.28	Hill country_forest	16			1
T103	213.25	Coastal slopes	14			1
T104	21.69	Coastal slopes	8			1
T105	78.08	Coastal slopes	14			1
T106	645.15	Coastal slopes	12			1
T107	209.48	Coastal slopes	17			1
T108	88.1	Hill country_forest	22		1	
T109	158.71	Coastal Slopes	14			1
T110	20.06	Coastal Slopes	14			1
T111	135.47	Upland pasture	14			1
T112	8.23	Native forest	30	1		
T113	10.12	Upland pasture	6			1
T114	820.71	Upland pasture	18		1	
T115	222.18	Native forest	26		1	
T116	19.78	Upland pasture	6			1
T117	59.76	Upland pasture	10			1
T118	1091.78	Native forest	30	1		
T119	371.27	Hill country_forest	17			1
T120	50.85	Hill country_forest	8			1
T121	532.74	Hill country_forest	16			1
T122	376.47	Upland pasture	20		1	
T123	4076.94	Native forest	30	1		
T124	185.83	Upland pasture	16			1
T125	277.24	Coastal slopes	13			1
T126	283.43	Coastal slopes	19		1	
T127	42.69	Coastal slopes	13			1
T128	103.96	Native forest	28	1		
T129	361.48	Coastal slopes	13			1

Land Unit No.s	Area of Units (Ha's)	Character Area	Score (L.Ch)	Outstanding	Visual	Units with no rating
				Landscapes & Features	Amenity High	
T130	172.95	Coastal slopes	18		1	
T131	252.43	Harbour estuary	21		1	
T132	163.36	Coastal slopes	13			1
T133	450.66	Hill country_forest	21		1	
T134	140.77	Coastal slopes	16			1
T135	114.63	Coastal slopes	18		1	
T136	9.24	Coastal slopes	9			1
T137	32.95	Coastal slopes	13			1
T138	168.11	Coastal slopes	14			1
T139	5585.82	Native forest	30	1		
T140	101.07	Hill country_forest	9			1
T141	475.77	Hill country_forest	10			1
T142	132.36	Upland pasture	10			1
T143	246.26	Upland pasture	14			1
T144	65.05	Hill country_forest	26		1	
T145	131.13	Upland pasture	18		1	
T146	563.21	Upland pasture	15			1
T147	40.46	Hill country_forest	17			1
T148	318.31	Upland pasture	18			1
T149	308.64	Upland pasture	18		1	
T150	115.34	Hill country_forest	26		1	
T151	87.16	Upland pasture	21		1	
T152	72.42	Hill country_forest	24		1	
T153	490.11	Hill country_forest	20		1	
T154	46.21	Hill country_forest	17			1
T155	307.95	Hill country_forest	9			1
T156	215.13	Hill country_forest	12			1
T157	72.08	Hill country_forest	17			1
T158	358.89	Hill country_forest	12			1
T159	38.42	Hill country_forest	17			1
T160	35.42	Hill country_forest	7			1
T161	217.94	Hill country_forest	15			1
T162	31.54	Hill country_forest	3			1

Land Unit No.s	Area of Units (Ha's)	Character Area	Score (L.Ch)	Outstanding	Visual	Units with
				Landscapes & Features	Amenity High	no rating
T163	255.67	Upland pasture	10			1
T164	104.95	Hill country_forest	21		1	
T165	258.58	Upland pasture	9			1
T166	636.02	Upland pasture	15			1
T167	42.39	Hill country_forest	12			1
T168	293.4	Upland pasture	15			1
T169	138.69	Hill country_forest	21		1	
T170	260	Upland pasture	19		1	
T171	56.17	Upland pasture	15			1
T172	309.05	Native forest	25		1	
T173	54.01	Upland pasture	10			1
T174	513.29	Upland pasture	15			1
T175	35.28	Upland pasture	11			1
T176	495.66	Upland pasture	12			1
T177	63.42	Harbour forest	19		1	
T178	40.44	Upland pasture	9			1
T179	333.48	Upland pasture	10			1
T180	257.76	Upland pasture	13			1
T181	34.66	Upland pasture	9			1
T182	118.01	Upland pasture	18		1	
T183	78.19	Upland pasture	18		1	
T184	544.17	Harbour forest	30	1		

Area Ha. 60787.63

13

55

116

Terrestrial Units 184

Outstanding

Visual Amenity

No rating



APPENDIX B

Report limitations



REPORT LIMITATIONS

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