

# Coastal Sector Evaluation





# Coastal Sector 1: Orokawa Bay to Rapatitio Pt



Orokawa Bay lies at the southern end of the Coromandel Peninsula. Covered in native coastal forest, species such as manuka, pohutukawa, puriri and nikau feature amongst the bush. Shrouded to the north and south in a steep rocky coastline the Bay comprises a wide sandy beach with a terraced bush edge. Two DOC campsites are located in open clearings and are accessible only by a walking track from Waihi Beach. Much of the site is located within a 'Scenic Reserve'.

*Below: Orokawa Bay looking north*



Natural Character: <b>Very High</b>			
Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	An open sandy bay with rocky headlands the water environment is unmodified. Two natural streams discharge across the beach to the coast with no outlet structures located along the beach.	Very High	n/a
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Contains a mixture of regenerating native coastal forest and remnant pohutukawa coastal forest. Access is limited to DOC walking tracks and the bay contains two camp sites. The beach system remains unmodified with a steep rocky coastline at either end, which extends northwards and southwards towards Waihi Beach.	Very High	n/a
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	Part of a larger forest feature, the coastal margin of the Orokawa Scenic Reserve consists of regenerating pohutukawa forest of national significance, modified by stands of invasive wilding pines. Although the feature has low diversity, it is in good condition and provides habitat for indigenous fauna and plants endemic to the Coromandel Ecological Region.	High	n/a
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes.	Very High	n/a
<i>Perceptual</i>	Very low levels of activities, with few boats, very few people (pedestrian only) and no settlement.	Very High	n/a
<i>Relevant Overlays (refer appx)</i>	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	1	none	60



# Coastal Sector 2: Waihi Beach to Bowentown Head



Waihi Beach extends some 9km between Rapatiotio Point and the Bowentown Heads. Historically rear dune wetlands extended along this feature, however settlement patterns have altered the coastline. Some areas of the dune system are built right out to the frontal dune system whilst others are set back behind. In the settled areas the secondary and tertiary dune systems have been built upon. Extensive dune management continues with the Coast-Care programme and recent works to stabilise dune erosion through retaining walls and 'socks'. Parts of the Waiau River estuary have undergone reclamation to accommodate further development. Bowentown has a residential settlement and small commercial centre set behind the frontal dune system. The Bowentown heads form a striking landform that is regenerating in native bush. Rock caves are found on the remote coastal beach and Anzac Cove is a popular recreation destination for swimming and boating.

Top: Anzac Bay, Bowentown Heads

Bottom: View east along Waihi Beach from Orokawa Bay



## Natural Character: **Moderate**

Natural Character Feature: Albacore Avenue to Bowentown Headland = High

Natural Character Feature: Bowentown Headland = High

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	No physical modification to open coastal water body. High level of activity from surf club and recreational user activities (swimming, kayaking, boating, etc).	Very High	Albacore Avenue to Bowentown Headland = High Bowentown Headland = High
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	The extensive dune system is typically 2m wide in developed areas and 4m wide further south. Residential development and infrastructure for dune erosion has modified the coastline extensively. Dune restoration planting has provided improvement, but largely the frontal dune system is all that remains. Further south the dune system widens and the vegetation cover improves. Walking tracks access the foreshore with the main access road extending parallel behind the secondary dune system. Largely in reserve land the natural regeneration of native plants has occurred along the dune and Bowentown Heads.	Low to Moderate	Albacore Avenue to Bowentown Headland = High Bowentown Headland = High
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	Adjacent to the urban areas, the dunes are narrow, have low to moderate diversity, are highly modified by weed infestations, and provide limited habitat for indigenous species other than common species habituated to residential environments. Where the dunes extend across the tombolo and there is less or no encroachment from residences, dune vegetation has higher indigenous biodiversity of regional significance and provides habitat for threatened indigenous fauna, while retaining a strong component of exotic species. The mature and regenerating pohutukawa forest on the headland also has regional significance and provides habitat for uncommon indigenous plants and nesting sites for penguins, but is modified by weed infestations.	Moderate	Albacore Avenue to Bowentown Headland = High Bowentown Headland = High
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Limitations on the natural processes occurring with seawalls, dune protection measures and earthworks on the dunes. Coastal river patterns are channelled and contained. The Bowentown headlands and bar demonstrate highly natural processes occurring.	Moderate	Albacore Avenue to Bowentown Headland = High Bowentown Headland = High
<i>Perceptual</i>	Residential settlement dominates the northern and very southern ends of the beach. The southern area has limited use but still provides for recreational access. A high level of activity on the beach as it is a popular recreational destination for the community.	Moderate	Albacore Avenue to Bowentown Headland = High Bowentown Headland = High

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	2	153	128, 65

## Coastal Sector 3: Bowentown to Kauri Pt



The inner harbour edge of Tauranga Harbour is indented with a series of headlands, estuaries and embayments. Modification of this coastal edge has been extensive, with small residential settlements and farming land use right to the harbour edge. Small features within the harbour provide remnants of the coastal vegetation that once existed within the entire harbour. In many residential areas coastal erosion protection measures are present for protection of property and coastal walkways.

Top: Tanners Point Estuary

Bottom: View northward across Kauri Point, Ongare Point and Tuapiro Point



## Natural Character: **Moderate**

Natural Character Feature: Tanners Point Estuary = High

Natural Character Feature: Ongare Point = High

Natural Character Feature: Kauri Point= High

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	Clusters of moorings are located around Bowentown, Athenree, Tanners Point, Ongare Point and Kauri Point. Boat ramps providing tidal and deep water access are located at public and private locations along the harbour edge. Several jetty structures are located along the coast including at Tanners Point and Kauri Point.	Moderate to High	Tanners Point Estuary = High Ongare Point = High Kauri Point= High
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Residential settlements at Athenree, Tanners Point, Tuapiro Point, Ongare Point and Kauri Point create built clutter within the coastal landscape. Remnant pockets of native coastal pohutukawa remain. Farming of stock and horticulture extend right to the harbour edge with some remaining coastal vegetation.	Low to Moderate	Tanners Point Estuary = High Ongare Point = High Kauri Point= High
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	In most places the coastal margin is modified by residential, agricultural or horticultural development along with infrastructure and coastal erosion protection measures. Where vegetation is present it is generally small and fragmented, highly modified by land use, weed infestation and grazing. The Kauri Point pohutukawa forest has low diversity but is regionally significant.	Moderate	Tanners Point Estuary = High Ongare Point = High Kauri Point= High
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Limitations on the natural processes occurring within parts of the harbour with seawalls creating solid edges to the harbour, restricting natural erosion patterns.	Low to Moderate	Tanners Point Estuary = High Ongare Point = High Kauri Point= High
<i>Perceptual</i>	Moderate levels of activity on the harbour itself and the adjoining beaches, with Anzac Cove being a popular recreational destination. Other areas of popular activity at a local scale are Tanners Point, Tuapiro Point, Ongare Point and Kauri Point.	Moderate	Tanners Point Estuary = High Ongare Point = High Kauri Point= High
<i>Relevant Overlays (refer appx)</i>	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	6, 7, 8	none	55



## Coastal Sector 4: Kauri Point to Omokoroa



The inner harbour edge of Tauranga Harbour is indented with a series of headlands, estuaries and embayments. Modification of this coastal edge has been extensive, with the residential settlement of Katikati and farming land use right to the harbour edge. Small features within the harbour provide remnants of the coastal vegetation that once existed within the entire harbour. In many residential areas coastal erosion protection measures are present for protection of property and coastal walkways.

*Top: Matahū Road Peninsula*

*Bottom: Turners Road Estuary*



## Natural Character: **Moderate**

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	Clusters of moorings are located around the Uretara River mouth, Pahoia peninsula and Omokoroa. Boat ramps providing tidal and deep water access are located at public and private locations along the harbour edge, including Beach Road and Pahoia Road.	High	n/a
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Residential settlements at Katikati, Sharp Road, Pahoia and Omokoroa create built clutter within the coastal landscape. Remnant pockets of native coastal pohutukawa remain. Farming of stock and horticulture extend right to the harbour edge and within the historical harbour environment with some remaining coastal vegetation.	Low	n/a
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	In most places the coastal margin is modified by residential, agricultural or horticultural development along with infrastructure and coastal erosion protection measures. Where vegetation is present it is generally small and fragmented, highly modified by land use, weed infestation and grazing. The Apata and Waipapa estuaries have, respectively, moderate and high diversity with regional significance supporting a range of indigenous threatened and uncommon saltmarsh bird species with some modification from weed infestation.	Low to Moderate	n/a
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Limitations on the natural processes occurring within parts of the harbour with seawalls creating solid edges to the harbour, restricting natural erosion patterns.	Moderate	n/a
<i>Perceptual</i>	Low to moderate levels of activity on the harbour itself and the adjoining beaches, with Katikati and Pahoia beaches providing popular locations for recreation.	Moderate	n/a
<i>Relevant Overlays (refer appx)</i>	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	none	92, 108	131

## Coastal Sector 5: Omokoroa to Waikareao



This southern portion of the Tauranga Harbour displays a similar indented coastline with a series of headlands, estuaries and embayments. The southern end of the Tauranga Harbour displays intensive residential development that creates visual clutter amongst the coastal environment, affecting the day and night time visual experiences of the landscape. The embayments of Omokoroa, Te Puna and the Wairoa River display some higher levels of natural character, however much of the coastline has been significantly modified through land use change.



*Above: Matua Saltmarsh*

*Below: Matua Peninsula, viewed from Bethlehem*



## Natural Character: **Moderate**

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	A significant cluster of moorings, boat ramps and a ferry terminal are located at Omokoroa. Boat ramps providing tidal and deep water access are located at public and private locations along the harbour edge including Omokoroa Road and Te Puna. Modification to the waterways meeting the coast edge has occurred through channelling and stock banks along the Wairoa River and Waikareao Estuary.	Moderate	n/a
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Residential settlement becomes dense along the coastal edge, with Omokoroa, Te Puna, Bethlehem and Matua and other suburbs of Tauranga City. Scatterings of pohutukawa are located along the coastal edge along with native bush. Parts of the city coastal landscape comprise a reduced density and remnant and regenerating native bush.	Low	n/a
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	In most places the coastal margin is modified by residential, agricultural or horticultural development along with infrastructure and coastal erosion protection measures. Where vegetation is present it is generally small and fragmented, highly modified by land use, weed infestation and grazing.	Moderate	n/a
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Limitations on the natural processes occurring within parts of the harbour with seawalls creating solid edges to the harbour, restricting natural erosion patterns. The Wairoa River coastal end comprises natural processes, but with some stop banks and retaining structures. Retaining around the city harbour edge is significant with rock walls, rip rap and retaining walls.	Moderate	n/a
<i>Perceptual</i>	Significant numbers of people utilise and live within this coastal sector. Residential settlements of Omokoroa, Te Puna and Tauranga City create a busy coastal environment. Buildings dominate the coastal environment apart from small pockets around Te Puna and the Wairoa River.	Moderate	n/a

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	none	155, 22, 17, 15	none



## Coastal Sector 6: Tauranga City to Mauao



Of the Bay of Plenty Coastal Environment, Tauranga City has undergone the most significant and dramatic change to the natural environment. Built form dominates the coastal edge with high rise, port activities and suburban residential settlement. Reclamation has been extensive at Sulphur Point, Tauranga CBD, Salisbury Wharf, Tauranga Bridge, Matapihi Bridge, Hairini Bridge and Maungatapu Bridge. Much of the harbour coastline differs from its natural form and small pockets of remnant harbour edge are found within the upper reaches of the four estuaries.



Top: Residential development on the harbour margin, adjacent to Memorial Park

Bottom: Mount Maungauni and Port of Tauranga



Source: BoPRC

## Natural Character: **Low - Moderate**

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	Significant modification to the waterways entering the harbour through the coastal environment have occurred. Rivers and streams are channelled, dredged and piped. Stormwater outlets dominate the coastal edge along with the port wharf structures, seawalls, jetties and boat ramps. There is a high level of recreational use of the water environment through boating and passive recreational activities.	Very Low to Low	n/a
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Significant change has occurred to the CBD and Port area of Tauranga City through reclamation. The coastal landscape is dominated by built form and pockets of remnant coastal vegetation are located on cultural landscape sites. The southern harbour estuaries comprise less modification to the coastal environment, apart from the continuation of residential subdivision and rural agricultural and horticultural practices.	Very Low to Low	n/a
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	In most places the coastal margin is modified by residential, commercial, industrial or horticultural development along with infrastructure and coastal erosion protection measures. Where vegetation is present it is generally highly modified by land use and weed infestation. The Poike saltmarsh and wetlands and adjacent Waimapu River mouth saltmarsh have respectively, moderate and high diversity with regional and national significance supporting several indigenous saltmarsh bird species. Both features are modified by weed infestations.	Low to Moderate	n/a
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Significant modification to the natural processes with reclamation creating narrowed harbour channels at Sulphur Point, Tauranga Bridge Marina, Matapihi Rail Bridge, Hairini Bridge and Maungatapu bridge. All have abutments which extend significantly into the harbour. Similarly Pilot Bay beach is less than half of its natural length due to reclamation for the port and industrial activities.	Low	n/a
<i>Perceptual</i>	Built form dominates the coastal environment with recreation of the coast prolific. Ferry services, shipping, recreational boating, wind powered sports and beach activities dominate this coastline.	Moderate	n/a

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	none	76, 29, 75, 30, 174, 27, 138, 25	none

## Coastal Sector 7: Mauao to Maketu



Mauao remains as a dominant feature in the coastal environment. Vegetation patterns have been modified significantly over the years with remnant Pohutukawa remaining on the lower base track area. Wild fires, historical grazing, settlement and infrastructure have been a significant alteration to the feature.

However the coastal edge remains intact and vegetation patterns are improving through replanting programs. The Mount to Kaituna dunelands are a contiguous system that

has been heavily modified at the Mount Main Beach, built upon for most of the residential areas and modified behind for further residential settlement. Small pockets of unmodified primary and secondary dune systems are found within some maori and publicly owned land. Te Tumu provides an indicator of the dune patterns once found within Papamoa prior to residential development. The Kaituna River mouth originally exited at the Maketu Harbour mouth, and seawalls and retaining are present to manage erosion and water flow into the estuary at the river cut. The Kaituna wetland is a remnant feature of the wider wetland that once extended immediately behind the dune environment in this area.



*Above and Bottom: Papamoa Dune Lands*





## Natural Character: **Moderate**

Natural Character Feature: Mauao = High

Natural Character Feature: Papamoa Dunes = High

Natural Character Feature: Kaituna River = High

Natural Character Feature: Maketu Estuary = High

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	Minimal modification has occurred along the coastal edge, excluding immediately around Mauao where the shipping channel is located. Abutments and training walls are located around Mauao and dredging occurs. Shipping activity is apparent along the coastal environment here, along with recreational surf and ocean related activities.	Mod	Mauao = High Pap. Dunes = High Kaituna River = High Maketu Est. = High
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Mauao has undergone significant modification through pre-European settlement, European settlement and practices. Since becoming a reserve the feature has improved its native vegetation cover. Tracks and structures (water reservoir and lighthouse) also detail the modification to the site. The coastal dune lands to Maketu have significant modification and vary in width from 5m to 4m. Further east the dune lands become less modified. The Kaituna River comprises a distinctive rear coastal wetland. Land use along the coastal edge comprises a mixture of farming and large lot residential (Maketu).	Low to Mod.	Mauao = High Pap. Dunes = High Kaituna River = High Maketu Est. = High
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	Adjacent to urban areas, the dunes are narrow, have low to moderate diversity, are highly modified by weed infestations, and provide limited habitat for indigenous species other than common species habituated to residential environments. Where the dunes extend across a wider area and there is less encroachment from residences, dune vegetation has higher indigenous biodiversity of regional significance and provides habitat for threatened indigenous fauna, while retaining a component of exotic species. The mature and regenerating pohutukawa forest on Mauao also has regional or national significance and provides habitat for threatened and uncommon indigenous plants and seabirds, but is modified by weed infestations, fire, slope stabilisation, tracks and disturbance associated with recreational use. The Kaituna River wetlands have moderate diversity, are modified by weed infestations and provide habitat for a range of indigenous wetland fish and bird species. The Maketu Estuary, spit, dunelands and saltmarshes have moderate to high diversity with regional significance, are modified by weed infestations, and provide habitat for a very high diversity of indigenous fauna species, notably wading birds.	Mod. to High	Mauao = High Pap. Dunes = High Kaituna River = High Maketu Est. = High
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Parts are highly natural with unmodified dune processes occurring. Residential areas have modified and manage dune processes. Similarly the forestry at Te Tumu modifies the coastal processes. The Kaituna River and Maketu Estuary have been significantly modified and channelled.	Mod. to High	Mauao = High Pap. Dunes = High Kaituna River = Mod. Maketu Est = Mod..
<i>Perceptual</i>	Built form dominates the coastal environment with recreation of the coast comprising shipping, recreational boating, wind powered sports and beach activities.	Mod.	Mauao = High Pap. Dunes = High Kaituna River = Mod. Maketu Est. = Mod.
<i>Relevant Overlays (refer appx)</i>	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	10, 11	117, 161, 151, 160, 118, 156	140, 141, 45, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82



# Coastal Sector 8: Maketu to Otamarakau



The Maketu headland is a dominant rocky headland that has had minimal modification to its edges, apart from the upper reaches of the Maketu residential settlement. Vegetation cover is minimal with a bush clad covered escarpment extending along the eastern edge of the Little Waihi escarpment. Settlement of Little Waihi has resulted in retaining structures placed along the harbour edge to manage continue coastal erosion. Reclamation of parts of the estuary for farming have resulted in linear patterns within parts of the harbour. The Pukehina to



Otamarakau dunelands are similar in many regards to the Papamoa dunelands where residential development is located on the primary and secondary dune systems. Vegetation cover is primarily coastal dune grass species with very little dominant canopy cover found along this sector. The southern feature of the Otamarakau dunelands remains largely unmodified along the coastal edge except for rear dune vegetation loss.

*Below: Pukehina Beach*



## Natural Character: **Moderate**

Natural Character Feature: Waihi Estuary Margin = Moderate

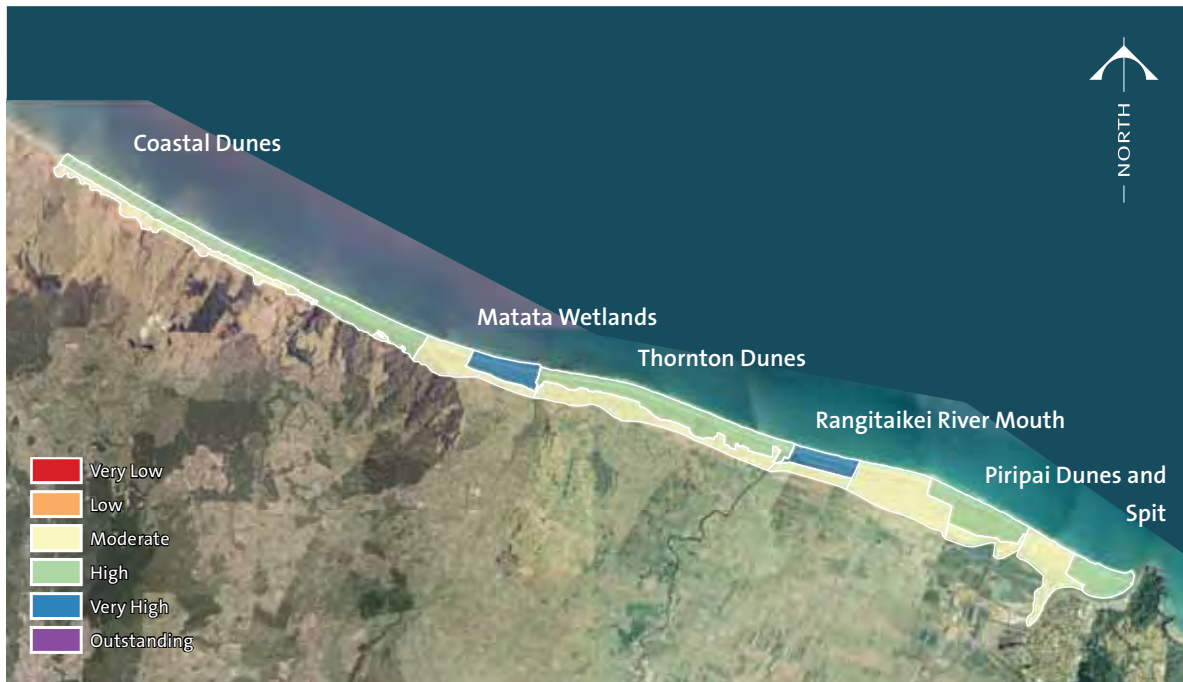
Natural Character Feature: Waihi Estuary Water Body and Mouth = High

Natural Character Feature: Otamarakau Dune Lands = High

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	Minimal activity occurs along the open coast with no structures, jetties or moorings. Maketu harbour and Waihi Estuary contain duck shooting hideouts, boat ramps and jetties. Both harbours have been modified through reclamation and redirection of the Kaituna River away from the estuary.	High	Waihi Est. Margin = High Waihi Est. Water Body = Very High Otamarakau = High
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Residential settlement on the western edge of the Maketu headland and farming land use have modified the landcover significantly. Along the eastern side a remnant pohutukawa bush clad escarpment dominates the coastal edge. Modification has occurred to the margins of the Waihi Estuary through farming practices and reclamation. The Pukehina dunes comprise a residential settlement alongside farms which extend to the top of the coastal escarpment.	Low to Moderate	Waihi Estuary Margin = Moderate Waihi Estuary Water Body and Mouth = High Otamarakau = High
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	Indigenous vegetation consists of a narrow fringe of pohutukawa forest around the coastal margins with low diversity. Most of the headland is dominated by exotic vegetation providing limited habitat and biodiversity but does provide breeding habitat for penguins. Waihi Estuary consists of freshwater wetlands (landward of the stopbanks) of moderate diversity that have been modified by drainage and exotic vegetation. The main body of the estuary, its associated saltmarshes (seaward of the stopbanks) and Pukehina Spit is more diverse and less modified by exotic vegetation or land use. These areas provide habitat for a wide range of indigenous wading and wetland birds.	Moderate	Waihi Estuary Margin = High Waihi Estuary Water Body and Mouth = Very High Otamarakau = High
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Seawalls and reclamation existing within the Waihi Estuary. Dune protection measures and residential settlement managing dune erosion and accretion. Fencelines are present along the Otamarakau escarpments and coastal erosion is very active here.	Moderate	Waihi Est Margin = High Waihi Est Water Body = Very High Otamarakau = High
<i>Perceptual</i>	Built form dominates the coastal environment at the settlements of Maketu and Pukehina. Beyond these areas the coast line has few visitors and is largely untouched.	Moderate	Waihi Est Margin = High Waihi Est Water Body = Very High Otamarakau = High

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	12, 13	105, 78, 159, 139, 158, 172	46

# Coastal Sector 9: Otamarakau to Piripai



The Matata dunelands provide a striking example of the natural dune and rear dune wetland system that occurs along this sector. Modification around settlement areas and post major storm events have resulted in the loss of some natural wetlands. The location of the rail corridor and State Highway create a divide, however the dune and coastal escarpment demonstrate vividly the current and historical coastal processes that occur within this landscape. The two river systems have been modified to create a new cut through the dunes, leaving the old river path behind the dunes as remnant wetlands. Residential development has occurred on the frontal dune systems and resulted in modification to the natural patterns and processes through introduced exotic planting and built form. The Piripai Spit comprises high levels of natural character however some modification to the distal end has occurred for the management of flood waters from the river.



*Above: Rangitaiki River Mouth*



*Below: Matata Coastal Dune Lands*



## Natural Character: **High**

**Natural Character Feature: Coastal Dunes = High**

**Natural Character Feature: Thornton Dunes = Very High**

**Natural Character Feature: Rangitaiki River Mouth = Very High**

**Natural Character Feature: Piripai Dunes and Spit**

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation		Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	Minimal activity on the water edge and water. As an open coastal edge no physical modification to the ocean is apparent. Two river cuts are apparent, being heavily modified from their original route. At the end of Piripai Spit some training walls have been placed to manage flood waters and the harbour mouth depth.	High	Matata Wetlands = Very High Thornton Dunes = Very High Rangitaiki River Mouth = Very High Piripai Dunes and Spit = High
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	A dominant coastal dune landscape, structures are apparent along the top of the coastal escarpment. The Matata and Thornton dunes remain largely unmodified except for small settlements located at Matata, Thornton and Coastlands. Dune areas with rear dune wetlands or unmodified patterns still remain.	High	Matata Wetlands = Very High Thornton Dunes = Very High Rangitaiki River Mouth = Very High Piripai Dunes and Spit = Moderate
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	The sector consists mainly of grazed pasture and dunelands with small isolated pockets of indigenous scrubland, treeland or wetlands modified by weed infestation, grazing, residential development and drainage. The Whakatane river mouth, estuary and spit has moderate diversity with regional significance and supports a range of threatened indigenous bird species. The dune systems along the length of the coast vary from relatively unmodified areas to highly modified areas, though much is considered to be of national or regional significance, with high diversity supporting threatened and uncommon indigenous plant and bird species. The river mouth and lagoon areas also support a range of indigenous fish and wetland bird species.	High	Matata Wetlands = Very High Thornton Dunes = Very High Rangitaiki River Mouth = Very High Piripai Dunes and Spit = High
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Excellent example of natural processes with minimal modifications as a result of the State Highway extending along the Matata Straights. Farm fencing and exotic grasses are located in the rear dunes from Thornton to Piripai. Residential settlement and river modifications have resulted in modified coastal processes.		Matata Wetlands = High Thornton Dunes = Very High Rangitaiki River Mouth = Very High Piripai Dunes and Spit = High
<i>Perceptual</i>	Very low levels of activity, with few boats, very few people (pedestrian only) and small settlements at Matata, Thornton and Coastlands.	High	Matata Wetlands = Very High Thornton Dunes = Very High Rangitaiki River Mouth = Very High Piripai Dunes and Spit = High

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	14, 15, 16, 17	81, 172, 173, 106, 79, 80, 107	86, 49, 88, 89



# Coastal Sector 10: Kohi Point to Port Ohope



Kohi Point is a dominant landscape feature with native vegetation cover. It demonstrates high levels of natural character through the lack of modification. The Ohope dunelands are similar to all of the northern dunelands where residential development has occurred upon the frontal and secondary dune lands. The pohutukawa clad escarpment behind creates a natural backdrop and is a remnant of the unmodified environment that once occurred along this section of the coast. The Ohope spit has some modification as a result of the golf course, whilst the remainder comprises high levels of natural character.



*Above: Whakatane River Mouth*



*Below: Ohope Beach*

## Natural Character: **Moderate**

Natural Character Feature: Ohope Spit = High  
 Natural Character Feature: Kohi Point = Very High  
 Natural Character Feature :Ohope Scenic Reserve = High

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	No physical modification to the open coastal water body. The Whakatane River harbour mouth has frequent boat traffic and moorings along the harbour / river edge.	Very High	Kohi Pt = Very High Ohope Spit = High
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	The Whakatane River margin is heavily modified with sea walls and reclamation. Kohi Point remains largely unmodified. Ohope comprises a heavily modified coastal dune land and escarpment, with some pockets of wider dune systems.	Low to Moderate	Ohope Spit = High Kohi Point = Very High Ohope Scenic Reserve = High
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	Adjacent to the urban areas, the dunes are narrow, have low to moderate diversity, are highly modified by weed infestations, and provide limited habitat for indigenous species other than common species habituated to residential environments. At the Ohope Spit, dune vegetation has higher indigenous biodiversity of regional significance and provides habitat for threatened indigenous fauna, while retaining a strong component of exotic species and modification from tracks. The mature and regenerating pohutukawa forest on the Kohi Point headlands and Ohope escarpments has regional and national significance and provides habitat for uncommon and threatened indigenous plants, but is modified by weed infestations and encroachment from residential development..	High	Ohope Spit = High Kohi Point = Very High Ohope Scenic Reserve = High
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Limitations on the natural processes occurring with seawalls, dune protection measures and earthworks on the dunes. Coastal river patterns are channelled and contained. The Kohi Point headlands demonstrates the highly natural processes occurring.	Moderate	Ohope Spit = High Kohi Point = Very High Ohope Scenic Reserve = High
<i>Perceptual</i>	Whakatane settlement dominates the coastal edge, whilst Kohi Point remains a remote piece between Whakatane and Ohope. Built form dominates Ohope beach with the beach being a popular recreational environment.	Moderate	Ohope Spit = High Kohi Point, Ohope Scenic Reserve = Very High

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	18, 19	82, 61, 83, 134	50, 91, 92

# Coastal Sector 11: Ohiwa Harbour



Ohiwa Harbour is considered in two parts; the harbour and its margins. The harbour itself supports an important habitat for native wildlife and flora. The landform around the margins remains largely unmodified with the exception of Wainui Road, the fish and chip shop, the oyster farm and Port Ohope. In the wider sense these modifications are relatively minor when the whole harbour is considered. The harbour is approximately 27km<sup>2</sup> in area, with a width of 5.5km and length of 8km. Development of the landward extent has been largely from farming practices and associated housing. More recently rural residential subdivision has been a popular activity along the Ohiwa harbour coastline, with a small increase in the visual clutter along the landward extent. The harbour mouth is highly dynamic with the sand spit changing its form on a frequent basis. Historical residential lots for Ohiwa are now located within the harbour's water body having been eroded.



*Above: Ohiwa Harbour*



*Below: Ohiwa Harbour Mouth*



## Natural Character: **High**

**Natural Character Feature: Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve = High**

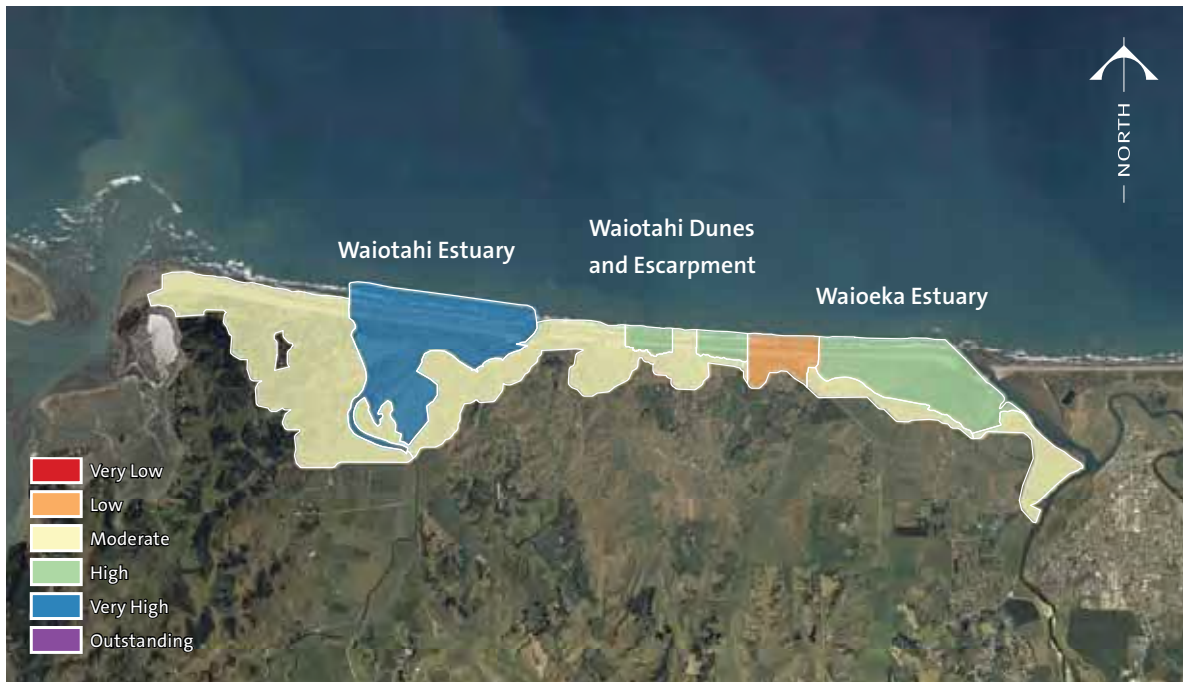
**Natural Character Feature: Ohiwa Harbour = Outstanding**

**Natural Character Feature : Ohiwa Harbour Margins = High**

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	Minimal structures exist on the harbour, located at Ohope Wharf and the far western end jetty. The harbour is a water body that displays a diverse habitat of marine aquatic flora and fauna. A shallow harbour system, the harbour displays distinctive natural patterns. A small pocket of marine farming is found at the far western end of the harbour.	Very High	Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve = Very High Ohiwa Harbour = Outstanding Harbour Margin = High
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	The rural landscape around the Ohiwa harbour has scatterings of dwellings consistent with a rural landscape. Much of the coastal vegetation has been lost and all that remains is set within the harbour itself, excluding Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve	Moderate	Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve = High Ohiwa Harbour = Outstanding Harbour Margin = Very High
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	The sector consists mainly of grazed pasture and plantation forestry with small isolated pockets of indigenous scrubland or treeland modified by weed infestation and grazing. The harbour margins contain pockets of remnant coastal native bush, including Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve and parts of Ohakana Island. The harbour itself is largely unmodified and displays large areas of saltmarsh and mangrove habitats. The harbour supports a diverse system of flora and fauna and is unique.	High	Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve = Very High Ohiwa Harbour = Outstanding Harbour Margin = Very High
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Some minimal limitations on the natural processes occurring with seawalls and dune protection measures. Most coastal processes still occur with increased siltation of the harbour as a result of inland and coastal erosion processes.	High	Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve = Very High Ohiwa Harbour = Outstanding Harbour Margin = High
<i>Perceptual</i>	The northern end of the harbour is busy with the Port commercial activities, residents from Ohakana Island and the users of Wainui Road. The scale of the harbour gives a sense of remoteness and the vegetation patterns and water provides a sense of wilderness.	High	Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve = High Ohiwa Harbour = Outstanding Harbour Margin = High
<i>Relevant Overlays (refer appx)</i>	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	20, 21, 22	126, 133, 45, 125, 40, 44, 55, 84, 41, 43, 162, 39, 57, 86, 36, 65, 64, 164, 62, 87, 89, 61, 163	36, 37, 38, 58, 136, 33, 54, 53, 40, 50



# Coastal Sector 12: Ohiwa to Opotiki



Rolling foothills extend down to a steep escarpment that meets the coastal dunelands between the Ohiwa and Waioeka settlements. Pockets of native vegetation cover are located along the roadside edge by Waioeka settlement. The dune environment at Waioeka has been modified as a result of residential subdivision. The Waioeka wetlands and river mouth comprise a largely unmodified coastal edge with some farming practices around the edges.



*Above: Waioeka Estuary*

*Below: Waioeka Dunes and Escarpment*



## Natural Character: **Moderate**

Natural Character Feature: Waiotahi Dunes and Escarpment = High

Natural Character Feature: Waiotahi Estuary = Very High

Natural Character Feature: Waioeka Estuary = High

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	No structures along the open coastal edge. Waiotahi Estuary contains some modification to the water body edges through reclamation.	High	Waiotahi Dunes and Escarpment = High Waiotahi Estuary = Very High Waioeka Est. = High
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Small coastal settlements of Ohiwa and Waiotahi have modified the dune environment. Large dune land and wetlands are located adjacent to the Waioeka River. Pohutukawa clad escarpment dominates small pockets of the coastal edge. The state highway extends along the coastline dividing the coastal landscape.	Moderate	Waiotahi Dunes and Escarpment = High Waiotahi Estuary = Very High Waioeka Est. = High
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	Large parts of the sector consist mainly of grazed pasture with limited diversity. The Waioeka Estuary and associated wetlands has high diversity and regional significance, and provides habitat for a range of indigenous bird and fish species. Waiotahi Beach consists of narrow dune lands with moderate diversity and regional significance that are modified by tracking, grazing and weed infestations but does support dotterel breeding sites. The Waiotahi River estuary and spit consists of a diverse range of indigenous vegetation types from forest to sandfields with high diversity and regional significance. It provides habitat for a wide range of indigenous shorebirds, wading birds and indigenous fish species.	Moderate to High	Waiotahi Dunes and Escarpment = High Waiotahi Estuary = Very High Waioeka Est. = High
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Limitations on the natural processes occurring with dune protection measures and earthworks on the dunes. The harbour entrances remain unmodified, however the Waiotahi Estuary has some river and edge modification.	High	Waiotahi Dunes and Escarpment = High Waiotahi Estuary = Very High Waioeka Est. = High
<i>Perceptual</i>	Ohiwa and Waiotahi are small settlements with the coastal environment having a sense of untouched wilderness and remoteness.	High	Waiotahi Dunes and Escarpment = High Waiotahi Estuary = Very High Waioeka Est. = High

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	23, 24, 25	90, 88	41, 94, 95, 93, 96, 53

## Coastal Sector 13: Opotiki to Opape



The dune system extends along this landscape and has pockets of modification to its frontal dune system as a result of residential development and the National Cycletrail. The Waiaua River mouth remains unmodified in its natural patterns with some modification to its vegetation cover. The coastal escarpment is set further back from the coastal edge, with more undulation in the landform as a result of several spurs that extend down to meet the coast. Adjoining the coastal dunes, the land has in most areas been modified to accommodate stock grazing and cropping paddocks. Stock intrusion into parts of the dune system has occurred, damaging native vegetation cover. Many walking tracks extend across the dunes, providing access to the beach for local residents.



Above: Tirohanga Dune Lands



Below: Tirohanga Dune Lands

## Natural Character: **High**

Natural Character Feature: Omarumutu Dunes = High

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	No structures are located along the open coastal edge. The Waiaua River has modification for flood management along its margins and the channel is managed. The Waiaua River mouth remains unmodified.	Very High	Omarumutu Dunes = High
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	A coastal walkway extends along the dune system which extends along the entire sector. Small clusters of housing at Tirohanga have modified the coast line. The Waiaua River remains unmodified at its river mouth. Rear dune vegetation is minimal but frontal dune vegetation remains.	Moderate	Omarumutu Dunes = High
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	The sector consists mainly of grazed pasture with a narrow band of dune vegetation modified by weed infestation and grazing. The wider section of sand flats, saltmarsh and estuary at the Waiaua River mouth has high diversity with regional significance, and the estuary provides significant habitat for indigenous fish and bird species, but is modified by grazing.	High	Omarumutu Dunes = High
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Parts are highly natural with unmodified dune processes occurring. Residential areas have modified and managed dune processes. The Waiaua River mouth displays an unmodified river mouth with unique coastal processes.	High	Omarumutu Dunes = High
<i>Perceptual</i>	The coastal environment having a sense of untouched wilderness and remoteness. There is infrequent users of the coastal environment, however more are planned for the national cycleway.	High	Waiaua River = High

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	none	93, 95	59, 96, 97



# Coastal Sector 14: Opape to Pokohinu Pt



From Opape to the end of the region, the coastal environment comprises a rocky coastline with small sandy embayments sited between rocky headlands. The Tarakeha peninsula is the first of many peninsulas in this area that are covered in native vegetation. Pohutukawa outcrops extend around peninsula and form a transition between the rocky coastal edge and the landward coastal environment. Torere Bay, Hawai, Whituare Bay and Maraenui comprise sandy embayments where much of the settlement is sited. Cropping and grazing paddocks about the dune system and in some places stock grazing extends across the dunes. Much of the native coastal vegetation exists around the rocky headlands with the embayments having been modified for productive landuse. The Motu River remains an unmodified feature of the coastal edge with its vegetation cover a mixture of native and exotic species.



*Above: Te Whiorau and Torere Bay*



*Below: Te Whiorau*

## Natural Character: **Very High**

Natural Character Feature: Rocky shoreline = High

Natural Character Feature: Tarakeha and Pehitairi Peninsula (TPP) = Very High

Natural Character Feature: Motu River mouth = Very High

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	An unmodified coastline the water body has minimal modification to it. Small boat ramps located for settlements.	Very High	Rocky shoreline = High TPP = Very High Motu River = Very High
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Native vegetated clad headlands dominate the coastline with minimal modification. The rocky coastline remains unmodified, with settlement located within the embayments. The coastal road extends entirely within the coastal environment.	High	Rocky shoreline = High TPP = Very High Motu River mouth = Very High
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	Large parts of the sector consist mainly of grazed pasture, but the headlands have vegetation consisting of indigenous scrubland and treeland including pohutukawa and taraire with regional significance, and are connected with inland indigenous vegetation features. Diversity is high because of the range of forest types and sequences which support a wide range of indigenous bird species and support a nationally critical plant species. Haparapara River is notable for outstanding wildlife value supporting threatened indigenous fish species. The associated rocky reefs and small islets are likely to have relatively unmodified intertidal and subtidal indigenous fauna and vegetation.	High	Rocky shoreline = High TPP = Very High Motu River mouth = Very High
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Parts are highly natural with an unmodified rocky coastline and coastal processes occurring. Residential areas have modified the upper terraces. The Motu River mouth displays an unmodified river mouth with unique coastal processes.	Very High	Rocky shoreline = High TPP = Very High Motu River mouth = Very High
<i>Perceptual</i>	The coastal environment having a sense of untouched wilderness and remoteness. There is infrequent use of the coastal environment, with small remote settlements accessing the water via boat ramps and small beaches.	High	Rocky shoreline = High TPP = Very High Motu River mouth = Very High

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33	97, 166	101, 61, 98

## Coastal Sector 15: Pokohinu Point to Whanarua Bay



Omaio Bay forms a sandy beach with rolling hills dropping to meet a low duneland and the river mouth of the Haparapara River. A small concentrated residential settlement is located at Omaio Bay, with rural residential and rural farming extending down to meet the coastal edge. Much of the coastline comprises a rocky shelf that extends from the coast. Pohutukawa and native coastal bush clad peninsula, with Te Kaha Point having pockets of native vegetation cover at the edge, intermingled with grazing and cropping paddocks along the coastal edge. The coastal road extends along the coastal environment providing access to a number of small residential settlements.



Above: Te Kaha

Below: Haparapara River



## Natural Character: **Moderate**

Natural Character Feature: Rocky Shoreline = High

Natural Character Feature: Haparapara River mouth = Very High

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	An unmodified coastline the water body has minimal modification to it. Small boat ramps located for settlements and at river mouths. The Motu River displays an unmodified water body discharging into the open coast.	Very High	Rocky shoreline = High Haparapara River mouth = Very High
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	The river systems remain unmodified. Farming and settlement have resulted in the loss of vegetation cover along the entire coast. Pockets of settlement are located at Omaio, Hairiki Beach and Te Kaha.	Low to Moderate	Rocky shoreline = High Haparapara River mouth = Very High
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	Large parts of the sector consist mainly of grazed pasture, but the headlands have vegetation consisting of indigenous scrubland and treeland including pohutukawa and puriri with regional and national significance, and are connected with inland indigenous vegetation features. Diversity is high because of the range of forest types and sequences which support a wide range of indigenous bird species. Motu River is notable as a breeding and roosting site for indigenous birds but is modified by weed infestations. The associated rocky reefs and small islets are likely to have relatively unmodified intertidal and subtidal indigenous fauna and vegetation.	Moderate	Rocky shoreline = High Haparapara River mouth = Very High
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Parts are highly natural with an unmodified rocky coastline and coastal processes occurring. Residential areas have modified the upper terraces. The Haparapara River mouth displays an unmodified river mouth with unique coastal processes.	Very High	Rocky shoreline = High Haparapara River mouth = Very High
<i>Perceptual</i>	The coastal environment having a sense of untouched wilderness and remoteness. There is infrequent use of the coastal environment, with small remote settlements accessing the water via boat ramps and small beaches. Te Kaha has built form that dominates the coast but only affects its immediate coastal edge.	High	Rocky shoreline = High Haparapara River mouth = Very High
<i>Relevant Overlays (refer appx)</i>	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	34	none	103, 105



# Coastal Sector 16: Whanarua to Waihau Bay



Whanarua Bay comprises residential settlement set amongst dominant native coastal bush. The rocky coastline, steep escarpment and native vegetation cover provides a visually striking coastal landscape. Modification to the landform is minimal in most parts as the steep hills limit land use activities. Grazing of some of the hill slopes has resulted in the denuding of parts of the coastline, however the coastal edge has remained heavily vegetated. Papatea Bay has developed the lower river plains, meeting the coast into grazing land, with modification to the coastal edge. The Raukokore River mouth remains unmodified and demonstrates the natural river patterns and processes of other rivers along this part of the coast. Toward Waihau Bay the peninsula forms to a raised flat plateau and grazing and cropping paddocks dominate. Clusters of residential settlements are found along the coast and are sparsely sited.



Above: Whanarua Bay



Below: Raukokore

## Natural Character: **High**

Natural Character Feature: Rocky Shoreline (Te Kopua to Papatea Bay) = High

Natural Character Feature: Raukokore River = High

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	An unmodified coastline in part, the water body has minimal modification to it. Small boat ramps located for settlements and at river mouths. The Haparapara River displays an unmodified water body discharging into the open coast.	Very High	Rocky shoreline = High Raukokore River = High
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Pockets of native vegetation cover extend along the rocky foreshore. Farming has resulted in removal of much of the vegetation cover. Filling of the rear dunes occurs from major road works has occurred.	Moderate	Rocky shoreline = High Raukokore River = High
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	The eastern half of the sector consists mainly of grazed pasture, but the headlands west of the Raukokore River mouth and beach have vegetation consisting of indigenous scrubland and treeland including pohutukawa and puriri with national and regional significance. Raukokore Beach and river mouth has high habitat diversity ranging from dunes to wetlands, supporting a diverse indigenous bird and fish fauna. It has national significance but is modified by grazing and weed infestations. The associated rocky reefs and small islets are likely to have relatively unmodified intertidal and subtidal indigenous fauna and vegetation.	High	Rocky shoreline = High Raukokore River = High
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Parts are highly natural with an unmodified rocky coastline and coastal processes occurring. Residential areas have modified the upper terraces. The Raukokore River mouth displays an unmodified river mouth with unique coastal processes.	Very High	Rocky shoreline = High Raukokore River = High
<i>Perceptual</i>	The coastal environment having a sense of untouched wilderness and remoteness. There is infrequent use of the coastal environment, with small remote settlements accessing the water via boat ramps and small beaches.	Very High	Rocky shoreline = High Raukokore River = High
<i>Relevant Overlays (refer appx)</i>	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	35, 36, 37	100, 168, 99, 167, 98	105, 107, 109

## Coastal Sect. 17: Te Ahikehe Pt to Cape Runaway



Waihou Bay comprises a dense settlement of residential and small scale commercial buildings. Settlement is clustered in this part of the coast to Waihou Bay and Whangaparaoa. The vertical cliffs of Te Ahikehe Point demonstrate the dynamic coastal processes occurring in the bay. Whangaparaoa Bay comprises significant dune and rear dune wetlands that dominate the coast, with settlement located behind these features. Cape Runaway forms a dominant headland and is covered in regenerating bush.



*Above: Cape Runaway*



*Below: Te Ahikehe Point*

## Natural Character: High

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	Modification to the coastal edge at Waihou Bay for the boat ramp and moored vessels. Infrequent use of the coastal waters, mainly recreational, some small scale commercial.	High	n/a
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Settlement and farming practices around Waihou Bay have removed any remnant vegetation cover. Infrastructure and settlement extends along the coast at Waihou Bay. The immediate coastal edge remains largely unmodified from Te Ahikehe Point to Cape Runaway.	Moderate	n/a
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	The sector consists mainly of grazed pasture, but the headland of Cape Runaway is reverting to indigenous scrub and pohutukawa forest with high habitat diversity and has regional significance. Otawhata Island is a known breeding site of white-fronted terns and has regional significance. Whangaparaoa Beach and river mouth has high habitat diversity ranging from dunes to wetlands, supporting a diverse indigenous bird and fish fauna. It has national significance but is modified by grazing and weed infestations. The Oruaiti Beach dunes and rocky headlands are part of a larger feature that has vegetation sequences from the coast to the ridgeline, and has high habitat diversity and regional/national significance but is modified by recreational uses and weed infestations. The associated rocky reefs and small islets are likely to have relatively unmodified intertidal and subtidal indigenous fauna and vegetation.	High	n/a
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Waihou Bay settlement has resulted in some coastal edge protection. The natural dune processes still occur, modified through land use practices. Coastal erosion dominates Te Ahikehe Point.	High	n/a
<i>Perceptual</i>	Waihou Bay has built form which is evident along the coast. Natural coastal sounds dominate but some settlement and associated activities reduces the sense of remoteness. Cape Runaway has minimal use and is very remote with a strong sense of wilderness.	High	n/a

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	37, 38, 39, 40	120	109, 113, 115, 62



## Coastal Sect. 18: Cape Runaway to Potikirua Pt



A steep rocky coastline extends along this entire sector. Road access is sited behind the dominant ridge and outside the coastal environment. Settlement is sparse in this area with some rural housing and a single hotel located along the mid slopes of the coastal edge. Vegetation cover has been modified to accommodate grazing of stock, however dominant pockets are located along the edge and up into valleys that meet the coastal edge. The rocky shoreline provides a wild and scenic coastline and that has a sense of remoteness.



*Above: Cape Runaway*

*Below: Tahurua Point*

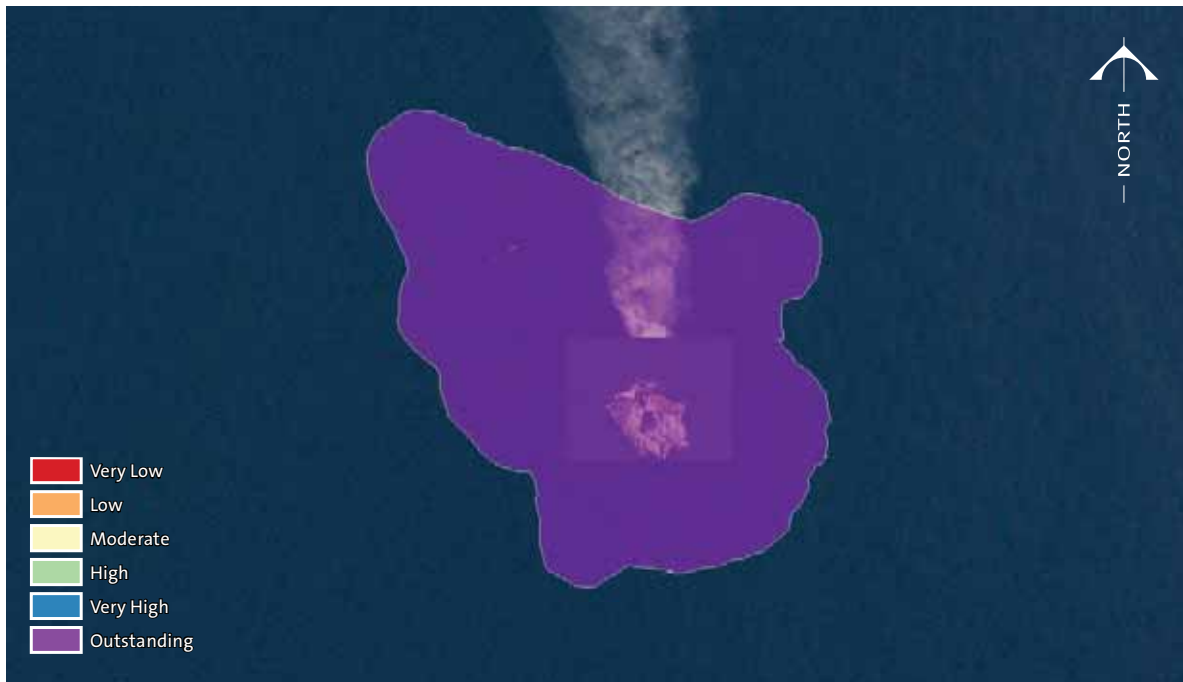


## Natural Character: **High**

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	Unmodified steep rocky coastline with infrequent use of the coastal waters.	Very High	n/a
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Modification to the land cover has occurred through land use practices of farming. Largely unmodified except for a single remote hotel located along the coast.	Low to Moderate	n/a
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	The sector consists mainly of grazed pasture with isolated pohutukawa forest remnants (grazed) and small areas of scrubland that will provide limited habitat for common indigenous fauna species. The associated rocky reefs and small islets are likely to have relatively unmodified intertidal and subtidal indigenous fauna and vegetation.	Low to Moderate	n/a
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes.	Very High	n/a
<i>Perceptual</i>	The coastal environment having a sense of untouched wilderness and remoteness. Access to the water is limited and a scattering of dwellings do not dominate the coastal environment.	High	n/a

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	41	102	none

## Coastal Sect. 19: Whakaari and Te Paepae o Aotea



Whakaari (White Island) is the crater of an active volcano located 44km off the Bay of Plenty coastline. The island is 19.8km<sup>2</sup> in area and is boarded by cliffs formed by ocean wave erosion. Vegetation cover on the island is limited to 14 species including pohutukawa.



*Above: Sulphur deposits. Below: White Island*



Source: Tourism Bay of Plenty



## Natural Character: **Outstanding**

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	Some minimal modification to the island for access for tourism and monitoring.	Very High	n/a
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Historical mining occurred however remain as remnants only. Structures exist to provide tourist access and remain minor.	Very High	n/a
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	Both features include the main islands and a number of associated islets and rocky reefs with indigenous vegetation that are naturally of low diversity and are nationally significant. The islands provide habitat for a range of seabirds. The associated marine reserve recognises the unique marine biodiversity associated with the subsurface geothermal features.	Outstanding	n/a
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes.	Very High	n/a
<i>Perceptual</i>	Very low level of activity with a high sense of remoteness and wilderness. The volcanic island's active status demonstrates the wilderness and its distance from shore contributes to its remoteness.	Very High	n/a

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	46	none	126, 125

## Coastal Sect. 20: Moutohora Is. and Rurima Is.



Moutohora Island (Whale Island) and Rurima Island are located on the Pacific Ring of Fire. Whale Island displays a range of natural features and processes occurring on the island, including a volcanic field running through the centre of the island. Rurima Island is located approximately 8km west of Whale Island and contains similar vegetation cover and rock formations.



*Above: Moutohora Island*

*Below: Rurima Island*



## Natural Character: **Outstanding**

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	Some minimal modification to Moutohora Island for access for recreation and monitoring.	Outstanding	n/a
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Structures exist to provide tourist access and remain minor. A DOC hut is located on Moutohora Island for accommodation.	Very High	n/a
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	Rurima Islands Wildlife Refuge includes several islands with complete cover of a diverse range of vegetation types and are nationally significant. They have no mammalian pests, high biodiversity and provide habitat for a wide range of endemic, threatened and rare flora and fauna species, notably tuatara. Moutohora Island Wildlife Management Reserve has complete cover of a diverse range of vegetation types including a unique sequence of geothermal vegetation occurring from the high tide mark up to forest and is nationally significant. It has no mammalian pests, has very high biodiversity and provides habitat for a wide range of endemic, threatened and rare flora and fauna species. Some exotic weed species are present.	Outstanding	n/a
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes.	Very High	n/a
<i>Perceptual</i>	Very low level of activity with a high sense of remoteness and wilderness. Moutohora island's active volcanic crevasse demonstrates the wilderness and its distance from shore contributes to its remoteness.	Very High	n/a

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	45		123, 124

## Coastal Sector 21: Tuhua



Tuhua is a 15km wide shield volcano dominated by a 3km caldera crater. The volcano has the most diverse history of volcanic eruption types and is renowned for its unique obsidian glass found on the island. As a DOC and Marine Reserve the island's remoteness is apparent. Vegetation cover is indigenous and remains untouched. Occupation of the island was historically Maori with an existing DOC hut located on the island. Access to the island is gained from

South East Bay by boat. Several lakes exist on the island and are geothermally heated. As the largest off shore island, it displays high values in natural character and is also an Outstanding Natural Landscape.



*Above: Tuhua (Mayor Island)*

*Below: Tuhua (Mayor Island) viewed from the mainland*



Source: Schwede66

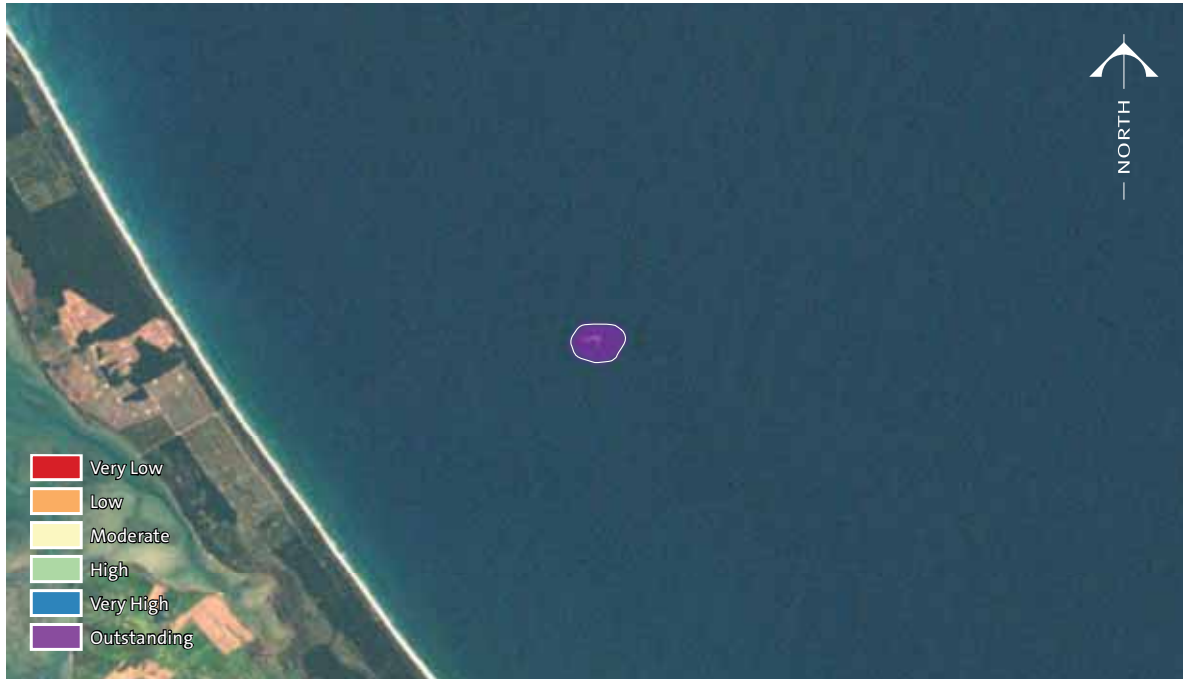


## Natural Character: **Outstanding**

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	No modification to coastal edge for access and use. Marine Reserve extends around the island.	Outstanding	n/a
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Structures exist to provide tourist access and remain minor. A DOC hut is located on the island for accommodation.	Very High	n/a
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	The indigenous pohutukawa forest of Mayor Island Wildlife Sanctuary provides almost complete cover on the island and is nationally significant. It is unmodified by possums, has no mammalian pests, has very high biodiversity and provides habitat for a wide range of endemic, threatened and rare flora and fauna species. Some exotic weed species are present. The surrounding rocky reefs are known to support moderate to high marine biodiversity.	Outstanding	n/a
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes.	Very High	n/a
<i>Perceptual</i>	Very low level of activity and visible built form. A high sense of remoteness and wilderness are gained from its distance from shore and unmodified state.	Very High	n/a

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
43	none	117	

## Coastal Sector 22: Karewa Island



Karewa Island forms a steep rocky island, which provides a DOC sanctuary for tuatara. Vegetation cover comprises native coastal bush and canopy cover. The island is largely inaccessible due to its rocky shoreline.



*Above and Below: Karewa Island*



## Natural Character: **Outstanding**

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	No modification to coastal edge for access and use. Marine Reserve extends around the island.	Very High	n/a
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	No structures or man made land use practices occur on the island.	Very High	n/a
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	The indigenous vegetation of Karewa Island Wildlife Sanctuary provides almost complete cover on the island and is nationally significant. It provides habitat for a range of flora and fauna species, notably tuatara and nesting for flesh-footed shearwater. Some exotic weed species are present in low numbers and there are no mammalian pests present. The feature includes a number of outlying rocky islets and reefs.	Outstanding	n/a
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes.	Very High	n/a
<i>Perceptual</i>	Very low level of activity and visible built form. A high sense of remoteness and wilderness are gained from its distance from shore and unmodified state.	Very High	n/a
<i>Relevant Overlays (refer appx)</i>	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	42	none	116

# Motiti Is, Motuhaku Is, Coastal Sector 23: Motunau Is and Astrolabe Reef



Motiti Island is the only inhabited offshore island along the Bay of Plenty Coastline. As a flat plateau the island has been developed into cropping and grazing blocks. Much of the coastal vegetation has been cleared with pockets of Pohutukawa extending along the rocky shoreline. The offshore islands of Motuhaku and Motunau are relatively small rocky islands with some coastal vegetation located upon the upper plateau of the islands. Astrolabe Reef comprises a small rocky reef extending off Motiti Island. In 2011 the cargo vessel Rena ran aground on the reef and remains in two parts on the reef, submerged. Considerable damage to the reef and surrounding shorelines has occurred.



*Above: Motunau (Plate) Island*

*Below: Motiti Island*



Source: Flickr-PhillipC



## Natural Character: **Outstanding**

**Natural Character Feature: Motiti Island Margin = High**

**Natural Character Feature: Motuhaku Island = Outstanding**

**Natural Character Feature: Motunau Island = Outstanding**

**Natural Character Feature: Astrolabe Reef = Assessment Deferred.** *It is considered likely that the natural character of Astrolabe Reef would have been considered Outstanding prior to the grounding of the cargo vessel Rena. The current status of the reef will remain unknown until the wreck is removed, clean up work is completed, and an assessment can be carried out.*

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	Modification for ferry access and recreational boat access. Modification to the coastal edge and waters has been temporarily affected by the grounding of the cargo vessel Rena.	High	Motiti Island Margin = High Motuhaku = Very High Motunau = Very High
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Motiti Island is heavily modified for agricultural, horticultural and residential activities. Structures exist for transport and ferry landing. The land cover has been heavily modified.  The remaining islands have not been modified. It is noted that the Astrolabe Reef has been modified as a result of the recent grounding of the cargo vessel Rena. This is considered temporary and will require reevaluation once post clean up works are completed.	Moderate	Motiti Island Margin = High Motuhaku = Very High Motunau = Very High
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	Indigenous vegetation consists of a narrow fringe of good quality pohutukawa forest around the coastal margin of the island with moderate diversity, and areas of wetlands with low diversity within the island. Most of the island is dominated by exotic vegetation, primarily orchards and pasture, providing limited habitat and biodiversity. The island coastal margins support a range of seabirds, shorebirds and other native bird species. The offshore islands and islets vary in the degree of modification of vegetation and generally have regional significance while Plate (Motunau) Island is unmodified and has national significance.	Outstanding	Motiti Island Margin = High Motuhaku = Outstanding Motunau = Outstanding
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes.	High	Motiti Island Margin = High Motuhaku = Very High Motunau = Very High
<i>Perceptual</i>	For Motuhaku and Motunau the very low level of activity and visible built form. A high sense of remoteness and wilderness are gained from its distance from shore and unmodified state. Motiti Island has parts of its coastline which are inaccessible however the modification contribute to some remoteness.	Moderate	Motiti Island Margin = High Motuhaku = Very High Motunau = Very High

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	44	143, 141, 140, 142	122

## Coastal Sector 24: Motutau Island



Motutau Island, also known locally as Rabbit Island, forms a steep island surrounded by rocky shoreline. Vegetation cover comprises native coastal bush and canopy cover. The island is largely inaccessible due to its rocky shoreline.



*Above and Below: Motutau Island*



## Natural Character: **Outstanding**

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	No modification to coastal edge for access and use.	Very High	n/a
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	No structures or man made land use practices occur on the island.	High	n/a
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	The indigenous pohutukawa forest of Motuatau Island Scenic Reserve provides almost complete cover on the island and is nationally significant. It provides habitat for a wide range of endemic, threatened and rare flora and fauna species. Some exotic weed species are present but are controlled. The feature includes a number of outlying rocky islets and reefs including that to the north of the nearby Motuariki Island.	High	n/a
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes.	Very High	n/a
<i>Perceptual</i>	Very low level of activity and visible built form. A high sense of remoteness and wilderness are gained from its unmodified state. The distance from shore contributes to its reduced perception of remoteness.	High	n/a

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	10	none	130

# Coastal Sector 25: Matakana Island



Matakana Island is the largest barrier island in New Zealand. The coastal extent of the island forms a large sand dune system that extends some 23km between the northern and southern harbour entrances. The harbour extent of the island comprises a raised landmass that supports a residential settlement and rural cropping and farming.



*Above: Saltmarsh on Matakana Island*

*Below: Northern end of Matakana Island*





## Natural Character: **Very High**

Natural Character Feature: Northern End = Very High

Natural Character Feature: Open Coast = High

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	The open coast is unmodified with the harbour edge modified at the settlement areas and mill site. Localised boat ramps and two ferry boat ramps extend into the harbour edge.	Very High	Northern End = Very High Open Coast = High
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Much of the island has been modified through forestry, horticultural and agricultural land use practices. Settlement remains on the inner harbour side. Buildings are not visually significant. Jetties and boat ramps are found at key access points.	Moderate	Northern End = Very High Open Coast = Very High
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	The seaward coastal margin of the island includes dunes and wetlands with high quality and diverse indigenous vegetation beneath the pine canopy that has national significance and includes threatened plant species. It provides a relatively undisturbed habitat for a wide range of threatened and uncommon wetland and shore birds, notably nesting areas for New Zealand dotterel. On the harbour-side coastal margins, indigenous vegetation consists mainly of the estuarine saltmarsh and intertidal habitats. These coastal margin features are included in the Tauranga Harbour feature. Most of the island is dominated by exotic vegetation, primarily orchards, pasture and plantation forestry, providing limited habitat and diversity. Freshwater wetlands on the island vary in quality and diversity and are generally modified by invasive weed species. The wetlands provide relatively undisturbed habitat for indigenous wetland fauna and range in significance from local to national.	Moderate	Northern End = Very High Open Coast = High
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	A good example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes to the majority of the island. However the dominant pine plantation limits the dune coastal processes and encourages accretion of the dune system. The inner harbour edge has undergone some modification at settlement areas to manage coastal erosion and access.	High	Northern End = Very High Open Coast = Very High
<i>Perceptual</i>	The open coast beach has significant remoteness and is wild. Human activity is minimal. The harbour extent and landward extent, excluding the settlement areas are remote and wild.	Moderate	Northern End = Very High Open Coast = High

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
	4, 5	114, 129, 128, 123, 71, 70, 77, 115, 135	129, 142, 145, 52, 68

## Coastal Sector 26: Rangiwaea Island



Rangiwaea Island comprises a flat raised plateau with a mixture of grazing and horticultural cropping. A small settlement and marae are located on the eastern end of the island. Access is gained by boat only with a small jetty and pontoon servicing the access.

*Above and Below: Rangiwaea Island*



## Natural Character: **Moderate**

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	Some modification to the immediate water edge with coastal structures, including a jetty / pontoon.	Very High	n/a
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Much of the island has been modified through horticultural and agricultural land use practices. A small settlement is located on the island and the buildings are not visually significant. Jetties and boat ramps are found at the southwestern end of the island.	Moderate	n/a
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	Indigenous vegetation consists of a narrow fringe around the coastal margin of the island with low to moderate diversity, wider areas of estuarine wetlands and saltmarsh with moderate diversity, and an estuary extending into the centre of the island with high diversity. The estuarine wetlands and estuary are included in the Tauranga Harbour feature. Most of the island is dominated by exotic vegetation, primarily orchards, pasture and plantation forestry providing limited habitat and biodiversity.	Low to Moderate	n/a
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Modification to some of the island edges to manage erosion has occurred. Structures are present to provide island access.	High	n/a
<i>Perceptual</i>	Rangiwaea Island has parts of its coastline that are inaccessible. Use is limited due to access being by boat only and a limited population. The area is popular for water skiing and kayaking.	Moderate	n/a

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
3		150, 149, 148, 147, 171	

## Coastal Sector 27: Motuhua Island



Motuhua Island comprises a flat raised plateau with a mixture of grazing and horticultural cropping. The northern side of the island has a steep escarpment and cliffs that are constantly subject to coastal erosion.



*Above and Below: Motuhua Island*



Source: Google Earth



## Natural Character: **Moderate**

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	No modification to coastal edge for access and use.	High	n/a
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Much of the island has been modified through horticultural and agricultural land use practices.	Low	n/a
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	Indigenous vegetation consists of a narrow fringe of pohutukawa forest around the margin of the island with low diversity. Most of the island is dominated by exotic vegetation, primarily orchards, providing limited habitat and biodiversity.	Low	n/a
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes. Coastal erosion of the island is an ongoing process and concern for residents.	Moderate	n/a
<i>Perceptual</i>	Motuhoa Island has parts of its coastline that are inaccessible. Use is limited due to access being by boat only and a limited population. The area is popular for water skiing and kayaking.	Moderate	n/a

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
9		121	

# Coastal Sector 28: Tauranga Harbour



Tauranga Harbour is a shallow tidal estuary of 224km<sup>2</sup> of which 93% is exposed at low tide. Mangroves are present along the coastline along with saltmarsh. More recently in settled areas the mangroves have been removed and unnatural lines formed within the vegetation patterns. Similarly there has been damage to the subtidal sea floor from the removal operations. Much of the harbour margins remain unchanged except for Tauranga City where industrial and commercial structures dominate the harbour margin. Dredging of the sea floor occurs for the Port of Tauranga shipping activities and sedimentation is apparent in the southern harbour estuaries where reclamation has contributed to the retention of sediment.



*Above and Below: Tauranga Harbour*



## Natural Character: **Very High**

Natural Character Feature: Northern Harbour = High

Natural Character Feature: City Harbour = Very Low

Natural Character Feature: Southern Harbour = High

Degree of Natural Character	Evaluation	Sector Rating	Feature Rating
<i>Water</i>	Inlets and water ingress to the harbour have been modified to concentrate flows of water around built up areas. There has been significant modification to the City Harbour to accommodate commercial and recreational harbour use. Other parts of the northern and southern harbour estuaries remain largely unmodified and in a natural state.	Very High	Northern Harbour - Very High City Harbour - Low Southern Harbour - High
<i>Land Cover and Land Use</i>	Part of the harbour has been heavily modified to accommodate commercial port activities, boat ramps and deep water access to boat ramps. Channel markers are scattered throughout the harbour and are visible during the night time.	High	Northern Harbour = High City Harbour = Very Low Southern Harbour = High
<i>Terrestrial Biotic Systems</i>	Tauranga Harbour below MHWS has low modification and includes the extensive areas of seagrass, saltmarsh around the margins of the mainland and islands, mangrove shrublands, transitions to freshwater wetlands at river mouths, shell and sand banks used by indigenous birds. It has high diversity of habitats and vegetation types, areas with regional and national significance, and supports a wide range of indigenous bird and fish species including uncommon and threatened species. It is noted within the southern harbour and city harbour	Moderate	Northern Harbour - Very High City Harbour - Low Southern Harbour - Moderate
<i>Abiotic System and Landform</i>	A mixture of excellent examples of coastal processes along with significant changes to the coastal processes. The northern end of the harbour remains largely unmodified except for the settlement areas. The southern end of the harbour is largely modified with reclamation for the port, roads and bridges and retaining for residential settlement to prevent erosion.	Moderate to High	Northern Harbour - Very High City Harbour - Low Southern Harbour - High
<i>Perceptual</i>	Parts of the harbour are inaccessible by boat and foot. Large parts of the northern harbour have a strong sense of remoteness particularly alongside Matakana Island. Adjacent to the mainland the harbour is more accessible and numerous activities occur along the harbour margins. Beaches are popular recreation spots and residential settlements clutter the coastline.	Moderate	Northern Harbour - Very High City Harbour - Low Southern Harbour - High

Relevant Overlays (refer appx)	ONFL	SSCE	CHPZ
3		74, 130, 101, 145, 137, 13, 72, 127, 112, 1, 131, 154, 14, 144, 28, 10, 6, 12, 124, 11, 25, 15, 24, 22, 138, 171, 174, 135, 30, 115, 17, 77, 27	12, 138, 14, 19, 42, 6, 11, 48, 7, 64, 13, 4, 5, 8, 1, 18, 157, 134, 17, 3, 69, 27, 144, 25, 26, 28, 131, 27, 29, 68, 70, 76, 147, 71, 148, 149