

18 Landscapes and Natural Features

18.1 Introduction

Section 6(b) of the Resource Management Act identifies as a matter of importance “*The protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development*”.

Outstanding Natural Landscapes

Kaipara District includes a diverse range of landscapes ranging from exposed coasts, sheltered estuaries, rivers, steep bush clad hills, riverside flats and rolling farmland. Collectively these varied landscapes contribute to the character and identity of the Kaipara District and some of these landscapes have been assessed and identified as being ‘Outstanding Natural Landscapes’ (ONLs).

One of the distinguishing characteristics of these landscapes is their degree of ‘naturalness’. However, this does not preclude farming activities and structures such as fences, barns, farm houses or other forms of development from being within them. It is the scale and intensity of the built structures and development that determines when an outstanding natural landscape is no longer ‘outstanding’.

The criteria used for identifying Outstanding Natural Landscapes are¹:-

- The natural science factors: - the geological, topographical, ecological and dynamic components of landscape;
- Its aesthetic values including memorability and naturalness;
- Its expressiveness (legibility): how obviously the landscape demonstrates the formative processes leading to it;
- Transient values: occasional presence of wildlife, or its values at certain times of the day or of the year;
- Whether values are shared and recognised;
- Its value to tangata whenua; and
- Its historical associations.

Appendix 18A sets out the 23 Outstanding Natural Landscapes identified in the Kaipara District and provides a description of each of them. These descriptions are derived from the Kaipara District Landscape Technical Report (2010). That Report contains worksheets detailing the elements and values associated with each Outstanding Natural Landscape and helps understand what aspects of the landscape are of value in order to provide for appropriate land use management.

Outstanding Natural Landscapes are deemed to be those landscape areas which strongly display the physical characteristics and character associated with a particular landscape type. They are prominent, lend a measure of spectacle or sense of place, and have an uninhabited or sparse level of built development or modification, with a relatively low capacity to absorb change. While these landscapes make a significant contribution to the public realm, land ownership is a mix of public and private ownership. In some cases these include working landscapes.

Issues, Objectives, Policies, Methods, Outcomes and Rules are set out to appropriately manage and/or protect the Outstanding Natural Landscapes.

Kaipara includes outstanding landscapes and natural features.

Significant landscapes were assessed and classified to identify Outstanding Natural Landscapes.

You can check if your property has an Outstanding Natural Landscape by looking on Map Series 1 of the District Plan Maps.



West Coast Ocean Beach

Mangawhai Barrier Spit

Natural Features

Kaipara District includes a number of natural features, some of which may be considered to be ‘Outstanding Natural Features’ (ONFs).

At the time of preparing the District Plan, specific mapping or identification of ONFs had not been undertaken. The District Plan identifies Issues, Objectives and Policies for these features and identifies the process for how ONFs will be identified and protected in the Kaipara District.

Regional Context

At a regional level, the Northland Regional Council may also consider the significance of the feature or landscape. Given the scale / grain of these assessments a landscape that is considered “outstanding” within the Kaipara District may not be considered “outstanding” within the Northland Region as a whole.

At the time of preparing the District Plan, the Council was aware that the Northland Regional Council is undertaking work to map outstanding landscapes, natural character and natural features of the coastal environment, as part of its work for the Regional Policy Statement review. It is anticipated that as more current or accurate mapping information becomes available (for example, through the Regional Council’s review work) Council will review the defined landscapes. The work by the Regional Council may also provide further information for Council to define and consider management options for outstanding natural features.

18.2 Resource Management Act Requirements

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 the Council has a responsibility to manage landscapes and natural features and the contribution of landscapes to environmental quality as defined below:

Section 6 of the Resource Management Act provides for “Matters of National Importance” which outlines that all persons exercising functions and powers under the Resource Management Act shall recognise and provide for matters of national importance. Of relevance to this Chapter are:

- The preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and lakes, and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
- The protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.
- The relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga.
- The protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.

Section 7 of the Resource Management Act sets out ‘Other Matters’ that those exercising functions and powers under the Resource Management Act shall have particular regard to. Of relevance to this Chapter, are:

- The maintenance and enhancement of amenity values.
- Maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment.
- The benefits to be derived from the use and development of renewable energy.

Some of the above section 6 and 7 matters of the Resource Management Act (as well as other matters identified in these sections) are addressed more specifically in the objectives, policies and methods of other Chapters of this District Plan. In particular the following Chapters are relevant: Chapter 2 (District Wide Resource Management Issues), Chapter 4 (Overlays), Chapter 5 (Tangata Whenua Strategy), Chapter 6 (Ecology), Chapter 10 (Network Utilities) and Chapter 17 (Heritage).

To recognise and provide for the section 6 matters listed above, it is appropriate for Council to identify Outstanding Natural Landscapes (which may include outstanding natural features and areas of high natural character). These Outstanding Natural Landscapes have been mapped in the District Plan.

The identification of landscapes and the inclusion of specific Issues, Objectives, Policies and Rules is also necessary to give effect to the relevant Policies, 6 and 15 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 and Objectives 19.3.1-3 and Policies 19.4.1-19.4.6 of the Regional Policy Statement for Northland 2002.

Other section 6(b) matters and section 7(c) and 7(f) matters (relating to Outstanding Natural Features, amenity and other landscape values contributing to the quality of the environment) are also recognised in this Chapter of the District Plan through the Issues, Objectives and Policies. These are not mapped on the Planning Maps.

¹ These criteria are derived from case law developed in ‘Pigeon Bay Aquaculture Ltd and Ors v Canterbury Regional Council’ C32/999

18.3 How to Use This Chapter of the District Plan

This Chapter contains specific Issues, Objectives and Policies to recognise landscape values and protect outstanding landscapes.

While this Chapter does contain Methods, it does not contain 'Rules'. The Outcomes sought by this Chapter (how the objectives and policies are implemented) are to be achieved through land use and subdivision rules including assessment criteria for resource consent and performance standards in the Chapters in Part B.

As long as a proposed activity meets the performance standards of the relevant Zone Chapter, landowners do not need to consider this Chapter. However, if a proposed development, new land use or subdivision requires resource consent under the relevant Part B Chapter of the District Plan, you may need to give consideration to this Chapter, particularly on how your proposal contributes to achieving the objectives and policies of this Chapter.

Before you use this Chapter of the Plan, please check:

- Whether you have an Outstanding Natural Landscape on your property – as this will set different performance standards for your property (identified in Part B of the Plan);
- That the proposed activity meets the performance standards for the relevant zone (if it does you don't need to refer to this Chapter);
- If you do require a resource consent, review the assessment criteria to confirm if they include consideration of impacts on landscape/natural feature values (if they don't and your activity is a 'restricted discretionary activity, you don't need to refer to this Chapter);

Otherwise you do need to consider this Chapter and how your proposal meets the relevant objectives and policies.

Issues, Objectives and Policies within each Chapter of the Plan are presented in no particular order of importance.

It is also important to remember that you may want to use this Chapter if you are proposing to seek one of the following types of subdivision as it will assist you in determining whether areas on your land have landscape value for an 'environmental benefit':

- 'Preservation of natural or cultural heritage';
- 'Environmental benefit'; or
- 'Integrated development'.

The provisions in this chapter prevail over the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017 on relation to plantation forestry activities and transfers into the rules over landscapes as it appears in all the District Plan zones.

18.4 Landscapes and Natural Features Issues

18.4.1 Inappropriate subdivision, use and development has the potential to threaten the values of Outstanding Natural Landscapes.

The spiritual, cultural, amenity, ecological, geological and scientific values that make individual features and landscapes outstanding, have the potential to be adversely affected or in some cases permanently lost or degraded by inappropriate subdivision, use and development. Generally, Outstanding Natural Landscapes have lower capacity to absorb change.

Subdivision, use and development can be inappropriate due to the level of modification of the landscape and associated reduction in naturalness. Buildings and other structures have the potential to change Outstanding Natural Landscapes through inappropriate siting, character design, scale and form; or by the location and extent of earthworks and vegetation clearance, and inappropriate planting. Conversely good design, the appropriate location of built structures and elements together with good land management practices may allow the character and values of such landscapes to be protected.

The cumulative effects of all types of subdivision, use and development can progressively change Outstanding Natural Landscapes. These changes include positive cumulative effects such as those associated with environmental restoration activities while other land use changes can have adverse cumulative effects associated with the loss of natural character as built structures and elements become more prevalent.

18.4.2 The need to identify and protect Outstanding Natural Landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development while also providing for the social and economic well-being of the District's people and communities.

This Chapter contains specific issues, objectives and policies to recognise and protect values of landscapes and natural features

You can check if your property has an Outstanding Natural Landscape mapped on it. Look on Map Series 2 of the District Plan Maps.

If your proposal is for an activity (development) that meets the Performance Standards for the relevant Zone Chapter, you don't need to consider this Chapter

Some people have a perception that the identification of an Outstanding Natural Landscape on a property detracts from the value and development potential of the property. Such landscapes have the potential to make a significant contribution to the value of land and contribute to economic development, e.g. through increased opportunities for recreation and tourism activities or encouraging people to live and work within or near distinctive or iconic landscapes.

Much of the District's landscape is a working landscape that changes over time and includes pastoral land where structures such as fences, farmhouses, barns, pump-houses, utilities and land management practices form part of the working landscape.

Other industries that may also value resources in or near these areas include extractive industries (due to the presence of a mineral resource) and new significant infrastructure such as renewable energy developments. As an example of the former, Bald Rock is a resource that has had a long history of quarrying. The underpinning volcanic dacite geology of Bald Rock gives the feature its striking geomorphic character but is also a potential source of valuable building and construction material for the district and the wider region (due to its very slow weathering characteristics). There is an acknowledged shortage of aggregate and mineral resources for building and construction in the wider region and the Plan recognises the importance of managed mineral extraction to the social and economic wellbeing of the District (see outcome 2.7.12 and associated provisions).

There needs to be a careful balance between the protection of Outstanding Natural Landscapes and use of these resources (to provide for social and economic wellbeing) in achieving sustainable management.

18.4.3 Inappropriate subdivision, use and development on land outside Outstanding Natural Landscapes may adversely affect the values and characteristics of the Outstanding Natural Landscape.

Council is required to manage Outstanding Natural Landscapes in a way that identifies and protects their values from the adverse effects of inappropriate subdivision, use and development. Some activities outside an Outstanding Natural Landscape may generate effects on, an Outstanding Natural Landscape.

18.4.4 There are natural features in the District that are likely to be of outstanding value. However their values and extent and the risks to these features are currently not well understood.

The spiritual, cultural, ecological, geological and scientific values that contribute to outstanding natural features have the potential to be adversely affected or in some cases permanently lost or degraded by inappropriate subdivision, use and development. Some of these features are identified and included in the mapped Outstanding Natural Landscapes. However, other natural features have been identified (for example through the Geopreservation Society's inventory). Currently, there is limited information on the extent of these features and the extent to which current resource use is threatening their values.

18.4.5 The need to recognise and maintain a diversity of landscape types.

The Kaipara District contains a number of distinctive, 'iconic' and cultural landscapes contributing to amenity and the quality of the environment. Retaining the District's distinctive landscape character relies on managing landscape values (including those outside Outstanding Natural Landscapes) and maintaining strong representation of landscape types. It also involves maintaining and enhancing the key characteristics that define and contribute more broadly to the District's identity. However, it is important to recognise that these landscapes are often working environments undergoing change and used for a variety of purposes.

The District Plan needs to manage the effects of activities in a way that recognises and maintains the range and variety of distinctive landscapes (including cultural landscapes) that distinguish Kaipara recognising that some types are less well-represented than others.

The District's landscapes are also protected through the voluntary efforts of landowners and the Council wishes to foster this type of support.

Some elements of the physical environment that contribute to landscape values overlap with other resource values and are more specifically addressed in other Chapters of the District Plan (particularly Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 17).

18.4.6 Adjoining District Councils are at different stages of identifying outstanding natural landscape, natural features and other landscape values, and have different approaches to protecting and managing those areas. Those differences have the potential to diminish the coherence and value of the broader landscape entity.

Adjoining Councils have not identified Outstanding Natural Landscapes and features in a consistent way. This may result in the degradation or destruction of such features and landscapes over time and cross boundary management issues i.e. the recognition and management of landscape values of the Brynderwyns differs between the districts that this feature spans.

18.5 Landscapes and Natural Features Objectives

- 18.5.1 To protect Outstanding Natural Landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, including in terms of the type, scale, design, intensity and location of any subdivision, use and development.** [Issues 18.4.1, 18.4.2 and 18.4.3](#)
- 18.5.2 To identify outstanding natural features in the District and determine the most appropriate methods to protect such features from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.** [Issue 18.4.4](#)
- 18.5.3 To encourage the active management, enhancement, and voluntary protection of landscapes by private land owners by utilising regulatory incentives and non-regulatory methods.** [Issues 18.4.1, 18.4.4 and 18.4.5](#)
- 18.5.4 To maintain the distinctiveness, diversity and complexity and sense of place of landscapes across the District.** [Issue 18.4.5](#)
[Issue 18.4.6](#)

18.6 Landscapes and Natural Features Policies

- 18.6.1 To recognise and protect Outstanding Natural Landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development by:** [Objective 18.5.1](#)
[Objective 18.5.3](#)
[Objective 18.5.4](#)
- Identifying and confirming the extent, values and characteristics of Outstanding Natural Landscapes;
 - Protecting natural and physical features and natural systems (such as landforms, indigenous vegetation and watercourses) that contribute to the character and values of Outstanding Natural Landscapes;
 - Managing the potential adverse effects of activities including earthworks, vegetation clearance and the location, scale, design and external appearance of buildings structures and accessways;
 - Protecting the character and values of features and landscapes by managing the potential significant adverse effects of locating inappropriate significant built elements outside Outstanding Natural Landscapes;
 - Recognising the importance of views of Outstanding Natural Landscapes;
 - Avoiding significant adverse effects that would compromise the values and characteristics of Outstanding Natural Landscapes, particularly when viewed from public places including public roads;
 - Recognising the on-going contribution to the social and economic wellbeing of the District derived from activities and maintaining appropriate opportunities for these within Outstanding Natural Landscapes. These activities include farming, forestry operations and renewable energy activities and associated electricity transmission activities; and
 - Encouraging and recognising the wider benefits of sensitive development that protects Outstanding Natural Landscapes.

The Council has recognised and protected Outstanding Natural Landscapes in the District and has mapped them.

Subdivision, use and development within Outstanding Natural Landscapes will be managed so that the key physical characteristics and values that make up each individual landscape will be protected (as identified in Appendix 18A and the worksheets of the Kaipara District Landscape Technical Report 2010) from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. The impact of different activities on Outstanding Natural Landscapes will vary depending on the sensitivity of the landscape to a proposed activity. While generally, Outstanding Natural Landscapes have lower capacity to absorb change, this does not preclude built structures and elements or other land use activities where appropriate. The key focus is protecting the identified values of the Outstanding Natural Landscapes. However, it is recognised that there are other 'competing' policy directions such as the National Policy Statement on Renewable Energy that also need to be taken into account. When considering the effects of activities on these landscapes reference also needs to be had to Appendix 18B which contains assessment criteria.

Subdivision boundaries and the alignment and location of network utilities (including roading networks) should recognise natural topography, important natural features, views and patterns of the landscape to appropriately avoid adverse effects on landscape values.

Enhancing existing environmental systems will be encouraged. For example, this may include extending areas of existing indigenous vegetation to provide ecological linkages and strengthen landscape patterns, and integrating elements such as waterways with subdivision, use and development. Activities which have the potential for adverse effects on these Outstanding Natural Landscapes will be subject to management through the Plan.

In assessing applications for resource consent for subdivision, use and development consideration will be given to the benefits of the proposal in terms of the protection and enhancement of scientific, geological and landscape values being offered. This could be by way of voluntary protection measures, covenant,

consent notices or financial contributions. For example the use of covenants to control the volume and extent of land disturbance activities, protection of indigenous vegetation, design and external appearance and location of, accessways, buildings and structures including signage, lighting and fencing.

- 18.6.2 To consider, at the time of resource consent applications, the potential adverse effects of subdivision, use and development on landscape values and the diversity of landscape types.** [Objective 18.5.4](#)

Recognising that much of the District's amenity, character and sense of place is derived from working landscapes and environments it is important to expect that there will be on-going change, use and development in these areas. The Council will consider the visual and landscape effects of those activities requiring resource consent, in particular to recognise and maintain the range and variety of distinctive landscapes (including cultural landscapes), amenity, character and sense of place.

In assessing applications for resource consent for subdivision, use and development consideration will be given to the impact that the development may have on the diversity of landscape types within the District.

- 18.6.3 Working with neighbouring local authorities to provide a consistent approach to the identification, protection and management of Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Outstanding Natural Features.** [Objective 18.5.1](#)
[Objective 18.5.2](#)
[Objective 18.5.4](#)

Several of Kaipara District's Outstanding Natural Landscapes traverse boundaries with Far North, Whangarei and Auckland Council's boundaries. In order to address cross boundary issues an integrated management approach is necessary to facilitate the identification, protection and management of Outstanding Natural Landscapes through District Plan Methods and Other Methods. Inconsistent identification of Outstanding Natural Landscapes will result in inconsistent management of inappropriate development and adverse environmental effects.

Collaborative investigation and assessment of Outstanding Natural Features, with other local Northland local authorities and the Auckland Council will enable Council to identify and as appropriate map and protect these features in a consistent manner to adjoining Districts, providing improved certainty for the environmental outcomes of their management and ensuring consistency in approach for users of the Plan.

- 18.6.4 To encourage the voluntary protection and enhancement of Outstanding Natural Landscapes recognising the benefits afforded to the wider community by these actions.** [Objective 18.5.3](#)

Outstanding Natural Landscapes are often located within or include private property. The support of land owners and their appreciation of the values and sensitivities of Outstanding Natural Landscapes is therefore an important facet of sustainable management of the District's landscape resource.

Kaipara District Council will encourage opportunities for private landowner benefits in recognition of the wider public benefit of scheduling Outstanding Natural Landscapes in private property. For example, Council will provide financial incentives through the Biodiversity Fund and through provisions of environmental benefit subdivision for protection of Outstanding Natural Landscapes.

18.7 Methods

18.7.1 District Plan Methods

- Outstanding Natural Landscapes are identified in Map Series 2 and a description of their individual values and characteristics is provided in Appendix 18A. Subdivision, use and development rules, performance standards and specific assessment criteria are included in the Plan to provide for the protection of these Outstanding Natural Landscapes.
- Investigation to determine the geographic location of natural features in the District and an assessment and evaluation of their significance to determine the extent to which they need to be recognised and provided for.
- Investigating additional development rights if areas of Outstanding Natural Landscapes on private property are permanently protected.
- Investigating the development of Transferrable Development Rights to provide additional development rights where the subject land is not capable of absorbing further development.
- Additional assessment criteria (in the Zone Chapters) for subdivision in Outstanding Natural Landscapes, for example, by managing the shape of lots and building locations within new lots to encourage land use patterns that avoid or minimise impacts on Outstanding Natural Landscapes.
- If a resource consent is required, inclusion of assessment criteria (in the Zone Chapters) for selected activities (subdivision, excavation and fill, indigenous vegetation clearance), to consider the potential adverse effects activities on the diversity of landscape types, amenity and character.
- Consideration of Outstanding Natural Landscapes in the definition of Growth Areas and structure planning for those areas.

18.7.2 Other Methods

The Council will provide the following methods to assist land owners:-

- **Financial support - Council will investigate opportunities for discounts for resource consent fees and specific detailed assessment of landscape areas associated with the protection of landscapes;**
- **Landscape Assistance Fund – Council will establish a fund to assist in the costs of protective fencing, pest control and costs associated with establishing covenants; and**
- **Design guidelines – Council will investigate providing guidelines on how to protect landscapes and their values (e.g. information on preferred building locations, revegetation, cultural values);**
- **Maintain a register of professional consultants to provide advice on landscapes and their values;**
- **Establish and monitor a database of "significant cultural values of landscapes" - Council will record information obtained through the processing of consents and the progressive mapping of this information and work with tangata whenua on opportunities for specific cultural assessment for the District. Through the monitoring of the District Plan (see Chapter 23), Council will investigate inclusion of the outcomes of this mapping and assessment into the District Plan (e.g. if the resource management issues associated with the protection of these values are considered sufficient to warrant management intervention);**
- **The Council will provide the following methods to assist the community:-**
 - **Community liaison – Council will assist in the establishment of community care groups and will provide technical advice and will assist them in gaining funding for community projects;**
 - **Education – Council will investigate further opportunities to work with communities (both landowners and other residents) on what makes a landscape 'valued' and how they should be managed, protected and used;**
 - **Council will provide support for Landcare and Coastcare Programmes; and**
 - **Weed and Pest Management – Council will investigate further opportunities to progress weed and pest management programmes in Outstanding Natural Landscapes and significant natural areas.**
- **Active involvement with the Northland Regional Council, Far North District Council, Auckland Council, Whangarei District Council and Department of Conservation to develop a consistent approach to the protection and management of Outstanding Natural Landscapes, and outstanding natural features and landscape values – within the Northland Region – in particular to give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 and in the development of the Northland Regional Policy Statement Review.**
- **Develop monitoring indicators for Outstanding Natural Landscapes.**

18.8 Outcomes

- 18.8.1 Outstanding Natural Landscapes are mapped and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
- 18.8.2 The characteristics and values that contribute to the diversity of landscape, amenity and character are appropriately maintained and enhanced.
- 18.8.3 Greater community awareness and support for the protection of Outstanding Natural Landscapes.

Appendix 18A: Schedule of Outstanding Natural Landscapes (ONLs) within the Kaipara District

ONL Name	Description
ONL1: Waipoua Forest	<p>Waipoua Forest is an extensive area of pristine forest. It is moderately elevated and broadly rolling with a very simple horizon and a generally undramatic landform. The edge of upland is, however dissected with deep gullies.</p> <p>This area is part of a wider area of Outstanding Landscape Area which extends northwards into the adjoining District, including the Waima Forest. The vegetation types range from areas of regenerating indigenous vegetation to groves of mature kauri. This forest is highly visible due to elevation, scale and its 'bisection' by SH12. This road access is promoted as a visitor experience in itself.</p>
ONL2: West Coast Ocean Beach	<p>This area extends along the majority of the Tasman coastline, and the western edge of the District. It is approximately 78km in length starting about 13km above the apex of North Head and running up to the District's northern boundary at the Waipoua River. Maunganui Bluff (which is defined as a separate area) forms the only short break in this area.</p> <p>The character of this area is very exposed and remote, with limited opportunities for access and few isolated settlements. The beach stretches in a simple virtually straight line and has a consistent cross section with the intertidal expanse of the beach running in to the elevated bank of the historic dune. Erosion of the exposed rocky headlands, and deposition of sand in the embayment's, has resulted in this relatively straight shoreline on this coast.</p> <p>Vegetation cover is sparse. Dunefield grasses are found on the least mobile areas of sand and either pasture or a mixed coastal scrub of exotic and indigenous species cover most of the backshore bank. More established vegetation including flax and pohutukawa is found in the gullies which occasionally open out onto the beach.</p> <p>Built development occurs in isolated pockets at Glinks Gully, Baylys Beach, Omamari and Aranga. These tend to be restricted in area and have a limited impact on the character of the beach.</p>
ONL3: Tutamoe / Kaihu / Marlborough Forest	<p>This forest contains extensive areas of elevated pristine native forest, with broadly rolling upland. Some portions, such as the Kaihu Forest /Tutamoe are notable for the precipitous vegetated slopes and largely flat and extensive summit.</p> <p>Whilst the upper portion of the elevated areas retain their vegetation cover, the lower slopes have been cleared for pasture or are planted in forestry.</p>
ONL4: Maunganui Bluff	<p>Maunganui Bluff is a prominent and highly visible feature rising above the surrounding landscape. To the seaward side the land falls precipitously from a narrow ridge to the sea. On the landward side the landform shelves more slowly. Indigenous vegetation, sculpted by the wind clings to the slopes. The gently curved valley of the Waitapu Stream hangs between the northern and main 'summits'.</p> <p>Two small settlements cluster, one at the northern end and the other at the southern end of the bluff.</p>
ONL5: Trounson Kauri Park	<p>This park covers an area of 450ha and is just under 300m at its highest point. It forms a discrete area of native bush set within rural landscape, and the scale of the vegetation, most notably the kauri, accentuates this feature.</p> <p>The area includes the catchments of several first order streams of a tributary of the Waima Stream. The bush comprises significant stands of large kauri and provides as a notable mainland island with good kiwi population.</p>
ONL6: Kai-Iwi Lakes	<p>The Kai-Iwi lakes are a series of 3 extensive dune lakes (Waikere, Taharoa and Kai iwi) set within rural landscape.</p> <p>The lakes are notable for the clarity of water and are popular for recreation, including boating and swimming. A campground is located to the south of Lake Taharoa.</p>
ONL7: Mangatipa	<p>Mangatipa is located 12km to the north west of Tangiteroria. It covers an area of approximately 660ha and is a broad dissected peak, with deep valleys and prominent spurs. It rises to almost 500m and is a locally prominent landform. The vegetation comprises a mix of young podocarp-hardwood forest and shrubland and covers most of the feature although on the north western face an area of pasture detracts from its 'naturalness'</p>
ONL8: Maungaru Range	<p>This feature comprises a long narrow range of hills located to the north east of Dargaville. The range rises steeply from the surrounding rolling farmland.</p> <p>The range is aligned on a north west – south east axis, and is partially vegetated with native forest and shrubland, with its northern end the Houto Forest. The high point, Maungaru, is located at the southern end of the range and rises to 418m.</p>
ONL9: Tangihua Range	<p>The Tangihua Range straddles both the Whangarei and Kaipara District and combines with the Maungaru Range to form a 'gateway' landform feature. The high point of the range (at 627m) is located at the western end and gives the range its name. The landform is steep and rugged, with a jagged ridge forming the skyline. The height of the feature in conjunction with the contrasting relatively low lying land around means that the range forms a prominent backdrop to much of the surrounding area. Second growth regenerating native vegetation clothes the upper slopes of the feature.</p>
ONL10: Maungaraho	<p>Maungaraho is a very prominent and recognisable feature in the landscape, jutting from the riverine plain with an immediately recognisable form. The feature is a symmetrical cone, clad with indigenous vegetation and capped with a projection of exposed rock.</p>
ONL11: Tokatoka	<p>Tokatoka is a distinctive and powerful feature in the landscape, jutting from the riverine plain with an immediately recognisable form. Viewed from the majority of angles the feature is a symmetrical cone, viewed from the south-east and north-east the rock displays a strikingly narrow form.</p>
ONL12: Pukekohe Hill	<p>Located 8km north of Paparoa, this landscape area includes the Pukekohe Hill feature which has a height of 201m and includes the headwaters of the Waitira Stream. The landscape area comprises an extensive area of indigenous native forest and is (in part) protected as a scenic reserve.</p>
ONL13: Mareretu Forest	<p>This area straddles the District boundary and is located 9km north of Maungatoroto. The Mareretu State forest extends along a steep ridge which rises to a maximum height of 361m. It is bound on its southern side by Finlayson Brook Road. The portion within Kaipara District comprises the western end of the ridge, 500m to the east of Golden Stairs Road and rises sharply from the valley floor. The area is visually prominent because of its elevation and continuity of indigenous vegetation.</p>
ONL14: Bream Tail / Brynderwyn Ranges	<p>This area includes the Brynderwyn Ranges where it is covered with a contiguous swathe of indigenous vegetation between State Highway 1 and the east coast. The ranges rise sharply from the surrounding rolling landform and the contrast in topography and vegetation serves to accentuate the visual prominence and influence of the area.</p> <p>The ranges also form a perceptual barrier between the Kaipara and Whangarei Districts. The vegetation within the area is largely unmodified, however there is some evidence of clearance and the cutting of tracks is visible. Where development has occurred on the elevated land it is sometimes very visible due to the use of inappropriate colouring and materials.</p>
ONL15: Bald Rock	<p>Prominent volcanic feature located to the north of Kaiwaka at the western end of the Brynderwyn ranges. The rock comprises a localised high point rising to 238m with exposed rock faces protruding from the surrounding bush. Despite quarrying on its southern face and the encroachment of production activities, the area remains linked by indigenous vegetation with the adjoining areas. Bald Rock is a landmark feature on the journey north along State Highway 1.</p>
ONL16: Pukearenga	<p>Pukearenga comprises a localised highpoint, rising to a maximum height of 274m. It is located 4 to 5km to the south east of Maungatoroto and is encircled on its west and south sides by the Wairau and Kaiwaka Rivers respectively.</p> <p>The edge of the feature is defined by the edge of the indigenous vegetation which extends to the foot of its steep slopes.</p>

ONL17: Pukekaroro	<p>The Pukekaroro Dome is noted in the New Zealand Geopreservational Inventory as a feature of importance. It is located 2km to the north of Kaiwaka and is a prominent feature visible to vehicles on the State Highway.</p> <p>The area includes the vegetated portion of the dome which extends from the foot of the steep slope at its margins. The dome rises to a height of 301m. The feature has a dense covering of native forest, mainly kauri which is relatively young and growing in dense thickets. The area is a Scenic Reserve.</p>
ONL Name	Description
ONL18: Bream Tail Coast	<p>This area lies at the north eastern apex of the District and extends about 3km south along the coastal edge towards the Mangawhai harbour. The area also includes an area of contiguous indigenous vegetation which, although largely separated from the coast, does link to the coast at its south eastern corner. The coastal portion of the area includes a steep coastal escarpment of some 100-150m in height. In places the escarpment is more precipitous. The shore is lined by a narrow sandy beach and this is echoed by rocky reef platforms extending out into the sea.</p> <p>The northern parts of the area are largely clad with indigenous coastal shrubland/forest. The coastal walkway traces the coast margin of this area and this forms a link in Te Araroa – ‘The long Pathway’. Recent subdivision of Bream Tail Farms will result in a reduction in the ‘remote character’ of the area.</p>
ONL19: Sentinel Rock Coast	<p>This area extends from the south of the Bream Tail OLA for 2km to Sentinel Rock at the mouth of the Mangawhai Harbour. The area is confined to a narrow coastal belt typically extending to the upper edge of the coastal ridge.</p> <p>Within this area the beach tends to be wider with dunes banking up along the coastal flank whilst the rocky reefs are absent. The steep coastal flanks that feature around the Tail are present here, although lower and more undulating. Pohutukawa remains the prevalent coastal tree and dominates with large groves at the southern end of the area.</p> <p>Recent subdivision of the elevated land at the mouth of the harbour detracts significantly from this vegetated feature.</p>
ONL20: Mangawhai Barrier Spit	<p>This area comprises a 4km long spit of sand dunes, ocean beach and estuarine shore which separates the Mangawhai Harbour from the open sea. It ranges from 200m in width at its narrowest, to over 1km wide at its base.</p> <p>While predominantly natural and unmodified, small areas of exotic tree species, such as pines and wattle detract from the naturalness of this area.</p>
ONL21: Te Kopua Point headland & harbour edge	<p>Also known as Pakaurangi Forest, this area comprises a vegetated headland which extends out into the Kaipara harbour at the mouth of the Arapaoa River and a length of coast 2 to 3km in length. The area is understood to be the most extensive area of indigenous forest and shrubland within the Otamatea Ecological District.</p>
ONL22: North Head Dune Lakes	<p>This area is located near the apex of North Head and 2.5km from Pouto. The area comprises a number of waterbodies that includes Lake Humuhumu, Rotootuaru, Rotokawau, Waingata, Kanono and Kahuparere. The western edge of the area is defined by the pine plantations associated with North Head.</p>
ONL23: North Head Coast & western dune lakes	<p>This area contains the coastal duneland landscape at the apex of North Head. Near the harbour mouth the area is between half a kilometre and two kilometres in width whilst on the western edge of the area it widens to an average of some three kilometres including lakes Whakanene, Mokeno and Karaka.</p> <p>The area is remote and, on its western edge is very exposed with a spacious character. This spaciousness is due to most of the area lacking the coastal bank of the beach to the north. Instead, the predominant character is formed by the extensive duneland and low shrubland vegetation. Behind this dunefield lies the largest three dune lakes and a number of smaller freshwater lakes. Surrounding these features is an extensive area of wetland supporting indigenous wetland vegetation.</p>

Note: Worksheets developed as part of the Kaipara District Landscape Technical Report (2010) provide more detail on the values identified for each of these features and will be considered in addition to the summaries of the physical characteristics and values identified in this Appendix.

Appendix 18B: Additional Assessment Criteria when considering the effects of activities in Outstanding Natural Landscapes

The matters set out in s104 and in Part 2 of the Act apply to the consideration of all resource consents for land use, development and subdivision, use and development activities.

In addition to these matters and the general assessment criteria provided within the relevant chapter of the Plan, the following criteria shall also be considered. These are cross-referenced in the Zone Chapters and will be triggered where a resource consent is required.

- a) The extent to which the activity is consistent with the relevant objectives and policies and outcomes contained in Part A and Part C of the Plan, including Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 17 and in particular, Chapter 18 Landscapes;
- b) The extent to which the activity will affect the values and characteristics that make that landscape outstanding as described in Appendix 18A and the technical worksheets in the Kaipara District Landscape Technical Report 2010;
- c) The extent to which the activity is visible in the landscape from public places and public roads;
- d) The type and effectiveness of any methods proposed to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of the activity on the feature or landscape;

Note: For example, for earthworks, the types of methods might include the profile of cut and fill batters, provisions for revegetation and the likely long term stability of the works proposed.

- e) The functional, technical or operational need for the activity to locate within the feature or landscape. In the case of electricity transmission activities, technical and operational requirements include route selection;
- f) Without limiting clause 1(b) of Schedule 4 of the Resource Management Act, where it is likely that an activity will result in any significant adverse effect on the feature or landscape, the extent to which alternative locations or methods for undertaking the activity have been considered;
- g) Where excavation and / or fill is proposed, the extent to which the location, scale and alignment of the works affect the underlying landform including ridgelines and headlands and any existing indigenous vegetation.