

APPENDIX G – SCHEDULE OF AREAS OF HIGH NATURAL CHARACTER

| Unique Identifier | Site Identifier (Coastal Sector) | Summary Description of Natural Character Values | Overall Natural Character Ranking | Identified Threats |
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| HNC1 | Huarau – Taupata | <p>This sector has a High natural character ranking overall due to the dominance of the underlying topography and expressive formative processes.</p> <p>The northern Huarau feature comprises highly eroded mudstone with deep gully erosion on the cliff face and mudflows of softer sedimentary material flowing down the valleys to the beach, which are constantly susceptible to change through erosion. The southern Taupata cliffs comprise fragmented limestone which gives these cliffs greater stability but are crumbling and broken due to the fragmented nature of the limestone which creates a highly diverse surface texture and profile.</p> <p>The verticality and yellow of the limestone contrasts with slumping and the characteristic whiteness of the light grey mudstone to the north.</p> <p>Pasture covers much of the more stable surfaces on both features, but recent planting of pine plantation on the Huarau feature will soon suppress this and form a dense exotic treed cover. There are small patches of regenerating native coastal shrubland in firmer areas of the Huarau feature and more on the Taupata feature, and biodiversity value is therefore limited. Pasture and exotic plantations reduce biodiversity.</p> <p>The structures within this sector are limited to rural fencing which has a minimal impact on natural character.</p> | High | <p>Pine plantation cover.</p> <p>[It is noted that vegetation cover of exposed slopes has the counter benefit of erosion control. Indigenous vegetation cover would be preferable to pine plantation in this instance].</p> |
| HNC2 | Waimoana – Kairakau | <p>This sector has a Very High natural character ranking overall due to a combination of its clearly perceived underlying geology and formative processes, areas of ecological value, perceptual coherence and sites of cultural importance.</p> <p>The sector is a short section of coast characterised by steep limestone cliffs and exposed limestone outcrops. Slopes are more eroded in the northern part of the sector, with broken surface slopes exposing the colour and texture of the limestone base, while the southern portion has less eroded slopes and tops with exposed faces and a distinctive overhanging edge.</p> <p>Areas of native regeneration are evident on the firmer faces and behind the Kairakau coastal settlement. The rest of the cover is mainly pasture, although bare areas where erosion is more concentrated is evident further to the north.</p> <p>Kairakau lies in the lee of the cliffs at the southern end of the feature, with the towering cliffs behind with their verticality and exposed limestone frontage reinforcing their legibility and expressiveness. The continued height and exposure to the north, coupled with the smoothness of the pasture covered colluvium runoff, give the sea front cliffs a clean and stable appearance, highly coherent and completely dominant over the settlement and adjacent beach.</p> <p>Numerous sites of cultural significance are present within the local area.</p> | Very High | <p>Pine plantation cover.</p> <p>Earthworks in the southern portion.</p> <p>Buildings along the top of the southern escarpment.</p> <p>Pine plantation along the top of the southern escarpment.</p> |

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| <p>HNC3</p> | <p>Paonui Point – Pourerere</p> | <p>This sector has High and Very High natural character ranking due to a combination of the key characteristics of its underlying geology, highly varied topography, expressiveness of formative processes, possible ecological value of regenerating vegetation and limited human modification.</p> <p>The sector contains a dramatic piece of eroding mudstone just north of Paonui Point, with the unstable nature of the underlying rock type clearly visible due to its bareness and highly eroded nature. Paonui Point is a prominent headland, also with exposed eroded mudstone but alternating with sandstone, giving the smooth appearance of the escarpment. This continues around the point, with steep eroded light grey cliffs before reaching mudstone again toward Pourerere where it is less dramatic due to the vegetation cover.</p> <p>The area is generally bare of vegetation, except for the mudstone cliff towards Pourerere where regeneration has formed a thick cover, providing good biodiversity over that limited area.</p> <p>Active erosion processes are evident, and coastal erosion is eating away at the base of the escarpments.</p> | <p>High & Very High</p> | <p>Vegetation clearance in the southern portion of the sector.</p> <p>Pine plantation cover.</p> <p><i>[It is noted that vegetation cover of these exposed slopes has the counter benefit of erosion control. Indigenous vegetation cover would be preferable to pine plantation in this instance].</i></p> |
| <p>HNC4</p> | <p>Aramoana – Te Angiangi</p> | <p>This sector has a High natural character ranking due to a combination of its underlying estuarine processes and vegetation, potential ecological value and limited human modification despite its proximity to the settlement at Aramoana (Shoal Beach development).</p> <p>Tall sea cliffs south of the Shoal Beach development are representative of an intact section of the coastal escarpment landform.</p> <p>The river estuary and adjacent wetland at Aramoana are expressive of the river/coastal interface landform and provide wetland grass habitat contributing to greater biodiversity along the riparian edges. The estuary, although small and only exposed to the sea in very high tides, retains an appearance of naturalness due to the riparian vegetation and its width and is somewhat rare in this coastal environment.</p> | <p>High</p> | <p>Earthworks and drainage in the riparian area.</p> <p>Pine plantation cover in the coastal cliff area.</p> |
| <p>HNC5</p> | <p>Pohutapapa – Blackhead</p> | <p>This sector has High and Very High natural character ranking due to a combination of its underlying geology and topography, expressiveness of its formative processes, perceptual values and limited human modification.</p> <p>The sector is representative of the Central Hawke’s Bay coastal character, characterized by steeply sloping mudstone cliffs eroded and exposed light grey base rock with escarpments of varying height. The southern extent ends at Blackhead Point with a small distinctive cliff of eroded sandstone. Coastal processes constantly nibble at the foot of the escarpments while surface erosion on the steep cliffs, resulting in incised valley and extensive areas of bare mudstone.</p> <p>The cover is a mixture of bare eroded surface, with areas of pasture and small areas of revegetation (and therefore contains limited biodiversity). There are no structures or settlements within this sector.</p> | <p>High & Very High</p> | <p>Pine plantation cover.</p> <p><i>[As stated, vegetation cover has erosion control benefits. Indigenous vegetation cover would be preferable in this instance].</i></p> |

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| HNC6 | Porangahau | <p>This sector has a High and Very High natural character ranking due to a combination of its underlying topography, formative processes, ecological value and perceived naturalness.</p> <p>The sector contains an extended area of coastal dune land backed by rising land, limited estuarine habitat around the Porangahau River in riparian areas. The dunes are more apparent to the northern end, and there are limited remnants of interdunal wetlands and dune vegetation.</p> <p>This area would have had high biodiversity, but this has been diminished over time as land use has changed. There is greater biodiversity towards the northern end where less disturbance has occurred.</p> <p>The beach between MHWS and the inner edge of the narrow dune system has very high perceived naturalness values. Dune flats at the northern end have high perceived naturalness due to the remnant dune forms and less modified land cover. Large areas to the south have reduced perceived naturalness values due to modifications to landform and drainage patterns.</p> <p>Structures within this section include farm buildings, fences and ditches, with the original paper road and paper settlement of Parimahu at the northern end.</p> | High & Very High | <p>Landform modifications and drainage.</p> <p>Pine plantation cover in the northern portion.</p> |
| HNC7 | Mt Pleasant | <p>This sector has High and Very High natural character ranking due to a combination of its underlying geology and topography, formative processes, perceptual values of this geology and limited human modification.</p> <p>The sector is representative of the Central Hawke's Bay coastal character, with steeply sloping mudstone cliffs eroded and exposed light grey base rock with escarpments of varying height. There are areas of pasture on steep slopes, areas of bare mudstone and an area of pine plantation cover over steeply eroding cliff – hence limited biodiversity. There are no settlements or structures in this area.</p> <p>The erosion processes are most apparent on bare faces of mudstone and with the sea nibbling away at the base of escarpments.</p> | High & Very High | Pine plantation cover. |
| HNC8 | Whangaehu | <p>This sector has Very High natural character ranking due to a combination of its underlying geology and resultant topography, expressiveness of formative processes, ecological value of regenerating vegetation and limited human modification.</p> <p>The Whangaehu landform comprises an extended length of steeply sloping eroding mudstone cliffs, which ends at the district boundary just 5km north of Cape Turnagain. It contains large patches of regeneration with an accompanying level of biodiversity, small areas of pasture, but mainly bare exposed mudstone. There is clear evidence of erosion processes with soft mudstone on the coastal edge.</p> <p>The small settlement of Whangaehu around the northern point has minimal impact on the overall feature.</p> | Very High | Pine plantation cover. |