

Part 6

NFL – Natural features and landscapes

APP37 – Outstanding natural features and landscapes

Introduction

The following sections set out the specific values and attributes of each Outstanding natural feature or landscape. All the following areas are identified on the Nelson Plan Maps as Outstanding natural features and Landscapes overlays.

1. The Bryant and Mineral Belt

The Bryant Range and Mineral Belt forms part of an impressive mountain range landscape along the eastern edge of Nelson. This occupies parts of the Northern Bryant Range, Mineral Belt and Roding Character areas and encompasses contiguous areas of Mount Richmond Forest Park managed for conservation purposes.

Biophysical – very high

- Extensive uplifted mountain range accommodating the Mineral Belt, an internationally important geological feature associated with ultramafic geology.
- Nationally important ecological area encompassing notable plant communities and habitats of the mineral belt and adjacent limestone substrates.
- High levels of cobalt, nickel and chromium result in restricted range of highly distinctive indigenous herbs and shrubs.
- High proportion of threatened and locally endemic plant species within the Mineral Belt.

Sensory – very high

- Striking 'dun' coloured soils and stunted vegetation communities are highly legible and expressive of underlying formative processes.
- Highly natural and remote backdrop with an absence of roads, structures and introduced vegetation species.
- A vivid contrast between the productive land use on the lower lying hills and extensive areas of native forest and stunted vegetation within the Mineral Belt.
- The Mineral Belt and 'The Doubles' form distinctive and iconic features visible from respective parts of Nelson's coastline and Nelson City which remain clearly memorable.
- Shifting light conditions and shadows along the Mineral Belt together with the presence of wildlife in this wilderness area form important transient values.

Associative – very high

- Highly valued wilderness recreation opportunities accessible from Nelson.
- Maungatapu (Parikarearea) and the mineral belt are very sacred to local iwi.
- Significant cultural and archaeological features, such as argillite quarries which were a source of material for Maori for making tools and historic trails.
- Historic European mine workings and historic railway line.
- Archaeological and historic sites are of regional and possibly national importance.
- Strong association with historic geological and discovery of 'dunite' and 'rodingite' rock types named after this area.

Evaluation

The larger Bryant Range which includes the Mineral Belt, Roding Valley and the Northern Bryant Range containing Mount Richmond Forest Park is considered to form an outstanding natural landscape.

2. Haulashore Island and Arrow (Fifeshire) Rock

Haulashore Island and Arrow Rock/Te Urenui together with tilted sandstone rocks adjoining Rocks Road form a collection of iconic landscape features at the southern end of the Nelson Haven and Boulder Bank/Te Taero a Kereopa – Te Tāhuna a Tama-i-ea Character Area. These collectively define part of the natural and memorable entrance experience forming the southern approach into Nelson City. While tall pine trees are present and highly visible on Haulashore Island, its overall naturalness prevails forming an important node marking the former and present harbour entrances.

Biophysical – high

- Haulashore Island and Arrow Rock (Fifeshire Rock/Te Urenui) form an important landform remnant severed by 'the Cut' and stack at the southern end of the Boulder Bank.
- Impressive beds of tilted fossil laden sandstone along Rocks Road with wave cut platforms and coastal cliffs at Magazine Point form unique geological features easily accessible along Nelson's coastal edge.

Sensory – very high

- Iconic and highly memorable landmark features occupying a prominent role along the main coastal southern route travelling north into the City and natural entrance into Nelson Haven.
- Areas of exposed coastal rock remain highly expressive of formative uplift and coastal processes.
- Haulashore Island (despite the presence of pine trees) and together with Arrow Rock retain high degrees of naturalness, being largely unbuilt island environments.
- The presence of islands at the entrance to Nelson Harbour form highly visible, iconic

features within the Coastal environment.

- Rich association with transient coastal experiences due to shifting tidal and wave patterns, light conditions and presence of marine mammals.

Associative – very high

- Strong associations with historic maritime events including shipwrecks and port access marking the former and present harbour entrances permanently severed from the Boulder Bank in 1905, by 'the Cut' which provides shipping access to Port Nelson.
- Fifeshire Rock/Te Urenui is of significance to local iwi.
- Important association with Māori use associated with transportation and food along the coast with a kāinga site identified on southern tip of Haulashore Island.
- Site of first recorded fossil find in New Zealand.

Evaluation

Collectively the features of Haulashore Island, Arrow Rock and tilted sandstone along Rocks Road are considered to form a cluster of outstanding natural features.

3. Boulder Bank/Te Taero a Kereopa – Te Tāhuna a Tama-i-ea and Mackay Bluff

Nelson's Boulder Bank/Te Taero a Kereopa – Te Tāhuna a Tama-i-ea and Mackay Bluff form a striking land system and resultant natural feature which extends for approximately 17 km along Nelson's coastal edge and encompassing Horoirangi Marine Reserve. This is identified within the Southern Tasman Bay/Te Tai-o-Aorere, Nelson Haven and Boulder Bank/Te Taero a Kereopa – Te Tāhuna a Tama-i-ea, Wakapuaka Flats and Drumduan/Horoirangi landscape/seascape character areas.

Biophysical – very high

- The boulder bank is of international importance forming the largest known boulder bank of its type in the world.
- Presence of distinctive and vulnerable coastal plant communities and pockets of remnant coastal forest.
- Complex sub-tidal reef system and important relationship with aquatic habitats protected in Horoirangi Marine Reserve.

Sensory – very high

- Part of a larger legible land system derived from material eroded from Mackay Bluff to form a slender natural spit of cobbles and boulders.
- Limited built development retains a predominately open and expansive natural coastal edge with limited and long established isolated buildings.
- Views towards the Boulder Bank from Nelson form an iconic feature along the coastal edge.
- Very high scenic and wildness associations (auditory, visual and aromas) and transient values along the coastal edge.

Associative – very high

- The Boulder Bank is strongly associated with Nelson’s identity forming the first European settlement Port with natural protection in the South Island.
- Horoirangi is a thriving marine reserve supporting passive recreation opportunities.
- Strong spiritual and cultural associations to Maori associated with its long-time occupation and association with Drumduan/Horoirangi.
- Remains of a substantial archaic Māori settlement site at the Glen.
- Mackay's Bluff was an important fishing station to local iwi.
- An important source of hammer stones for the pākohe industry which were used in quarries throughout the area.
- Historic Lighthouse with Category 1 Historic Places listing and Nelson Boulder Bank as a whole is listed with Heritage NZ due to the high number of inter-related historic places.

Evaluation

The Boulder Bank/Te Taero a Kereopa – Te Tāhuna a Tama-i-ea and larger land system associated with Mackay Bluff and Horoirangi Marine Reserve are considered to form an outstanding natural feature.

4. Pepin Island/Mahe-i-puku and Delaware Inlet/Wakapuaka

Pepin Island/Mahe-i-puku and Delaware Inlet/Wakapuaka form a collective of features which form a remarkable coastal landscape along Nelson’s northern coastline contained within the Delaware and Outer Eastern Tasman Bay/Te Tai-o-Aorere landscape/seascape character areas. Part of this area encompassing Pepin Island/Mahe-i-puku is farmed, whilst retaining an impressive sequence of coastal landforms which enclose Delaware Inlet and retain a high level of perceived naturalness with limited apparent modification.

Biophysical – very high

- Impressive sequence of coastal landforms, including an estuary, sand spits, small peninsulas and unique coastal hill form attached to the mainland by a tombolo.

- Extensive unmodified mud and sand flats dominate the intertidal area together with nationally important dune habitats.
- Significant conservation values ranging from salt marsh through to coastal forest retained on Te Matau a Mau/Bishop's Peninsula.
- Nesting, roosting and/or feeding site for nationally threatened bird species.

Sensory – very high

- Pepin Island/Mahe-i-puku and adjoining landforms reflect formative geological and coastal processes.
- Although farming occurs, the Inlet retains a very high degree of naturalness largely free of human modification together with an open rural backdrop with limited rural based settlement and landform modification.
- Clustered node of domestic and farm building on the western toe of Pepin Island/Mahe-i-puku beyond which buildings are limited to isolated built elements which are extremely dispersed and remain wholly subservient to the open landscape context.
- A highly coherent and striking sequence of coastal features with no significant discordant features.
- Rich association with transient coastal experiences due to shifting tidal and wave patterns, light conditions and presence of marine mammals.

Associative – very high

- A host of land and sea based recreational activities are popular (i.e. fishing, surfing, kayaking, boating and walking).
- Very important Maori cultural and spiritual associations and archaeological sites forming a major centre of occupation.
- Important European heritage sites including the first New Zealand international telegraph cable connection at Cable Bay/Rotokura in 1876.

Evaluation

The collective features of Pepin Island/Mahe-i-puku and Tombolo, Cable Bay/Rotokura, Bishop Peninsula and Delaware Spit and Delaware Bay is considered to form an outstanding natural landscape.

5. Cape Soucis/Raetihi and Whangamoa Inlet

Cape Soucis/Raetihi and Whangamoa Inlet forms the northern extent of Nelson's remote coastline and mountain range landscape. The extent of potential outstanding natural landscape in this area is identified within the Outer Easter Tasman Bay/Te Tai-o-Aorere, Whangamoa Hills, Cape Soucis and Rai Saddle landscape/seascape character areas. This encompasses steep coastal cliffs, headlands and rock outcrops as well as Hori Bay, Whangamoa Inlet, Kokorua Bay, Omokau Bay, and Oananga

Bay which extend between the Whangamoia Heads and Cape Soucis. The inland boundary encompasses contiguous areas of Mount Richmond Forest Park which extend a cover of indigenous vegetation along Nelson's elevated inland mountain spine separated by land accommodating exotic plantation.

Biophysical – very high

- Northern end of large substantial uplifted mountain range comprising compressed sedimentary material and a belt of ultramafic rocks.
- Steep unmodified coastal cliffs and headland acts as the region's northerly point.
- Localised bands of nationally rare exposed serpentinitic breccia and limestone.
- High numbers of threatened and at-risk plant species along the narrow band of coastal habitat including small areas of indigenous coastal dunes.
- Mature and regenerating alluvial forest surrounding Whangamoia Inlet.
- Large extent of intact indigenous forest including extensive areas of mixed beech and podocarp - broadleaved forest.

Sensory – very high

- Coastal edge remains highly expressive of the geological and natural processes which have shaped this area of landscape.
- Steep rugged and dramatic coastal cliffs which create a wild and rugged coastal edge and mountain backdrop.
- Minimal human modification and interplay of coastal landforms and native vegetation retains a very high level of naturalness.
- Dramatic steep coastal scarps and rock outcrop landforms and backdrop of indigenous vegetation form an iconic and memorable outer edge of Tasman Bay/Te Tai-o-Aorere.
- The interplay of coastal landforms and native vegetation retains a very high level of coherence where the sequence of vegetation communities extend between the coastal edge and the summit of Castor Peak.
- High experiential and transient values due to coastal exposure and association with marine mammals and terrestrial wildlife.

Associative – high

- Whangamoia Inlet has strong cultural and spiritual association with Māori.
- Several sites associated with long-standing Māori settlement.

Evaluation

Cape Soucis, Whangamoia Inlet and the adjoining coastal landforms and cliffs with indigenous forest backdrop within Mount Richmond Forest Park are considered to form an outstanding natural

landscape.