

SCHED5 - Coastal Natural Character Areas

High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas

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| Eastern Bays | |
| Coastal Terrestrial Area | |
| <p>Location and Key Characteristics This terrestrial character area encompasses the eastern bays of Wellington Harbour extending between Point Howard and Point Arthur. Road access extends along most of this coastal edge together with established residential development along most of the accessible flatter toe slopes and below the vegetated hills that provide a backdrop to the Eastern Bays. There is a commercial precinct at Eastbourne.</p> <p>Abiotic Much of the shore along this section of the coast has been modified to some extent with sea walls constructed to protect the coastal road. Breakwaters and jetties occur in places as well as reclamation and buildings.</p> <p>Raised shore platforms, caves, stacks and bay-head bars have been recorded from Point Howard, Lowry Bay and Days Bay (Turner, 1985). Areas of tidal lagoon which were previously located within Lowry Bay and Days Bay were drained during the 1855 Wairarapa earthquake when the ground was uplifted by some 2m (Stevens, 1974). Such areas have subsequently been developed for residential housing.</p> <p>At Eastbourne, the beaches are predominantly sand in contrast to the gravel beaches further to the south toward the harbour mouth. Progradation has occurred throughout this area, particularly along the coastal edge of Eastbourne (Matthews, 1979).</p> <p>Biotic The Eastern Bays coastal terrestrial area covers a total land area of 540 hectares. Of this the various coastal suburbs that have established within the bays comprise 30% and 46% is indigenous forest on the hill slopes, predominantly beech.</p> <p>Much of the foreshore and gentler sloping toe slopes have been modified by urban development including roading and housing and consequently this has removed much of the former native forest which occupied the harbour edge, including areas of kahikatea swamp forest in Lowry Bay which were drained following the 1855 Wairarapa earthquake. Today, the dry and less fertile ridges and hill faces are covered in open forest dominated by kāmahī (<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>), black beech (<i>Fuscopora solandri</i>) and hard beech (<i>Fuscopora truncata</i>) with patches of northern rātā (<i>Metrosideros robusta</i>) and an understory of mingimingi (<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>) and prickly mingimingi (<i>Leptecophylla juniperina</i>) (GWRC, 2014b).</p> <p>On the slopes above residential housing there is a belt of lowland beech forest, at various stages of regeneration. This area is identified by GWRC as the East Harbour Northern Forest Key Native Ecosystem (KNE), and is one of the most significant forest ecosystems in the Wellington region (GWRC, 2014b). Several Significant Natural Resource Areas and potential Significant Natural Areas⁴ have been identified in this area, including areas of coastal and lowland forest which provides habitat for indigenous birds, invertebrates and lizards (Lower Hutt City Council, 2004; Wildlands, 2016).</p> <p>The entire coastal edge and adjacent harbour waters are identified as habitat for indigenous birds in the coastal marine area (GWRC, 2015). However, these values are compromised due to coastal modification and land uses (e.g. roads, recreational and residential).</p> <p>Experiential Modification is mostly apparent along the coastal edge. The beech forest on the slopes above the residential areas retains a high level of naturalness and the walking tracks are popular and well-used.</p> <p>Overall Natural Character Rating Moderate</p> | |
| High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas | |
| CNCA-1 | Eastern Bay Hills |
| Rating | High |
| Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS | Abiotic - High Biotic - High Experiential - High |

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| <p>Key Values</p> | <p>Abiotic The steep eastern flank of a sequence of down-tilted hill forms creating Wellington Harbour which remain relatively intact.</p> <p>Biotic Diverse lowland forest and manuka scrub, including hard beech and black beech forest with kahikatea and pukatea remnants in valleys and a few stands or northern rata on ridgeline.</p> <p>Large numbers and diverse native avifauna including falcon, kaka and reef heron.</p> <p>Native land snails and common green gecko Diverse lowland forest and manuka scrub, including hard beech and black beech forest with kahikatea and pukatea remnants in valleys and a few stands or northern rata on ridgeline.</p> <p>Large numbers and diverse native avifauna including falcon, kaka and reef heron.</p> <p>Native land snails and common green gecko.</p> <p>Part of the eco-corridor connecting East Harbour Regional Park's forest to the north along the Eastern Hutt hills to the northern boundary.</p> <p>Experiential Low levels of modification associated with recreation activity retaining a natural unmodified backdrop to residential development at lower elevations along the eastern bays</p> |
| <p>Wellington Harbour Islands</p> | |
| <p>Coastal Terrestrial Area</p> | |
| <p>Location and Key Characteristics The Wellington Harbour Island coastal terrestrial areas comprise three islands, Matiu / Somes, Mokopuna and Mākaro / Ward Islands. Collectively, these form the high points of a submerged ridgeline in Wellington Harbour. Matiu / Somes Island is a pest free, historic and scientific reserve and Mokopuna Island is a bird reserve where boat landing is not permitted. Mākaro / Ward Island is the most southern Island, it is a Department of Conservation Scientific Reserve.</p> <p>Abiotic Matiu / Somes and Mokopuna Islands are each encircled by a shore platform cut by the sea, together with sea caves and rock arches, which were uplifted 1.5 metres above the present sea level during the 1855 Wairarapa earthquake. Above this, remnants of older raised platforms and stacks are also evident (Turner, 1985).</p> <p>Matiu / Somes Island is the most modified of the three Wellington Harbour islands, with a collection of former quarantine buildings established near the summit. A jetty also provides for boat access at the north-eastern end of the island and supports recreational use along the numerous tracks established on the island. Mokopuna Island remains separated from Matiu / Somes Island and has no apparent modification.</p> <p>Mākaro / Ward Island has narrow rocky shore platforms, shallow reefs and small gravel beaches with near vertical escarpments. This island, near the harbour entrance, is particularly exposed to the strong southerly winds and waves of Cook Strait.</p> <p>Biotic The total land area of the Wellington Harbour Islands terrestrial area is 28 hectares. Of this 87% is covered with broadleaved indigenous hardwoods and the remaining 13% is either high producing exotic grassland or identified as built-up (Matiu / Somes Island).</p> <p>Much of the original vegetation on Matiu / Somes Island was cleared to make way for farmland. Today, hardy, native, salt-tolerant species dominate the vegetation on the steep escarpments on all three islands. Regeneration of indigenous native vegetation, together with revegetation on Matiu / Somes has meant that this vegetation now provides a regionally representative example of coastal cliff and rocky shore vegetation (Hutt City Council, 2004).</p> <p>Pest-free Matiu / Somes Island offers a safe habitat for a diversity of indigenous fauna, including re-introductions of species which had become locally extinct on the island (e.g. red-crowned parakeet, Brothers Island tuatara, Cook Strait giant weta).</p> <p>There are eight species of endemic reptiles on Matiu / Somes - common skink, spotted skink, copper skink, ornate skink, common gecko, forest gecko, Wellington green gecko and Brothers Island tuatara (Adams, 2009). A subset of these species has been recorded on Mokopuna (two) and Makaro / Ward (six) Islands.</p> | |

The foreshore and adjacent harbour waters of all three islands are recognised as providing habitats for indigenous birds in the coastal marine area (GWRC, 2015). Furthermore, the cliffs, slopes and interior of islands provide nesting habitat for several coastal and terrestrial bird species.

With the exception of the wharf area on Matiu/Somes Island, the coastal edges of the islands are unmodified; thus the ecosystem processes and functions are largely intact and the coastal sequences evident. The ongoing management of Matiu/Somes Island as a Department of Conservation Reserve will continue to benefit the biodiversity, and therefore the natural character, of the Island in the future.

Experiential

Due to the restricted ability to access the islands, they retain a dominant sense of wildness and absence of human influence, particularly Mokopuna and Makaro / Ward islands.

Overall Natural Character Rating

Very High

High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas

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| CNCA-2 | Mokopuna Island |
| Rating | Very High |
| Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS | Abiotic — Very High Biotic - High Experiential — Very High |
| Key Values | <p>Abiotic The northern end of an exposed drowned ridge submerged beneath Wellington Harbour.</p> <p>Wave-cut shore platform with caves and rock arches uplifted above the present sea level during the 1855 earthquake remains largely intact.</p> <p>Biotic Regenerating coastal scrub vegetation.</p> <p>Threatened or At Risk bird species known to be resident or regular visitors.</p> <p>Native lizards present.</p> <p>Experiential Very limited human modification retaining a wild and scenic character.</p> |
| CNCA-3 | Matiu / Somes Island |
| Rating | High |
| Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS | Abiotic - High Biotic - High Experiential - High |
| Key Values | <p>Abiotic Part of the exposed top of a larger drowned ridge submerged beneath Wellington Harbour.</p> <p>Wave-cut shore platform with caves and rock arches uplifted above the present sea level during the 1855 earthquake remains largely intact.</p> <p>Biotic Salt marsh, and regionally representative example of coastal cliff and rocky shore vegetation.</p> <p>Threatened or At Risk bird species known to be resident or regular visitors.</p> <p>Several lizard and weta species present.</p> <p>Experiential Frequent sense of wildness and remoteness with areas of more obvious human influence.</p> <p>Additional comments: Buildings and cleared land near summit of island are not included.</p> |

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| | Includes small jetties and wharf buildings along north-eastern edge of island |
| CNCA-4 | Makaro / Ward Island |
| Rating | Very High |
| Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS | Abiotic — Very High Biotic - High Experiential — Very High |
| Key Values | <p>Abiotic The exposed top of a larger drowned ridge submerged beneath Wellington Harbour which remains largely intact.</p> <p>Biotic Threatened or At Risk bird species known to be resident or regular visitors. Diverse native lizard population. Salt marsh present.</p> <p>Experiential Very limited human modification retaining an isolated and exposed island character.</p> |
| Pencarrow Head | |
| Coastal Terrestrial Area | |
| <p>Location and Key Characteristics The Pencarrow Head coastal terrestrial area is located along Wellington's south coast between Burden's Gate on the eastern edge of Wellington Harbour and encompassing Pencarrow Head and Baring Head, each end of Fitzroy Bay. Most of this area is characterised by rock reefs and a wide gravel foreshore which narrows at its eastern end at the entrance of Wellington Harbour. The coastal environment typically culminates at the first ridge beyond the coastal escarpment and encompasses wetland areas associated with Lakes Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera.</p> <p>Abiotic The Pencarrow Head coastal terrestrial area includes a sequence of north-south running ridges and valleys between the edge of Wellington Harbour and the Wainuiomata River. This landform culminates along steep coastal escarpments raised above long, narrow, stony beaches with reefs and outcrops extending from headlands. In Fitzroy Bay there are large amounts of gravel washed down from the nearby Orongorongo and Wainuiomata Rivers. This is mined to supply high quality aggregate for use in concrete production. Mining and gravel extraction began in this area around 1905 (Frank, 1993).</p> <p>To the east of Pencarrow Head, Lakes Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera (known collectively as Parangarahu Lakes) are formerly drained valleys which have been dammed by raised beach ridges along the coastal edge (Kenny & Hayward, 1993). The beach ridge provides a record of a former beach position that has been uplifted. While two parallel beach ridges were recorded in the literature adjacent to Pencarrow Lakes, the most recent raised beach was thought to be raised during the 1855 Wairarapa earthquake and has been obliterated by mining (Kenny & Hayward, 1993). In addition, an access road (over culverts) has been built across the outlet of both lakes (Todd et al., 2010).</p> <p>A distinctive sequence of marine terraces occurs at Baring Head, recognised as the largest and most distinctive in the Wellington Area (Kenny & Hayward, 1993). Further evidence of ancient uplifted marine terraces are evident above coastal scarps between the Pencarrow Lakes. Along the coastal edge, previous evidence of raised beaches between Pencarrow and Eastbourne have subsequently been destroyed by roading (Matthews, 1979). The climate of this part of the south coast is strongly influenced by its proximity to the Cook Strait and is frequently exposed to strong southerly gales.</p> <p>Biotic The total land area of the Pencarrow Head terrestrial area is 844 hectares. Much of the surrounding land has been modified for farming which is now reverting to scrub. Of this, 35% now comprises low and high producing exotic grassland with gorse and broom covering an additional 30% of this area. 12% of the remaining area is covered in sand or gravel with 5% herbaceous freshwater vegetation and 3% lakes.</p> <p>The original vegetation type on the coast would have been: ngaio, taupata treeland / herbfield / rockland (GWRC, 2014a). Much of the area has been modified for farming and today the coastal scarp vegetation is mainly 'grey scrub', now a rare plant community of mainly lowgrowing, divaricating plants which are salt-tolerant (GWRC, 2014a). Mingimingi (<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>), thick-leaved māhoe (<i>Melicactus crassifolius</i>) and speargrass (<i>Aciphylla squarrosa</i></p> | |

var. squarrosa) are important vegetation components on the escarpments.

GWRC (2014a) have identified the Baring Head / Ōrua-pouanui KNE (Key Native Ecosystem) as one of the top coastal ecosystem sites in the region, having uninterrupted sequences of different ecosystem types ranging from coastal and valley escarpments through to the coast. However, GWRC (2014a) notes that while the area is highly modified by historic and current farming practices, it retains many components of its former flora and fauna.

Deep back dunes, up to 100 metres in places, run from behind the foreshore to the base of the escarpment. The dune ecosystem of the Baring Head / Ōrua-pouanui KNE includes spinifex, remnants of pīngao and a significant population of the threatened sand tussock (GWRC, 2014a). A *Raoulia australis*-dominated cushionfield occupies a large area of the foreshore, providing habitat for native insects such as Wellington coastal moth (*Notoreas perornata*), katipō spider (*Latrodectus katipo*), red admiral butterfly (*Vanessa gonerilla gonerilla*) and Myers' cicada (*Maoricicada myersi*) (GWRC, 2014a).

The Pencarrow Lakes are shallow, slightly brackish and grade into extensive valley wetlands at their upstream ends (Gibbs, 2002). They are recognised as some of the most significant and least modified freshwater lakes in the lower North Island. A number of ecosystem and species values have attributed to these lakes, including aquatic plant communities and habitats of indigenous birds in lakes (GWRC, 2015). Hutt City Council (2004) identifies Lake Kohangatera as a wetland of national significance, being regionally representative of vegetation succession after uplifts, containing nationally uncommon and endangered plants and birds. While the lakes themselves have remained unmodified, the immediate environs have been historically burned and farmed.

Milne & Sawyer (2002) identify the lakes and coast to Baring Head as a key site for coastal dune systems in Wellington, with the dunes at the mouth of Gollans Stream (Lake Kohangatera) and Cameron Creek (Lake Kohangapiripiri) and east to Baring Head supporting coastal flora and fauna of value. The higher beaches of the lakes support sensitive plant and invertebrate communities (Gibbs, 2002).

Lizard habitat also occurs through this coastal area and around the lakes (GWRC, 2014a; Todd et al., 2010). Romijn et al. (2012) recorded copper skink spotted skink, common skink and common gecko at Baring Head.

Four potential SNA sites (LH071, LH072, LH075 and LH079) have been identified by Wildlands (2016) within the Pencarrow Head terrestrial area; several of which show high levels of modification.

The coastal platform extends from the high water mark along the beach to the bottom of the coastal escarpment. The majority of the coastal margin within this area has been identified as providing habitat for indigenous birds in the coastal marine environment (GWRC, 2015).

Modification is apparent within this terrestrial area in the historic land clearance associated with farming, quarrying and the presence of a coastal recreational track.

Experiential

While relatively remote from urban areas, this part of the coast is well used for active recreation (mainly pedestrian and cycle traffic) due to the easy access along the coastal 'road' (Burdens Gate prevents vehicle access along the track). . The low impact nature of the recreational use means the area retains its wild coastal nature, particularly outside areas undergoing gravel extraction activity. Light houses located on Pencarrow Head and Baring Head retain a strong coastal association with shipping entering Wellington Harbour and reduce the natural darkness of the night sky.

Overall Natural Character Rating

High

High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas

| CNCA-5 | Pencarrow Lakes (Lake Kohangapiripiri and Lake Kohangatera) |
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| Rating | Very High |
| Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS | Abiotic — Very High Biotic - High Experiential — High |
| Key Values | <p>Abiotic Drowned river valley which has become impounded by raised gravel beaches, part of which remains intact.</p> <p>Biotic Some of the most significant and least modified freshwater wetlands in the lower North Island with wetland vegetation almost exclusively indigenous plants with high ecological condition.</p> |

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| | <p>Threatened or At Risk bird species resident or regular visitors.</p> <p>Native fish, lizard and moth habitat with several species present.</p> <p>Experiential The lake has remained largely unmodified with strong wild and scenic associations, but the immediate environs have been historically burned and farmed.</p> <p>Additional comments: The lakes themselves remain unmodified, but the immediate environs have been historically burned and farmed.</p> <p>An access road has been built across the lake outlet, with concrete pipes laid to funnel the outflow.</p> |
| CNCA-6 | Pencarrow Lakes Scarp |
| Rating | High |
| Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS | <p>Abiotic - High</p> <p>Biotic — Moderate / High</p> <p>Experiential - High</p> |
| Key Values | <p>Abiotic Steep uplifted terrace scarp with wave trimmed cliffs, small caves and rock outcrops.</p> <p>Biotic Advanced regenerating coastal scrub vegetation and established pingao population.</p> <p>Experiential Limited human interference retaining a predominantly rugged and wild backdrop</p> |
| CNCA-7 | Baring Head Scarp and Foreshore |
| Rating | High |
| Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS | <p>Abiotic - High</p> <p>Biotic — High</p> <p>Experiential - High</p> |
| Key Values | <p>Abiotic The largest and most distinctive set of uplifted marine terraces in the Wellington area.</p> <p>Biotic Habitats for indigenous birds.</p> <p>Experiential Limited human interference retaining a largely wild and scenic character.</p> <p>Additional comments: Includes land identified within East Harbour Regional Park</p> |
| Turakirae Head | |
| Coastal Terrestrial Area | |
| <p>Location and Key Characteristics The Turakirae Head coastal terrestrial area encompasses the southern tip of the Rimutaka Ranges along Wellington's southern coastline extending from Baring Head to the boundary with South Wairarapa within Palliser Bay. This area comprises a shore platform of varying widths backed by steep coastal escarpments. The western end of this coastal area includes the mouths of the Wainuiomata and Orongorongo Rivers to the east of Baring Head. The eastern end of the coastal environment extends into the Rimutaka Forest Park.</p> <p>Road access is provided along Coast Road along the Wainuiomata River and terminates at the Orongorongo River. Pedestrian and cycle access extends around Turakirae Head and forms a component of a recreational trail to the Wairarapa.</p> <p>Abiotic Turakirae Head is a classic example of a progressively uplifting coastline (Begg & Johnston, 2000) and is considered</p> | |

one of the best examples of this phenomenon in the world (Turner, 1985). This provides a sequence of five raised beach ridges which extend between the Orongorongo River and Barneys Stream to form a preserved record of historic earthquake events. The oldest of the five ridges lies at the above of the high cliff backing the coastal platform and was probably formed around 6500 years ago, with the two younger ridges were formed around 1460 and 1855 AD respectively (Turner, 1985).

Parts of Turakirae Head (128 hectares) were gazetted as scientific reserve in recognition of their geological importance. This has prevented boulder and gravel extraction extending east along the headland and preserving the raised beach ridges which occur along the headland and along part of the western edge of Palliser Bay. A preserved interglacial uplifted marine terrace occurs to the west of the Orongorongo River thought to represent the last interglacial period probably about 100,000 years ago (Wellman, 1969 in Matthews, 1979).

Water courses have relatively steep gradients and transport and discharge large volumes of gravel and sediments into the sea, forming the gravel beaches along this part of the coast.

Biotic

The total land area of the Turakirae Head terrestrial area is 1,190 hectares. Whilst most of the surrounding land was previously modified to accommodate pastoral farming, 46% now comprises matagouri or grey scrub, and 21% indigenous forest. 15% is low or high producing exotic grassland with a further 10% identified as gravel or rock, landslide or sand and gravel accounting for the numerous shingle screes and fans extending inland from the rocky shore. Of the remaining land area, there is also 4% herbaceous freshwater vegetation and 1% tall tussock grassland.

As with other coastal areas in Wellington, historical modification of the Turakirae Head area has occurred in the form of burning and farming. Bagnall (1975) reports that originally the hillslopes, alluvium-filled beach ridges, peat-covered beach ridges and older platforms, where not too waterlogged, carried a windswept coastal forest with local areas of swamp forest. The remaining areas of beach ridges probably also carried coastal forest. Dense tall shrubland of xerophytic shrubs and climbers of the same species were also probably likely on other beach ridges (Bagnall, 1975). Today, forest remnants are found only in moist valleys above the series of raised beaches and in isolated clumps on the upper raised beaches, lower hill slopes, and alluvial fans (Bagnall, 1975).

Turakirae Head Scientific Reserve contains shrubland, wetland and forest on marine terrace which are considered to be of international importance (Lower Hutt City Council, 2004). Bagnall (1975) identified 40 different vegetation types within the Scientific Reserve. The vegetation comprises a mixture of salt-tolerant herbs, tussock and reed associations, dune associations and coastal forest. Fire, both pre-European and more recent, has been the principal environmental factor influencing the present vegetation pattern (Bagnall, 1975). Nevertheless, an intact coastal sequence grades from gravel / rock coastal beach, through to wetlands and boulderfields up to the coastal escarpment. Turakirae Head wetland has been identified as having outstanding biodiversity values attributed to representativeness, diversity and rarity (GWRC, 2015).

The Turakirae Head area supports one of the largest of the several winter colonies of the NZ fur seal in the region and is known to support banded dotterels. Coastal foredune species occurring on the raised beach systems in the area include Shore spurge, *Crassula peduncularis*, *Muehlenbeckia astonii* and pingao. The site supports large populations of endemic lizards, including copper skink, spotted skink, common skink and common gecko (Romijn et al., 2012). A series of gravel fans at the northern end of Turakirae provide habitat for Maori cicada and most likely lizard too (Lower Hutt City Council, 2004).

Milne & Sawyer (2002) identified Wainuiomata River — Turakirae Head as a key site for coastal dune systems in Wellington due to the coastal fauna and flora occurring there.

The Wainuiomata River runs parallel to the coast for approximately 700m, separated by a low dune. The northern bank is farmed and exotic pastureland dominates, whereas the coastal side of the river blends into a dune system (Todd et al., 2010). The Wainuiomata River and Estuary are identified as a significant indigenous ecosystem with significant indigenous biodiversity values in the coastal marine area. The Wainuiomata River and Turakirae Head provides important nesting and roosting habitat for indigenous birds in the coastal marine area (GWRC, 2015).

Wildlands (2016) identified two potential SNA sites within the Turakirae terrestrial area (but extending a considerable distance inland beyond the coastal environment); those being the Orongorongo Hills (LH073) and the southern coast east of Orongorongo River (LH070).

Experiential

The natural values along this area of the coastal environment are very high. Much of the area retains a remote and isolated character with strong wild and scenic associations. Some shore-based recreation activity including walking, cycling, snorkelling and fishing occur accounting for the high wild and scenic associations.

Overall Natural Character Rating

Very High

| High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas | |
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| CNCA-8 | Wainuiomata River Mouth / Estuary |
| Rating | High |
| Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS | Abiotic —High Biotic - High Experiential — High |
| Key Values | <p>Abiotic Raised beaches which retain dynamic coastal processes.</p> <p>Biotic Native lizards are well represented in the area as well as several nesting bird species and chirping cicada.</p> <p>Seasonal or core habitat for threatened indigenous migratory fish species.</p> <p>Experiential Limited human interference retaining a wild and scenic character</p> |
| CNCA-9 | Orongorongo Terrace Scarp |
| Rating | High |
| Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS | Abiotic - High Biotic — Moderate / High Experiential - High |
| Key Values | <p>Abiotic Preserved steep interglacial marine terrace scarp.</p> <p>Biotic Advanced regenerating coastal scrub vegetation.</p> <p>Experiential Limited human interference retaining a wild and scenic character.</p> |
| CNCA-10 | Turakirae Head |
| Rating | Very High |
| Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS | Abiotic — Very High Biotic — High Experiential — Very High |
| Key Values | <p>Abiotic Best preserved example of raised beach ridges on the Wellington coast recording previous earthquake events.</p> <p>Biotic Wetlands with Outstanding indigenous biodiversity value.</p> <p>Diverse shrubland, wetland and forest on marine terrace as well as seven species of orchids.</p> <p>Threatened or At Risk bird species resident or regular visitors as well as lizards and cicada.</p> <p>NZ fur seal breeding colony.</p> <p>Experiential Limited human interference retaining a largely remote wild and scenic character.</p> <p>Preserved steep interglacial marine terrace scarp.</p> |
| Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area | |
| CNCA-11 | Turakirae Uplifted Marine Beaches - Turakirae Head |
| Rating | Outstanding |

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| Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS | <p>Abiotic — Very High Biotic — High /Very High Experiential — Very High</p> |
| Key Values | <p>Location and Key Characteristics This area of outstanding natural character includes the remote and unmodified parts of Turakirae Head and western edge of Palliser Bay. In this area, the sequence of uplifted marine beaches remain exceptional in their extent, intactness, integrity and lack of built structures and support a diverse array of coastal native flora and fauna. In this area, modification is limited to recreation tracks and very low levels of grazing.</p> <p>Abiotic Unmodified abiotic environment characterised by:</p> <p>Best preserved example of raised beach ridges on the Wellington coast recording earthquake previous events Includes areas gazetted as scientific reserve in recognition of their geological importance.</p> <p>Biotic Largely unmodified biotic environment characterised by:</p> <p>Intact coastal sequence grades from gravel / rock coastal beach, through to wetlands and boulderfields up to coastal escarpment.</p> <p>Includes wetlands with outstanding indigenous biodiversity value attributed to representativeness, diversity and rarity.</p> <p>Contains shrubland, wetland and forest on marine terrace considered to be of international importance within Turakirae Head Scientific Reserve.</p> <p>Supports large populations of endemic lizards, including copper skink, spotted skink, common skink and common gecko.</p> <p>One of the largest of the several winter colonies of the NZ fur seal in the region.</p> <p>Habitat for indigenous birds in the coastal marine area</p> <p>Experiential Rugged and remote coastal edge with minimal apparent modification.</p> <p>Exposed to severe gales which reflect its exposed coastal edge aspect.</p> <p>Mapped Extent The mapped extent encompasses scientific reserves, areas of outstanding wetland and adjoining uplifted marine beaches which remain very legible. This area culminates along the toe of the rising scarp slopes and rocky outcrops which extend along the coastal edge. The escarpment backdrop is not included in the outstanding classification because of the extensive clearing and grazing, which has affected the landform and associated ecological values.</p> |