



Whangaruru

Description

The Whangaruru area extends from Mimiwhangata to the district's northeastern boundary above Bland Bay. Like the Ngunguru/Tutukaka area, the Whangaruru area reaches some distance to the east to take in the upper parts of the eastern hill range before it connects with the Cape Brett hills.

Conservation

The district contains extensive areas of saltmarsh and mangrove habitat with intertidal and subtidal habitat values. Quite extensive areas of indigenous forest clad much of the inland hills. Some pockets of wetland remain. There is significant pressure on the coastline for subdivision and development.

Recreation

The main recreation activities are walking, swimming, beach activities, fishing, surfing, boating, sailing, hunting, camping, active sports. Oakura is the recreation hub of this area.

Landscape

The area contains an extensive estuarine harbour reaching inland, with a varied coastline. Large areas of saltmarsh and mangrove margin remain. Outside the harbour, this area is characterised by reef-lined rocky coast and the extensive beach at Bland Bay. Considerable areas of native vegetation clad relatively steep terrain that defines the landward parts of the coastal landscape. Much of the area is devoid of built modification and has high natural character values.

Open coastal parts of the area are similar to the Ngunguru area, with a convoluted, rocky coastline with small sheer cliffs, rocky coves, and islets. Once again pohutukawa dominates much of the coastal bank or cliff-top, frequently backed with indigenous coastal forest or shrub land. The inland hill country is rugged and predominantly covered with indigenous forest or shrub land, and blocks of plantation forestry.

Culture and heritage

Settlement along the coast is largely nestled between the foot of the coastal bank and the sea. This area includes several prominent pa sites that give an historic context to the landscape. Cultural sites from prehistoric Maori activities abound, but few are well known, acknowledged or protected. Whangaruru is contained within the Coastal ward.

Threats and Issues

- The community is involved in the restoration and development of Te Akau Reserve.
- There is a requirement for an all-tide boat access and carpark in the area.
- Council has approved a concept plan for the development of the Oakura Sportspark.
- Public access to the coast is threatened by subdivision.

Strengths and Opportunities

- Continue to support the community in the restoration of Te Akau Reserve.
- Assess opportunities for an all-tide boat access and carpark in the area.
- Continue to develop the Oakura Sportspark for active and passive recreation and conservation values.
- The council will acquire reserves along the coastline as a priority.