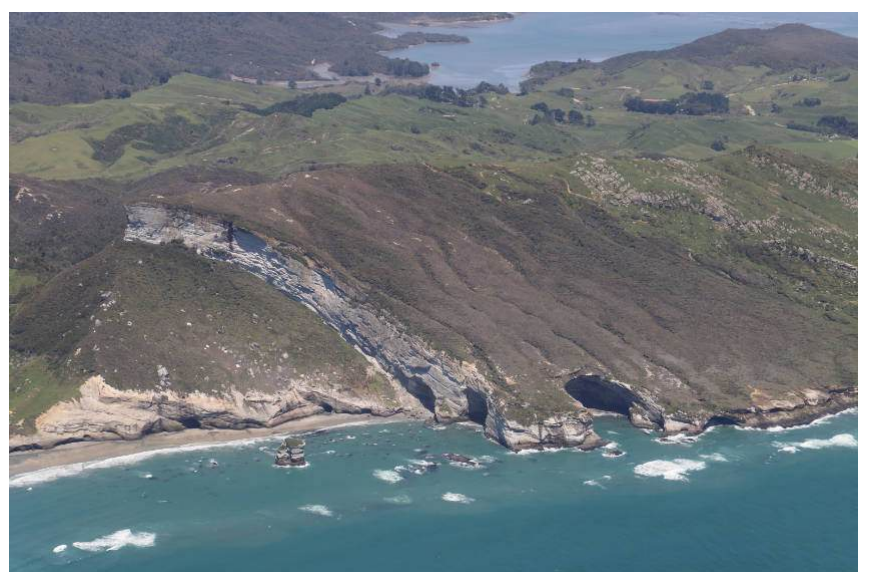


Tasman District

LANDSCAPE STUDY 2025

OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPES



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Nuggety Creek fossil leaves - photograph supplied by Dr Bruce Hayward



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Section A

Executive Summary



Executive Summary

Tasman District Council engaged Bridget Gilbert Landscape Architecture Limited (BGLA) in March 2019 to investigate and identify the Outstanding Natural Landscapes (ONLs) and Outstanding Natural Features (ONFs) within the Tasman District (the 'Tasman District Landscape Study'). The purpose of the Tasman District Landscape Study is to inform the forthcoming Tasman Resource Management Plan District Plan Review process, which is (amongst other considerations) intended to give effect to s6(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991 and Policy 15 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010.

The Tasman District Landscape Study report is structured as follows:

- Section A:** Executive Summary
- Section B:** Introduction to the Tasman District Landscape Study
- Section C:** Tasman District Landscape Study Methodology
- Section D:** ONL Schedules and Mapping
- Section E:** ONF Schedules and Mapping

The landscape of the District is very diverse and unique, both geologically and ecologically; and, like the region's varying climatic characteristics, the landscapes are consequently varied and distinctive. They include: the magnificent mountain ranges framing the western, southern and eastern sides of the District; the wild and remote west coast; the more serene waters and necklace of inlets and sandy beaches that comprise Golden Bay/Mohua; the highly popular national parks taking in rugged alpine landscapes, majestic beech forest and highly sculpted coastal landscapes; the rolling hill country with its erosion-prone and less fertile soils the fertile alluvial valleys and river terraces and the attractive coastal plains.

The District also displays a wide range of cultural values.

In summary, a total of seven ONLs have been identified in the Tasman District as follows:

- ONL 1: Northwest Coast
- ONL 2: Parapara-Kahurangi Ranges
- ONL 3: Mohua/Golden Bay
- ONL 4: Abel Tasman
- ONL 5: Wainui Bay
- ONL 6: Nelson Lakes-Southwestern Ranges
- ONL 7: Eastern Hills and Mountains

The landcover identified as ONL amounts to 70% of the District area. Importantly, 92% of the area identified as ONL is either National Park or conservation land. In turn, this means that 3.7% of the District that is outside the National Park or public conservation land estate is identified as ONL.

With respect to the extent of 'seascape' that is identified as ONL, assuming the district/region extends 12 nautical miles from MHWS (based on Statistics New Zealand advice), 33% of the seascape is identified as ONL.

A total of thirty-four ONFs have been identified throughout the District as follows:

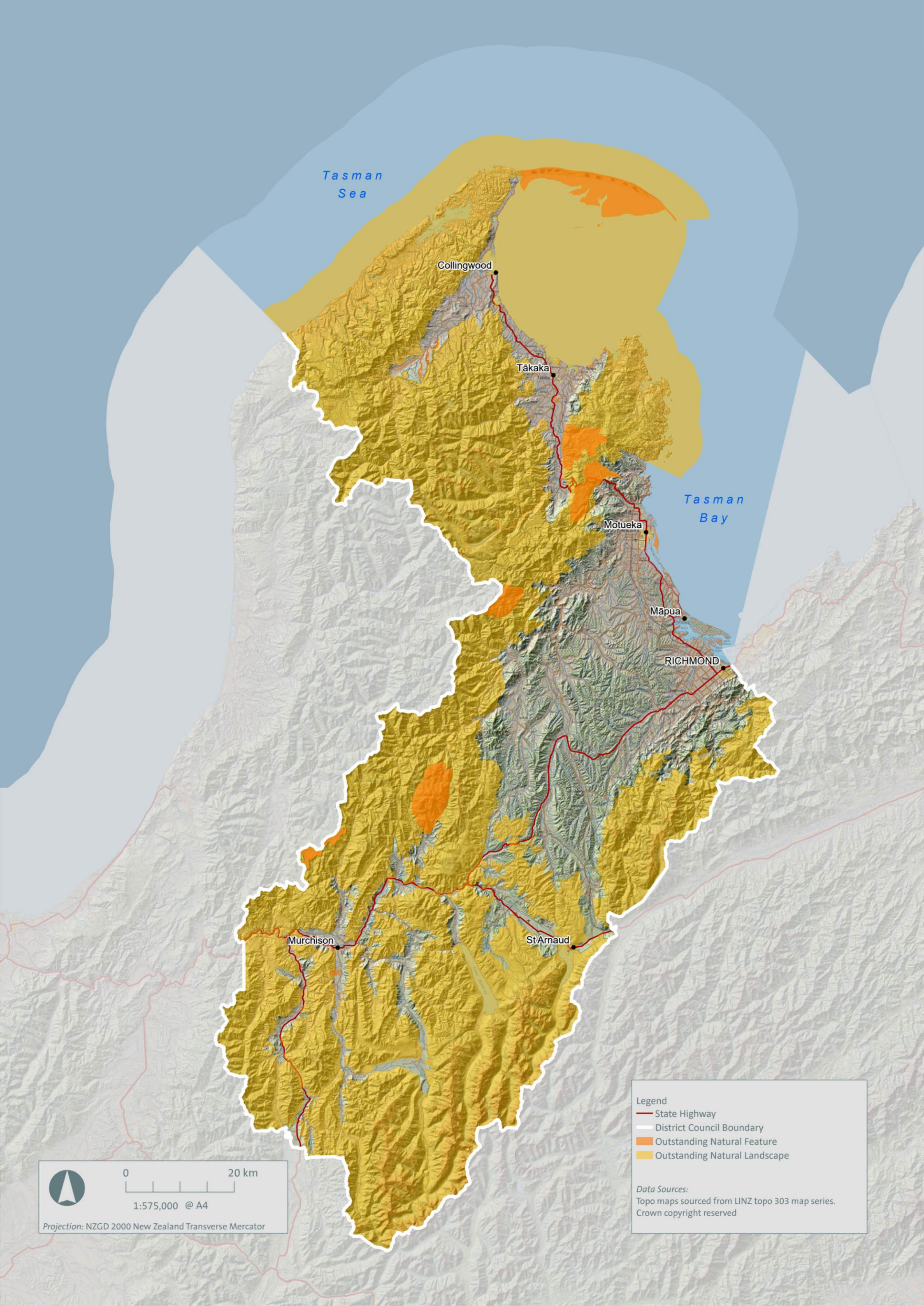
- ONF 1: Aorere Gorge and Salisbury Falls
- ONF 2: Beebys Conglomerate Cretaceous Terrestrial Sequence
- ONF 3: Awaruatohu/Big River
- ONF 4: Cobb Valley Magnesite and Karst
- ONF 5: Devils Boots
- ONF 6: Onetahua/Farewell Spit and Tidal Flats
- ONF 7: Hāmama and Tākaka Valley Sinkholes
- ONF 8: Horse Terrace Bridge Gorge
- ONF 9: Kākā Point and Island
- ONF 10: Labyrinth Rocks Karst
- ONF 11: Lake Killarney Sinkhole Lake
- ONF 12: Lower Matakītaki Landslide
- ONF 13: Maruia Falls
- ONF 14: Motueka Sand Spit
- ONF 15: Motupipi Hogback
- ONF 16: Moutere Bluff to Kina Coastal Cliffs
- ONF 17: Mt Arthur Marble Karst and Caves
- ONF 18: Mt Owen Marble Karst and Caves
- ONF 19: Nuggety Creek Road Fossil Leaves and Sedimentary Sequence
- ONF 20: Paines Ford, Irvines Cave, Oxbow and Spring
- ONF 21: Pūponga Point
- ONF 22: Rangihaeata Fossil Forest
- ONF 23: Tākaka Hill and Pikikirunga Range Cave Network
- ONF 24: Tākaka Hill Marble Karst
- ONF 25: Tarakohe Coastal Cliffs and Natural Tunnel
- ONF 26: Te Puna Waiora o Te Waikoropupū Springs
- ONF 27: The Grove
- ONF 28: Thousand Acres Plateau
- ONF 29: Tokangawha/Split Apple Rock
- ONF 30: Trilobite Rock
- ONF 31: Wairoa River Coal Measures and Dinosaur Footprint
- ONF 32: West Coast and Aorere Valley Caves
- ONF 33: White Creek Fault Displaced Terraces
- ONF 34: Lake Rototai Sinkhole Lake

Of the thirty-four identified ONFs: 10 ONFs are fully within private land; 5 ONFs are fully within public land; and 19 ONFs coincide with a mix of public and private land. Approximately 0.5% of the District is identified as ONF.

Figure 1 opposite provides an overview of the location and extent of the identified ONLs and ONFs within Tasman District. Detailed mapping together with a schedule of the attributes and values associated with each ONL and ONF are attached in **Sections D** and **E** respectively.

The ONL and ONF Schedules detail the landscape attributes and values that need to be protected from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development. The Schedules also outline the sorts of development that are likely to adversely impact on landscape values within each ONL or ONF. This information may support the development of a nuanced landscape policy approach that responds to the specific sensitivities of the different ONLs and ONFs within the District.

It is acknowledged that the Tasman Landscape Study is the first step in developing appropriate landscape policy as part of the District Plan Review. It is envisaged that as the Council works through the plan review process, detailed site investigations may be required to verify the ONL and ONF mapping and schedules at a finer grain.



Tasman
Sea

Collingwood

Takaka

Motueka

Māpua

RICHMOND

Murchison

St Arnaud

Tasman
Bay

Legend

- State Highway
- District Council Boundary
- Outstanding Natural Feature
- Outstanding Natural Landscape

Data Sources:
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Projection: NZGD 2000 New Zealand Transverse Mercator



Section B

Introduction to the Tasman
District Landscape Study



Background

To date, there has been no district-wide (or region-wide¹) landscape study of the Tasman District.

There have, however, been a number of (in some cases, quite detailed) landscape studies undertaken in relation to the Golden Bay and Northwest Coast portion of the district, stretching (very roughly) from Farewell Spit eastwards to Tākaka Hill and Abel Tasman National Park, and southwards to Big River, taking in the Parapara and Kahurangi Ranges. This portion of the district was focused on initially as a result of its high landscape values in combination with a range of location-specific, land and marine-based development pressures.

A range of ‘expert’ landscape assessment methodologies have been used in each of the Golden Bay and Northwest Coast studies to date. There was also considerable input from the ‘Small Working Group’ members (**SWG**), who represented a variety of community groups and brought a vast amount of local knowledge to the landscape evaluation of this part of the district. The SWG went through a collaborative, iterative and rigorous process over four years (2011-2015) to reach agreement on its recommended ONLs and ONFs throughout Golden Bay and the Northwest Coast.

As part of the Tasman District Landscape Study, BGLA reviewed all of the previous studies and recommended that, given the extensive amount of landscape assessment of this part of the District (both expert and community based), its broad-brush consistency with landscape assessment best practice (in terms of the range of factors described or characterised and evaluated), and the general consensus of the majority of the landscape reports as to the parts

of Golden Bay and Northwest Coast that qualify as ONL or ONF, a pragmatic approach should be applied in the Tasman District Landscape Study that seeks to ‘build on’ the preceding work rather than to undertake a ‘first principles’ landscape assessment. A summary of the BGLA review of the previous reports is attached in **Appendix A** and includes a list of the key areas of agreement and disagreement with respect to ONL and ONF mapping across the various studies. **Appendix A** also includes reference to two key Environment Court decisions of relevance to landscape assessment within the district.

The Small Working Group Report (2016) (**SWG Report**) forms the most recent, comprehensive landscape report for Golden Bay and Northwest Coast and was considered to be an appropriate ‘starting point’ for the current landscape study in relation to this part of the district. It also offers a quite unique resource in terms of understanding the shared and recognised values of the Golden Bay and Northwest Coast landscape due to the cross section of community involvement.

On the face of it, this potentially presents methodological issues as:

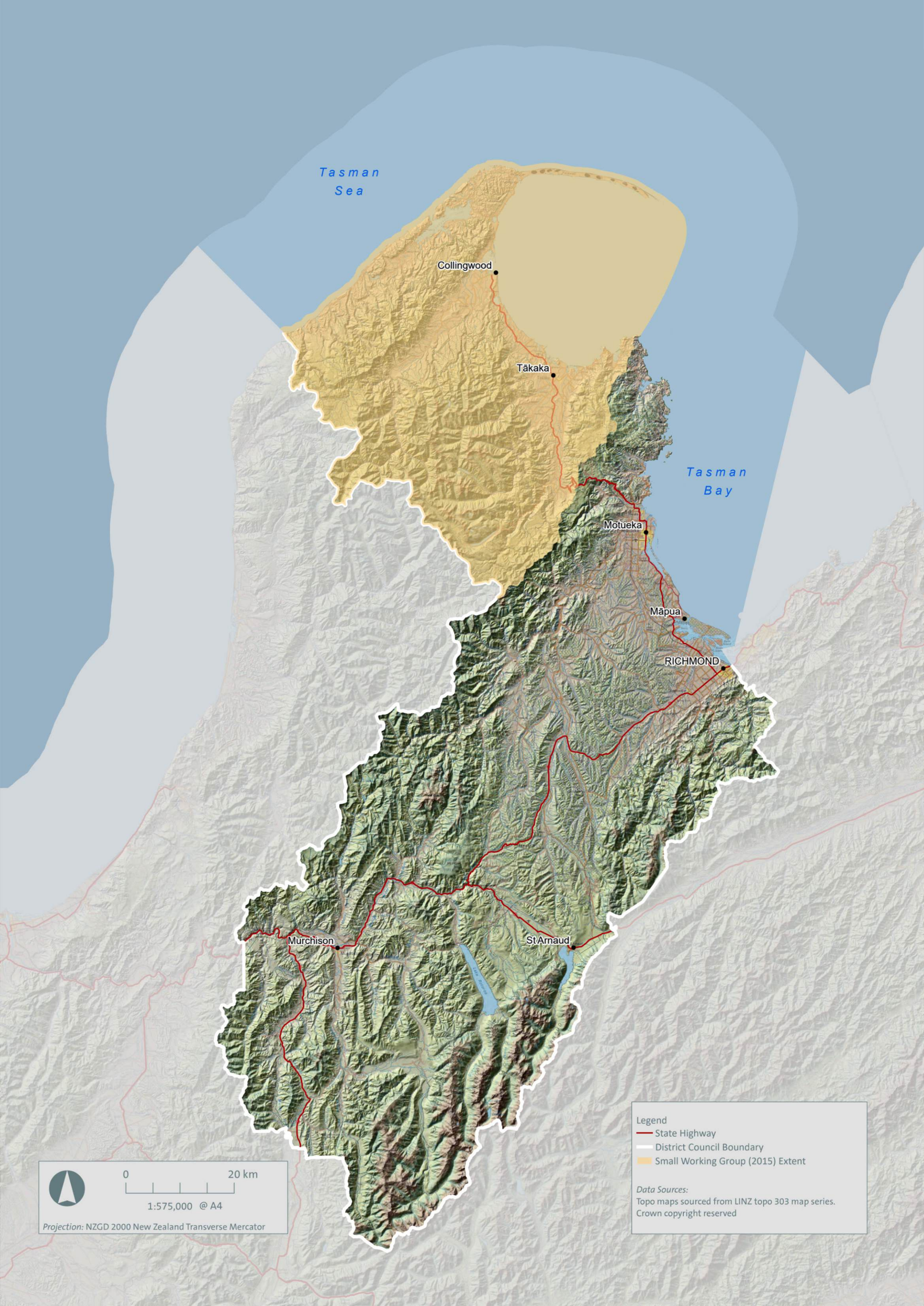
- the Golden Bay and Northwest Coast portion of the district has been subject to a greater level of landscape analysis and community consultation input over the years than the balance of the District; and/or
- the landscape assessment of the balance of the district is essentially a ‘first principles’ expert study, whilst that relating to the Golden Bay and Northwest Coast portion of the district effectively builds on the substantial volume of landscape analysis (both expert and community based) that has been undertaken to date.

¹ Tasman District Council is a unitary authority, so has the responsibilities, duties and powers of both a regional and territorial (district) council. As such, the council’s ‘district’ and ‘regional’ boundaries are identical.

Figure 2: Extent of the Small Working Group Study Area within Tasman District

Below: Durville River valley with Ella and Travers Range





Tasman
Sea

Collingwood

Takaka

Motueka

Māpua

RICHMOND

Murchison

St Arnaud

Tasman
Bay

Legend

- State Highway
- District Council Boundary
- Small Working Group (2015) Extent

Data Sources:

Topo maps sourced from LINZ topo 303 map series.
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1:575,000 @ A4

Projection: NZGD 2000 New Zealand Transverse Mercator

For these reasons, it was agreed that it would be beneficial to integrate a **landscape peer review** role throughout the course of Tasman District Landscape Study to ensure that at each ‘step of the way’, a consistent landscape assessment methodological approach was followed.

Mr James Bentley of Boffa Miskell has provided landscape architectural peer review support throughout the course of the Tasman District Landscape Study project. Peer review inputs were specifically provided at the following stages of the project:

- a. Development of an Assessment Methodology for the Tasman District Landscape Study.
- b. Field survey to confirm the preliminary findings of the Tasman District Landscape Study, including: the application of a threshold for ‘outstanding’ and reviewing ONL and ONF boundary delineation methods (both of these aspects of landscape assessment are discussed in more detail shortly).
- c. Commentary with respect to a ‘Final Draft (2)’ version of the Tasman District Landscape Study report and accompanying ONL and ONF Schedules and mapping.

Appendix B provides a brief summary of the peer review comments provided at each of these stages of the project, together with brief comment as to how the peer review recommendations were integrated into the subsequent work, or, where appropriate, an explanation as to why the peer review recommendations were not incorporated.

Landscape Assessment ‘Principles’

It is widely accepted by the Environment Court² and landscape experts that for a landscape to rate as an ONL, or a feature to rate as an ONF, three key questions need to be satisfied:

- Is the area a ‘landscape’ or ‘feature’?
- Is the landscape or feature ‘natural’ enough to be considered for identification as a RMA s6(b) landscape or feature?
- Is the natural landscape or feature ‘outstanding’?

For the purposes of the Tasman District Landscape Study, the following definition of ‘landscape’ has been adopted:

“Landscape is the cumulative expression of natural and cultural features, patterns and processes in a geographical area, including human perceptions and associations.”

— Source: NZILA Best Practice Note 10.1 ‘Landscape Assessment and Sustainable Management’

This definition points to the concept of ‘landscape’ embracing the three broad components:

- Physical attributes:** The physical elements of the landscape, including its geomorphological, ecological and biological elements, and involving more objective and quantifiable data.

- Sensory attributes:** Sometimes referred to as the ‘perceptual’ aspects of the landscape and involving consideration of: aesthetic characteristics; the degree of naturalness of a landscape; its memorability, legibility and expressiveness; transient matters; and experiential aspects such as smells, sounds and a sense of remoteness.
- Associative attributes and values:** Sometimes referred to as the ‘meaning’ of the landscape and including: cultural; historic values; shared and recognised values; and recreational and scenic values.

The scope of this definition of ‘landscape’ is in keeping with the range of factors (commonly referred to as the *WESI* or *modified Pigeon Bay factors*) that have been widely accepted by the Environment Court and landscape experts to provide a useful starting point in understanding landscape values and determining the location and extent of ONLs and ONFs (noting that a number of more recent Environment Court decisions have provided greater guidance on the scope and meaning of the various factors³). These factors are also listed in Policy 15(c) of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010, albeit with slightly different wording and the addition of reference to the presence of water and vegetation (including exotic vegetation), wild and scenic values, cultural values being identified in accordance with tikanga Māori, and the expression of cultural and spiritual values as cultural and landscape features.

Put another way, it is generally accepted that a thorough description and evaluation of landscape in terms of these three components assists in identifying ‘the landscape’ (or the ‘feature’) and answering the questions as to whether it is ‘natural’ and ‘outstanding’.⁴

² For example, see [2011] NZEnvC 387 (Rosehip), paragraph 74.

³ For example, see *Western Bay of Plenty District Council v Bay of Plenty Regional Council* [2017] NZEnvC 147.

⁴ To this end, it is noted that clearly there is a degree of overlap between many of the factors, for example ‘naturalness’ and ‘remoteness’ are both an associative and a perceptual/sensory value raising potential issues as to how the factors are ‘grouped’. However overall, the key consideration is the inclusion of a comprehensive range of factors for consideration within a landscape assessment that enable a thorough understanding of landscape values.

Nelson Lakes National Park



Turning to the task of landscape assessment itself, this typically involves a two-step sequential process comprising:

- a. Landscape Characterisation; and
- b. Landscape Evaluation.

Landscape Characterisation

Landscape Characterisation typically involves the 'land typing' of a district (or region) to identify a series of landscape character areas or **landscape character units** (LCUs). The process of landscape characterisation relies largely (although not entirely) on objective information and is intended to form the foundation for the subsequent task of landscape evaluation (which is a more subjective process).

This 'unit' approach to landscape assessment is widespread throughout New Zealand and is generally considered a pragmatic response in the description and analysis of what are often extensive, complex and highly varied areas.

Typically, LCUs display a homogeneity of characteristics such that they are distinctive from adjacent landscape areas and can be identified and mapped. However, in some circumstances the attributes and values are more subtle and/or common to more than one area, making it more difficult to define an LCU. In such circumstances it may be appropriate to focus on whether the landscape area can be meaningfully perceived as a particular 'landscape type'. It is important that where this approach to the identification of an LCU is applied, it is clearly transparent in the assessment.

The following definitions have been developed to help draw this distinction:

Landscape Character Types: These are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historical land use, and settlement pattern.

Landscape Character Areas: These are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type. Each will have its own individual character and identity, even though it shares the same generic characteristics with other areas of the same type.

Source: Natural England (2014) An approach to Landscape Character Assessment.

For the Tasman District Landscape Study, an appreciable amount of work has been undertaken over the years to determine the LCUs within the Golden Bay and Northwest Coast portion of the District. Of particular note is the work undertaken by Andrew Craig (landscape architect) in his *Golden Bay Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features Study (Draft)* report, dated May 2012 (the 'Craig Report')⁵, in which a series of landscape character units were mapped and described (and subsequently informed the Craig Report's recommendations with respect to ONLs and ONFs in this part of the district). The Craig Report included an explanation of the assessment methodology. The approach adopted with respect to landscape characterisation is broadly consistent with current landscape assessment best practice, particularly in terms of the consistent range of landscape factors described for each character area.

Also of assistance to the landscape characterisation stage of the Tasman District Landscape Study was the *Land Types of the Tasman District* report and mapping prepared by Ian H Lynn (Landcare Research), dated May 2012 (the Lynn Land Typing Report'). That parcel of work described and mapped twenty-two landscape types throughout the entire district on the basis of topography and geology. Of interest is the similar 'grain' of the Lynn Land Type mapping to the Craig Report LCU mapping.

The Craig Report 2012 identified a total of eight LCUs within the Golden Bay and Northwest Coast portion of the District:

- Northwest Coast
- Golden Bay Marine/Farewell Spit
- Pūponga/Pakawau
- Aorere Valley
- Parapara Coastal
- Parapara/Kahurangi Ranges
- Tākaka Valley
- Abel Tasman

Having reviewed the descriptions of the landscape for the Golden Bay and Northwest Coast portion of the district contained in both reports and undertaken extensive field survey by land, water, and air, it was decided that the Tasman District Landscape Study should adopt the landscape characterisation work in the Craig Report (for the Golden Bay and Northwest Coast portion of the district). In short, it was determined that given the extensive landscape assessment work that informed the Craig Report (including, drawing from two separate landscape assessments undertaken by Boffa Miskell in 2005 and 2011), there would be very little benefit in undertaking a 'fresh' landscape characterisation of this part of the district.

However, for the balance of the district, the landscape characterisation stage was required to provide a sound basis for the evaluation of landscape (and features) in this part of the district. This stage of the Landscape Study involved the mapping of the LCU areas and the preparation of LCU worksheets contained in **Appendix C: LCU Mapping and Worksheets**.

The configuration of the **LCU mapping** largely derives from the Lynn Land Typing mapping given the fundamental importance of landform (and geology) in shaping landscape character, together with expert landscape analysis drawing from GIS resources and field survey. Some variance in the patterning of the LCU mapping and the Lynn Land Typing mapping is evident in places⁶ in response to marked changes in landcover and/or land management that exert an appreciable influence on landscape character (despite the consistency of the underlying landform and geology), and which warrant an effectively 'finer grained' LCU delineation to that identified in the Lynn Land Typing Report.

The notions of scale and context are also of importance in determining the extent of an LCU. For the Tasman District Landscape Study, the scale of the study area and the grain of information available means that the landscape was interrogated at an approximately 1:50,000 scale within which individual features will usually form part of a broader landscape.

The **LCU worksheets** record a consistent series of landscape descriptors that assist an understanding of the landscape character of the unit. The descriptors draw from the three broad components of landscape (i.e. physical, perceptual and associative attributes and values), and focus on describing the landscape character 'as it is' rather than rating or evaluating it as a landscape or feature.

A thorough description of each LCU in terms of these three broad components sets the scene for a clear understanding of the landscape character and values associated with either all, or part, of each LCU; and provides a meaningful basis for the identification of significant and important landscapes within a subsequent landscape evaluation exercise. The inevitably subjective nature of some of the landscape descriptors (for example, a description of the 'naturalness' of a unit) entails a degree of expert judgement. However, importantly, this stage of the Tasman District Landscape Study makes no attempt to evaluate the landscape values of the unit either as a whole or in part.

A summary of each of the LCUs relied on to inform the Tasman District Landscape Study is set out in the table opposite.

5 The Craig Report 2012 is available at <https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/projects/golden-bay-north-west-coast-landscape-project/>.

6 For example, the very rough differentiation of the Lynn Coastal Separation Point Land Type (10) into two discrete LCUs: LCU 1 Abel Tasman and LCU 6 Motueka River Valley.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER UNIT	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION
TASMAN DISTRICT LANDSCAPE STUDY 2020 LCU	
Abel Tasman	The land and seascape north of SH60 and including all of Abel Tasman National Park (ATNP) that sits outside the Golden Bay Landscape Study Area. The LCU takes in the seascape (out to 3 nautical miles) including a series of granite islands. Strongly rolling to deeply dissected hill country underlain by either granite or marble and limestone substrates. National Park (and its associated recreation and conservation/native restoration focus) dominates, with production forestry, pastoral uses and scattered rural living evident around the edges of the national park. On more gently sloping areas, orcharding is evident (e.g. Riwaka margins). The identity and sense of place associated with this LCU centres around the very high landscape values associated with the national park adjacent seascape. Much of the unit that is outside of ATNP functions as either a gateway or 'support area' for the park (accommodation and commercial services). ATNP itself is a highly valued recreational destination that affords striking bush and coastal views and a sense of wildness and isolation in places.
Kahurangi Ranges	Roughly corresponds to the mountain and hill ranges along the western side of the district stretching from the northern side SH6 near Murchison, northwards to the south side of SH60 on Tākaka Hill and largely coinciding with Kahurangi National Park or land in DoC stewardship. Steep to very steep dissected hill country and mountain lands and associated valley fill fans, terraces and floodplains. The geology of the area is the most diverse of any protected area in the country and includes a long and complex history, including glaciation and tectonic processes. Dominated by indigenous forest cover/intact alpine vegetation communities, with very little evidence of modification or development. The identity and sense of place associated with this LCU centres around the very high landscape values associated with the national park and in particular, the very strong sense of remoteness, endemism, wildness and isolation. The very modest and largely dispersed character of rural dwellings and development outside KNP together with the relatively low-key and informal character of Murchison supports this perception.
Southwestern Ranges	Roughly corresponds to the mountain and hill ranges in the southwestern quadrant of the district, to the south of SH6 and excluding Nelson Lakes National Park (NLNP). Takes in the north eastern portion of Victoria Forest Park, the flanking TRMP Conservation zoned land, a small sliver of Nelson Lakes National Park adjacent Lake Rotorua and parts of the eastern flanks of the Brunner and Victoria Range and the Braeburn Range. Steep to very steep dissected hill country and mountain lands and associated valley fill fans, terraces and floodplains. Dominated by indigenous forest cover/intact alpine vegetation communities, with very little evidence of modification or development. The identity and sense of place associated with this LCU centres around the very high landscape values associated with VFP and the Conservation zoned land and, in particular, the strong sense of remoteness, wildness and isolation. The very modest and largely dispersed character of rural dwellings and development outside VFP and Conservation zoned land together with the relatively low-key and informal character of Murchison supports this perception.
Nelson Lakes	Roughly corresponds to extent of Nelson Lakes National Park (NLNP) within the District, taking in Saint Arnaud and Tophouse. Steep to very steep, high, glaciated mountains of the Main Divide and the St Arnaud, Travers and Ella Ranges. Extensive glaciation, erosion and weathering have left a characteristic landscape of steep valley sides, scree slopes, sharp 'arete' ridges and many tarn-filled basins. Also includes alluvial valley fill, active and recently active riverbeds, floodplain terraces and valley fill fans along steeply incised river valley floors. Dominated by indigenous forest cover/intact alpine vegetation communities, with very little evidence of modification or development excepting at St Arnaud and around Tophouse. The identity and sense of place associated with this LCU centres around the very high landscape values associated with NLNP and, in particular, the strong sense of remoteness, endemism, wildness and isolation. The generally sympathetic character of Saint Arnaud and Tophouse supports this perception.
Eastern Hills and Mountains	Roughly corresponds to extent of the Gordon Range and the Richmond Range that sit within the district, including the south western margins of Mt Richmond Forest Park (MRFP). Steep to very steep hill and mountain slopes dominated by indigenous forest cover/intact alpine vegetation communities with production forestry, pastoral and scattered rural living uses evident around the edges of the park. The identity and sense of place associated with the LCU centres on the production forestry-dominated dissected hill country throughout the central and northern hill slopes which displays a distinctly 'industrial' rural character, and the more natural landscape of MRFP where there is a strong sense of remoteness, endemism, isolation and wildness.
Motueka River Valley	Roughly corresponds to the extent of rolling to steep dissected hill country overlaying granite substrate south west of Motueka, including the Motueka River valley floor. Dominated by production forestry throughout the steeper hill country flanking the river valley with intensive horticulture and agriculture throughout the valley floor interspersed with lifestyle lots and small rural hamlets (e.g. Pangatotara, Ngātimoti, Pokororo, Orinoco, Thorpe and Woodstock). The identity and sense of place associated with the LCU can be described as a somewhat sleepy, highly productive rural valley that is valued as a place to live and work in.
Moutere Hills and Valleys	Roughly corresponds to the extent of strongly rolling to moderately steep and steep hill country that displays a distinct herringbone dissection pattern (and overlays Moutere Gravels). Vegetation patterns dominated by production forestry with isolated bush and riparian fragments. Scattered patterning of rural dwellings throughout the river floodplains, interspersed with small rural hamlets and timber processing plants and with the patterning of rural living more consistent and intensive throughout the Moutere River Valley. The identity and sense of place associated with the LCU can be described as a working rural landscape that is valued as a place to live and work in.
Waimea, Mapua, Motueka and Riwaka River Plains and Coastal Flats	Roughly corresponds to the recent floodplains and riverbeds, low terraces, and associated back swamp wetlands, flights of intermediate and high terraces and minor fans in the upper tributaries; and the deltaic fringe complexes of barrier islands, spits, beach ridges, sand dunes, and estuaries of the lower Motueka, Moutere, Riwaka, and Waimea Rivers. Includes the adjoining seascape. Vegetation patterning dominated by shelterbelt/orchard plantings and amenity plantings around dwellings and buildings with isolated bush and riparian fragments in places and sizeable wetlands around river mouths. Production forestry dominates on Moturoa/Rabbit Island and Jackett Island. A reasonably consistent patterning of rural living and rural lifestyle settlement between the nodes of urban development associated with Riwaka, Motueka, Mapua and Richmond. Predominantly permanent homes with some holiday homes evident along the coastline. Popular scenic route between Nelson/Richmond and Motueka (and beyond) (vehicular and cycling). The identity and sense of place associated with LCU 8 can be described as a mixed urban, rural amenity and working rural landscape that is valued as a place in which to live and work and to visit. Attractive seascape outlook along coastal edge, albeit a generally inhabited/modified coastal interface.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER UNIT	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION
CRAIG REPORT 2012 LCU	
Northwest Coast	The isolated and remote western coast of the District that displays a very high level of endemism, naturalness and wildness. The LCU takes in the western coastline, Whanganui Inlet and the Wakamarama and Burnett Ranges and extends from Cape Farewell to Big River and Kahurangi Point. Much of the area falls within Kahurangi National Park and is dominated by indigenous forest cover/intact alpine vegetation communities. The identity and sense of place associated with this part of the District centres very high degree of remoteness, naturalness and wildness in which dramatic landforms, native vegetation features and seascapes dominate the landscape character.
Golden Bay Marine/Farewell Spit	The whole of Golden Bay marine area, including the internationally recognised landform and ecology of Farewell Spit together with the various inlets and estuaries spread along its shoreline. The Golden Bay seascape including the inlets, dunes and sandy beaches, contribute significantly to the character, amenity and identity of Golden Bay, with the accessibility, visibility and highly attractive character of much of the area playing a critical role in this regard. The identity and sense of place associated with this part of Golden Bay centres around the highly dynamic, dramatic and appealing character of the seascape and landforms flanking it.
Pūponga/Pakawau	The narrow strip of coastal plan extending from Pūponga to approximately Taimatea Point. LCU takes in Pūponga and Pakawau Inlets together with the steeper slopes extending up to the seaward ridge framing this part of Golden Bay. Pastoral farming dominates landuse and landcover on the plains with native bush throughout the steeper slopes. Rural dwellings scattered throughout the lower lying coastal fringe. The identity and sense of place associated with this part of the District centres around its working rural landscape character and role as a gateway to the popular destinations of Farewell Spit, the northwest coast and Wharariki Beach.
Aorere Valley	The wedge shaped alluvial river flats and terraces flanking the Aorere River (and network of tributaries), abruptly framed by mountains, and opening to the coast at its northern end. Low intensity pastoral farming dominates land use and land cover, with scattered small scale and sleepy rural settlements in places (e.g. Bainham, Rockville) and scattered rural dwellings. The limited level of habitation/development, more traditional character and quiet nature of the area (being a place to visit rather than to pass through) confers an identity and sense of place on the area that can be described as ‘old school’ rural New Zealand and carries with it a distinctive air of simplicity and charm.
Parapara Coastal	The coastal strip sandwiched between the northern end of the Tasman Mountains and the sea, extending between the Aorere and Tākaka Valleys and comprising of an elevated platform or elongated alluvial fan. Pastoral and production forestry uses dominate, with native bush throughout steeper slopes. Scattered settlements (with a mix of permanent, holiday and retirement dwellings) and rural living along the coastal edge attest to the particularly high amenity values associated with this part of the LCU. The identity and sense of place associated with this part of the District centres around its values as a place to live and recreate in, largely deriving from its attractive physical characteristics and proximity to the Tākaka Valley.
Parapara/Kahurangi Ranges	The inland or non-coastal hills and mountains within Golden Bay and largely coinciding with Kahurangi National Park or land in DoC stewardship. Comprises steep to very steep dissected hill country and mountain lands and associated valley fill fans, terraces and floodplains. The geology of the area is the most diverse of any protected area in the country and includes a long and complex history, including glaciation and tectonic processes. Dominated by indigenous forest cover with very little evidence of modification or development. The identity and sense of place associated with this LCU centres around the very high landscape values associated with the national park and in particular, the very strong sense of remoteness, endemism, wildness and isolation.
Tākaka Valley	The wedge shaped alluvial river flats and terraces flanking the Tākaka River (and network of tributaries), abruptly framed by mountains and opening to the coast at its northern end with two estuaries (Motupipi and Tākaka River mouths). High and low intensity pastoral farming dominates land use with production forestry or native bush cover on the steeper slopes surrounding the valley floor. Scattered settlements (including Tākaka township, Pohara, Clifton and Motupipi) confer a relatively inhabited feel to the valley. The identity and sense of place associated with the Tākaka Valley centres around the function of this valley as the settlement and development hub of Golden Bay.
Abel Tasman	The portion of ATNP that falls within the Golden Bay and Northwest Coast portion of the District and taking in Wainui Bay, Canaan Downs and the western Pikikirunga Ranges. Strongly rolling to deeply dissected and steep hill country with localised (albeit extensive) areas of karst landscapes in places (Canaan Downs) and the contained ‘microcosm’ of the wider Golden Bay landscape evident at Wainui Bay. National Park (and its associated recreation and conservation/native restoration focus) dominates, with pastoral farming and some small scale rural /coastal settlements in places (e.g. Wainui Bay, Tata Beach, Ligar Bay) and a mixture of production forestry and native bush throughout the very steep western faces of the Pikikirunga Ranges. The identity and sense of place associated with this LCU centres around the very high landscape values associated with the national park. Much of the unit that is outside of the park functions as either a gateway for the park (e.g. Wainui Bay) or a gateway to Golden Bay (e.g. Canaan Downs). ATNP itself is a highly valued recreational destination that affords striking bush and coastal views and a sense of wildness and isolation in places.

Landscape Evaluation

This stage of the Tasman District Landscape Study focusses on expert analysis to determine the RMA s6(b) landscapes and features within the District.

This is a complex and iterative phase requiring a significant component of expert judgement by the landscape assessor, and typically including input from a **Study Team** comprised of other expert disciplines, iwi representatives, Council staff, key stakeholders and representatives of the wider community.

For the Tasman District Landscape Study, the study team included the following participants:

Rowena Cudby (Tasman District Council)	<i>Planner and client representative</i>
Bridget Gilbert (BGLA)	<i>Landscape architect</i>
Dr Bruce Hayward	<i>Geoscientist</i>
Rob Davidson (Davidson Environmental Ltd)	<i>Marine and freshwater ecologist</i>
Mike Harding	<i>Terrestrial ecologist</i>
Brian McAuslan (Boffa Miskell)	<i>GIS expert</i>
James Bentley (Boffa Miskell)	<i>Landscape architect peer reviewer</i>
Iwi	<i>TDC Iwi Working Group</i>

A brief bio is attached in **Appendix D** for each of the project team members outlining their qualifications and relevant experience.

It should be noted that Bridget Gilbert also had the benefit of a workshop with Shelagh Noble (former Tasman District Council planner) who was closely involved in the SWG study and was able to explain the findings of the SWG Report.

Burnett Range - photograph supplied by James Bentley



Is it a ‘Landscape’ or ‘Feature’?

Addressing the first of the key questions for consideration in the identification of RMA s6(b) areas, typically, ‘landscapes’ display characteristics such that they are distinctive from adjacent landscapes and can be identified and mapped. Smaller landscapes may be nested within larger landscapes.

In some circumstances, the attributes are more subtle and/or common to more than one area, making it more difficult to define a ‘landscape’. In such circumstances, it may be appropriate to focus on whether the landscape can be meaningfully perceived as ‘a whole’. It is important that where this approach to the identification of a landscape is applied, it is transparent in the assessment.

A ‘feature’ typically corresponds to a distinct and clearly legible landform, physical system, exposure of geological material or ‘place’. A ‘feature’ is an entity that is generally smaller than a ‘landscape’. A ‘landscape’ also usually displays a broader range of perceptual and associative values in addition to physical values when compared to a ‘feature’. Context will also play a role in determining whether the area is a ‘feature’ or ‘landscape’.

In general, landscapes and features are differentiated as follows:

Landscapes are larger areas that are perceived as a whole and can include a number of features within them. Landscapes can be either experienced from within (e.g. from walking tracks within **ONL 4 Abel Tasman**), or seen as

the whole of an outlook (e.g. looking towards the front ranges and peaks of **ONL 2 Parapara-Kahurangi Ranges** from the flat plains of Tasman Bay). All mapped landscapes (or ONLs) have been identified relative to the Tasman region.

Features are discrete elements within a landscape, which are generally experienced from outside the features’ boundaries. Features display integrity as a whole element and can often be clearly distinguished from the surrounding landscape. Generally, features are defined by their geomorphological landform boundaries. However, in some instances (such as areas of native bush (e.g. **ONF 27 The Grove**), features have also played a role in defining the extent of the ONF.

Notwithstanding the difference in scale, ONLs and ONFs can be identified through applying the same evaluative criteria. This is reflected in the consistency of descriptors used in the ONL and ONF Schedules (discussed shortly).

The Tasman District Landscape Study includes consideration of ‘**seascapes**’ that contribute significantly to the experience of an adjacent ONL (e.g. **ONL 4 Abel Tasman**) and/or are deemed to form an ONL in their own right (e.g. **ONL 3 Mohua/Golden Bay**).

Nelson Lakes National Park



Pupu Springs - photograph supplied by James Bentley



Sandhills Creek River Mouth and Lake Otuhie dune lake - photograph supplied by James Bentley



Aorere River ONF - photograph supplied by James Bentley



Threshold For ‘Natural’

With respect to the second of the key questions for consideration in the identification of RMA s6(b) areas, the RMA provides no specific definition or guidance as to what qualifies a landscape or feature in terms of its ‘naturalness’. Over time, a number of Environment Court cases have endeavoured to assist in this regard, and the following comments draw from that material together with landscape expert practice.

The degree of naturalness of a landscape largely reflects the degree of human modification the landscape has undergone. Typically, there is an inverse correlation between built modification and naturalness: landscapes with a lesser degree of built modification rate more highly in terms of naturalness; and as the level of modification increases, the naturalness rating decreases.

The ‘criteria’ for naturalness stated in *Long Bay*⁷ include:

- a. relatively unmodified and legible physical landform and relief;
- b. the landscape being uncluttered by structures and/or obvious human influence;
- c. the presence of water (lake, river, sea);
- d. the presence of vegetation patterns (especially native vegetation) and other ecological patterns.

Further, it is widely accepted by the Environment Court and landscape experts that naturalness occurs across a continuum, from a pristine natural landscape to a cityscape⁸. It is also generally agreed that a degree of modification does not disqualify a landscape (or feature) from consideration as an RMA s6(b) landscape on the basis of its naturalness.⁹

In *High Country Rosehip Orchards v Mackenzie District Council*¹⁰, the Environment Court indicated approval for a seven-point scale of naturalness and signalled that the threshold for naturalness in relation to an ONL and ONF lay approximately at the boundary between a rating (for naturalness) of **Moderate to High** and **High** (author’s emphasis added). The Tasman District Landscape Study has adopted this approach as a ‘starting point’ for determining the landscapes and features within the District that qualify for consideration in terms of their naturalness.

When considering the degree of naturalness for an ONF, the naturalness of the feature itself is considered. A landform based ONF does not need to be vegetated to have a high level of naturalness; and indeed, the absence of forest cover may enhance the legibility and visual appreciation of the

landform’s characteristics (e.g. **ONF 29 Tokangawha/Split Apple Rock**). In some instances, the naturalness of the immediate context will play a role in shaping the impression of naturalness associated with the feature, although the naturalness of the immediate context is not determinative of the feature qualifying for consideration in terms of naturalness.

When considering a geological exposure as an ONF (e.g. **ONF 31 Wairoa River Coal Measures and Dinosaur Footprint**), the values assessed are the features within the rock itself and these are essentially natural, regardless of whether they are exposed in natural cliffs or shorelines, or in man-made road or quarry cuttings.

All of the ONLs and ONFs that are recommended in this study rate as having at least **Moderate to High** naturalness values. Of the seven ONLs and thirty three ONFs, one ONL (**ONL 5: Wainui Bay**) and eight ONFs (**ONF 4: Cobb Valley Magnesite and Karst**, **ONF 5 Devils Boots**, **ONF 11 Lake Killarney Sinkhole Lake**, **ONF 12 Lower Matakītaki Landslide**, **ONF 19 Nuggety Creek Road Fossil Leaves and Sedimentary Sequence**, **ONF 24 Tākaka Hill Marble Karst**, **ONF 26 Te Puna Waiora o Te Waikoropupū Springs**, **ONF 33 White Creek Fault Displaced Terraces**) rate as having **Moderate to High** naturalness.

Of importance to note is the distinction between an evaluation of ‘**landscape**’ **naturalness** (as part of a Landscape Study) and the concept of ‘**ecological**’ **naturalness** (which is often mentioned within the context of RMA s6(a) Natural Character Assessment). It is widely accepted by the Environment Court and landscape experts that a landscape (or feature) may qualify in terms of naturalness for consideration under RMA s6(b), largely on the basis of the ‘look’ or ‘appearance’ of the landscape (or feature) and its degree of apparent modification. This is quite different to the ‘condition’ of the landscape (or feature) which largely informs an evaluation of ‘ecological’ naturalness.

For the Tasman District Landscape Study, this distinction is particularly important in the evaluation of the marine environment. Expert marine ecology input has identified that much of the seascape mapped as ONL displays a low level of ecological naturalness as a consequence of dredging, trawling and/or land management practices that have resulted in sedimentation. This information has been integrated into the list of development that is likely to be inappropriate within the relevant ONL, however has not weighed heavily on the overall evaluation of naturalness. Rather the naturalness evaluation has focussed on the appearance of the landscape and whether the visible modification is of scale and/or character such that it tips the balance to a point where natural landscape elements, patterns and processes are no longer dominant in shaping the landscape character of an area.

7 A078/2008 [135].
8 For example: Upper Clutha Tracks [2010] NZEnvC 432 [61].
9 For example, see Western Bay of Plenty District Council [2017] NZEnvC 147 [86].
10 High Country Rosehip Orchards v Mackenzie DC [2011] NZEnvC 387 [93]-[101].

Tokangawha/ Split Apple Rock
Source: reddit.com [r/Damnthatinteresting](#)



Threshold For ‘Outstanding’

In a similar vein to the issue of ‘naturalness’, the RMA provides no definition or guidance as to what qualifies a ‘natural landscape’ as ‘outstanding’. Again, the Environment Court has endeavoured to assist in this regard:

- a. The concept of outstanding refers to something that is ‘conspicuous, eminent, especially because of excellence’, ‘remarkable in’¹¹ and ‘remarkable, exceptional ... exceptionally good’.¹²
- b. It is recognised that in many cases ONLs ‘should be so obvious (in general terms) that there is no need for expert analysis’.¹³
- c. The observation that decisions about ‘outstandingness’ are not made lightly; and in some instances, ‘handsome’ South Island landscapes have not been found to be outstanding.¹⁴

However, in some cases, expert assessment will be needed (e.g. where associative values or less obvious physical values are present) and may include a range of disciplines. The Tasman District Landscape Study draws from five expert disciplines: geoscience; marine ecology; terrestrial ecology; cultural values; and landscape architecture, with the landscape assessor also effectively functioning in a ‘coordination and overview’ role to draw the various strands of information together and ensure methodological consistency across the district, particularly in terms of determining the threshold for ‘outstanding’.

The evaluation of the physical, perceptual and associative attributes and values and overall ‘outstandingness’ requires a non-linear (or iterative) process that includes both an ‘individual’ and ‘collective’ analysis. For example, in some instances the proximate, albeit scattered, arrangement of a series of high value natural features may be such that the wider (and more ordinary) landscape within which the features are nested qualifies as outstanding.

The evaluation method generally employed involves describing the attributes and values of the landscape and rating them. However, an overall judgement is also required with respect to the significance of the landscape or feature, and its ‘outstandingness’. It is widely accepted by the Environment Court and landscape experts that there is no set rating threshold (e.g. **High** or **Very High**) for each of the attributes and values that are required to be reached for a landscape (or feature) to ‘qualify’ as outstanding. Further, a landscape may qualify as ‘outstanding’ despite only rating highly for one or two attributes (for example, on the basis of cultural attributes and values alone). The absence of hard and fast rules in this regard emphasises the need for transparency in landscape assessments as to the factors that make the particular landscape or feature truly exceptional.

A number of ONFs display a more limited range of attributes and values that rate towards the higher end of the spectrum, for example **ONF 10 Labyrinth Rocks Karst** near Tākaka. In these locations, the rarity, geoscience importance, historical values, accessibility and/or scale (proliferation) of the attributes and values present favours an outstanding classification.

It is recognised by the Environment Court and landscape experts that an assessment of ONLs (and ONFs) requires a comparative judgement¹⁵ and that scale may play a role in setting an appropriate threshold for ‘outstandingness’. For example, an area or feature may qualify as outstanding at a district scale, but may not reach the exceptional threshold at a regional scale and vice versa.

The functioning of Tasman District Council as a unitary authority means that the scale of comparison employed in the Tasman District Landscape Study is at a district and region level.

With respect to the rating of landscape attributes and values, consistent with landscape assessment best practice, a seven-point rating scale has been applied in the Tasman District Landscape Study:

Very Low	Low	Low / Moderate	Moderate	Moderate / High	High	Very High
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11 [1999] NZEnvC Decision C180 (WESI), paragraph 82.
12 [2010] NZEnvC Decision 248 (Owhiti Bay), paragraph 76.
13 [2011] NZEnvC 387 (Rosehip), paragraph 102.
14 Ibid, paragraph 104.

15 NZILA Best Practice Note Landscape Assessment and Sustainable Management 10.1 (dated 02.11.10), page 5.

Richmond Ranges ONL - photograph supplied by James Bentley



Expert Geoscience Input

The Tasman District is unique in New Zealand as it consists of a large area of old (Paleozoic) rocks that was split off from the Australian part of the supercontinent of Gondwana when the Tasman Sea formed, 85-55 million years ago. As a result, it is the centre for marble-related features and karst in New Zealand. Tasman is also one of several districts characterised by younger limestone karst and caves (including Waitomo and West Coast) and large granite intrusions (in common with West Coast and Fiordland). The southern part of Tasman is cut by the Alpine Fault and to the north of that, forming much of eastern Tasman District, is the deep Moutere Depression filled with young, feature-poor gravels.

Particularly noteworthy landforms in the Tasman District mostly occur in the mountains or around the coast. Mountain landforms were mostly formed in the last few hundred thousand years during the Ice Ages by glaciers and fast-flowing rivers. Coastal landforms are all young, essentially formed in the last 10,000 years by a combination of drowning of eroded valleys by rising sea level and sand accumulation, particularly along the sediment-rich west coast.

The geological importance of much of the area at a national and/or international level meant that expert geoscientist input into the Landscape Study was considered appropriate.

Dr Bruce Hayward was engaged by TDC to survey, assess and map the geoscience values throughout the District.

Dr Hayward then worked with BGLA to distil which of the high-value landform and geological features qualify as ‘outstanding’, applying the thinking outlined above in relation to a threshold for outstanding.

During this stage of the work, it emerged that some of the high-value features identified by Dr Hayward, whilst of geoscientific importance,

- a. do not, on balance, reach the threshold for ‘outstanding’ (e.g. Aorere Valley peneplain remnants); or
- b. are located within an area that is recommended as ONL and although they may merit identification as an ONF in their own right, the level of protection afforded by being within an ONL was deemed sufficient, so long as they are specifically referenced in the **ONL schedule** as significant landform or geological features under the **Physical Attribute and Values** section (e.g. **Tata Islands** near Abel Tasman Point in Golden Bay which is referenced in the **ONL 3 Mohua/Golden Bay** schedule).

With respect to the latter, given that these features have already been carefully surveyed and mapped by Dr Hayward and are specifically referenced in the ONL Schedules, it is recommended that mapping of **high-value geoscience features** (within ONLs) is included in the District Plan to assist plan users. It is not intended that any specific policy context will apply to the **high-value geoscience features** over and above that which applies to ONLs.

White Creek fault scarp 1938



Whispering Falls



Bush-clad Eastern Hills



Expert Ecology Input

As part of the Landscape Study process, terrestrial (Mr Mike Harding) and marine (Mr Rob Davidson) ecological expert input has been sought from experts with a long history of professional involvement in the District. In particular, these experts were asked to:

- a. Review draft ONL mapping and schedules and advise of ecological attributes and values that need to be referenced in the schedules.
- b. Advise whether there are locations in the district where ecological values are so high that the area merits consideration as an ONF on the basis of ecological values alone.

Comments received from the terrestrial and marine ecology experts has been integrated into the mapping and schedules recommended in this report.

to consider and have input into statutory plan projects and proposals. The IWG includes representatives from each of the nine iwi within Tasman district, including:

- Ngāti Kuia
- Ngāti Rārua
- Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu
- Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui
- Ngāti Kōata
- Ngāti Toa Rangatira
- Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō
- Rangitāne o Wairau
- Ngāti Waewae

To inform the identification and evaluation of associative values as part of the Tasman District Landscape Study report, Tasman District Council prepared an initial indication of particular wāhi and whenua that may be of significance to the respective iwi of Te Tau Ihu. Sources for this information included Treaty of Waitangi settlement documents, iwi environmental management plans, cultural sites identified in the Tasman Resource Management Plan, and cultural reports previously commissioned by Council.

Cultural Values and Iwi Consultation

A critical aspect of understanding and evaluating landscape attributes and values is the integration of **Mātauranga Māori** into landscape assessment.

This is sometimes facilitated via consultation with iwi groups. However, it is acknowledged that iwi resources to engage in such processes can at times be constrained.

During the preparation of the Tasman District Landscape Study (and prior to this, the Golden Bay & Northwest Coast Landscape Study), Council staff have provided regular updates to iwi authorities via the Tasman Environmental Policy Iwi Working Group (IWG). The purpose of the IWG is to provide a forum for iwi

Young seal in Wharariki Beach lagoon



Shared and Recognised Values

The SWG Report for the Golden Bay and Northwest Coast portion of the district incorporates a significant degree of community participation which is of value in determining the **shared and recognised values**¹⁶ of landscapes and features. This degree of community input into the identification of high-value landscapes and features is rare in New Zealand and is considered to be an extremely valuable ‘resource’ for the Tasman District Landscape Study.

It is, however, acknowledged that the landscape assessment of the ‘balance’ of the district (i.e. those parts of the district outside of the Golden Bay and Northwest Coast area) does not incorporate this level of community consultation on landscape values. Like many parts of New Zealand, this aspect of landscape values for the balance of the district is interpreted in the Tasman District Landscape Study by experts. It is expected that the subsequent District Plan Review processes which allow for public input (via public notification, public submission, Council hearing and potentially, Environment Court appeal processes) and will play an important role in refining this aspect of landscape attributes and values.

The ONLs recommended in this report that rely on expert input only are as follows:

- a. Those parts of ONL 2 Parapara Kahurangi Ranges and ONL 4 Abel Tasman that sit outside the Golden Bay and Northwest Coast portion of the district;
- b. ONL 6 Nelson Lakes-Southwestern Ranges; and
- c. ONL 7 Eastern Hills and Mountains.

The ONFs recommended in this report that rely on expert input only are as follows:

- ONF 2 Beebys Conglomerate Cretaceous Terrestrial Sequence
- ONF 4 Cobb Valley Magnesite and Karst
- ONF 5 Devils Boots
- ONF 7 Hāmama and Tākaka Valley Sinkholes
- ONF 8 Horse Terrace Bridge Gorge
- ONF 9 Kākā Point and Island
- ONF 10 Labyrinth Rocks Karst
- ONF 11 Lake Killarney Sinkhole Lake
- ONF 12 Lower Matakitaki Landslide
- ONF 13 Maruia Falls
- ONF 14 Motueka Sand Spit
- ONF 15 Motupipi Hogback

- ONF 16 Moutere Bluff to Kina Coastal Cliffs
- ONF 17 Mt Arthur Marble Karst and Caves
- ONF 18 Mt Owen Marble Karst and Caves
- ONF 19 Nuggety Creek Road Fossil Leaves and Sedimentary Sequence
- ONF 21 Pūponga Point
- ONF 22 Rangihaeata Fossil Forest
- ONF 23 Tākaka Hill and Pikikirunga Cave Network
- ONF 24 Tākaka Hill Marble Karst
- ONF 28 Thousand Acres Plateau
- ONF 29 Tokangawha/Split Apple Rock
- ONF 30 Trilobite Rock
- ONF 31 Wairoa River Coal Measures and Dinosaur Footprint
- ONF 32 West Coast and Aorere Valley Caves
- ONF 33 White Creek Fault Displaced Terraces

SWG Members in the field
Source: Golden Bay / Mohua Landscape Project, October 2016: Final Report of the Small Working Group, page 8



16 This landscape factor reflects how widely the physical, perceptual and associative attributes and values are recognised and valued by the community.



Painting of Abel Tasman National Park coastline



Paddys Track, Mt Robert (NLNP)



Preliminary Public Engagement

Over our first round of extended engagement on the draft Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features mapping and schedules, we heard from over 300 individuals and groups, held webinars and public open days, met with various landowners and stakeholders and undertook some specific site visits. Following feedback, the draft maps and schedules were revised to reflect local knowledge and site-specific issues.

GIS Data Sources and Mapping

A full list of the GIS data and their sources relied on to inform the landscape assessment is attached in **Appendix E**.

One difficulty the study team faced was the variance in mapping scales between different GIS datasets. For example, the Land Typing of the district is mapped at 1: 50,000 scale, the TMRP zoning in remote areas is recorded at 1:25,000 scale and the Land Cover Data Base (LCDB) mapping is plotted at 1:50,000 scale. In short, this means that the grain of data sources that may be determinative of landscape and feature boundaries varies; in some cases, quite substantially.

To reconcile such potential mapping ‘discrepancies’, a checking process of 1:10,000 scale mapping for the district was undertaken by BGLA and Brian McAuslan (Boffa Miskell GIS expert) to ensure the location of mapped boundaries accords with ‘real’ boundaries utilising aerial photographs, Google Earth, and contour data in particular.

ONFs

The known importance of the geology of the area has resulted in an assumption that physical (and in particular, geoscience) attributes and values may be to the fore in the identification and evaluation of many of the district’s ONFs. Such an approach to ONF identification has been adopted for the Auckland Region and Northland (where extensive geologically significant volcanic features are evident), and in the Waitomo District (where extensive geologically significant karst landforms exist).

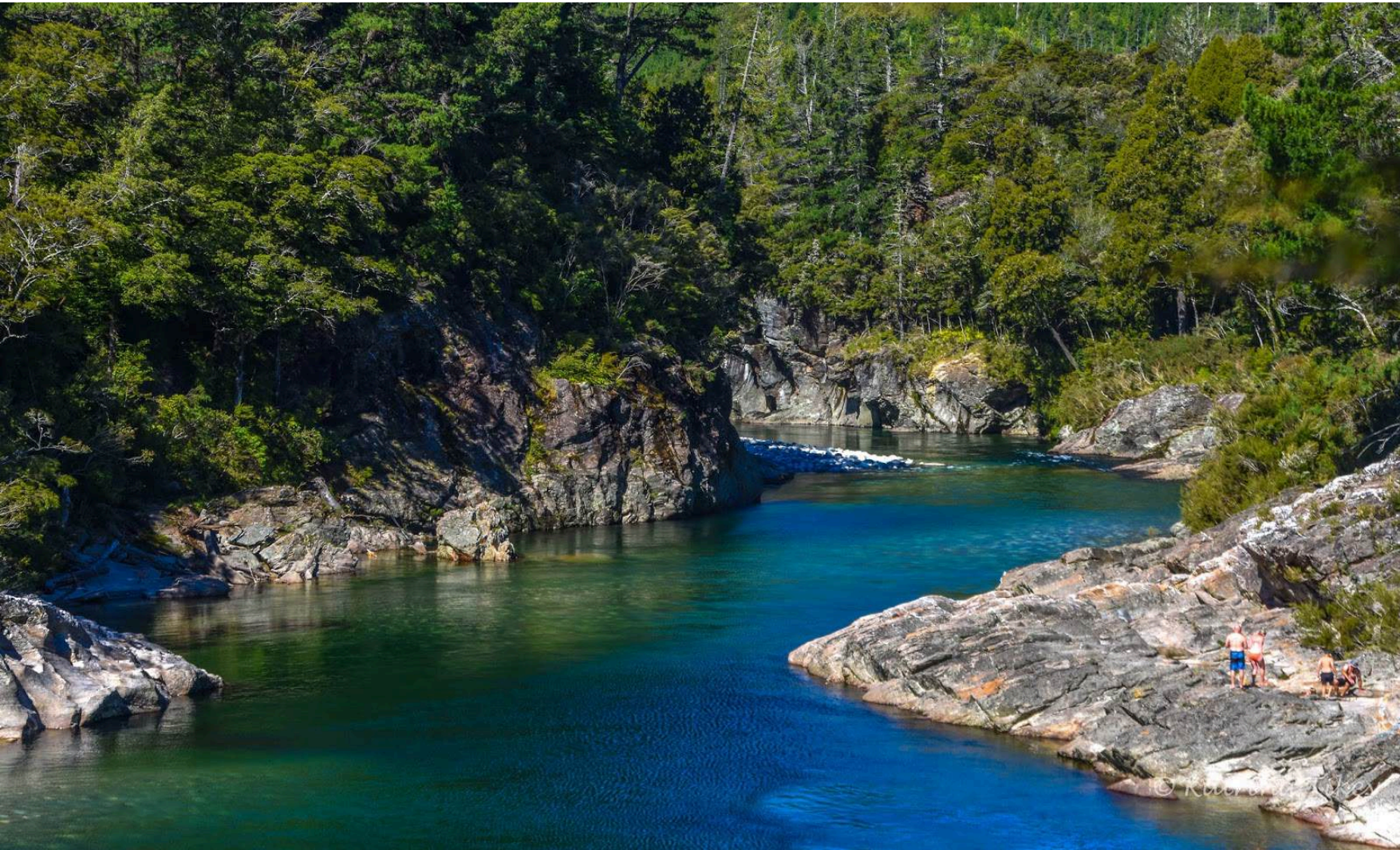
This is, however, not to say that ‘other’ landscape attributes and values such as associative values may well be to the fore in the identification of at least some of the district’s ONFs. For this reason, like the evaluation of ONLs in the Tasman District Landscape Study, the evaluation of the ONFs has been led by BGLA to ensure methodological consistency.

In undertaking the ONF evaluation, BGLA has drawn from the detailed, districtwide geoscience work undertaken by Dr Bruce Hayward.

Importantly, the criteria used for the ONF Schedules derive from the three core components of landscape: i.e. the physical, perceptual and associative attributes and values; and are consistent with the descriptors used in the ONL schedules. So, whilst there is an obvious and deliberate focus on physical attributes and values in the consideration of ONFs, the perceptual aspects of landscape are also addressed.

Below: Aorere Gorge and Salisbury Falls
Source: <http://woooop.blogspot.com/2017/01/bainham-salisbury-falls.html>

Right: Farewell Spit





ONL and ONF Mapping

Detailed mapping (along with schedules) for each of the recommended ONLs and ONFs is contained in **Section D: Outstanding Natural Landscapes** and **Section E: Outstanding Natural Features** of this report respectively.

Given the reliance on the SWG Report as a ‘starting point’ for the Tasman District Landscape Study (TDLS) addressing the Golden Bay and Northwest Coast portion of the district, **Appendix F** and **Appendix G** provide a comparative analysis between the TDLS and SWG mapping for ONLs and ONFs respectively, and summarise the reasoning for mapping amendments in the TDLS mapping. These appendices also clarify which ONLs and ONFs have been determined by expert input only (i.e. they were not considered/identified in the SWG Report).

ONL MAPPING

Turning to the delineation of mapped boundaries for ONLs, geomorphological boundaries (such as ridgelines, rivers, and marked changes in landform gradient) are the preferred boundary delineation method for mapping ONLs and ONFs. Where geomorphological features are not evident, the ‘next preferred’ delineation methods include large-scale indigenous vegetation features and marked changes in land use patterns (e.g. settlement edges, production forestry). Where none of these methods are available or adequately legible, then major road corridors and cadastral boundaries may be relied on to delineate ONLs.

It should be noted that there is generally a decreasing degree of ‘legibility’ and ‘defensibility’ associated with these various delineation methods, with the geomorphological boundaries rating the most favourably, and cadastral boundaries rating least favourably in this regard.

Further, in determining the extent of an ONL, it is generally preferred to avoid ‘cut outs’, i.e. excluding localised areas from the broader ONL as a consequence of the level of development evident in that specific location. Rather, an evaluation is usually preferable that considers whether the level

of development (in the localised area) is such that the ‘landscape’ within which it is located no longer qualifies as ‘natural’ and/or ‘outstanding’; or conversely, is of a scale and/or character such that the overall ‘landscape’ still rates as outstanding despite the level of modification apparent in the localised area.

For the Tasman District Landscape Study, the delineation methods favoured in the mapping of ONLs include:

- a. The extent of national park, forest park and TMRP Conservation zoned land incorporating large scale, contiguous areas of elevated bush covered terrain (e.g. **ONL 1 Northwest Coast**, **ONL 2 Parapara-Kahurangi**, **ONL 6 Nelson Lakes-Southwestern Ranges** and **ONL 7 Eastern Hills and Mountains**).
- b. Ridgelines (e.g. **ONL 5 Wainui Bay**).
- c. A distance of 3 nautical miles from the shoreline, as representative of the typical extent of visibility from the coastline across the seascape (e.g. **ONL 1 Northwest Coast** and **ONL 4 Abel Tasman**).

In a limited number of locations ‘cadastral boundary’ and ‘carve out’ mapping methods have been used as a pragmatic method of reconciling the boldly contrasting character of the localised landscape within the broader (and very large-scale) ONL context:

- a. ‘Cadastral’ boundary method: residential subdivisions abutting **ONL 5 Wainui Bay** at Tata Beach; small-scale rural residential subdivisions near St Arnaud and Tophouse in **ONL 6 Nelson Lakes-Southwestern Ranges**.
- b. ‘Carve out’ boundary method: around St Arnaud where the level of modification within a localised area does not display the coherence and values of the very large scale surrounding ONL context in ONL 6 Nelson Lakes-Southwestern Ranges. In the Tasman District Landscape Study, the ‘carve out’ area is found to be of a scale and character that is so different to the ONL context that it forms a ‘place’ in its own right (although does not qualify as a separate landscape as such).

Tata Beach ONL edge



The treatment of **pastoral areas** is often a difficult issue in the mapping of ONLs. Generally speaking the favoured delineation methods outlined above point to the exclusion of pasture dominated areas. However, in some instances their inclusion was unavoidable. In particular, appreciable areas of pastoral land have been included:

- along the west coast and to the north of Whanganui Inlet within **ONL 1 Northwest Coast**;
- throughout steep hill country on the western side of **ONL 4 Abel Tasman**;
- around SH 60 in **ONL 4 Abel Tasman**; and
- at **ONL 5 Wainui Bay**.

In all of these locations (excepting the pastoral land around SH 60 in **ONL 4 Abel Tasman**), the scale and character of the pastoral areas is such that they are dominated by the high and very high physical, perceptual and associative attributes and values of the broader ONL within which they are located, despite their more modified character. To excise these areas from the broader ONL would be artificial. (NB **Appendix F** provides more detailed comment with respect to the values associated with pastoral areas that are included in ONLs.)

In the case of the pastoral land around SH 60 in **ONL 4 Abel Tasman**, the proliferation of geoscience features together with the spatial and visual connection of the area to the surrounding ONL favours inclusion of the pasture dominated area within the ONL.

ONF MAPPING

The preceding comments with respect to preferred mapping methods for ONLs also apply to ONFs. For ONFs, a contour line approach may also be appropriate.

The boundaries of the landform feature-derived ONFs are primarily aligned along the natural geomorphological boundaries, except where the landform is small (~100 m or less across) and requires a buffer zone (typically a few tens of metres wide) to protect it (e.g. **ONF 5 Devils Boots** and **ONF 13 Maruia Falls**).

The boundaries of geological exposure ONFs approximate the limits of the exposures of rock that contain the values to be protected (e.g. **ONF 31 Wairoa River Coal Measures and Dinosaur Footprint**).

The boundaries of underground ONFs are mapped on the surface that overlies the cave extent, with a buffer zone 50m to 100m wide around it to allow for inaccuracy of the underground mapping when projected to the surface (e.g. **ONF 23 Tākaka Hill and Pikikirunga Range Cave Network**).

Where the natural boundaries of an ONF are less obvious, their boundaries have been influenced by whether they are in public reserve land or not. In reserve land, the boundaries have been less precisely mapped if they do not impinge on any infrastructure or exotic forest and tend to take in all of the reserve area, as the land use plays an important role in the appreciation of the feature (e.g. **ONF 26 Te Puna Waiora o Te Waikoropupū Springs**). On private land, the boundaries have been mapped as precisely as possible from available desktop data to avoid, wherever possible, any buildings, suburban properties, intensely utilised land or active quarries (e.g. **ONF 7 Hāmama and Tākaka Valley Sinkholes** and **ONF 15 Motupipi Hogback**).

Modern GIS mapping tools enable relatively accurate spatial mapping of ONLs and ONFs as part of District and Regional Plans. To assist with efficient plan administration, this mapping is typically provided as a 'layer' that can be viewed in online mapping alongside other District Plan mapping sets (zonings etc.), contour mapping, and cadastral information.

Given the scale of this study is effectively both district and region wide, the scale of ONF and ONL mapping resolution is approximately 1:10,000.

Maruia Falls





ONL2 Parapara Kahurangi bush edge



Pikikirunga on western side of ONL 4 Abel Tasman

ONL and ONF Schedules

To support the development of appropriate landscape policy and effective plan administration, schedules for each of the recommended ONLs and ONFs have been prepared and are attached in **Section D** and **Section E** respectively (along with the ONL / ONF mapping).

The ONL and ONF schedules:

- a. clearly articulate the attributes and values that make the landscape or feature outstanding and that need to be protected from inappropriate development (i.e. 'more than minor' adverse effects¹⁷); and
- b. outline the sorts of activities and developments that are likely to be appropriate / inappropriate within the ONL or ONF. In many circumstances, this has involved the consideration of the 'condition' of the landscape, addressing such notions as landscape resilience, capacity, sensitivity and vulnerability.

Such an approach for ONL and ONF Schedules is in keeping with the landscape assessment discussion outlined in *Western Bay of Plenty*.¹⁸

17 Deriving from *King Salmon* which stipulates a tolerance for minor or transitory adverse effects in (coastal) ONLs.
18 For example, see *Western Bay of Plenty District Council v Bay of Plenty Regional Council* [2017] NZEnvC 147 paragraph 111.

Right: Lake Rotoiti

Below: ONF 16 Moutere Bluff to Kina Coastal Cliffs - photograph supplied by James Bentley





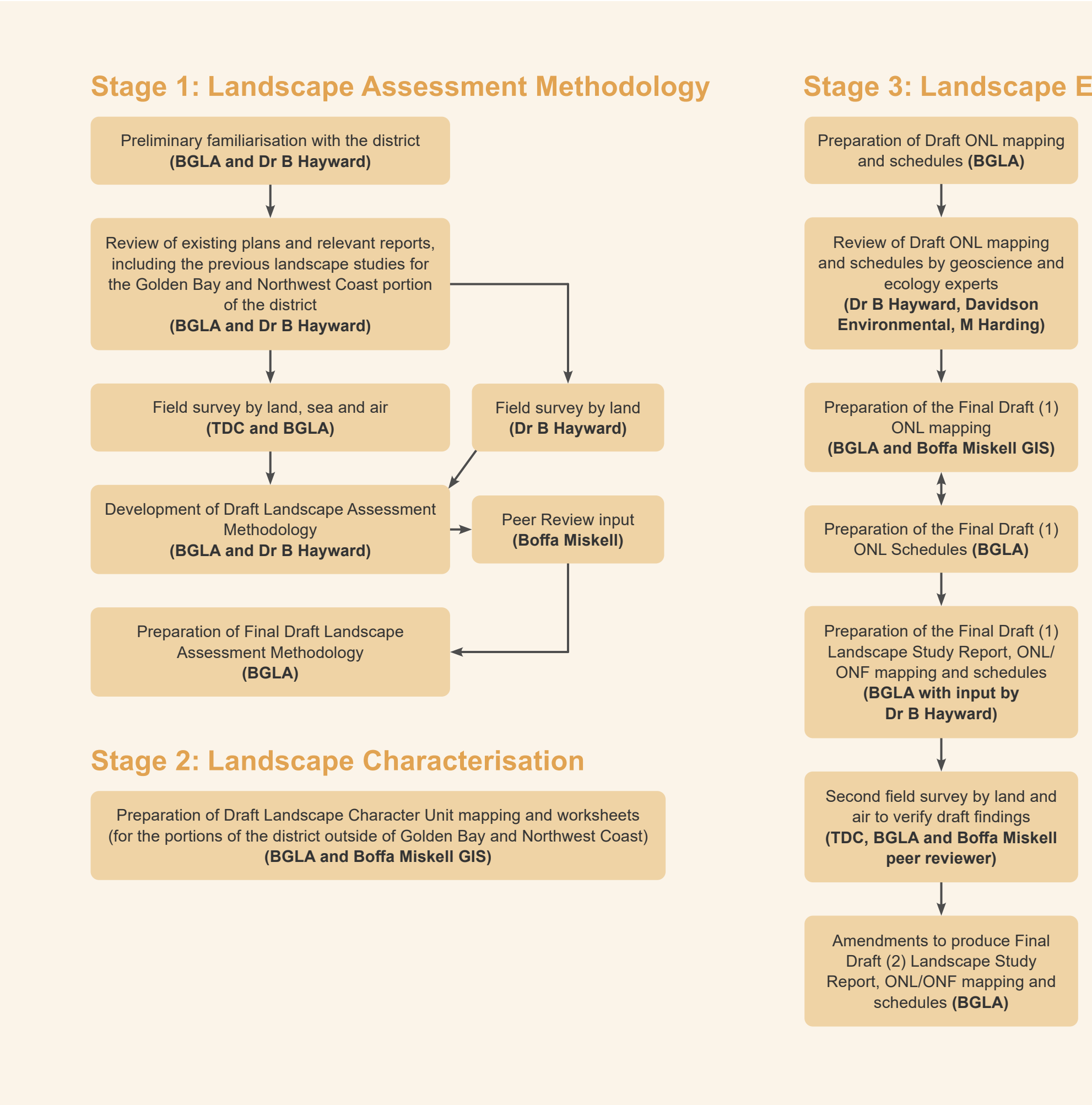


Section C

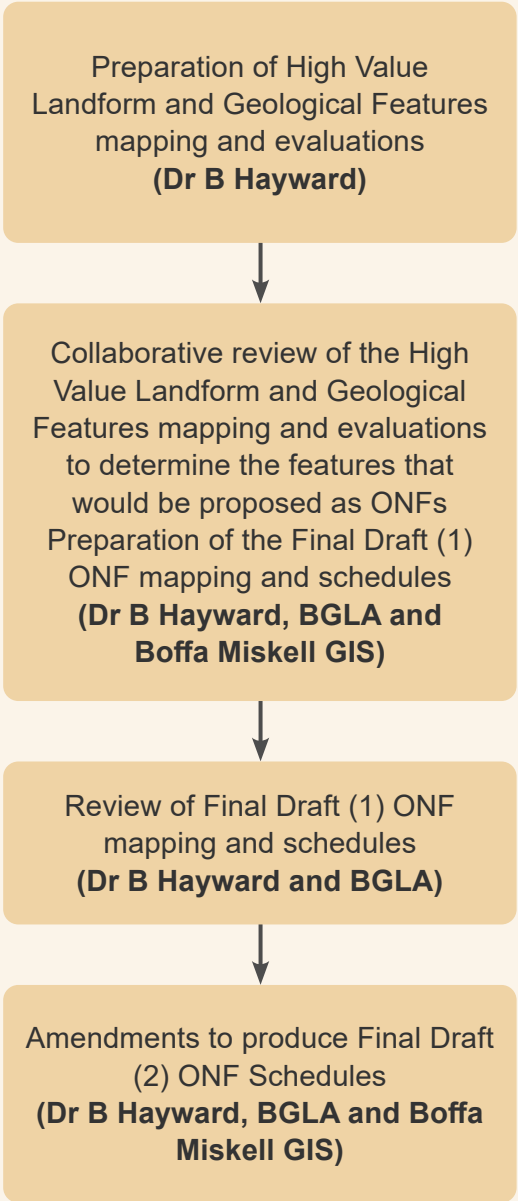
Tasman District Landscape
Study Methodology



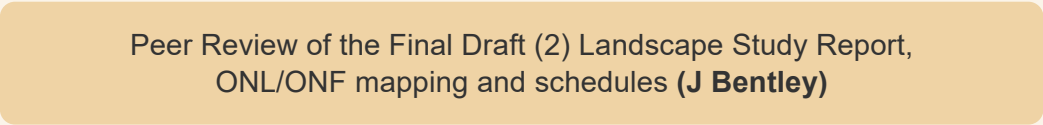
Drawing from the preceding discussion of landscape assessment 'principles', the following diagram sets out the landscape assessment methodology applied in the Tasman District Landscape Study.



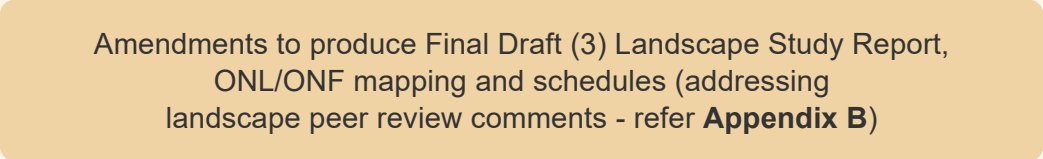
valuation



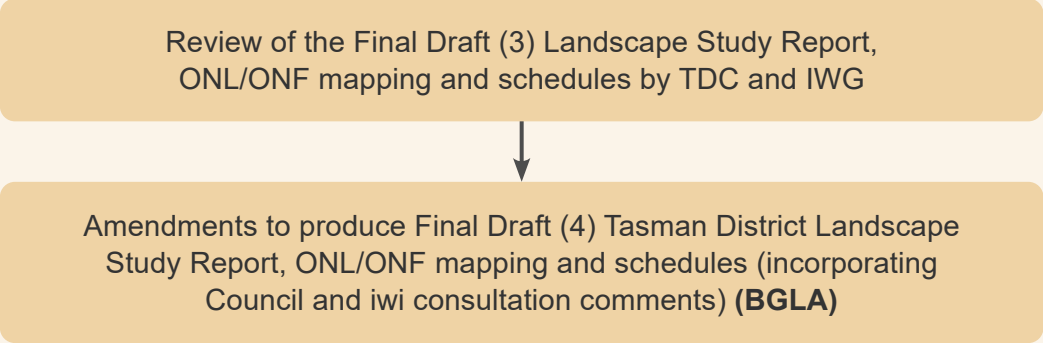
Stage 4: Landscape Peer Review



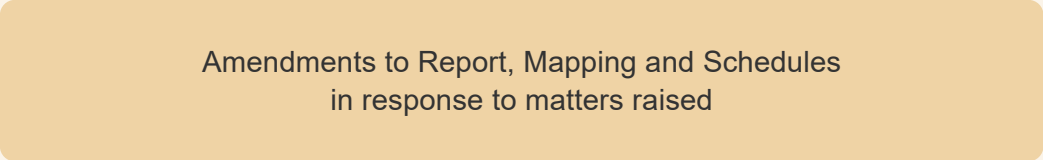
Stage 5: Incorporation of Landscape Peer Review Comments



Stage 6: Iwi Consultation



Stage 7: Preliminary Consultation with Landowners



Assumptions

FIELD SURVEY

The extensive nature of the district (some 9,786 km²), combined with its relatively limited road network means that a pragmatic approach to field survey was necessary. Three separate and detailed field visits were made by BGLA. The first visit comprised a survey by road, air, and sea to get a ‘feel’ for the landscapes of the entire district. The second survey involved a detailed survey by road and included walking several of the popular tracks in the area. BGLA’s third field visit was by road and air, with James Bentley and Ro Cudby. This visit was deliberately timed once a ‘first draft’ of the landscape assessment methodology, LCU mapping and worksheets and ONL/ONF mapping and worksheets had been prepared, to allow the group to discuss and test in the field such matters as: thresholds for ‘naturalness’, the ‘outstanding’ threshold and mapping delineation methods.

The list, description, evaluation and maps of the geoscience-based ONFs were initially informed by the content of the publicly-available NZ Geopreservation Inventory. Extensive desk-top work by BWH refined and expanded this data and the maps, together with BWH’s existing knowledge of the region and its high-value geoscience features. Four days of land-based survey was undertaken by BWH around Motueka, Murchison, and the eastern parts of Tasman District to visit targeted and easily accessible potential sites for better evaluation and more precise mapping.

This level of field survey will inevitably result in a certain ‘coarseness’ in the grain of the LCU, ONL and ONF mapping and scheduling (or worksheets for the LCUs). However, it should be noted that this approach to landscape field survey is not unusual in relatively remote and large-scale districts within New Zealand that display a relatively low rate (or ‘risk’) of landscape change. Further, it is often the case that as the Council work through the Plan Review process, detailed site investigations may be required to refine the ONL and ONF mapping Assumptions page and schedules in particular.

Whanganui Inlet



Richmond Ranges ONL - photograph supplied by James Bentley





Section D

Outstanding Natural Landscapes



Contents: Outstanding Natural Landscapes

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ONL 2: Parapara-Kahurangi Ranges.....48

ONL 3: Mohua/Golden Bay.....56

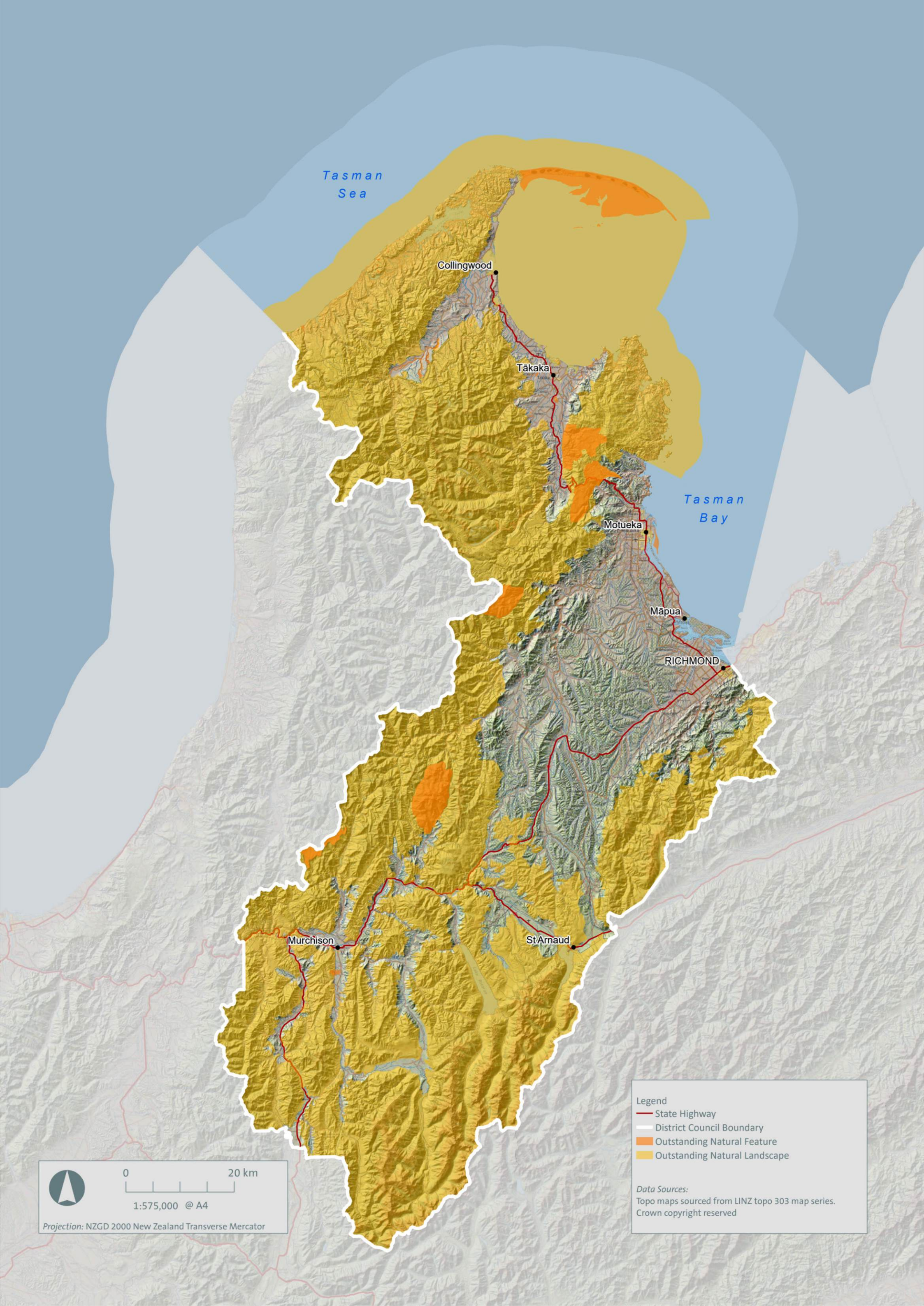
ONL 4: Abel Tasman.....62

ONL 5: Wainui Bay.....70

ONL 6: Nelson Lakes-Southwestern Ranges.....76

ONL 7: Eastern Hills and Mountains.....82

Figure 3: Overview of the location and extent of the identified ONLs and ONFs within Tasman District



Tasman
Sea

Collingwood

Takaka

Motueka

Tasman
Bay

Māpua

RICHMOND

Murchison

St Arnaud

Legend

- State Highway
- District Council Boundary
- Outstanding Natural Feature
- Outstanding Natural Landscape

Data Sources:
Topo maps sourced from LINZ topo 303 map series.
Crown copyright reserved

0 20 km
1:575,000 @ A4
Projection: NZGD 2000 New Zealand Transverse Mercator

ONL 1: Northwest Coast

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF AREA

ONL 1: Northwest Coast relates to the western portion of the district stretching from Kahurangi Point and Awaruatohu/Big River in the south to the far eastern tip of Farewell Spit/Onetahua in the north, and including the west coast CMA extending out to 3 nautical miles (approximately 5.5km) from the coastline.

QUALIFIES AS ‘LANDSCAPE’?

The extent of the ONL 1: Northwest Coast corresponds to the extent of dramatic coastal and mountainous landscape that frames the western side of the district. The sheer scale of the area, together with its dramatic and highly memorable character, means that it reads as a ‘landscape’. Whilst landforms, land-covers and land uses vary across the area, the prevailing impression of a relatively wild, remote, and seemingly ‘natural’ landscape is the glue that binds these various elements as a ‘landscape’. The identity of the area as ‘the far western edge of Golden Bay and the district’ also plays a role in this regard.

QUALIFIES AS ‘NATURAL’?

The very limited level of human modification, together with the very high physical values of much of the area, means that it qualifies for consideration in terms of naturalness. Whilst development is evident in places (for example, reasonably large scale pastoral areas with dwellings, sheds, tracks, visitor accommodation, campgrounds and the like), its modest scale and informal character, or generally visually discrete nature (for example Mt Burnett quarry) means that it remains subservient to the more ‘natural’ landscape features, patterns and processes.

High to very high naturalness rating.

QUALIFIES AS ‘OUTSTANDING’?

OVERALL EVALUATION

Generally the landscape qualifies in terms of outstanding-ness as a consequence of the attributes and values described in the more detailed tables that follow and which can be summarised as follows:

Physical Values

- a. The **very high physical values** due to the proliferation of high-value landforms, geological features, vegetation features, habitats, species and hydrological features throughout the area.

Perceptual Values

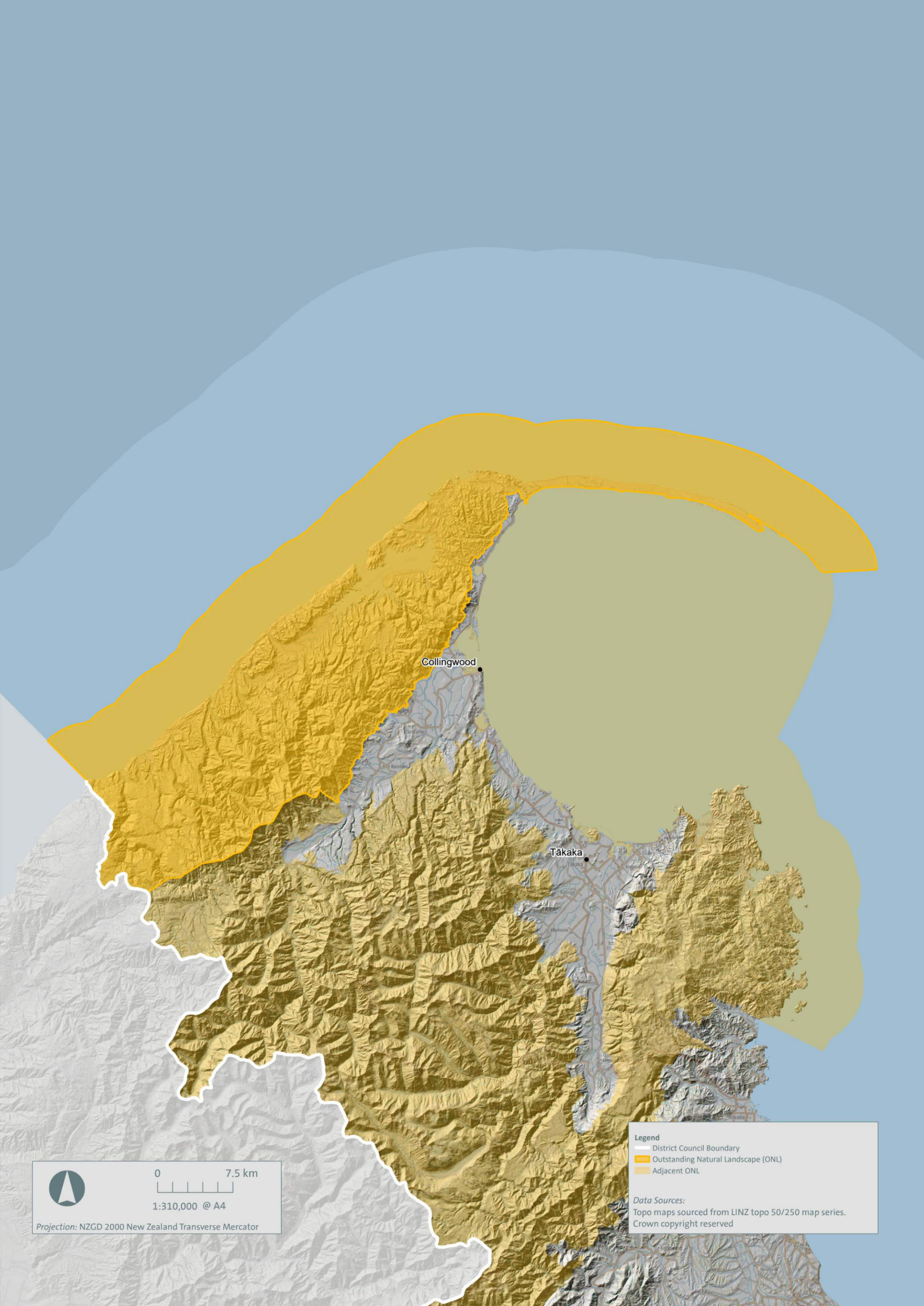
- a. The **high to very high naturalness values** arising from: the wild and dynamic coastal context; the sense of remoteness associated with the area; the proliferation, scale and (in many instances) dramatic character of physical features; the relatively limited extent and seemingly ‘modest’ character of human modification including low intensity pastoral farming, discreetly located quarrying, and scattered and modestly scaled rural dwellings, farm buildings and visitor accommodation); and the extensive and contiguous network of bush-covered slopes and sculpted ridgelines seen backdropped in many outlooks by (at times, snow-capped) alpine ranges.
- b. The **very high aesthetic and memorability values** of the area as a consequence of its highly attractive and dramatic visual character and seemingly isolated context.
- c. The **very high legibility and expressiveness values** due to the visibility and abundance of physical attributes that enable a clear understanding of the landscape’s formative processes.
- d. The **very high transient values** associated with the coastal processes, climatic characteristics and birdlife.

Associative Values

- a. For **cultural values**, see **Appendix H**.
- b. The **high historic values** of the area as a consequence of its rich history of use and in particular as the site of the departure point for Cooks first voyage to New Zealand (Farewell Point).
- c. The **very high shared and recognised values** associated with the area.
- d. The **very high recreational and scenic values** associated with the key walkways and National Park in the area and largely drawing from the aesthetic, naturalness and memorability qualities associated with these places, together with their strong sense of remoteness and ‘getting away from it all’.

These various highly rated attributes and values come together to firmly establish the Northwest Coast ONL 1 area as a truly outstanding and spectacular landscape that stands apart from much of the balance of the district.





Collingwood

Tākaka

Legend

- District Council Boundary
- Outstanding Natural Landscape (ONL)
- Adjacent ONL

Data Sources:
Topo maps sourced from LINZ topo 50/250 map series.
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PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES

Landform • Geology • Vegetation • Ecology • Hydrology

The northwest coast landscape is richly endowed with a wide range of significant physical features.

Particularly significant **landform** and **geological** features include:

- a. Farewell Spit/Onetahua.
- b. The seaward barrier separating the Whanganui Inlet from the Tasman (and including Mt Lunar and the south headlands of the inlet).
- c. Mangarakau wetlands.
- d. Baby Grand Cave, Paturau.
- e. Tunnel Cave, Paturau.
- f. Twin Forks Cave, Paturau.
- g. Wet Neck Cave, Paturau.
- h. Otuhie and Kaihoka dune lakes.
- i. Kaihoka Lakes solution runnels.
- j. Kaihoka tilted pavement.
- k. Meroiti doline field.
- l. Meroiti limestone pavement.
- m. The Te Hapu collapse feature and limestone pavement.
- n. Coastal cliffs and stacks including the Archway Islands at Wharariki and the limestone cliffs of the seaward barrier range (Ngūroa Bay to Paturau River).
- o. Pillar Point to Kaihoka coastal arches and conglomerate.
- p. Pūponga conglomerate bluffs.
- q. Pūponga Point fluviatile sedimentary rocks.
- r. The marine terraces at Paturau.
- s. Limestone, dolomite and conglomerate bluffs, including at Mt Haidinger (the Castles/Haidinger Bluffs) and Mt Burnett in the Whakamarama Range; Mangarakau, Lake Otuhie.
- t. Fossil features including the dinosaur footprints at Whanganui Inlet.
- u. Prominent hills including Knuckle Hill and the Old Man Range near Cape Farewell.
- v. The coastal dunes at Turimawivi.
- w. Sandy beaches including Wharariki.
- x. The Turimawivi River mouth and longitudinal dunes.
- y. Wairoa River mouth coal measures.
- z. Glaciated mountain ranges (within Kahurangi National Park).
- aa. Kahurangi Shoals.

- bb. Paturau Shoal.
- cc. Shore platforms north of Sharks Head to South Head Cone.

Particularly significant **ecological** attributes include:

- a. Farewell Spit/Onetahua (dune and wetland values and habitat for rare species including *Euphorbia glauca*, sand daphne, sand spike rush and *Eleocharis neozealandica*).
- b. Kahurangi National Park (richly diverse alpine herbfields, lowland podocarp-hardwood forests (lower lying areas), beech-podocarp forest (ridges and areas of poor soils), red or silver beech forest on faces and gullies, coastal forest). Stands of virgin forest in places.
- c. Mangarakau wetlands (wetland birds and freshwater fish).
- d. Whanganui Inlet and its numerous sub inlets (seagrass, salt marsh, herb fields, adjacent coastal forest, sand dunes, high current estuarine reefs). Wader foraging habitats widespread and roosts present at Rakopi and the entrance spit. Marsh birds present.
- e. Important habitats for seals, great spotted kiwi, fern bird, kākā, falcon, rock wren, blue duck, giant weta, NZ’s largest cave spiders and the carnivorous NZ land snail (*Powelliphanta spp*). Wide range of seabirds at Farewell Spit including gannets and godwits. Marine mammals at Farewell Spit.
- f. Kahurangi and Paturau Shoals.
- g. Rare vegetation communities at Mt Burnett associated with dolomite geology.
- h. Extensive coastal slope vegetation communities: intact in places and regenerating elsewhere.

Particularly significant **hydrological** attributes include:

- a. Whanganui Inlet and its numerous sub inlets.
- b. The Anaweka, Big, Turimawivi, Paturau and Wairoa Rivers.
- c. The expansive and often wild waters of the Tasman Sea.

Areas of outstanding natural character identified across parts of the seascape, all of Whanganui Inlet and Farewell Spit. Also includes some terrestrial coastal areas (generally corresponding to areas of high or very high ecological value).

PERCEPTUAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES

Views to the area • Views from the area • Visual prominence / importance of the area in shaping the wider landscape character • Naturalness • Memorability • Legibility and Expressiveness • Transient values • Remoteness / wildness

Particularly significant **vistas** include:

- a. Spectacular close and mid-range views of Wharariki Beach and the Archway Islands alongside the expansive and wild waters of the Tasman from the coastline and nearby public walkways.
- b. Dramatic and memorable mid and long-range views of the highly sculptural and contrasting forms of the Three Sisters (Burnett Range) from the Aorere Valley and the waters/shoreline of Golden Bay (noting that Mt Burnett quarry is not seen in these views).
- c. Stunning close, mid and long-range views of the hauntingly beautiful Whanganui Inlet from adjacent roads and walkways.
- d. Highly attractive close, mid and long-range views of the dramatic western coastline and seascape from adjacent roads and walkways and the sea itself.
- e. Striking close, mid and long-range views of the numerous limestone bluffs and outcrops from adjacent roads and walkways, and the nearby seascape.
- f. Spectacular close, mid and long-range views of Farewell Spit/Onetahua from space, the air, water, roads, Golden Bay coastline and walkways.
- g. Highly attractive close, mid and long range views of the extensive and coherent sequence of the generally unmodified bush-covered sculpted landforms and ridgelines throughout the edges of Kahurangi National Park and its immediate margins from the Aorere Valley.
- h. Dramatic long range views of the rugged snow-capped mountains and ridgeline spines in the interior of Kahurangi National Park from the broader Golden Bay area.

From many vantage points within the wider Golden Bay area, layered views of the bush-clad northwest coast hills backdropped by the rugged alpine peaks and ranges associated with ONL 1, 2 and 4 comprise signature views that are critical to the identity of the wider area. In places, the more sheltered waters of Golden Bay (ONL 3) also form part of the outlook, adding to the spectacle.

The limited level of modification evident, together with the proliferation, scale, and dramatic character of the physical features, suggests a rating for naturalness towards the higher end of the spectrum. Whilst dwellings (including visitor facilities), small-scale settlements (Rakopi, Mangarakau), campgrounds, tracks, pastoral farming, production forestry, dolomite quarrying (noting that this is a nationally unique resource) and infrastructure are evident in places (e.g. power lines, lighthouses, small scale airstrips, farm quarries, rural sheds, stockyards, silos, bins, water tanks, erosion protection), either the limited scale of such modifications, their relatively discreet visual character/prominence in the wider landscape (e.g. Mt Burnett quarry), and/or the sheer dominance of the more natural landscape features, patterns and processes of the wider setting means that they are subservient elements of the landscape. Existing modification also includes the ongoing management of weeds and pests throughout the ONL.

It is acknowledged that there are mining rights under different (non RMA) legislation Near Lake Otuhie.

The large-scale, striking appearance, rarity and/or juxtaposition of the rich amalgam of physical features, coupled with the sense of remoteness and wildness associated with the area, makes this an extremely memorable landscape and which forms a striking contrast to the more sheltered and ‘serene’ environment associated with Golden Bay.

There is a strong sense of the sublime due to the large-scale and dramatic character of many of the physical attributes (including the highly dynamic and wild seascape).

The majority of the physical attributes listed above assist an understanding of the landscape’s formative processes.

Transient values derive from: the highly elemental and exposed environment evidenced by windswept trees; seasonal snowfall; the highly tidal nature of the inlets; the highly dynamic dunes; and the dynamic patterning of light on intertidal areas.

Very strong sense of isolation, remoteness and wilderness due to the inaccessibility of the area, the ‘one-way’ character of the land based access that is evident (i.e. not a through route), the relatively limited boating activity on the Tasman Sea, and the very limited extent of existing habitation/development.



ASSOCIATIVE ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES

Cultural values • Historic values • Shared and recognised values • Recreation and scenic values

Particularly high **cultural values** associated with:

- a. The Poutini Trail along the coast.
- b. Kahurangi Point.
- c. The Mātaitai Reserves (coastal protection areas).
- d. Farewell Spit/Onetahua.
- e. Archaeological and Wahi Tapu sites around the: mouth of the Anaweka River; the Whanganui Inlet.
- f. For **cultural values**, see **Appendix H**.

Rich history of land use including: production forestry; sawmilling; flax harvesting; gold mining; pastoral farming; coal mining; and dolomite quarrying.

Cape Farewell of European historic significance (departure point for Cook’s first voyage to NZ).

Very high shared and recognised values as evidenced by the descriptions of the area in tourism publications, the popularity of the area as an inspiration/subject for art and photography, the findings of the Small Working Group project, and the popularity of Farewell Spit/Onetahua, the Heaphy Track, and Kahurangi National Park in particular.

Highly popular recreational features including: the Kahurangi National Park (walking, tramping, mountain biking, hunting, bird watching, caving, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, rafting); the Heaphy Track (NZ Great Walk); Farewell Spit/Onetahua; the Spit Walk (western end of Farewell Spit); the network of walkways between Pūponga and Wharariki Beach/Pilch Point; and the camping ground near Wharariki.

Less well-known recreational features include: the Kaituna Route (Carter Road, Aorere Valley to Whanganui Inlet via Knuckle Hill); the Mt Stevens Route (Upper Aorere Valley); and the remote road network along the western coast.

Kahurangi National Park - Lord of the Rings film location.



The ONL 1 western and northern boundary is defined by the 3 nautical mile (approximately 5.5km) limit from the western coastline.

The ONL 1 eastern boundary generally corresponds to the national park boundary or the ‘outer’ edge of large contiguous bush areas adjoining the national park boundary. The landscape captured by the ONL effectively corresponds to the extent of the elevated bush clad mountains that serve to frame the Aorere Valley and Pūponga-Collingwood coastline.

The delineation between ONL 1 Northwest Coast and ONL 2 Parapara-Kahurangi Ranges generally aligns along the upper eastern edge of the Whakamarama Range, descending to the top of the Aorere Valley via a ridgeline spur.

The ONL 1 southern boundary coincides with the district boundary.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND QUALITIES OF ONL 1 TO BE PROTECTED FROM ADVERSE EFFECTS

- The physical attributes and values listed above.
- The highly attractive views of: Wharariki Beach and the Archway Islands; Farewell Spit; the Three Sisters (Burnett Range, acknowledging the visually discrete nature of the existing quarry); the Whanganui Inlet; the western coastline; the numerous inland bluffs and outcrops; the extensive sequence of the generally unmodified bush covered sculpted landforms and ridgelines throughout the edges of Kahurangi National Park and its immediate margins; the snow- capped mountains and ridgelines in the interior of Kahurangi National Park.
- The very low-key, modest and relatively informal built development character (including roading, tracks, infrastructure, dwellings, rural sheds, and recreation/tourism related facilities).
- A sense of remoteness and ‘getting away from it all’.
- The darkness of the night sky.
- For cultural values, see **Appendix H**.

TYPES OF DEVELOPMENT THAT ARE LIKELY TO BE INAPPROPRIATE WITHIN ONL 1

- Large-scale earthworks, including infilling, reclamation, quarrying and mining.
- Indigenous vegetation removals.
- Production forestry.
- Large-scale infrastructure (including large and incongruous coastal erosion and defence structures).
- Intensive farming.
- Inappropriate built development (as a consequence of its location, scale and/or design) including: buildings, roading, infrastructure, lighting, signage and recreation/tourism development.
- Aquaculture structures.
- Dredging and trawling.
- Activities that increase sediment input into the marine and/or freshwater environment.
- Sea-bed mining.



ONL 2: Parapara-Kahurangi Ranges

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF AREA

ONL 2: Parapara-Kahurangi Ranges very roughly relates to the extent of Kahurangi National Park and public conservation land within the district, excluding the north western coastal area ‘captured’ by ONL 1. It abuts the ONL 1 Northwest Coast along its western edge and ONL 4 Abel Tasman at State Highway 60 (Tākaka Hill).

QUALIFIES AS ‘LANDSCAPE’?

The extent of the ONL 2: Parapara-Kahurangi Ranges roughly corresponds to the dramatic, non-coastal, mountain landscape that frames the southern and eastern side of the Aorere Valley, the western, southern and south eastern sides of the Tākaka Valley and the western side of Tasman Bay. The dramatic scale of the landform patterning with an almost contiguous bush-cover cloak (excepting the alpine peaks and ridges) means that it reads as a ‘landscape’.

QUALIFIES AS ‘NATURAL’?

The very limited level of human modification, together with the overwhelmingly wilderness impression of the area, means that it qualifies for consideration in terms of naturalness. Whilst development and infrastructure is evident in places (for example, at the Cobb Reservoir and in the vicinity of Sams Creek), it is effectively dwarfed by the majestic mountain context.

Very high naturalness rating.

QUALIFIES AS ‘OUTSTANDING’?

OVERALL EVALUATION

Generally the landscape qualifies in terms of outstanding-ness as a consequence of the attributes and values described in the more detailed tables that follow and which can be summarised as follows:

Physical Values

- a. The **very high physical values** due to the proliferation of high-value landforms, geological features, vegetation features, habitats, species and hydrological features throughout the area.

Perceptual Values

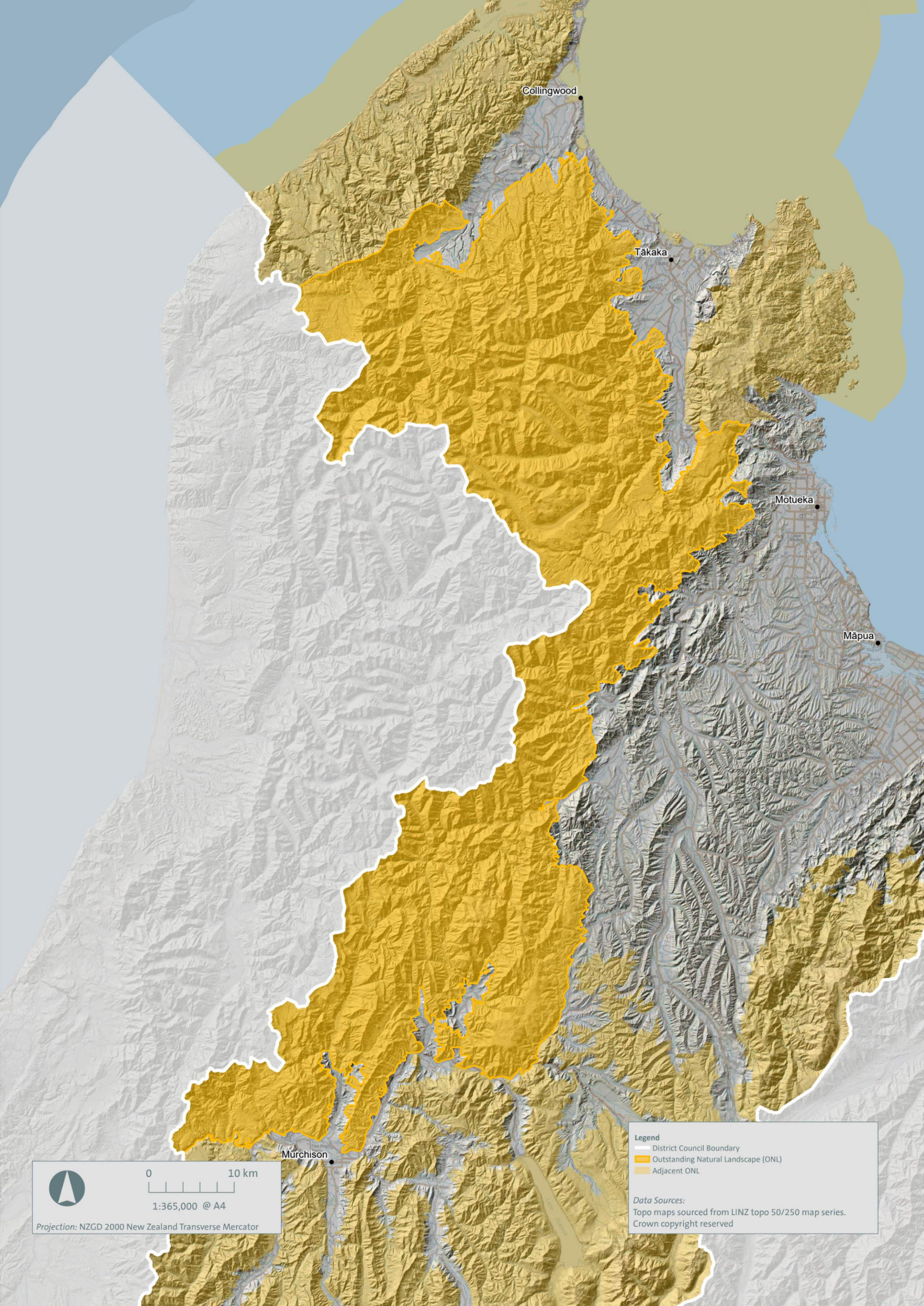
- a. The **very high naturalness values** arising from: the sense of remoteness associated with the area; the proliferation, diversity, endemic-ness, and (generally) untouched character of physical features; the very limited extent and modest character of human modification; and the extensive and contiguous network of bush-covered slopes and sculpted ridgelines seen backdropped in many outlooks by (at times, snow-capped) rugged alpine ranges.
- b. The **very high aesthetic and memorability values** of the area as a consequence of its highly attractive and dramatic visual character and seemingly isolated context.
- c. The **very high legibility and expressiveness values** due to the visibility and abundance of physical attributes that enable a clear understanding of the landscape’s formative processes.
- d. The **high transient values** associated with the climatic characteristics and seasonal rātā flowering displays.

Associative Values

- a. For **cultural values**, see **Appendix H**.
- b. The **high historic values** of the area as a consequence of its rich history of use and in particular, as the location of New Zealand’s first official gold mine.
- c. The **very high shared and recognised values** associated with the area.
- d. The **very high recreational and scenic values** associated with the national park in the area and largely drawing from the physical, aesthetic, naturalness and memorability qualities associated with the area, together with its very strong sense of remoteness and ‘getting away from it all’.

These various highly rated attributes and values come together to firmly establish the Parapara-Kahurangi ONL 2 area as a truly outstanding and spectacular landscape that stands apart from much of the balance of the district.





- Legend**
- District Council Boundary
 - Outstanding Natural Landscape (ONL)
 - Adjacent ONL

Data Sources:
Topo maps sourced from LINZ topo 50/250 map series.
Crown copyright reserved



0

10 km

1:365,000 @ A4

Projection: NZGD 2000 New Zealand Transverse Mercator

PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES

Landform • Geology • Vegetation • Ecology • Hydrology

The geology of the area is the most diverse of any protected area in the country resulting from a long and complex history, including glaciation and tectonic processes. There is an extraordinary diversity of substrates (sandstone, limestone, marble, coal measures, granite and ultramafic rocks) and associated ecosystems (riparian, rainforest, mesic forest, subalpine shrubland, karrenfield, fertile swamp, alpine bogs, cirque tarns, fellfield, tussock land, scree, alpine bluffs and rock land) evident throughout the area. In addition, the Park encompasses a wide range of altitude and climatic conditions. During the ice ages much of the area escaped the severe climate, enabling plants on warmer north-facing slopes in particular to endure. When the climate finally warmed, these species were able to recolonise the land, resulting in a very rich flora that has a high number of endemics.

Particularly significant **landform** and **geological** features include:

- a. Mt Arthur Tablelands and Goulard Downs where the flat areas of basement rock are the oldest exhumed landform in New Zealand.
- b. Best sequence of Paleozoic rocks in New Zealand.
- c. Mt Owen: finest example of glaciated marble karst in the Southern Hemisphere.
- d. New Zealand’s best example of an ice cavern and ice speleothems in the Mt Owen area.
- e. Mt Patriarch limestone summit folding which comprises the best example of Cambrian to Ordovician sedimentary and fossil sequences in New Zealand.
- f. Thousand Acres Plateau which is one of the best examples of an uplifted plateau surrounded by limestone bluffs in New Zealand.
- g. Internationally significant karst (limestone and marble) areas and cave systems.
- h. Glacial landforms in the Cobb Valley including: roche moutonnées, moraines, horn peaks, u-shaped valleys and cirque lakes.
- i. Cobb Valley magnesite and karst exposures.
- j. Trilobite Rock.
- k. Baton River Devonian fossil assemblage.
- l. Parapara Peak Permian fossils.
- m. Rua Ruru Cave and fossils.
- n. Tākaka Hill Fossil cave.
- o. Tākaka Quarry asbestos.
- p. Mt Arthur marble karst and caves.
- q. Pearse Resurgence
- r. Mt Owen marble karst and caves.
- s. Mt Snowden oolitic limestone.
- t. Moonsilver Cave.
- u. Aorere Caves.
- v. The Dragoons Teeth in the Douglas Range.
- w. Goulard Downs karst.
- x. Goulard Range karst.
- y. Mount Olympus.
- z. Boulder Lake multiple cirque.
- aa. Lake Matiri debris-dammed lake.
- bb. Lake Stanley debris-dammed lake.
- cc. Lake Sylvester cirque.
- dd. The Lockett Range, including the limestone gendarme.
- ee. Mount Mytton and its glacial karst.

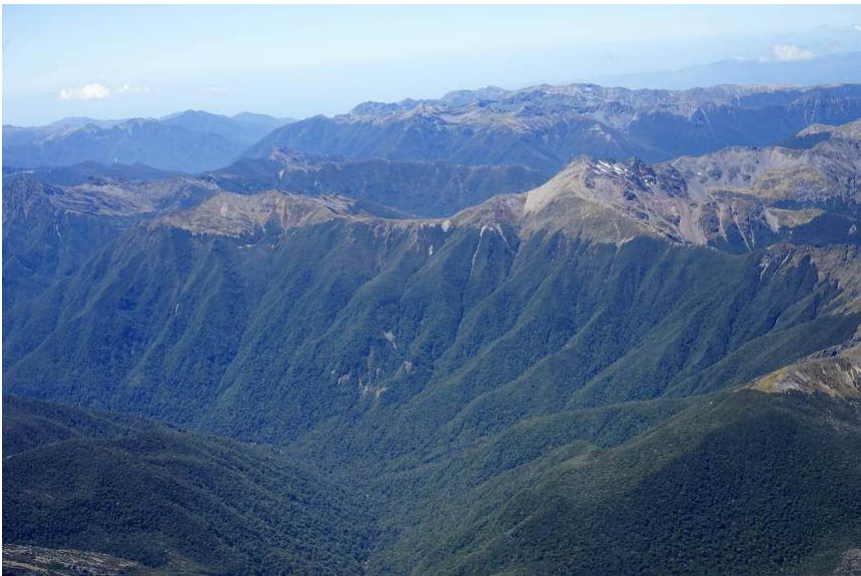
- ff. Parapara Peak.
- gg. Mount Snowden.
- hh. Hailes Knob.
- ii. Hoary Head.
- jj. The Crusader.
- kk. The plunging (bush-clad) gorges (and rivers/streams).
- ll. Matiri Hole in the Wall waterfall
- mm. Upper Tadmor sedimentary rock sequence
- nn. Huia Cave

Particularly significant **ecological** attributes include:

- a. One of the largest intact vegetation regimes in New Zealand that is renowned for its diversity, in turn reflecting the wide range of environmental conditions that prevail throughout the area.
- b. Highest number of endemic plants of any national park.
- c. 38 of the 320 or so nationally threatened plant species occur in the Park.
- d. Largest extent of alpine limestone plants in New Zealand and, in particular, at Mt Arthur and the twins, Garibaldi, Goulard Downs and Mt Owen. The flora includes more than half of the native species found in New Zealand with at least 66 of these being endemic to the area.
- e. Ultramafic plant communities (distinctive low-diversity communities dominated by heath species and often comprised of prostrate forms of other plants) notably in the lower Cobb Valley.
- f. Large areas of intact and diverse, lowland forest (below 600m altitude) which is an ecosystem that is not well represented in other national parks or New Zealand more generally.
- g. Extensive areas of upland granite communities (occur on wet, infertile areas).
- h. Extensive areas of lowland granite communities and in particular at Goulard Downs.
- i. Pakihi communities in the Aorere Valley.
- j. Important habitats for long-tailed bats, great spotted kiwi, NZ scaup, Australasian bittern, fernbird, kākā, falcon, rock wren, blue duck, bellbird, kea, robin, tomtit, rifleman, fantail, giant weta, NZ’s largest cave spiders and the carnivorous NZ land snail (*Powelliphanta spp*), 12 native fish species and including 4 threatened species with very low levels of introduced fish species.

Particularly significant **hydrological** attributes include:

- a. Tākaka River.
- b. Sub alpine lakes of glacial origin including: Diamond Lake, Lake Sylvester, Little Lake Sylvester, Iron Lake, Bulmer Lake and Boulder Lake.
- c. Cobb Reservoir (earth formed dam set 807 metres above sea level with a storage capacity of 25.6 million cubic metres).
- d. Tākaka, Waitui, Anatoki, Waingaro and Aorere Rivers.
- e. Parts or all of the Wangapeka River and tributaries of the Motueka River where a Water Conservation Order applies.



PERCEPTUAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES

Views to the area • Views from the area • Visual prominence / importance of the area in shaping the wider landscape character • Naturalness • Memorability • Legibility and Expressiveness • Transient values • Remoteness / wildness

Particularly significant **vistas** include:

- a. Highly attractive long range views from the lower lying portions of Golden Bay and Tasman Bay to the extensive and coherent sequence of unmodified bush-covered sculpted landforms and ridgelines, exposed tablelands and rugged snow-capped mountains that define Kahurangi National Park.
- b. Striking mid and long range views out over Golden Bay land and seascape from the lookout on the west side of Tākaka Hill (State Highway 60).
- c. Spectacular close, mid and long range views from elevated and open locations within ONL 2 to the tablelands, glacial lakes, bush-lined gorges and numerous limestone bluffs and outcrops.

From many vantage points within the wider Golden Bay and Tasman Bay areas, layered views of the bush-clad hills backdropped by the rugged alpine peaks and ranges associated with ONL 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 comprise signature views that are critical to the identity of the wider bay.

In such views, the continuous and large scale patterning of steep, elevated bush-clad slopes, alpine ridges and peaks and exposed tablelands form a striking contrast to the more modified and ‘tamed’ river valley landscapes associated with lower lying parts of Golden Bay and Tasman Bay.

The very limited level of modification evident, together with the proliferation, scale and dramatic character of the physical features, suggests a rating for naturalness at the highest end of the spectrum. Whilst infrastructure is evident in places (e.g. power lines, roading and dam in the Cobb Valley and transmission infrastructure near Sams Creek), the sheer dominance of the more natural landscape features, patterns and processes of the wider setting means that they are subservient elements of the landscape. Walking track, tramping huts and the like, are modifications that support the recreational values of the landscape. Their modest scale and generally low-key, informal character means that they fit harmoniously into the landscape. Existing modification also includes the ongoing management of weeds and pests throughout the ONL.

It is acknowledged that there are mining rights under different (non RMA) legislation at Sam Creek.

The expansive scale of the bush-clad landforms, steep gorges, winding rivers, scattering of lakes, exposed tablelands and elevated alpine peaks and ranges confers a strong sense of the sublime that is highly memorable.

The majority of the physical attributes listed above assist an understanding of the landscape’s formative processes.

Transient values derive from: the snow-capped ranges, peaks and tablelands; and flowering rātā.

A very strong sense of the remoteness, endemism, wildness and isolation due to: the complete absence of permanent human habitation; the very limited accessibility of the area (largely limited to walking/biking tracks); the very limited level of built development; and the abundance and richness of intact vegetation communities.



ASSOCIATIVE ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES

Cultural values • Historic values • Shared and recognised values • Recreation and scenic values

Particularly high **cultural** values associated with:

- a. The trading route along the Heaphy Track.
- b. Archaeological and Wahi Tapu sites.
- c. For **cultural values**, see **Appendix H**.

Kahurangi has a number of meanings, including ‘treasured possession’.

European history includes: the mining of asbestos (Upper Tākaka), gold (with the Aorere goldfield being New Zealand’s first official goldmine) and iron ore (near Onekaka); the establishment of hydroelectric generation schemes at Onekaka, the Cobb Valley and in Campbells Creek; logging; pastoral grazing in the Cobb Valley and throughout the Mt Arthur Tableland; and the establishment of an early trade route along the Heaphy Track linking Golden Bay with the West Coast and goldmining tracks throughout the park (many of which are tramping tracks today).

Very high shared and recognised values as evidenced by the descriptions of the area in tourism publications, the findings of the Small Working Group project and the popularity of the Heaphy Track and other tracks within Kahurangi National Park. The establishment and conservation efforts of the Friends of Flora Society, dedicated

to restoring the flora and fauna of that area (in partnership with DoC), speaks to how highly this landscape is cherished by the local community.

Kahurangi National Park is the second largest national park in New Zealand.

Highly popular recreational features including: the walking, tramping, mountain biking, hunting, bird watching, caving (Mt Owen and Mt Arthur), fishing, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, cross country skiing (Mt Arthur and the Tablelands).

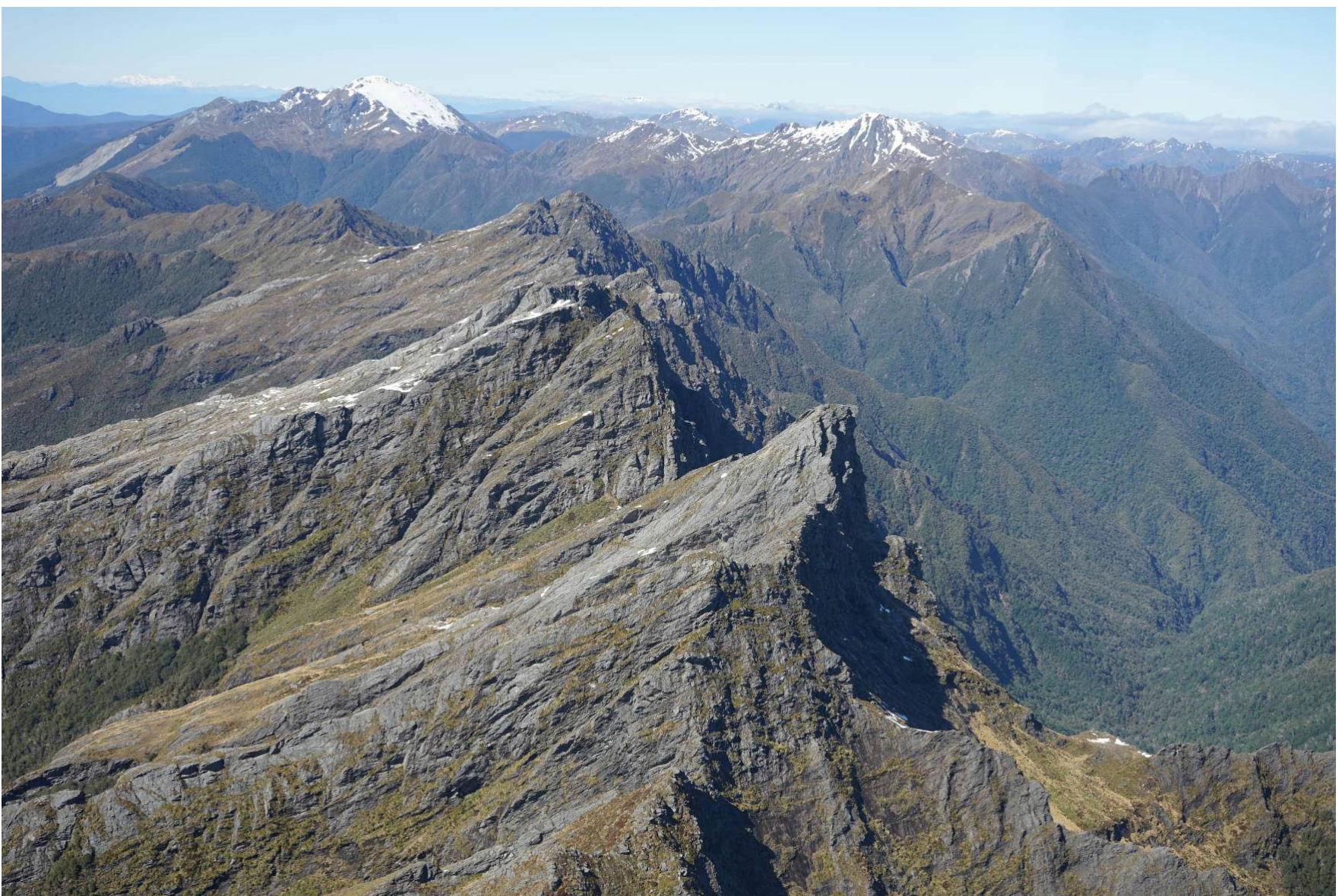
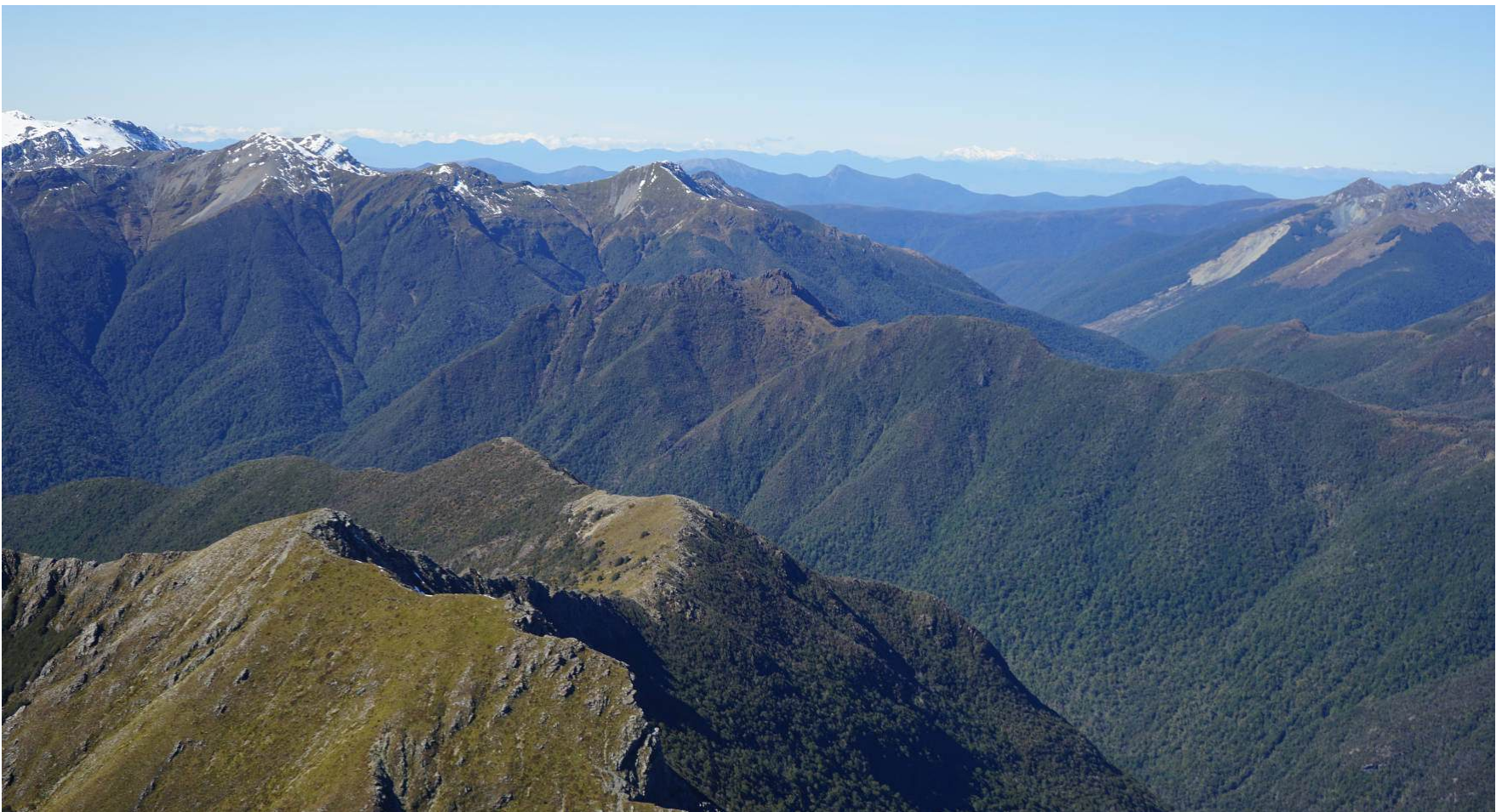
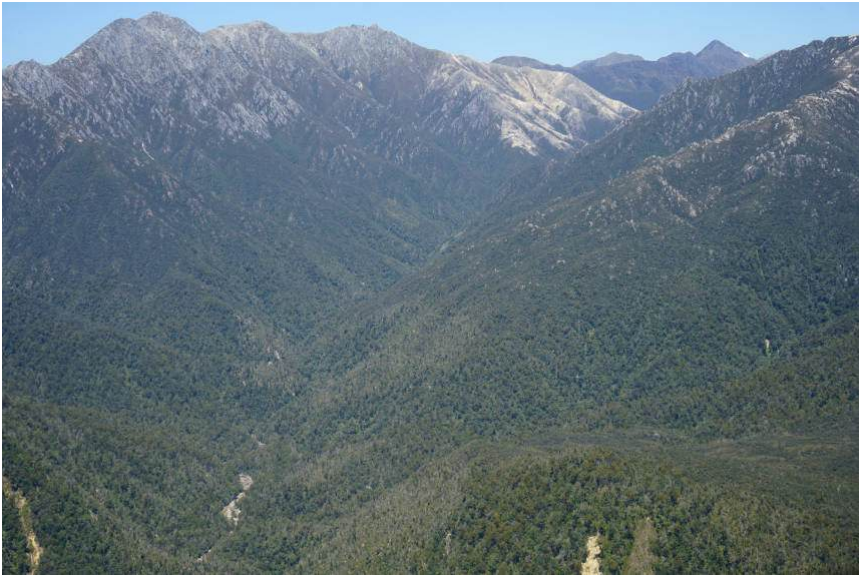
The Heaphy Track (NZ Great Walk) and the Tablelands track network are especially popular.

The most popular day walks include the lower Wangapeka Track, the Graham Valley, the Cobb Valley, and the Riwaka Resurgence. Areas that tend to be the valued by locals include the Cobb Valley, Mt Arthur Tableland, the Douglas Range, the Wangapeka Track, the Leslie-Karamea Track, the Anatoki and Mt Owen. The Tasman Wilderness Area in the heart of the Park provides a special wilderness recreational opportunity where huts, tracks, vehicles and all other facilities are prohibited.

Extensive network of less well-known tramping tracks within the national park.

Kahurangi National Park - Lord of the Rings film location.





The ONL 2 western boundary is defined by the district boundary.

The delineation between ONL 1 Northwest Coast and ONL 2 Parapara-Kahurangi Ranges generally aligns along the upper eastern edge of the Whakamarama Range, descending to the top of the Aorere Valley via a ridgeline spur.

The ONL 2 northern boundary generally corresponds to the national park boundary or the ‘outer’ edge of large contiguous bush areas adjoining the national park boundary. The landscape captured by the ONL effectively corresponds to the extent of the elevated bush clad mountains that serve to frame the eastern side of the Aorere Valley and much of the Tākaka Valley.

The delineation between ONL 2 Parapara-Kahurangi Ranges and ONL 4 Abel Tasman is defined by the alignment of SH 60.

The ONL 2 eastern and southern boundary generally corresponds to the national park/conservation land boundary or the ‘outer’ edge of large contiguous bush areas adjoining the national park/conservation land boundary.

Where ONL 2 ONL 2 Parapara-Kahurangi Ranges abuts ONL 6 Nelson Lakes- Southwestern Ranges the boundary is defined by SH 6.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND QUALITIES OF ONL 2 TO BE PROTECTED FROM ADVERSE EFFECTS

- The physical attributes and values listed above.
- The highly attractive views of: the extensive and coherent sequence of unmodified bush-covered sculpted landforms and ridgelines, exposed tablelands and rugged snow-capped mountains throughout Kahurangi National Park.
- The very low-key, modest and informal built development character (including roading, tracks, dwellings, rural sheds, and recreation/tourism related facilities).
- A sense of remoteness and ‘getting away from it all’.
- The darkness of the night sky.
- For cultural values, see **Appendix H**.

TYPES OF DEVELOPMENT THAT ARE LIKELY TO BE INAPPROPRIATE WITHIN ONL 2

- Large-scale earthworks, quarrying and/or mining.
- Indigenous vegetation removals.
- Production forestry.
- Large-scale infrastructure.
- Intensive farming.
- Inappropriate built development (as a consequence of its location, scale and/or design) including: buildings, roading, infrastructure, lighting, signage and recreation/tourism development.

Photograph supplied by James Bentley



Photograph supplied by James Bentley



Photograph supplied by James Bentley



ONL 3: Mohua/Golden Bay

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF AREA

ONL 3: Mohua/Golden Bay relates to the relatively sheltered seascape of Golden Bay stretching from the eastern tip of Farewell Spit/Onetahua (and including the expansive tidal flats along the south side of the spit) to Separation Point/Te Matau, taking in the ‘necklace’ of inlets and estuaries along the Golden Bay shoreline except for Wainui Bay.

Generally, the ‘inland’ extent of the ONL is defined by shoreline. In some locations, coastal headlands and low-lying land is included, where that land is considered to be an integral part of the coastal ONL and/or plays an important role in shaping the landscape character of seascape ONL (e.g. sandy beach, undeveloped dunes and sand flats in the vicinity of the Tākaka River mouth, Rangihaeata Headland, Sopers Hill). Typically, land included in this manner is contiguous with the CMA and subject to coastal processes associated with Mohua/Golden Bay. It also displays physical, perceptual and associative attributes and values that qualify the included terrestrial areas as ‘natural’ and ‘outstanding’.

QUALIFIES AS ‘LANDSCAPE’?

The extent of ONL 3: Mohua/Golden Bay effectively corresponds to the more protected waters of Golden Bay. The large scale of this area (noting that the seascape is 25km wide measured from the tip of Farewell Spit/Onetahua to Separation Point/Te Matau), and its coherent character means that it reads as a ‘landscape’. The role that this seascape plays in shaping the identity and ‘sense of place’ associated with the adjoining land (i.e. the ‘place’ of Golden Bay) also plays a role in this regard.

QUALIFIES AS ‘NATURAL’?

Despite the large-scale aquaculture anticipated in the area, commercial fishing (including trawling and dredging), sedimentation of the subtidal environment, and numerous jetties, boat ramps, erosion structures, power lines and causeways around the edges of the bay and inlets encompassed

by ONL 3, the sheer scale of the intact seascape, together with the high ecological values of many coastal areas means that the landscape qualifies for consideration in terms of naturalness.

High to **Very High** naturalness rating.

QUALIFIES AS ‘OUTSTANDING’?

OVERALL EVALUATION

Generally the landscape qualifies in terms of outstanding-ness as a consequence of the attributes and values described in the more detailed tables that follow and which can be summarised as follows:

Physical Values

- a. The **high to very high physical values** due to the proliferation of high-value landforms, geological features, vegetation features, habitats, species and hydrological features throughout the area.

Perceptual Values

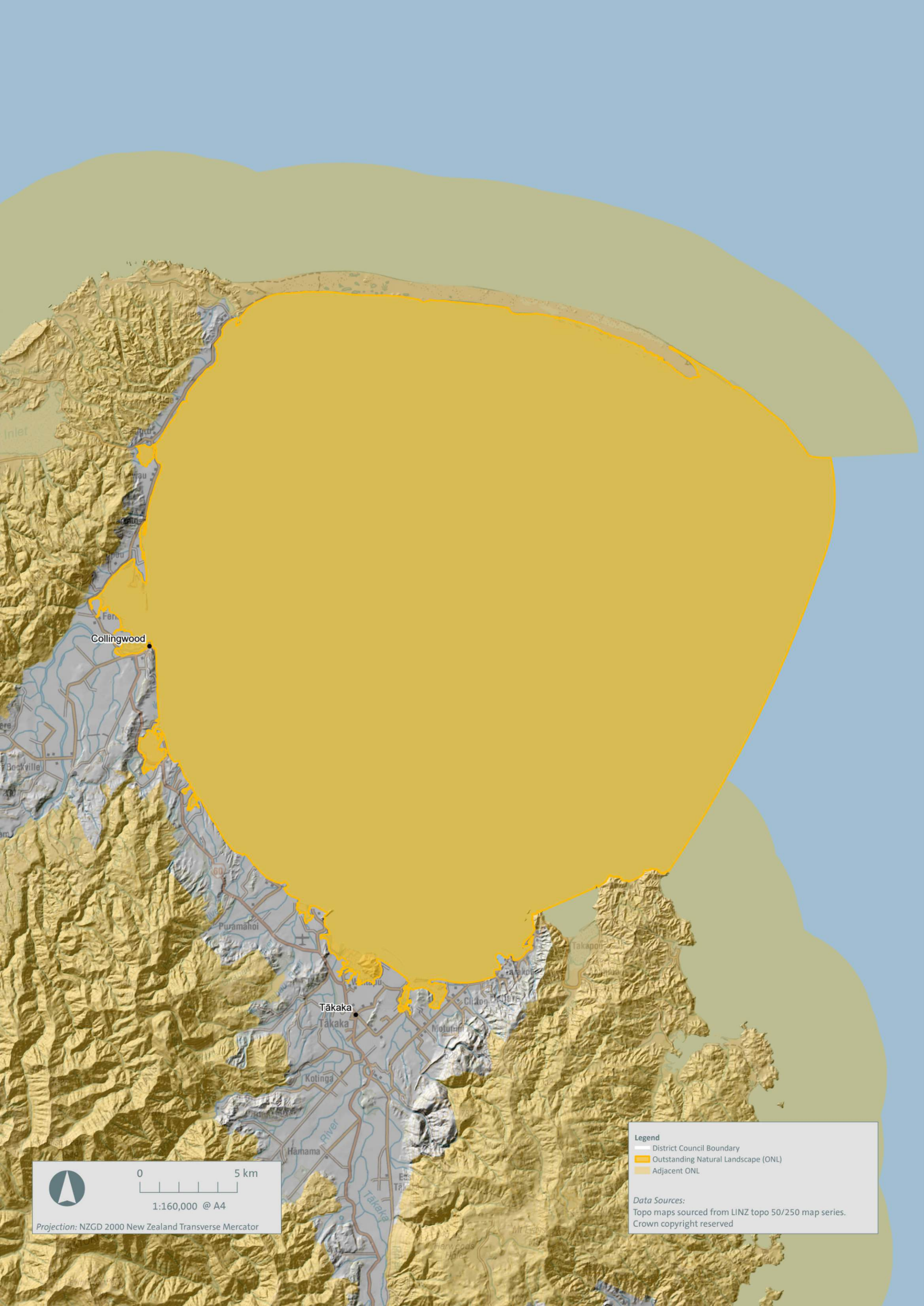
- a. The **high to very high naturalness values** arising from: the expansive scale of the intact seascape; and the relatively diminutive scale of modifications within that context (including large-scale aquaculture, commercial fishing, an operating port at Tarakohe and numerous jetties, boat ramps, erosion protection devices, power lines and causeways around the edges of the bay and inlets) within this seascape context.
- b. The **very high aesthetic and memorability values** of the area as a consequence of the highly attractive, dramatic and signature views associated with the area and which epitomise the identity of this part of the district.
- c. The **very high legibility and expressiveness values** due to the visibility and abundance of physical attributes that enable a clear understanding of the landscape’s formative processes.
- d. The **very high transient values** associated with the coastal processes, climatic characteristics and birdlife.

Associative Values

- a. For **cultural values**, see **Appendix H**.
- b. The **very high shared and recognised values** associated with the area.
- c. The **very high recreational and scenic values** associated with the seascape, coastline, walkways and scenic lookouts in the area and largely drawing from the aesthetic, naturalness and memorability qualities associated with these places.

These various highly rated attributes and values come together to firmly establish the Mohua/Golden Bay ONL 3 area as a truly outstanding and spectacular landscape that stands apart from much of the balance of the district.





0 5 km

1:160,000 @ A4

Projection: NZGD 2000 New Zealand Transverse Mercator

- Legend**
- District Council Boundary
 - Outstanding Natural Landscape (ONL)
 - Adjacent ONL

Data Sources:
Topo maps sourced from LINZ topo 50/250 map series.
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PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES

Landform • Geology • Vegetation • Ecology • Hydrology

Particularly significant **landform** and **geological** features include:

- a. The extensive intertidal flats, including at Farewell Spit/ Onetahua where the tide exposes flats up to 9km wide.
- b. The coastal headlands at Pūponga Point, Rangihaeata Headland, Patons Rock, Totara Avenue, Sopers Hill, Abel Tasman Point, Taupo Point (limestone) and Separation Point (granite).
- c. Sea stacks at Pūponga Point.
- d. The cliffs at Rangihaeata.
- e. Fossil forest at Rangihaeata.
- f. The Tata Islands coastal karst.
- g. The Taupo Point limestone stacks.
- h. Sandy and stony beaches.
- i. Shell banks including the Tangmere shell spits.
- j. The sea cliffs between Parapara and the Onekaka Inlet, and to the south of the Onekaka Inlet (do these exist?).
- k. Lagoon, spit, and dune systems associated with inlets and estuaries including Aorere River delta and Ruataniwha Inlet.
- l. Estuaries (Pūponga, Pakawau, Waikato, Parapara, Ruataniwha, Parapara, Little Kaituna, Onekaka, Onahau, Waitapu, Motupipi, Tata).

Particularly significant **ecological** attributes include:

- a. Habitat for a wide range of birds (including gannets, godwits, banded rail, Australasian bittern, banded dotterel, variable oystercatcher, Caspian tern, white fronted tern, spotless crake, SI fernbird, white heron, marsh crake, royal spoonbill .
- b. Marine mammals and wading birds in the Farewell Spit/Onetahua intertidal area.
- c. Sea grass beds of Farewell Spit intertidal flats.
- d. Native saltmarsh, herbfields and seagrass vegetation communities within the inlets, estuaries and sand flats.
- e. Small areas of coastal forest and regenerating vegetation, including northern rata, pukatea, podocarps and beech.

Particularly significant **hydrological** attributes include:

- a. The seascape of Golden Bay.
- b. The inlets and estuaries at Pūponga, Pakawau, Waikato, Ruataniwha, Parapara, Onekaka, Onahau, Waitapu, Motupipi and Ligar Bay.

Areas of outstanding natural character identified across parts of the seascape along the southern side of Farewell Spit and throughout the seascape in the vicinity of Separation Point.



Photograph supplied by James Bentley



PERCEPTUAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES

Views to the area • Views from the area • Visual prominence / importance of the area in shaping the wider landscape character • Naturalness • Memorability • Legibility and Expressiveness • Transient values • Remoteness / wildness

Particularly significant **vistas** include:

- a. Dramatic long-range views from the shoreline where the expansive and uncluttered seascape of Golden Bay and the sweeping arc of coastline is seen framed by the surrounding mountains (i.e. ONLs 1, 2 and 4).
- b. Highly attractive close-range views of the sequence of inlets and estuaries, beaches, dunes cliffs and headlands from the adjacent landscape (including the seascape).
- c. Highly attractive short, mid and long-range views from scenic lookouts and walking tracks along Farewell Spit/Onetahua, Pūponga Farm Park, Aorere Goldfields Track, Parapara Peak track, Milnthorpe Park tracks, Knuckle Hill track, Abel Tasman Memorial, Abel Tasman Coastal Track.
- d. Striking long-range views from elevated vantage points on State Highway 60 descending down the western side of Tākaka Hill which enable an appreciation of the vast scale of Golden Bay and the sweeping arc of the coastline (including Farewell Spit) that encloses the bay.
- e. Dramatic long-range views from the water across the seascape to the mountains and Farewell Spit/Onetahua framing Golden Bay.
- f. Impressive very long-range views from the air where the bay reads as a distinctive and legible waterbody that is framed by the sweeping curve of Farewell Spit/Onetahua. From this distance the distinctive currents that separate Golden Bay from Tasman Bay (and from which the name Separation Point is derived) are also discernible.

From many vantage points within the wider Golden Bay area, views of the expansive seascape framed by Farewell Spit/Onetahua and the layered views of the bush-clad hills backdropped by the rugged alpine peaks and ranges associated with ONL 1, 2 and 4 comprise signature views that are critical to the identity of the wider area.

The sheer scale of the intact seascape suggests a rating for naturalness towards the higher end of the spectrum. Whilst large-scale aquaculture, commercial fishing, and numerous jetties, boat ramps, erosion structures, power lines and causeways (and armouring/rip rap) around the edges of the bay and inlets are evident, the vast scale of the (seascape) 'landscape' within which they are located serves to dwarf them such that they are subservient to the more 'natural' elements, patterns and processes of the landscape. The inability to see the majority of the aquaculture areas from the shoreline is critical to this finding. Existing modification also includes the ongoing management of weeds and pests throughout the ONL.

The coherent and dramatic expanse of framed and relatively sheltered seascape that is experienced at Golden Bay makes this a highly memorable landscape. The striking contrast between extensive waters of the bay and the surrounding mountain/spit context, together with the more close-range contrast that is evident between the open and seemingly 'natural' waters of the bay and its developed coastline, evokes a strongly vivid impression.

The highly tidal nature of much of the shoreline, evident coastal erosion, coastal landform features and highly dynamic character of the seascape speak to the landscape's formative processes.

Transient values derive from: the high flushing character of the inlets, estuaries and Farewell Spit margins; the highly visible coastal erosion processes; seasonal birdlife; the highly varying weather conditions which are expressed in surface water conditions; and the dynamic patterning of light on intertidal areas.

On the waters of the bay (away from aquaculture areas), there is a strong sense of 'wildness' throughout much of the area due to: the large scale of the seascape; and the relatively limited number of marine craft away from aquaculture areas.

Photograph supplied by James Bentley



ASSOCIATIVE ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES

Cultural values • Historic values • Shared and recognised values • Recreation and scenic values

Particularly high **cultural values** associated with:

- a. Archaeological and Wahi tapu sites.
- b. For **cultural values**, see **Appendix H**.

Very high shared and recognised and recreational values as evidenced by the descriptions of the area in tourism publications, the findings of the Small Working Group project, the popularity of the area as an inspiration/subject for art and photography, the popularity of the area for recreational boating and kayaking, and the popularity of the Golden Bay beaches for living, holidaying, swimming, walking etc.



Photographs above and below supplied by James Bentley



The ONL 3 western and southern boundary is defined by the shoreline excepting in the vicinity of the Motupipi River mouth, Tākaka River mouth, Rangihaeata Headland, Milnthorpe and Ruataniwha Inlet where low-lying land or coastal headlands are included due to the role they play in shaping the landscape character of the wider seascape context.

The ONL 3 northern boundary coincides with the shoreline along the length of Farewell Spit/Onetahua.

The ONL 3 eastern boundary generally corresponds to a line drawn between the eastern tip of Farewell Spit and Separation Point.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND QUALITIES OF ONL 3 TO BE PROTECTED FROM ADVERSE EFFECTS

- The physical attributes and values listed above.
- The highly attractive views of: the expansive and generally uncluttered seascape framed by Farewell Spit/Onetahua and the surrounding mountains; the sequence of beaches, dunes, cliffs, headlands, inlets and estuaries strung along the length of the Golden Bay coastline.
- The low-key or relatively modest and informal built development character (including roading, power lines, erosion control structures, jetties, boat ramps and the existing Port Taranaki facility).
- A sense of ‘wildness’ and ‘getting away from it all’.
- The darkness of the night sky.
- For cultural values, see **Appendix H**.

TYPES OF DEVELOPMENT THAT ARE LIKELY TO BE INAPPROPRIATE WITHIN ONL 3

- Large-scale aquaculture, particularly within 3 nautical miles of the shoreline.
- Inappropriate built development (as a consequence of its location, scale and/or design), including: buildings, roading, infrastructure, jetties, boat ramps, erosion control and coastal defence structures, ad hoc port infrastructure and recreation/tourism development.
- Activities that increase sediment input into the marine environment.
- Infilling and reclamation.
- Dredging and trawling.
- Sea-bed mining.
- Marina.
- Marine based windfarm.



Photograph below supplied by James Bentley

