

This entire chapter has been notified using the RMA Part One, Schedule 1 process ([P1 Sch1](#)).

SCHED12 – Te Hōtaka o Ngā Hanga Māori Ahurei Teitei ki Tai

SCHED12 – High Coastal Natural Character Areas

High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas

[APPX provides guidance on how the evaluation of natural character of the coastal environment that informs this schedule was undertaken.](#)

Makara	
<p>The Makara coastal terrestrial area is located along Wellington City’s west coast and extends between the district boundary with Porirua City and the rock promontory west of Wharehou (Fisherman’s) Bay. Steep coastal scarps are dominant along this coastal edge above a narrow gravel beach following the coastline. A small headland at Pipinui Point punctuates the larger sequence of coastal scarps. Further to the south, Ohariu Bay provides an opening along the coastal scarps at the mouth of the Makara Stream.</p> <p>The inland extent of the coastal environment typically follows the first dominant ridge set back from the top of the coastal scarp through areas of open pasture. Small coastal settlements are located at Makara Beach and Smiths Bay; dwellings originally located in Wharehou Bay were removed in the 1970s.</p>	
High Coastal Natural Character Area: North Pipinui Scarp	
Rating	High
Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS	Abiotic - High Biotic - Moderate Experiential - High
Key Values	Low level of abiotic modification - Scarp slopes and narrow rocky shore have very limited physical modification. Moderately modified biotic modification. Coastal scarps are reverting to native grey shrubland. The steep exposed coastal cliffs retain a predominantly remote wild and scenic character.
High Coastal Natural Character Area: Boom Rock / Pipinui Point	
Rating	High
Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS	Abiotic - High Biotic - Moderate Experiential - High

Key Values	<p>Best example of coastal cliffs in Wellington City and the west of the region.</p> <p>High plant diversity including uncommon plants such as native broom.</p> <p>White fronted tern nesting site at Pipinui Point.</p> <p>The steep exposed coastal cliffs retain a predominantly remote wild and scenic character.</p>
High Coastal Natural Character Area: Smith Bay	
Rating	High
Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS	<p>Abiotic - High</p> <p>Biotic - Moderate</p> <p>Experiential - High</p>
Key Values	<p>High energy gravel beach largely unmodified.</p> <p>Large volume of beach-cast seaweed (significant role in the coastal ecosystem).</p> <p>The steep exposed coastal cliffs retain a remote wild and scenic character.</p> <p>Includes Wellington City Council Eco Site at Smiths Bay.</p>
High Coastal Natural Character Area: Makara Estuary	
Rating	High
Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS	<p>Abiotic - High</p> <p>Biotic - High</p> <p>Experiential - High</p>
Key Values	<p>Unusual for west coast estuary in having higher proportion of mud to sand.</p> <p>Diverse native wetland vegetation with salt marsh providing habitat for feeding and nesting birds, several indigenous fish, native lizard species and katipo spider.</p> <p>High experiential values due to low level of modification.</p>
High Coastal Natural Character Area: Ohariu Bay	
Rating	High
Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS	<p>Abiotic - High</p> <p>Biotic - Moderate</p> <p>Experiential - High</p>
Key Values	<p>A highly natural coastline modified in part by only some minor structures and pasture growth.</p> <p>High experiential values due to low level of modification.</p>
Terawhiti	
<p>The Terawhiti coastal terrestrial area occupies the south-west coastal edge of Wellington City and extends between the narrow promontory to the west of Wharehou Bay and Cape Terawhiti marking the entrance to Cook Strait at the south-western edge of Wellington’s coastline.</p>	

<p>Much of this area is farmed as part of Terawhiti Station characterised by strong open landforms which include steep slopes which support regenerating shrubland and coastal bush in valleys. Isolated bays are located at the northern end of Cape Terawhiti forming Ohau Bay and Te Ikaamaru Bay together with the larger scalloped form of Opau Bay further to the north.</p>	
<p>High Coastal Natural Character Area: Opau Bay</p>	
<p>Rating</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS</p>	<p>Abiotic - High Biotic - Moderate Experiential - High</p>
<p>Key Values</p>	<p>Steep and exposed coastal cliffs with very limited levels of modification. The coastal scarps are reverting to native grey shrubland. The steep exposed coastal cliffs retain a remote wild and scenic character.</p>
<p>High Coastal Natural Character Area: Te Ikaamaru / Ohau Bays</p>	
<p>Rating</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS</p>	<p>Abiotic - High Biotic - Moderate Experiential - High</p>
<p>Key Values</p>	<p>Largely unmodified coastal escarpments, terraces and beaches. Small stands of coastal forest. Shrubland regeneration is occurring on the promontories. A rugged and stark coastal character with limited human interference.</p>
<p>High Coastal Natural Character Area: Terawhiti / Ohau Point</p>	
<p>Rating</p>	<p>Very High</p>
<p>Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS</p>	<p>Abiotic - Very High Biotic - Moderate Experiential - Very High</p>
<p>Key Values</p>	<p>Very limited landform modification / structures. Wave cut platform with rugged coastal rock outcrops and stacks following the coastal edge. A well preserved interglacial terrace occurs to the west of Oteranga Bay. Seal haulout site at Black Point. Areas of regenerating shrubland with coastal bush in gullies. Ecological significant native grasses, shrubs and vines along the summit of Terawhiti Hill. Coastal forms remain extremely isolated with overtly rugged and wild character.</p>

Sinclair Head / Te Rimurapa	
<p>The Sinclair Head / Te Rimurapa coastal terrestrial area extends from the southern tip of Cape Terawhiti to the western edge of Owhiro Bay along Wellington’s exposed southern coast encompassing several small bays together with Oteranga Head, Tongue Point and Sinclair Head / Te Rimurapa. Rocky raised shore platforms continue along much of this section of coastline below steep coastal scarps which include distinctive uplifted marine terraces at Oteranga Head and Tongue Point.</p>	
High Coastal Natural Character Area: Ōteranga Bay	
Rating	High
Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS	Abiotic - High Biotic - Moderate Experiential - High
Key Values	Beach and coastal scarp backdrop form largely unmodified coastal edge. At Risk and Threatened fish species recorded in the catchment include banded kokopu, common smelt, inanga, koaro, longfin eel, Redfin bully and short fin eel. Breeding population of banded dotterel. Isolated with high degree of remoteness and wildness.
High Coastal Natural Character Area: Ōteranga Head / Outlook Hill	
Rating	High
Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS	Abiotic - High Biotic - Moderate to High Experiential - High
Key Values	Very limited landform modification / structures. Steep uplifted marine terraces and escarpment slopes rise up to 80 metres above a wave cut platform along the shoreline. The coastal scarps are reverting to native grey shrubland. Pockets of coastal bush retained within the gullies. Predominantly wild and remote with limited human interference.
High Coastal Natural Character Area: Coastal Cliffs East of Karori Stream Estuary	
Rating	High
Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS	Abiotic - High Biotic - Moderate to High Experiential - High
Key Values	Steep escarpment slope rising above a wave cut platform along the coastline with limited modification. Areas of unmodified duneland and habitat for historic habitat for Long Bay Beach Weevil <u>Speargrass Weevil (Lyperobius huttoni)</u> .

	<p>Copper skink, common skink and Marlborough minimac gecko present.</p> <p>Rugged coastal landforms retain a predominantly remote wild and scenic character.</p>
<p>High Coastal Natural Character Area: Sinclair Head / Te Rimurapa</p>	
Rating	High
Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS	<p>Abiotic - High</p> <p>Biotic - High</p> <p>Experiential - Very High</p>
Key Values	<p>Steep escarpment slope rising above a wave cut platform along the coastline with limited modification.</p> <p>Threatened or At Risk species known to be resident or regular visitors include: black shag, variable oyster catcher, red-billed gull, white-fronted tern and NZ pipit.</p> <p>Copper skink, common skink and Marlborough minimac gecko present.</p> <p>Rugged coastal landforms retain a predominantly remote wild and scenic character.</p>
<p>Southern Bays</p>	
<p>The Southern Bays coastal terrestrial area extends along Wellington’s south coast between the former quarry in Owhiro Bay and Te Raekaihau Point. Narrow shore platforms backed by steep escarpments occur along much of the Southern Bays coastline, where exposure to rigorous environmental conditions has helped shape the rugged landforms. Coastal characteristics include accessible rocky reefs and beaches, relic dunes and steep coastal faces accommodating regenerating coastal scrub. Taputeranga Island is also a distinctive terrestrial component associated with this area.</p> <p>Most of the accessible land areas inland from the coastal edge have been heavily modified by residential development with regenerating vegetation recolonising the steeper less accessible slopes. The adjacent coastal marine area is designated as a marine reserve, which increases the natural character associations along the coastal edge.</p>	
<p>High Coastal Natural Character Area: South Coast Shore Platform</p>	
Rating	High
Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS	<p>Abiotic - High</p> <p>Biotic - Moderate</p> <p>Experiential - High</p>
Key Values	<p>Shore platforms and raised beach ridges incl. 1855 uplift ridge remain largely intact.</p> <p>Rock stacks, coastal turf, sand, small coastal dune areas and shingle beaches with limited modification.</p> <p>Regionally significant Island Bay lawsonite and prehnite-pumpellyite facies metamorphism, veined greywacke and pillow lava melange.</p> <p>Very dynamic coastal system, including gravel cobble beach and low dunes.</p> <p>Diverse range of plant species.</p> <p>One of four large stream estuaries in the City.</p> <p>Possible penguin habitat and skinks present.</p>

	Predominantly wild and scenic coastal edge.
High Coastal Natural Character Area: Taputeranga Island	
Rating	Very High
Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS	Abiotic - Very High Biotic - Moderate to High Experiential - High
Key Values	Formed through volcanic intrusive into Wellington greywacke with limited modification. Threatened or at risk bird species are known to be resident or regular visitors. Limited human interference retaining largely wild and scenic island character.
Lyllall Bay	
<p>The Lyall Bay terrestrial coastal area forms part of the larger settled urban area of Wellington’s south coast between Te Raekaihau and Hue tē Taka Peninsula/ Moa Point connected by the Rongotai isthmus. The outer edges of Lyall Bay include rocky headlands and reefs which frame the seaward opening into Cook Strait. A large sweeping sandy beach extends along the inner edge of the bay, part of which has been reclaimed at its eastern end to form Wellington International Airport’s runway. Mount Albert and Miramar Peninsula form backdrops along the western and eastern edges of the bay and accommodates residential dwellings together with regenerating vegetation on the steeper slopes.</p>	
High Coastal Natural Character Area: Hue tē Taka Peninsula / Moa Point	
Rating	High
Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS	Abiotic - High Biotic - Moderate Experiential - Moderate to High
Key Values	Rock stacks, shore platforms and raised beach incl. 1855 uplift ridge which remain largely intact. Representative of former vegetation along Wellington’s coast. Important as lizard habitat with second highest number of lizards in Wellington. High experiential values due to low level of modification.
Miramar Peninsula	
<p>The Miramar Peninsula terrestrial character area extends from east of Hue tē Taka Peninsula / Moa Point to Point Halswell and forms the western side of the Wellington Harbour entrance. The area includes Palmer Head and Point Dorset and all the bays and headlands on the eastern side of Miramar Peninsula. This area comprises a sequence of small gravel / sandy beaches and rocky embayment’s separated by rocky headlands and reefs. Sections of sea wall have been built in places to support the coastal road and other built modifications on the coastal edge include informal carparks on some headlands, and a few jetties and boatsheds.</p>	
High Coastal Natural Character Area: Point Dorset	
Rating	High
Relevant values under Policy 13 of the NZCPS	Abiotic - High Biotic - Moderate

	Experiential - Moderate to High
Key Values	<p>Only section of coast where there is no coastal road-relatively unmodified.</p> <p>Regenerating indigenous coastal vegetation on the escarpment.</p> <p>Coastal experience of wildness retained in dynamic and relatively unmodified headland.</p>