

BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT - SITES OF HIGH AND VERY HIGH NATURAL CHARACTER VALUE

Name	Level of natural character	General description of area
<p>Ōtamarākau to Piripai Coastal Dunes (OP)</p> <p>Map 25</p>	High	<p>The Matatā dunelands provide a striking example of the natural dune and rear dune wetland system that occurs along this sector. Modification around settlement areas and post major storm events have resulted in the loss of some natural wetlands. The location of the rail corridor and State Highway create a divide however the dune and coastal escarpment demonstrate vividly the current and historical coastal processes that occur within this landscape. The two river systems have been modified to create a new cut through the dunes, leaving the old river path behind the dunes as remnant wetlands. Residential development has occurred on the frontal dune systems and resulted in modification to the natural patterns and processes through introduced exotic planting and built form.</p>
<p>Waiotahi Estuary (WEs)</p> <p>Map 28</p>	Very High	<p>The Waioeka wetlands and river mouth comprise a largely unmodified coastal edge with some farming around the edges.</p>
<p>Waioeka Estuary (WaE)</p> <p>Map 28</p>	High	<p>The Waioeka wetlands and river mouth comprise a largely unmodified coastal edge with some farming practices around the edges.</p>
<p>Rocky Shoreline - Whituare Bay to Parinui and Whitianga Bay to PoKōhū Point (Whi)</p> <p>Maps 29, 30</p>	High	<p>Pohutukawa outcrops extend around peninsula and form a transition between the rocky coastal edge and the landward coastal environment. Whituare Bay forms a sandy embayment where much of the settlement is sited. Much of the native coastal vegetation exists around the rocky headlands with the embayments modified for productive land use.</p>
<p>Mōtū River Mouth (Mot)</p> <p>Map 30</p>	Very High	<p>The Mōtū River remains an unmodified feature of the coastal edge, with its vegetation cover a mixture of native and exotic species. The river patterns are constantly in change with the river mouth forming a shingle barrier between the coastal waters and the river course.</p>
<p>Haparapara River mouth (Ha) Map 31</p>	Very High	<p>The Haparapara River remains an unmodified feature of the coastal edge, with its vegetation cover, a mixture of native and exotic species. The river patterns are constantly in change with the river mouth forming a shingle barrier between the coastal waters and the river course.</p>

Rocky Shoreline - Okahu Point to Waiōrore (Oka) Map 31	High	Pohutukawa outcrops extend around peninsula and form a transition between the rocky coastal edge and the landward coastal
Rocky Shoreline - Te Kopua to Papatea Bay (TKP) Map 32	High	The rocky coastline, steep escarpment and native vegetation cover provides a visually striking coastal landscape. Modification to the landform is minimal in most parts, as the steep hills limit land use activities. Grazing of some of the hill slopes has resulted in the denuding of parts of the coastline, however the coastal edge has remained heavily vegetated.
Raukōkore River (RaR) Map 32	High	The Raukōkore River mouth remains unmodified and demonstrates the natural river patterns and processes of other rivers along this part of the coast.
Te Ahikehe Point to Cape Runaway (TeA) Map 33	High	The vertical cliffs of Te Ahikehe Point demonstrate the dynamic coastal processes occurring in the bay. Whangaparoa Bay comprises significant dune and rear dune wetlands that dominate the coast, with settlement located behind these features.