Bay of Plenty Regional Council
PO Box 364
Whakatane
New Zealand

Version 8.0b
March 2013

VARIATION 1 (COASTAL POLICY)

Proposed Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement

COUNCIL DECISIONS

TRACK CHANGES VERSION 8.0b

This version shows the changes to Variation 1 as amended by Council's decisions in its "Council Decisions on Submissions" report" dated March 2013. Text proposed to be added is underlined and text proposed to be deleted has a line through it (is struck out).

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

How to Interpret this Document

This document shows text of the provisions of the Proposed Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement affected by Proposed Variation 1 (Coastal Policy).

Additions recommended in response to submissions are shown double underlined and deletions are shown as double ~~struckout~~ text. Text proposed for amendment by Variation 1 but unchanged (and confirmed) by decisions is shown with single underline or ~~strikeout~~.

Provisions that remain unchanged by Variation 1 are included for context but do not form part of the variation.

Part two

Resource management issues, objectives and summary of policies and methods to achieve the objectives of the Regional Policy Statement

Part two provides an overview of the regionally significant resource management issues, (including the issues of significance to iwi authorities) addressed by the Regional Policy Statement. They are addressed under the topic headings:

- Air quality
- Coastal environment
- Energy and infrastructure
- Geothermal resources
- Integrated resource management
- Iwi resource management
- Matters of national importance
- Natural hazards
- Urban form and growth management
- Water quality and land use
- Water quantity

Each topic includes a summary table showing all the objectives that relate to that topic and the titles of the policies and methods to achieve those objectives. The table also includes a reference to other policies that also need to be considered to gain an overview of the issue across the full scope of the Statement.

2.2 Coastal environment

The coastal environment covers the coastal marine area seaward of the high tide mark, as well as land influenced by coastal processes. The inland boundary of the Bay of Plenty's coastal environment has been identified and mapped (refer to Appendix I). From the southern end of Homunga Bay, north of Waihī Beach to Pōtikirua (as per Map 1), the region's coastal environment contains significant habitats, outstanding landscape features and sites of historic heritage. The coastal environment also provides for a diverse range of human activities. The natural character ranges from the largely unmodified rocky headlands and bays of the East Cape, through the significant estuaries of Ohiwa, Maketū and Tauranga, and along the sandy coastline stretching from Ōpōtiki to Waihī Beach. The coast is subject to increasing population pressure close to the major settlements, particularly Tauranga.

Coastal waterways, estuaries and harbours also provide outstanding habitats for many species of birds, some of which are threatened species. Tauranga Harbour (Te Awanui), Ohiwa Harbour, Maketū Estuary and Little Waihī Estuary are nationally and internationally significant sites for shorebirds, meeting criteria for wetlands of international importance. The coastal environment also provides habitat for both marine and native freshwater fish species, several of which are at risk.

Coastal dune systems contain a range of threatened flora and fauna, including the northern New Zealand dotterel, variable oystercatcher, black katipo spider, moco skink, sand pimelea, pingao and sand tussock. The endemic nationally vulnerable Thornton kanuka occurs along the Whakatāne coast.

Tangata whenua have strong links with the coastal environment, value its mauri, its mana and all it offers. The region's identity and significance to Māori are closely intertwined with the coastal environment. Many sites are associated with iwi histories, traditions and tikanga Māori. For example, mahinga mātaitai (places to gather seafood) and tauranga waka (canoe landing places). Some of these sites embody spiritual and sacred values, such as urupa (burial places) and other waahi tapu. Of particular concern to tangata whenua is the damage and destruction of special cultural sites, as well as the discharge of human and other wastes into the coastal environment, which causes a loss of mauri to the water body and the region. Kaimoana is essential to coastal iwi and hapū relationships to the environment in particular as part of the tikanga of food gathering and as indicators of the health of coastal environments. The health and abundance of kaimoana can be threatened by the cumulative effects of landuse and development.

The coastal environment makes a major contribution to the regional community for general enjoyment, amenity and recreation. Access to the coast and the associated unique values of the coastal environment contribute to its attractiveness as a place to live and work and locate certain activities. The coastal environment of the Bay of Plenty region includes ~~is comprised of major urban centres~~ existing and future urban areas and nationally significant infrastructure such as the Port of Tauranga and the state highway network as well as primary production activities which are all essential to the social and economic well-being of the region. Parts of the coastal environment are in private ownership.

2.2.1 Integrated management of the coastal environment

There are several challenges to achieving integrated management of the coastal environment. Although mean high water springs (MHWS) is the jurisdictional boundary between district and regional councils, it does not mark the extent of the coastal environment. Land above the high water mark which is heavily influenced by coastal processes and is inextricably linked to the coastal marine area (the area below MHWS extending out to the 12-mile limit). The coastal environment meets a significant portion of housing demand within the region. Population growth and associated demand for coastal living and development increases the requirement for infrastructure and community facilities, some of which spans the "wet" and "dry" parts of the coastal environment and requires an integrated approach to planning. In addition, the coastal marine area is managed by several agencies responsible for different aspects such as

fisheries, marine reserves and the allocation of coastal space.

The objectives and policies focus on identifying and providing for consistent management and providing for a collective approach to integrated management across the wet and dry parts of the coastal environment. This will improve the likelihood that the coastal environment is managed to recognise and value its distinctive characteristics.

Objectives and policies directing integrated management of the coastal environment are located in the Integrated Resource Management topic area.

2.2.2 Natural character and the ecological functioning of the coastal environment

Natural character of the coastal environment exists on a spectrum from heavily modified "low" natural character as would be experienced in some coastal settlements to pristine "outstanding" natural character remaining on some offshore islands and Ōhiwa Harbour. ~~The n~~Natural character of the coastal environment comprises natural elements, patterns and processes and includes the following attributes: ~~includes: natural elements, processes and patterns~~ biophysical, ecological, geological and geomorphological aspects; natural landforms such as headlands, peninsulas, cliffs, dunes, wetlands, reefs, freshwater springs and surf breaks; the natural movement of water and sediment; places or areas that are wild or scenic; natural darkness and experiential elements. ~~attributes~~. ~~Natural character exists on a spectrum from heavily modified "low" natural character such as would be experienced in some coastal settlements to pristine "outstanding" natural character remaining on some offshore islands and Ōhiwa Harbour.~~ ~~the dynamic coastal processes and ecosystems of escarpments, sand dunes, estuaries and salt marshes; significant landscapes and seascapes; geological features and landforms; sand dunes, surf breaks and beach systems; river outlets; sites of historic or cultural significance; and an area's amenity and openness, and in some places its remoteness.~~

Healthy coasts, beaches, inter-tidal areas and estuaries are dependent on good land management within the catchment and the quality of the water (stormwater and wastewater) that reaches the coast. Sediment and nutrients from earthworks, stormwater, wastewater, horticulture and agriculture have all affected coastal water quality and shellfish beds in the past and continue to have an incremental or cumulative effect. Studies into sedimentation have shown that catchments under bush, scrub and native forest also contribute to the sedimentation of the coastal marine area. Increased sediment and nutrient input has the capacity to change ecosystem dynamics, encouraging the growth of some naturally occurring but rapidly colonising species, such as mangroves, which can displace other native plant species and providing additional nutrient for nuisance species, such as sea lettuce, which can have a detrimental impact.

Natural character, natural function and biodiversity are also affected by activities such as seawalls, reclamations, vehicle use and earthworks, which affect the natural processes that underpin the proper functioning of the coastal environment by modifying the dunes, foreshore and the seabed. Hard structures such as seawalls and reclamations alter sediment movement along beaches and estuaries and can cause erosion problems in some areas and deposition problems in others. The incremental loss of the area above Mean High Water Springs as a result of coastal erosion and sea level rise may cause the coastline to migrate inland reducing the high tide beach area. Where private beachfront property development extends very close to this area the resulting "coastal squeeze" effectively privatises the beachfront and can increase demand for hard engineering solutions to protect private assets at a cost to ratepayers. Coastal squeeze can adversely affect biodiversity, ecosystem health, public access, recreation and the general amenity of the coast.

Successfully meeting the requirement to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment is difficult, as inappropriate development often occurs incrementally. Inappropriate development on the coast can reduce its capacity to act as a buffer from natural hazards processes; its ability to provide public access and amenity and its ability to continue to provide habitat for animals and plants that live in the coastal area.

While the Bay of Plenty Coast Care and Estuary Care groups are making significant progress in restoring the form and function of the region's dune systems and estuaries, the natural character of the coast continues to face challenges from incremental loss and degradation in the face of pressure to meet the demands of the growing population.

2.2.3 Use and allocation of coastal resources

Coastal use and development can also result in conflict and competition for space, where uses and activities are not compatible or are not managed proactively and effectively. Management of coastal space to avoid conflicts, protect the rights of existing and lawfully established uses, retain amenity values and meet safety and navigation requirements is crucial and requires direction on which activities take priority, as well as guidance on managing the cumulative effects of coastal development. This can be achieved by providing direction on the appropriate location and form of development within the coastal environment, encouraging development in areas where the natural character has already been highly compromised (except where areas and opportunities for restoration and rehabilitation have been identified) and constraining development on undeveloped land (except where land has been identified as an appropriate location of future urban growth within Appendix D and E).

The coastal marine area is public space, managed by regional councils, just as national parks are public space managed by the Department of Conservation. Unfortunately the Act does not have mechanisms to support the management of this common space in a way that sends fair economic signals to potential users. This can result in incentives to develop and effectively privatise public space. Poor integration with other marine resources legislation compounds the problem.

It is important therefore that the Statement provides direction to enable the appropriate location of activities with a functional need to locate in the coastal marine area such as ports and supporting infrastructure as well as recreational facilities. Direction is also required to minimise the amount of public space occupied by avoiding 'unnecessary' activities that could locate elsewhere, efficient use and sharing of space and discouraging speculation and the locking up of public space.

2.2.4 Coastal hazards

New and existing coastal development can increase coastal hazard risk if assets are located too close to dynamic coastal margins, occupying areas that are or may become hazard zones and interfering with natural coastal processes and defences.

Policies directing avoidance and reduction of coastal hazard risk are located in the natural hazard topic area. Coastal environment policies relate to the effect of hard protection structures on the natural character of the coastal environment.

2.2.5 Regionally significant coastal environment issues

1 Adverse effects on the natural character and ecological functioning of the coastal environment

The natural character and ecological functioning of the region's coastal environment is adversely affected by inappropriate land use and development, hazard mitigation works, earthworks, recreational activities, encroachment, grazing, changes in land use and the presence of pest plants and animals.

2 Effects of land use on Tauranga Harbour and Ōhiwa Harbour

A number of land uses surrounding Tauranga and Ohiwa Harbours and estuaries throughout the region, have resulted in increased rates of sedimentation. Sedimentation can affect harbours and estuaries by making navigation channels shallower, degrading habitats, such as sea grass, shellfish beds and spawning sites, and changing the environment to favour mangrove growth.

3 Managing the allocation of space for a range of competing uses within the coastal marine area

Providing for aquaculture, recreation, wild catch fishing, Māori customary activities, regionally significant infrastructure and marine access ways in a manner that avoids conflict and considers the cumulative impacts of these activities on the public space of the coastal marine area and the adjacent shore is challenging.

Table 2 Coastal environment objectives and titles of policies and methods to achieve the objectives.

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
Objective 2 Preservation, restoration and, where appropriate, enhancement of the natural character and ecological functioning of the coastal environment	Policy CE 1B~~A~~: ~~Implementing management~~ Extent of the coastal environment		Method 1: District Plan implementation	City and district councils	
			Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council~~, city and district councils~~	
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	
	Policy CE ~~2A~~2B: ~~Avoiding effects~~Managing adverse effects on natural character within the coastal environment ~~Policy CE 2A: Preserving natural character within the coastal environment~~		Method 1: District plan implementation	~~Regional council, c~~City and district councils	
			Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council~~, city and district councils~~	
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	
			~~Method 6: Identify areas of high natural character in the coastal environment~~	~~Regional council~~	
			Method 26: Facilitate and support community based ecological restoration programmes	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 49: Identify and advocate for ecological corridors and buffer zones	Regional council	
			Method 49A: Identify areas for restoration or rehabilitation of natural character	Regional council	
			Method 53: Enhance the natural character of the coastal environment where compromised	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 53A: Assess and classify areas of Indigenous biodiversity	Regional council	
			Method 61: Identify vehicle access locations and situations	City and District councils	
			~~Method 23A Identify the coastal environment~~	~~Regional council~~	

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
	Policy CE 3A: Identifying the key constraints to use and development of the coastal marine area		~~Method 6: Identify areas of high and outstanding natural character in the coastal environment~~	~~Regional council~~	
			Method 6a: Identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Maori	Regional council, city and district councils	
			~~Method 34: Take a collaborative approach to the management of the coastal environment~~	~~Regional council, city and district councils~~	
			Method 35: Take a whole of catchment approach to the management of natural and physical; resources.	Regional council, city and district councils	
			~~Method 23A: Identify the coastal environment~~	~~Regional council~~	
			Method 53A: Assess and classify areas of Indigenous biodiversity	Regional council	
			Method 61: Identify vehicle access locations and situations	City and District councils	
			Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council,	
	Policy CE 4A: Protecting and restoring natural coastal margins		Method 1: District plan implementation	~~Regional council,~~ ~~c~~City and district councils	
			Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 35: Take a whole of catchment approach to the management of natural and physical; resources.	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 35A: Integrated catchment management plans	Regional council	
			Method 43: Improve biodiversity values of open spaces	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 49: Identify and advocate for ecological corridors and buffer zones	Regional council	

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 52: Protect, restore and enhance natural coastal margins	Regional council	
			Method 49A: Identify areas for restoration or rehabilitation of natural character	Regional council	
			Method 56: Advocate to establish reserves	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 53: Enhance the natural character of the coastal environment where compromised	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 54: Provide and support environmental education programmes	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 61: Identify vehicle access locations and situations	City and District councils	
			Method 26: Facilitate and support community based ecological restoration programmes	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 36A: Investigate the use of large scale wetlands	Regional council	
	Policy CE 6A: Protecting Indigenous Biodiversity		Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 53A: Assess and classify areas of Indigenous Biodiversity	Regional Council	
	Policy CE 6B: Providing for the management of mangroves		Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 26: Facilitate and support community based ecological restoration programmes	Regional council	
			Method 35: Take a whole of catchment approach to the management of natural and physical resources within the coastal environment	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 35A: Integrated catchment management	Regional council	

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
	Policy CE 7B: Ensuring subdivision, use and development is appropriate to the natural character to the coastal environment		Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 44: Prepare non-regulatory landscape protection guidelines – western Bay of Plenty sub-region	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 60: Mitigate environmental impacts from the use of public space within the coastal marine area	Regional council, city and district councils	
	Policy CE 8B: Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of coastal ecosystems		Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 48: Research and monitor the effects of discharges	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 49: Identify and advocate for ecological corridors and buffer zones	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 35: Take a whole of catchment approach to the management of natural and physical resources within the coastal environment	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 43: Improve biodiversity values of open spaces	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 52: Protect, restore and enhance natural coastal margins	Regional council	
			Method 53: Enhance the natural character of the coastal environment, where compromised	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 53B: Identify coastal waters having an adverse effect	Regional council	
			Method 56: Advocate to establish reserves	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 36A: Investigate the use of large scale wetlands	Regional council	
			Method XXiii: Support industry led environmental accords, guidelines and codes of practice	Regional council	

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
	Policy CE 9B: Managing adverse effects of land-based activities in the coastal environment on marine water quality		Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 35: Take a whole of catchment approach to the management of natural and physical resources within the coastal environment	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 48: Research and monitor the effects of discharges	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 36A: Investigate the use of large scale wetlands	Regional council	
			Method XXiii: Support industry led environmental accords, guidelines and codes of practice	Regional council	
			Method 53A: Assess and classify areas of Indigenous biodiversity	Regional council	
			Method 54: Provide and support environmental education programmes	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 59: Investigate mechanisms to reduce litter in and adjacent to the coastal marine area	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 35A: Integrated catchment management	Regional council	
	Policy CE 10B: Allocating public space within the coastal marine area		Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 60: Mitigate environmental impacts from the use of public space within the coastal marine area	Regional council	
			Method 61: Identify vehicle access locations and situations	City and District councils	
	Policy CE 11B: Avoiding inappropriate hazard mitigation works in the coastal environment		Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	
	Policy CE 10XB: Discouraging hard protection structures		Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
Objective 3 Equitable and sustainable allocation of public space within the coastal marine area	Policy CE 3A: Identifying the key constraints to use and development of the coastal marine area		~~Method 6: Identify areas of high natural character in the coastal environment~~	~~Regional council, city and district councils~~	
			~~Method 34: Take a collaborative approach to the management of the coastal environment~~	~~Regional council, city and district councils~~	
			Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	
			Method 35: Take a whole of catchment approach to the management of natural and physical resources within the coastal environment	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 61: Identify vehicle access locations and situations	City and District councils	
	Policy CE 5A: Provide for sustainable use and development of the coastal marine area		Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	
			Method 34: Take a collaborative approach to the management of the coastal environment	Regional council, city and district councils	
	Policy CE 10B: Allocating public space within the coastal marine area		Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 60: Mitigate environmental impacts from the use of public space within the coastal marine area	Regional council	
Objective 4 Enable subdivision, use and development of the coastal environment in appropriate locations	Policy CE 1B~~A~~: ~~Implementing management~~ Extent of the coastal environment~~Policy CE 1A: Identifying the landward extent of the coastal environment~~		Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	
			Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	
	Policy CE 3A: Identifying the key constraints to use and development of the coastal marine area		Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	
			Method 6a: Identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Maori	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 35: Take a whole of catchment approach to the management of natural and physical resources within the coastal environment	Regional council, city and district councils	

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 61: Identify vehicle access locations and situations	City and District councils	
	Policy CE 7B – Ensuring subdivision, use and development is appropriate to the natural character of the coastal environment		Methods 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans.	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 44 Prepare non-regulatory landscape guidelines – western Bay of Plenty sub-region.	Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Tauranga City Council.	
			Method 60 Mitigate environmental impacts from from the use of public space in the coastal marine area.	Regional Council.	
	Policy CE 10B: Allocating public space within the coastal marine area		Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	
			Method 60: Mitigate environmental impacts from the use of public space within the coastal marine area	Regional council	
	Policy CE 12B: Enabling sustainable aquaculture		Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	
	Policy CE 5A: Provide for sustainable use and development of the coastal marine area		Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	
			Method 34: Take a collaborative approach to the management of the coastal environment	Regional council, city and district councils	
	Policy CE 13B: Providing for ports		Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	
	Policy CE 13XB: Recognising secondary ports		Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
Also see:					
Objective 24: A compact, well designed urban form that effectively and efficiently accommodates the region's urban growth (Table 9)					
Objective 25: An efficient, sustainable, safe and affordable transport network, integrated with the region's land use pattern (Table 9)					
Objective 26: Subdivision use and development in the western Bay of Plenty is located and staged in a way that integrates with the long term planning and funding mechanisms of local authorities, central government agencies and network utility providers and operators (Table 9)					
Objective 10: Cumulative and precedent effects of existing and new activities are appropriately managed (Table 5)					
Objective 11: An integrated approach to resource management issues is adopted by resource users and decision makers (Table 5)					
Objective 12: The timely exchange, consideration of and response to, relevant information by all parties with an interest in the resolution of a resource management issue (Table 5)					

Part three

Policies and methods

Part three presents the policies and methods that, when implemented, will achieve the objectives of this Statement and address the regionally significant resource management issues (including the issues of significance to iwi authorities). The resource management issues and objectives are presented in the previous part two under topic headings.

Part three is divided into two sections. The first contains the policies and the second sets out the methods.

Within the first section, policies are grouped according to the topic under which the policy was originally drafted and are identified as follows:

- AQ = Air Quality
- CE = Coastal Environment
- EI = Energy and Infrastructure
- GR = Geothermal Resources
- IR = Integrated Resource Management
- IW = Iwi Resource Management
- MN = Matters of National Importance
- NH = Natural Hazards
- UF = Urban Form and Growth Management
- WL = Water Quality and Land Use
- WQ = Water Quantity

Within these topic groups the letter following the policy number further divides policies into four types as outlined below.

(a) Policies giving direction to regional and district plans

Broad policies that must be given effect by regional or district plans (in accordance with sections 67(3) and 75(3)(c) of the Act) as set out in methods of implementation 1 and 2. These policies are identified by the letter A after the main policy number e.g. CE 3A.

(b) Specific directive policies for resource consents, regional and district plans, and notices of requirement.

These policies are identified by the letter B after the main policy number e.g. CE 6B. This section contains specific policies that:

- must be given effect by regional or district plans (in accordance with sections 67(3)(c) and 75(3)(c) of the Act) as set out in methods of implementation 1 and 2;

- consent authorities must have regard to, where relevant, when considering applications for resource consent and any submissions received (in accordance with section 104(1)(b)(iv) of the Act); and

- territorial authorities must have particular regard to, where relevant, when considering requirements for designations or heritage orders and any submissions received (in accordance with sections 171(1)(a)(iii) and 191(1)(d) of the Act).

- Policies that allocate responsibilities

  These policies allocate the responsibilities for land-use controls for natural hazards, hazardous substances and indigenous biodiversity between the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and the region's city and district councils. These policies are identified by the letter C after the main policy number e.g. CE 10C.

(c) Guiding policies

These are guiding policies that outline actions to help achieve the objectives. These policies are identified by the letter D after the main policy number e.g. CE 12D.

The second section sets out the methods for implementing the policies. There are two main groups of methods:

- Directive methods to implement policies identified above as either #A, #B, or #C.
- Methods that implement the guiding policies (identified above as #D) or that support the delivery of the other policies.

A summary table is provided at the beginning of part three in which the policy titles are provided. The titles serve only as a guide, as the policies are not reproduced in full within the summary table.

In a box following each of the policies, is a cross reference to pertinent objectives and methods. These must be read in association with each policy, to appreciate the relationships between these policies and methods.

Coastal Environment	
Broad directive policies for district and regional plans	
Policy CE 1B~~A~~: ~~Implementing management of the coastal environment~~ Extent of the coastal environment	
Policy CE 2B~~A~~: ~~Avoiding~~ Managing adverse effects on ~~Preserving high~~ natural character within the coastal environment ~~within the coastal environment~~	
Policy CE 3A: Identifying the key constraints to use and development of the coastal marine area	
Policy CE 4A: Protecting and restoring natural coastal margins	
Policy CE 5A: Provide for sustainable use and development of the coastal marine area	
Policy CE 6A: Protecting Indigenous biodiversity	
Specific directive policies for plans and consents	
Policy CE 6B: Providing for the management of mangroves	
Policy CE 7B: Ensuring subdivision use and development is appropriate to the natural character of the coastal environment	
Policy CE 8B: Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of coastal ecosystems	
Policy CE 9B: Managing adverse effects of land-based activities in the coastal environment on marine water quality	
Policy CE 10B: Allocating public space within the coastal marine area	
Policy CE 11B: Avoiding inappropriate hard protection structures in the coastal environment	
Policy CE 12B: Enabling sustainable aquaculture	

Policy CE 10XB: Discouraging hard protection structures	
Policy CE 13B: Providing for Ports	
Matters of National Importance	
Specific directive policies for plans and consents	
Policy MN 1B: Giving priority to matters of national importance	
Policy MN 2B: Giving particular consideration to protecting significant indigenous habitats and ecosystems	
Policy MN 3B: Using criteria to assess values and relationships in regard to section 6 of the Resource Management Act	
Policy MN 4B: Encouraging ecological restoration	
Policy MN 5B: Encouraging public access to and along the coast, lakes and rivers	
Policy MN 6B: Restricting public access to and along the coast, lakes and rivers	
Policy MN 7B: Using criteria to assess appropriateness of development	
Policy MN 8B: Managing effects of subdivision, use and development	
Allocation of responsibilities	
Policy IR 8C: Allocating responsibilities for land-use controls for indigenous biodiversity	
Guiding policies	
Policy IR 9D: Taking an inter-agency approach to protection	
Water Quality and Land Use	
Specific directive policies for plans and consents	
Policy WL 1B: Enabling land use change	
Policy WL 2B: Defining catchments at risk	
Policy WL 3B: Establishing limits for contaminants entering catchments at risk	
Policy WL 4B: Requiring consent for increased discharges in catchments at risk	
Policy WL 5B: Allocating the capacity to assimilate contaminant discharges	
Policy WL 6B: Managing the reduction of nutrient losses	
Policy WL 7B: Minimising the effects of land and soil disturbance	
Policy WL 8B: Providing for regular reviews of regional council consent conditions	

Coastal Environment Policies

Policy CE 1B~~A~~: ~~Implementing management~~Extent ~~of~~ the coastal environment

~~Manage activities in the coastal environment using maps in Appendix I to define the extent of the coastal environment.~~The extent of the coastal environment shall be determined by giving effect to the maps in Appendix I.

Explanation

Policy CE 1~~A~~B refers to the maps of the coastal environment contained in Appendix I based on the direction given in the NZCPS 2010. District and regional plans must manage activities in the coastal environment as delineated in Appendix I. ~~Regional and district plans may define the coastal environment with respect to their purpose but will use the maps in Appendix I as the basis.~~

*Table reference: **Objectives 2** and **4**, Methods 1, 2 and 3*

Policy CE ~~2A~~2B: ~~Avoiding~~ Managing adverse effects on ~~Preserving high~~ natural character within the coastal environment~~within the coastal environment~~

Preserve the ~~high~~ natural character of the coastal environment and protect it from inappropriate subdivision, use and development by including provisions in regional and district plans, and when making decisions on resource consents to:

(a) Avoid~~ing~~ adverse effects of activities on the attributes that comprise natural character ~~of~~ in areas of the coastal environment with outstanding natural character as identified ~~identified~~ in the maps and ~~attributes~~ tables in Appendix I and J ~~as having~~ on areas in the ~~coastal environment with outstanding natural character~~;

(b) Avoid~~ing remedy and mitigate~~significant adverse effects and avoid, remedy or mitigate other adverse effects of activities on the attributes comprising the natural character in all other areas of the coastal environment, recognising that areas identified in maps in Appendix I as having high or very high natural character can be especially sensitive to the adverse effects of inappropriate subdivision, use and development: and

(c) Recognise that open coastal water in the region is of at least high natural character.

Explanation

Policy CE 2B~~A~~ comprises three ~~two~~ parts ~~(a and b).~~ Part (a) requires the complete avoidance of adverse effects of inappropriate activities on the attributes of areas of the coastal environment with "outstanding" natural character. These areas are mapped in Appendix I. ~~The second p~~Part (b) ~~notes that areas of lesser, but still high, natural character should be considered on the basis of their sensitivity to adverse effects.~~ requires avoidance of significant adverse effects on attributes comprising natural character in all other areas and that activities avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the natural character attributes of all areas of the coastal environment. Part (c) clarifies the natural character status of open coastal water.

This policy confirms that the effects of some activities may not be adverse in light of an areas' natural character attributes and a consideration of whether the activity itself is appropriate in this location.

For example, the attributes for Tauranga Harbour include channel markers (scattered throughout the harbour and visible during the night time) and commercial areas. These features diminish natural character but comprise the harbour at the time it was assessed.

Suitable provisions in regional and district plans may include policies, rules and zones to direct inappropriate activities away from areas susceptible to the loss of natural character. Measures should provide for the existing lawfully established activities, subdivisions, designations and zonings and their continuance and development in a way that maintains or enhances the natural character values of the area.

~~Policies CE 2A, CE 7B and Method 6 give effect to Policy 13 of the NZCPS. Method 6 directs the Regional Council to assess the natural charcter of the coastal environment and to map areas of high and outstanding natural charcter. Adverse effects on these areas are to be avoided under Policy CE 2A.~~

~~Areas of the coastal environment with natural character which is not identified as high or outstanding will be protected by Policy CE 2(b) and Policy CE 7B.~~

~~Until such time as the implementation of Method 6 is complete, interim protection will be provided to areas of high and outstanding natural character by using the criteria provided in Appendix F.~~

Table reference: ***Objective 2,*** *18 and 19, Methods 1, 2, 3, ~~6~~, 6A, ~~Xxi,~~ 26, 49, 49A, 53, 53A and ~~59~~61*

Policy CE 3A: Identifying the key constraints to use and development of the coastal marine area

Identify the major constraints to the future use and development of the coastal marine area taking into account:

(a) The scale, location and requirement of existing uses and activities;

(b) The natural physical characteristics and values of the coastal environment;

(c) The particular requirements of identifiable future uses;

(d) The required links to the landward portion of the coastal environment, integral to the operation of uses and activities located in the coastal marine area; and

(e) The role of the coastal environment in accommodating regionally significant infrastructure.

Explanation

There is a range of competing uses of space, both in the coastal marine area, and on the adjacent shore. These activities require pro-active management to avoid conflict between incompatible uses, preferably in advance of them occurring. One method of providing direction on the appropriate location and scale of activities within the coastal marine area is to provide appropriate zones. Constraints mapping as directed by this policy is a necessary precursor to zoning. As a precursor to developing appropriate zones, this policy directs constraints mapping of the coastal marine area (below Mean High Water Springs) and provides for the links on land (above Mean High Water Springs), which are integral in enabling marine-based activities, to occur.

Table reference: ***Objective 2****, 3, 4, 18, 19 and 22, Methods 2 and ~~6~~6A, ~~34~~35, 53A, and ~~XX~~61*

Policy CE 4A: Protecting and restoring natural coastal margins

Protect the natural functioning of coastal margins and identify opportunities to restore and enhance natural functioning to allow for:

(a) The continued natural functioning of physical processes, including changes arising as a result of climate change; and

(b) The capacity of natural features (such as beaches, estuaries, sand dunes, wetlands, coastal vegetation and barrier islands) to provide subdivision, use or development with a protective buffer from natural hazards.

Explanation

Policy CE 4A requires areas of coastal margin to be restored, enhanced and/or protected to be identified throughout the Bay of Plenty region and provisions included to manage activities to ensure the buffering ability of these natural features is not compromised.

The ability of the natural coastal margin to provide a natural defence against coastal hazards and assist in protecting the coastal environment is critical, given the predicted changes to sea level and the potential for increased storm surge and frequency, tidal margins and other coastal hazard drivers arising from climate change.

This policy is aimed at protecting and restoring the natural protective capacities of the coastal margin to provide natural defences against coastal hazards. In some cases where consideration of factors under Policy CE 6A has been undertaken, it may be appropriate to remove vegetation, exotic or indigenous, that has established in the region as the result of poor or inappropriate land use, and/or at a rate that is disproportionate to other natural features.

Table reference: ***Objective 2*** *and 20, Methods 1,2, 3, 36A, 35, 35A, 43, 49, 49A, 26, 53, 54, 52 ~~and~~, 56 and 61*

Policy CE 5A: Provide for sustainable use and development of the

coastal marine area

Provide for activities that have a functional and positional need to locate in the coastal marine area by zoning or other spatial mechanisms to:

(a) Enable efficient use of these areas to meet the social and economic needs of the region;

(b) Prioritise functionally or positionally dependent, activities over other uses which do not have a functional need for a location in the coastal marine area;

(c) Enable the efficient use and development of renewable energy resources within the coastal environment;

(d) Provide for other activities where they are compatible with functionally–dependent activities.

Explanation

Competition for space within the coastal environment has the potential to displace or limit the operation of marine related activities that have a functional need to be located in the coastal marine area and are important to the social and economic wellbeing of the region including regionally significant infrastructure such as ports, maritime passenger and freight transport, aquaculture, renewable marine energy, as well as infrastructure which supports marine related activities such as boat ramps, jetties, moorings and other marine facilities.

Policy CE 5A gives effect to Policies 6(2), 8 and 9 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement by recognising there are activities that have a functional need to be located in the coastal marine area and providing for these activities in appropriate places.

Table reference: ***Objective 4*** *and 3, Methods 2 and 34*

Policy CE 6A: Protecting Indigenous biodiversity

~~Protect indigenous biodiversity of the coastal environment by:~~

~~(a) avoiding adverse effects of activities on areas that meet Criteria 11(a) NZCPS indigenous biodiversity identified in Method 53A; and~~

~~(b) avoiding significant adverse effects and avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects of activities on areas that meet Criteria 11(b) NZCPS indigenous biodiversity identified in Method 53A.~~

Use the criteria in Policy 11 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 to identify and protect areas of indigenous biological diversity in the coastal environment requiring protection under that policy.

Explanation

Policy CE 6A protects indigenous biological diversity of the coastal environment, on land and in the water in acccordance with NZCPS 2010 Policy 11 parts (a) and (b). Policy CE 6A ~~acts as a 'placeholder' for the protection of indigenous biodiversity and~~ links to Method 53A which requires the identification of outlined areas.

~~Until such time as Method 53A is complete, interim protection is provided to areas of idigenous biodiversity by using the criteria provided in Appendix F.~~

Table reference: ***Objective 2,*** *Methods 1, 2, ~~Methods~~ 3 and 53A*

Policy CE 6B: Providing for the management of mangroves

Manage mangroves to avoid the adverse effects of mangrove proliferation while considering the environmental effects of mangrove removal. The following shall be taken into account when considering mangrove management;

(a) Habitat value of the site including whether mangroves are adversely affecting habitat values of other significant native estuarine vegetation communities (e.g. saltmarsh and seagrass habitats) or are providing an ecological corridor between significant habitats;

(b) Whether the mangroves provide a buffer against coastal erosion;

(c) Location of the mangroves relative to historic mangrove distribution in the 1970s;

(d) Whether the spread of mangroves is causing significant restrictions on access to beaches, harbour and recreation areas, or having adverse effects on navigational access and safety;

(e) Whether the mangroves are adversely affecting amenity, cultural, landscape or seascape values;

(f) The ability for, and the effects of, sediment remobilisation at the site following mangrove removal;

(g) The existence and implementation of a catchment management plan for the area; and

(h) The likely effects of the proposed method of mangrove removal.

Removal of mangrove seedlings shall be allowed as a permitted activity to constrain the expansion of mangroves.

Explanation

Mangroves are indigenous plants and can play an important role in some coastal ecosystems by enhancing water quality, protecting coastal margins from erosion, and providing habitat for coastal flora and fauna within the intertidal zone. Rapid expansion of mangrove communities into areas previously free of mangroves has adverse effects on the balance of the ecosystem including sediment dispersal, amenity, recreation, public access and the natural character of the coastal marine area.

A range of drivers have been identified as contributing to the expansion of mangroves seaward of the intertidal zone in Tauranga and Ōhiwa harbours including climate change, accelerated sedimentation and increased nutrient supply. Policy CE 6B provides for decisions regarding mangrove management to be made on a case-by-case basis taking into account both the adverse effects of mangrove expansion and the effects of mangrove removal on the environment.

Research into the distribution of mangroves in Tauranga Harbour demonstrates that extensive increases in the area of mangrove coverage has occurred since the late 1970s. Allowing the removal of mangrove seedlings as a permitted activity will assist in preventing further expansion of mangroves into areas where they would detract from existing values. Removal must avoid unneccessary disturbance of estuarine sediments. For the purposes of this policy, mangrove seedlings are defined as single stemmed mangrove plants less than 60 cm in height.

In areas of significant vegetation protected by the Regional Coastal Environment Plan, Policy CE 6B enables mangrove removal to be considered where it can be established that mangroves are adversely affecting the indigenous vegetation originally intended to be protected by the plan.

Table reference: ***Objective 2*** *and 20, Methods 3, 26 and 35, 35A*

Policy CE 7B: Ensuring subdivision, use and development is appropriate to the natural character of the coastal environment

When assessing the effect of subdivision, use and development on the natural character of the coastal environment, particular regard shall be given to:

(a) ~~Where mapped,~~ The level of natural character as shown in Maps in Appendix I, as described in Appendix J, and the level of protection to be afforded by Policy CE ~~2A~~2B;

(b) The criteria contained in Set 1 of Appendix F ~~in order~~ to ~~ascertain the existence of more~~further refine natural character ~~at an appropriately localised scale~~ for resource consents ~~considerations~~ or site-specific mapping ~~natural character at a district level~~;

(c) Maintaining coastal margins in a natural state and protecting the natural values of beaches and dune systems, including their ability to reduce the impacts of coastal hazards such as tsunami and storm surge;

(d) Avoiding the introduction or accumulation of man-made elements where none are planned (consented, zoned or designated) or were previously present or obvious; and

(e) Subject to Policy CE2B ~~A~~avoiding significant adverse effects and avoiding, remedying or mitigating (including, where appropriate, through provision of buffers) other adverse effects on:

  (i) Visually, ecologically or culturally sensitive landforms, including ridgelines, coastal cliffs, beaches, headlands, and peninsulas and visually prominent public open space;

  (ii) Estuaries, lagoons, wetlands and their margins (saline and freshwater), dune lands, rocky reef systems and areas of eelgrass and salt marsh;

  (iii) Terrestrial and marine ecosystems;

  (iv) Natural patterns of indigenous and exotic vegetation and processes that contribute to the landscape and seascape value of the area; and

  (v) Regionally significant surf breaks and their swell corridors, including those at Matakana Island and the Whakatāne Heads

(f) Encouraging efficient use of occupied space through intensification and clustering of developments, rather than sprawling, sporadic or unplanned patterns of settlement and urban growth;

(g) Setting buildings and structures back from the coastal marine area and other waterbodies

where necessary, practicable and reasonable to protect natural character, open space, public access and amenity values of the coastal environment, while recognising marine structures may have a functional need to be located in the coastal environment, for which a setback would be inappropriate;

Explanation

Policy CE 7B recognises that in some areas natural character has been mapped and directs decision-makers to consider the appropriateness of development having regard to~~f~~ P~~p~~olicy CE ~~2A~~ 2B and local-scale considerations. ~~Previously z~~Zoned ~~or consented subdivision should be considered "appropriate".~~ Part (a) applies only to the mapped areas.

The policy identifies particular elements, features and patterns which, if present, in the coastal environment require a higher level of protection from development in terms of avoidance, remediation or mitigation of adverse effects. This policy will ensure that subdivision, use and development are appropriate for the characteristics of the area and will not result in significant adverse effects on the natural character of the coastal environment.

The extent to which particular activities are appropriate within the coastal environment is a matter for the Regional Coastal Environment Plan to define. That plan will recognise the rights conferred to owners of consents, provided for in existing operative plans or proposed by way of details in Appendices C and D (growth area timing and sequencing and business land provisions) of this RPS. Special "classes" of development, including proposal by Tangata whenua and minor works consistent with Reserve Management Plans will be considered in the Regional Coastal Environment Plan.

Surfing is an economically and socially important activity in parts of the Bay of Plenty. Breaks such as Matakana (i.e. Puni's Farm) have featured in the international media and together with Whakatāne Heads are considered to be of regional significance. It is therefore appropriate that particular regard is had to avoiding, remedying of mitigating potential adverse effects on regionally significant surf breaks and their swell corridors.

*Table reference: **Objective 2**, 18 and 19, Methods 3, 44 and 60*

Policy CE 8B: Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of coastal ecosystems

Safeguard the life-supporting capacity of coastal and marine ecosystems by maintaining or enhancing:

(a) Any area within the inter-tidal or sub-tidal zone that contains unique, rare, distinctive or representative marine and avian species or habitats;

(b) Areas used by marine mammals as breeding, feeding or haul-out sites;

(c) Habitats in the coastal environment that are important during the vulnerable life stages of indigenous species or any life stage of species listed as threatened or at risk by the Department of Conservation;

(d) Any areas that contain indigenous coastal ecosystems and habitats that are particularly vulnerable to modification – such as estuaries, lagoons, coastal wetlands, dunelands, rocky reef systems and salt marshes;

(e) The integrity, functioning and resilience of physical and ecological processes; and

(f) Promoting water quality in the coastal marine area that sustains healthy aquatic ecosystems.

Explanation

Many threats to the life-supporting capacity of coastal ecosystems result from the cumulative impacts of land use activities which cause increased, sedimentation and nutrient loading into receiving coastal water bodies including harbours and estuaries. Adverse effects include degrading water and habitat quality for aquatic life, altering species composition, detrimental effects on the life supporting capacity of marine ecosystems and the ability of the ecosystem to adapt to pressures (including the likely pressures from climate change).

This policy describes habitats that are particularly sensitive to development pressures. Because some of these areas straddle the land and water interface, they will need to be controlled through both regional and district plans.

Monitoring of the harbour provides information on what normal ecosystem processes would look like, thus allowing for action to address any adverse effects.

*Table reference: **Objective 2**, 17, 19 and 20, Methods 3, 35, 36A, 43, 48, 49, 52, 53, 53B, ~~and~~ 56 and XXiii*

Policy CE 9B: Managing adverse effects of land-based activities in the coastal environment on marine water quality

Manage adverse effects, including cumulative effects, from land based activities in the coastal environment on marine water quality by:

(a) Requiring that subdivision, use and development does not result in a significant contribution to sedimentation in the coastal marine area or other water bodies within the coastal environment;

(b) Minimising the creation of impervious surface areas;

(c) Minimising contaminants in stormwater that discharges into water or on to land that may enter water, including discharges to existing and new stormwater infrastructure;

(d) Minimising the risk of releasing contaminants and avoiding releasing discharges from contaminated land;

(e) Adopting water-sensitive design and management principles;

(f) Adopting on-site management techniques that will improve the quality of stormwater and/or wastewater prior to discharge;

(g) Establishing, replacing, retaining and/or enhancing riparian and catchment vegetation for the purpose of promoting setbacks and ecological buffer areas around wetland areas; and

(h) Assessing treatment alternatives for discharges and adopting the best practicable option for treatment.

Explanation

A high standard of water quality is essential to maintain the health of ecosystems in the coastal marine area. This policy means that discharges, after reasonable mixing, cannot cause water quality to be unsuitable for sustaining healthy, functioning ecosystems and relates to point and non-point source discharges originating both within and outside of the coastal environment. Most contaminants and sediments that arrive in the coastal marine area are carried by rivers, streams and stormwater drains.

Contaminants in this policy are substances that are capable of causing ill health, injury or death to any living organism – such as heavy metals, hydrocarbons, pesticides and other chemicals including anti-fouling compounds. Carried in stormwater, contaminants can bind with sediment and accumulate where the sediment settles, on the seabed or the bed of a freshwater body, particularly in low energy aquatic receiving environments.

*Table reference: **Objective 2**, 10, 17, 19 and 31, Methods 3, 35, 35A, 36A, 48, 53B, 54, 59, XXiii*

Policy CE 10B: Allocating public space within the coastal marine area

For allocation of space within the coastal marine area activities shall demonstrate:

(a) A functional or positional need to be located in, or adjacent to, the coastal marine area;

(b) Efficient use of the natural resources within the coastal marine area; and

In addition to policies MN 2B, MN 3B, MN 5B, MN 6B and MN 8B consideration shall also be given to the effect of the activity in relation to:

(c) Whether any benefit to the public of the proposed activity compensates for the loss of public open space; Multiple use of space and/or rationalisation of infrastructure;

(d) Recreational use of the coastal marine area;

(e) Ecological functioning and natural processes of the coastal marine area;

(f) Compatibility with the natural features and landscapes, natural character and amenity values of the coastal environment;

(g) Respect for Māori customary practices; and

(h) Existing uses and constraints in the coastal marine area.

Explanation

The coastal marine area (and large parts of land adjacent to the high tide mark) is recognised as generally being public space managed by the Crown. The interest of the public must be properly considered when any activity located in or adjacent to the coastal marine area is being considered. Policy CE 10B recognises that opportunities for use and development on Crown-managed coastal land and water space are limited and that there is potential for conflict between different activities in and adjacent to the coastal marine area. Coastal space needs to be managed so that conflicts are avoided, amenity values are maintained and enhanced, and safety and navigation requirements are met. Policy CE 10B sets a basis for the equitable allocation and efficient use of coastal marine space.

This policy also addresses efficient use of the coastal marine area by discouraging unnecessary occupation and encouraging multiple use and rationalisation of space, to minimise the total amount of public space occupied in the coastal marine area.

Full consideration of the public interest when allocating space within the coastal marine area would include setting charges for the use of public space as the absence of a fair market rental provides incentive to locate built development in the coastal marine area and on reclamations of public foreshore and seabed.

*Table reference: **Objective 3**, 2, 4, 10 and 22, Methods 3 ~~and~~, 60 and 61*

Policy CE 10XB: Discouraging hard protection structures

In areas potentially affected by coastal hazards over at least the next 100 years, give priority to solutions other than hard protection structures to mitigate coastal hazard risk.

Explanation

Climate change and sea level rise is likely to reduce the effectiveness of man-made coastal defences. Increased exposure to larger waves and increased frequency of overtopping structures will increase the risk of structural damage, undermining and failure.

People and communities will at times propose solutions to coastal hazards. Policy CE 10XB recognises that while it may be necessary in some circumstances to undertake engineering solutions to hazard mitigation works, preference should be given to non-structural solutions such as protection, restoration and enhancement of natural defences, designing for relocatability and relocating existing structures, rather than using structural methods such as seawalls. Comprehensive investigation of non-structural solutions should be exhausted before structural solutions are considered. Hard protection structures are as defined in the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010.

*Table reference: **Objective 2** and 23, Method 3*

Policy CE 11B: Avoiding inappropriate hard protection structures in the coastal environment

For hard protection structures in the coastal environment, particular regard shall be given to:

(a) The need for hard protection structures;

(b) Whether non-structural or soft engineering methods are a more appropriate option;

(c) Whether hard protection structures are the best practicable option to protect existing development from intolerable risk~~.~~;

(d) The cumulative effects of isolated hard protection structures;

(e) Analysis of the environmental and social costs and benefits of a range of coastal hazard risk reduction options over a 100 year time frame. This analysis shall include an assessment of residual risk remaining after mitigation structures are in place to ensure the do not inadvertently increase the risk of natural hazards;

(f) Whether the hard protection structures would adversely affect public access to and along the coastal marine area; and

(g) Avoiding hard protection structures on public land where they are intended to protect private assets, unless there are significant public or environmental benefits.

Explanation

For parts of the region's developed coastlines, there may be public demand for coastal protection measures to 'hold the line' and protect private property, infrastructure or utilities. Hard protection measures are rarely the most effective or sustainable option in the long term and can lead to a false sense of future security and encourage further development behind the structures.

Policy CE 11B recognises that it may be necessary in some circumstances to undertake structural hazard mitigation works, however hard protection structures have the potential to exacerbate the natural hazard risk and can have adverse effects on natural character, amenity and public access to and along the coastal marine area. The policy establishes criteria to ensure that adverse effects on these values as well as long-term costs and benefits are taken into account in decision making.

*Table reference: **Objective 2,** Method 3*

Policy CE 12B: Enabling sustainable aquaculture

Enable aquaculture activities in appropriate locations in the coastal environment taking into account:

(a) Existing uses and values within the coastal marine area;

(b) Compatibility with zones identified within the relevant regional plan;

(c) Potential for significant social, cultural and/or economic benefits to communities within the region;

(d) Land based facilities and infrastructure associated with the aquaculture activity; and

(e) Adverse effects on marine mammals and areas of significant landscape, heritage, cultural or ecological value identified within any relevant regional or district plan.

(f) The quality of water required for the aquaculture activity and the effect of the activity on water quality.

Aquaculture will not be encouraged within the region's harbours and estuaries.

Explanation

Policy CE 12B recognises the potential of the aquaculture industry to contribute to the regional economy, while also limiting the potential for conflicting uses of space and adverse effects on the values of the coastal environment.

Policy CE 12B identifies the region's harbours and estuaries as being generally inappropriate for commercial aquaculture. It is recognised that oyster farming has historically been located within Ōhiwa

Harbour and this small scale activity holds resource consents to operate.

Table reference: ***Objective 2*** *and 23, Method 3*

Policy CE 13B: Providing for ports

Recognise the national and regional significance of the Port of Tauranga and the need for it to be located within the coastal environment by:~~and provide for the functional need of ports to locate and develop in the coastal environment so as to provide for;~~

(a) Safeguarding the capacity and efficiency of:

i. ~~e~~Current ~~and future~~ port operations; ~~and~~

ii. ~~a~~Activities that have a functional need to be located in and around the port; ~~and~~

iii. ~~t~~The strategic road, rail and sea routes to the port; and

(b) Providing, as appropriate, in the regional coastal plan, for future port operations and capacity; and

(c) Having regard to potential adverse effects on the environment, providing for the need to maintain shipping channels and to renew/replace structures as part of ongoing maintenance; and

(d) Avoiding activities in areas that may compromise port operations.

~~(a) Their efficient and safe operation;~~

~~(b) The servicing of national and international shipping; and~~

~~(c) Efficient connections with other transport modes.~~

Explanation

The region's ports, in particular the Port of Tauranga, are an existing and essential component of the region's transportation network. Policy CE 13B gives effect to Policy 9 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010.

Table reference: ***Objective 4****, Method 3*

Policy CE 13XB: Recognising secondary ports

Recognise the local and regional significance of ports at Whakatāne and Ōpōtiki and take into account their social and economic benefits, including the need to maintain navigation channels.

Explanation

The region's secondary ports contribute to the wellbeing of their communities. Policy CE 13XB requires recognition of their existing and potential benefits in decision-making.

Ōpōtiki and Whakatāne Ports are located in river estuaries and require ongoing dredging in order to maintain safe vessel access.

*Table reference: **Objective 4**, Method 3*

Matters of National Importance Policies

Policy MN 4B: Encouraging ecological restoration

Encourage ecological restoration and rehabilitation through:

(a) Retention or establishment of vegetation corridors linking otherwise isolated habitats and greater use of buffer zones;

(b) A co-ordinated and co-operative approach;

(c) The protection of remaining habitats from further fragmentation, degradation and invasion by pests;

(d) Non-regulatory initiatives for the restoration or rehabilitation of degraded habitats; and

(e) The protection of ecosystems and habitats identified by the National Priorities for Biodiversity Protection on Private Land (Ministry for the Environment 2006).

Explanation

A range of complementary tools is needed to ensure that the intrinsic values and processes of ecosystems are safeguarded and might include education, provisions within regional and district plans, the purchase of land for reserves, buffers to adjacent land use, and the acquisition of land through reserves contributions. In addition, the use of heritage protection orders and water conservation orders, covenants and other voluntary agreements are also valid tools. Rates relief, resource consents conditions, and operational works such as fencing could also be used.

There are a number of agencies with various responsibilities for ecosystems management and greater interaction and greater integration of their work would avoid duplication of effort and maximise efficiency.

*Table reference: **Objective 20**, 2 and 27 Methods 3, 26, 43, 49A, 53, 53A, 54 and 55*

Policy MN 6B: Restricting public access to and along the coast, lakes and rivers

Restrict public access to and along the coast, lakes and rivers only ~~where public access will~~ where necessary to ~~compromise~~:

(a) ~~Public~~ Protect public health or safety, including a consideration of ~~avoiding or reducing~~ existing or reasonably forseeable conflict between ~~public uses of the coastal marine areas and its margins~~ uses~~rs~~; or

(b) ~~The p~~Protect~~ion of~~ dunes, estuaries, areas of ~~significant~~ sensitive indigenous vegetation and/or ~~significant~~ habitats of indigenous fauna; or

(c) ~~The p~~Protect~~ion of~~ threatened indigenous species in the coastal environment; or

(d) ~~The p~~Protect~~ion of~~ historic heritage and Māori cultural values and activities; or

(e) Provide for ~~T~~temporary activities, activities for defence purposes or special events within the coastal environment; or

(f) ~~To ensure a~~Provide a level of security consistent with the purpose of a resource consent; ~~and~~or

(g) Achieve ~~O~~one or more of the objectives of this Policy Statement; or~~.~~

(h) Recognise other exceptional circumstances that are sufficient to justify a ~~the~~ restriction.

Before imposing a restriction on public access consider and, where practicable, provide ~~any practicable~~ alternative access that is available to the public free of charge at all times ~~should be considered as mitigation~~.

Explanation

In limited situations there are sensitive areas of the coast which would be compromised by unrestricted public access. These need to be recognised and provided for, as do other areas where public access is inappropriate for safety or security reasons. A requirement for an esplanade reserve or strip that would provide public access to or along these areas shall not be waived unless there are exceptional circumstances that mean provision of an esplanade reserve or strip would not be in the public interest. It is recognised that in some parts of the region access to the coast, lakes and rivers requires passage over land that is in private ownership. Public access over such land requires the permission of the landowner.

*Table reference: **Objective 22**, Methods 3, 9, 55, 56*

~~and~~ ,57 and 61

Policy MN 7B: Using criteria to assess appropriateness of development

Assess, whether subdivision, use and development is inappropriate using criteria consistent with those in Appendix G, for areas considered to warrant protection under section 6 of the Act due to:

(a) Natural character;

(b) Outstanding natural features and landscapes;

(c) Significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna;

(d) Public access;

(e) Māori culture and traditions; and

(f) Historic heritage.

Explanation

If a value of place warrants protection under section 6 of the Act, it is a matter of national importance to recognise and provide for such. The criteria in Appendix G assist in assessing whether a subdivision, use or development proposal is inappropriate.

Table reference: ***Objective 2, 18, 19, 21, 22*** *and 24, Methods 3 and 9*

Policy MN 8B: Managing effects of subdivision, use and development

Avoid and, where avoidance is not practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects of subdivision, use and development on matters of national importance assessed in accordance with Policy MN 1B as warranting protection under section 6 of the Act.

Explanation

Values and places assessed as warranting recognition and provision for as matters of national importance, apart from natural character which is addressed in Policy CE 2B, using criteria consistent with those in the Appendix F shall be prioritised. If avoidance of potential adverse effects isn't achievable as the highest priority than effects should be remedied or mitigated. Nevertheless, any adverse effect of an activity on such values and places needs to be addressed. Schedule 4 to the Act requires an applicant for resource consent to include with their application an assessment of environmental effects that the activity may have. The criteria in Appendix F assist in identifying elements of the environment that may be so affected. An assessment is to be in such detail as corresponds with the scale and significance of the effects. Not all activities will affect matters of national importance, and applicants and decision makers will accordingly have to exercise judgement about what is necessary to include in the assessment of environmental effects.

Table reference: ***Objective 2, 18, 19, 21, 22*** *and 24, Methods 3 and 9*

Water Quality Policies

Policy WL 2B: Defining catchments at risk

Control contaminant discharges in the following catchments at risk:

(a) The catchments of Lakes Rotoiti, Rotorua, Rotoehu, Ōkaro, Ōkāreka, Rotomā, Ōkataina, Tarawera, Tikitapu, Rotokākahi, Rerewhakaaitu and Rotomāhana; and

(b) The catchments of other water bodies when they are defined and included in the Regional Water and Land Plan or Regional Coastal Environment Plan. Consideration of whether a catchment is at risk will have regard to whether it has significant values (e.g. cultural, ecological, economic, recreational) that may be adversely affected by land use or land use change or have limited capacity to assimilate discharges of contaminants without affecting those values.

Explanation

Monitoring has shown that at-risk catchments are trending away from achieving or bettering established water quality targets. The Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes comprise the at-risk catchments defined in this policy. The policy allows for other qualifying catchments to be defined in the Regional Water and Land Plan. These catchments are to be identified through the formal plan change process, including notification and public submissions. Method 22 requires the water quality of surface water bodies to be regularly monitored to determine whether they require identification as a catchment at risk. In addition, Method 53B requires the identification of coastal waters that are having a significant adverse effect on ecosystems, natural habitats or water based recreational activities or are restricting uses such as aquaculture, shellfish gathering and cultural activities. The catchments of waterbodies identified by this method will be incorporated into the Regional Water and Land Plan or Regional Coastal Environment Plan.

Catchments at risk are the subject of several subsequent policies directing regional plan provisions to require:

- The establishment of contaminant discharge limits;
- That resource consent be obtained where land use change increases contaminant discharges;
- Allocation of allowable nutrient discharges among land use activities; and
- Managed reduction of contaminants in excess of any limits.

*Table reference: **Objective 28**, Methods 2 and 22*

3.2 Methods to implement policies

This section contains the methods for implementing the policies set out in section 3.1. It is divided into two main groups of methods: directive methods and guiding methods to implement the policies.

The methods are divided into five types:

- Directive
- Information and/or guidance
- Promoting coordination
- Identification and investigation
- Providing support

Under each method the key organisations who will implement the methods are identified. An asterisk * indicates the lead authority responsible for implementation, if this is designated. The delivery and timing of methods is subject to long-term council community planning and annual plan schedules.

Within section 3.2 the methods are presented in numeric order, although in the summary table below, methods are listed under key topics.

3.2.1 Directive methods

Method 1: District plan implementation

District plans shall give effect to policy ~~CE1A~~CE1B, CE 2B~~A~~, CE 4A and CE 6A.

If a district plan does not currently give effect to these policies, then the district council shall notify a variation or change as soon as reasonably practicable, but within two years from the date on which the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement is made operative, to give effect to them as required by the Resource Management Act 1991.

Implementation responsibility: City and district councils.

Method 2: Regional plan implementation

Regional plans shall give effect to policies ~~CE1A~~CE1B, CE 2B~~A~~, CE 3A, CE 4A, ~~and~~ CE 5A and CE 6A.

If a regional plan does not currently give effect to these policies, then Bay of Plenty Regional Council shall notify a variation or change as soon as reasonably practicable, but within two years from the date on which the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement is made operative, to give effect to them as required by the Resource Management Act 1991.

Implementation responsibility: Regional council.

Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans

CE 1B, CE 2B~~A~~, CE 4A, CE 6B, CE 7B, CE 8B, CE 9B, CE 10B, CE 11B, CE 12B and CE 13B shall be given effect to when preparing, changing, varying or reviewing a regional plan or a district plan, and had regard to when considering a resource consent or notice of requirement.

Implementation responsibility: Regional council, city and district councils.

~~**Method 6: Identify areas of high and outstanding natural character in the coastal environment**~~

~~Assess the natural character of the coastal environment of the region and identify (by mapping) areas of high and outstanding natural character.~~

~~*Implementation responsibility: Regional council.*~~

Method 6A: Identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Māori

In consultation with tangata whenua, identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Maori

Implementation responsibility: Regional council and city and district councils.

3.2.2 Guiding methods

~~**Method 23A:Identify the coastal environment**~~

~~Spatially identify the landward extent of the coastal environment at a regional scale recognising that the coastal environment includes;~~

~~(a) The coastal marine area and all offshore islands within the Bay of Plenty coastal marine area;~~

~~(b) Areas or landforms dominated by coastal vegetation or providing habitat to indigenous coastal species including migratory birds;~~

~~(c) Areas significantly affected by active coastal processes, influences or qualities or at risk from coastal hazards;~~

~~(d) Landscapes or features, including coastal escarpments, that contribute to the natural character, landscape, visual quality or amenity value of the coast;~~

~~(e) Items, sites, structures, places or areas of historic or cultural heritage value adjacent to, or connected with, the coastal marine area, which~~

~~derives its heritage values from a coastal location; and~~

~~(f) Physical resources and built facilities, including infrastructure, that have modified the coastal environment including areas utilised and identified for urban development.~~

~~*Implementation responsibility: Regional council.*~~

Method 26: Facilitate and support community based ecological restoration programmes

Promote active community participation by providing practical support for community restoration initiatives focused on the protection, restoration or rehabilitation of natural features and ecosystems.

Method 35: Take a whole of catchment approach to the management of natural and physical resources

Adopt a holistic catchment-based approach that recognises the inter-relationships among all elements of the environment and activities, works, operations and services that occur higher in the catchment and the downstream effects that these activities generate lower in the catchment and ultimately in the coastal environment.

Implementation: Regional council and city and district councils.*

Method 35A: Integrated Catchment Management Plans

Prepare and implement integrated non-statutory management plans for catchments discharging into harbours at risk including Tauranga and Ōhiwa Harbours.

Implementation responsibility: Regional council

Method 36: Provide protocols for managing land and soil disturbance

Prepare protocols to guide changes to district and regional plans to avoid gaps and unnecessary overlaps in regulation of land and soil disturbance activities~~,~~.

Implementation responsibility: Regional council and city and district councils.

Method 36A: Investigate the use of large scale wetlands

Investigate the establishment of large scale wetlands/settling ponds in the downstream areas of the contributory streams feeding into the regions harbours.

Implementation responsibility: Regional council, city and district councils.

Method 48: Research and monitor the effects of discharges

Monitor the effects of discharges on people's health and/or air, land and water quality, and where necessary undertake research.

Implementation responsibility: Regional council.

Method 49: Identify and advocate for ecological corridors and buffer zones

Identify, in consultation with other agencies, landowners and communities, areas where the establishment or retention of corridors and buffer zones is needed, and advocate and promote their establishment or retention with appropriate methods, including plan provisions.

Implementation responsibility: Regional council, city and district councils.

Method 49A: Identify areas for restoration or rehabilitation of natural character

Identify areas of the coastal environment where restoration or rehabilitation of natural character should be undertaken as a priority. Identification of restoration or rehabilitation areas should ~~acknowledge the current contribution of man-made habitats, such as wetlands, that would not otherwise naturally exist in an area and~~consider whether restoration or rehabilitation of the natural character is practicable and can be sustained given lawfully established use, permitted (including existing, consented and designated infrastructure) ~~and~~ activities of the area, relevant planning considerations and, where land is in private ownership, concerns of and impacts on landowners.

Priority restoration or rehabilitation areas include:

(a) where natural character has been compromised; or

(b) where the natural character of the area has been identified as important in iwi or hapu management plans; or

(c) where the restoration of an area has been planned for enhancement through biodiversity strategies; or,

(d) where the restoration of natural character is integral to the restoration of the entire area; or

(e) where restoration or rehabilitation is likely to proceed with the agreement of landowners, unless the restoration or rehabilitation is the requirement of a resource consent.

Implementation responsibility: Regional council.

Method 53: Enhance the natural character of the coastal environment, where compromised

In consultation with affected landowners~~,~~ ~~C~~consider opportunities (including conditions on resource consents or designations) to restore or enhance the natural character of the coastal environment where it has been compromised, and is practicable when taking into account ~~the~~ existing or proposed (consented, designated, zoned or included in an operative reserve management plan) lawful uses and activities occurring in the area or where it is identified for restoration through Method 49A, including:

(a) Removing derelict or ~~unnecessary disused~~ functionally redundant structures;

(b) Restoring or enhancing natural elements including dunes, saline wetlands, intertidal saltmarsh, riparian margins and other natural coastal features or processes;

(c) Restoring indigenous habitats and ecosystems, using local genetic stock where practicable, including kaimoana areas identified in collaboration with tangata whenua;

(d) Encouraging natural regeneration of indigenous species, recognising the need for effective weed and animal pest management;

(e) Creating or enhancing habitat for indigenous species;

(f) Enhancing water quality; ~~and~~

(g) Remediation of contaminated sites;

(h) Retrofitting existing built development to be less intrusive and to minimise adverse effects on ecosystem processes;

(i) De-reclamation of ~~redundant~~ previously reclaimed ~~but now disused~~ and functionally redundant land where it ~~is practicable and~~ will restore the natural character and resources of the coastal marine area and/or provide more public open space or public access;

(j) Managing the effects of appropriate subdivision, use, development and reclamation by taking into account the potential benefits of on and offsite-mitigation proposed to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects.

Implementation responsibility: Regional council, and city and district councils.*

Method 53A: Assess and classify areas of indigenous biodiversity

Undertake an assessment of the indigenous biodiversity of the region and classify areas of the coastal environment into those that meet the criteria given in Policy 11(a) of the NZCPS 2010 and those that meet the criteria given in Policy 11(b) of the NZCPS 2010 and ensure subsequent consultation with affected parties.

Implementation responsibility: Regional council.

Method 53B: Identify coastal waters having an adverse effect

Identify areas of coastal water that have deteriorated to a degree that they are having a significant adverse effect on ecosystems, natural habitats or water based recreational activities, or are restricting uses such as aquaculture, shellfish gathering and cultural activities.

Implementation responsibility: Regional council.

Method 59: Investigate mechanisms to reduce litter in and adjacent to the coastal marine area

Investigate the use of regulatory and non-regulatory mechanisms to reduce litter in and adjacent to the coastal marine area.

Implementation responsibility: Regional council, city and district councils.

Method 60: Mitigate environmental impacts from the use of public space within the coastal marine area

Investigate imposing economic instruments to mitigate unavoidable adverse effects generated by the use of public space in the coastal marine area. Matters to be investigated shall include (but not be limited to):

(a) Analysis of appropriate levels of mitigation;

(b) The circumstances in which off-site mitigation shall be considered appropriate and the purposes for which it shall be used; and

(c) A regime for coastal occupation charges to be imposed to compensate for the use of public space within the coastal marine area.

Implementation responsibility: Regional council.

Method XXiii: Support industry-led environmental accords, guidelines and codes of practice

Support industry-led environmental accords, guidelines and codes of practice where such codes represent industry best practice and would lead to the achievement of objectives in the Regional Policy Statement.

Implementation responsibility: Regional council.

Method 61: Identify vehicle access locations and situations

Identify areas in collaboration with road controlling authorities where vehicle access is permitted consistent with NZCPS Policy 20 and where territorial authorities are to restrict access~~, and include in district plans. Identify appropriate vehicle access locations and situations in collaboration with the regional council~~.

Note: Managing access through bylaws, control of reserve access points or user-agreements shall be considered appropriate access control methods.

Implementation responsibility: City and district councils.

Part four

Monitoring the Regional Policy Statement and the anticipated environmental results

This part sets out the procedures to be used to monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of the policies and methods in the Statement. It then lists the anticipated environmental results of implementing the Statement and monitoring indicators which in combination will be used to measure the extent to which the policies and methods are achieving the objectives.

Objectives	Anticipated environmental results (AER)	Monitoring indicators
Coastal environment		
Objective 2 Preservation, restoration and, where appropriate, enhancement of the natural character and ecological functioning ~~in identified areas~~ of the coastal environment	Areas of outstanding, very high and high natural character in the coastal environment are identified and enhanced and/or preserved.	Surveys comparing identified areas of outstanding and high natural character against baseline assessment show positive trend in extent and quality of areas of high natural character. Regional and district council consent database shows no further consents issued for inappropriate subdivision, use and development within areas of outstanding natural character that would cause adverse effects ~~or~~ or very high or high natural character that would cause significant adverse effects.
	Water quality in harbours and estuaries is maintained or enhanced and sedimentation of the harbour is reduced.	NERM water quality monitoring shows improved water quality in harbours and estuaries. Monitoring shows decreased rate of sedimentation in harbours and estuaries.
	Decisions are made to enable the removal of mangroves from areas where they have spread since the 1970s.	Comparison of regional surveys of mangrove distribution using Regional Digital Aerial Mosaic (RDAM) shows a decrease in total regional coverage.
	Restoration of natural character and ecological functioning of the coastal environment is undertaken.	Comparison of identified areas of high natural character and areas of ecological and landscape significance shows positive trend against baseline assessments.
Objective 3 Equitable and sustainable allocation of public space within the coastal marine area	Decisions are made to allocate space in the coastal marine area take into account existing constraints.	All coastal permit decisions show that consideration has been given to constraint mapping. No coastal permits are granted for activities without a functional need for a coastal location.
Objective 4 Enable subdivision, use and development of the coastal environment in appropriate locations	Use and development of the coastal environment is located in appropriate places.	Appropriate areas for use and development are identified and all coastal permits issued are located within the identified appropriate areas. No coastal permits are issued within areas identified as inappropriate for development within the Coastal Marine Area.

Appendix A – Definitions

Coastal Environment: Includes all of the coastal marine area, land inland to the point defined in Maps 17-35 in Appendix I, the natural and physical resources within it, and the atmosphere above it.

Dune: A mound or ridge of windblown sand.

Iwi: Tribe or grouping of people.

Marina: An area of protected water and may be located either on or above seabed or, alternatively, on or above or within existing land which is to be excavated and incorporated into tidal water. Marina may include the following: Berthing private and commercial boats, launching and retrieval facilities for such boats, locker and storage facilities for such boats, vehicle, trailer and boat parking, caretaker residential accommodation, clubrooms and includes ancillary commercial retail (shop and convenience) and ancillary industrial land-use activities.

Mauri: The essential life force, energy or principle that tangata whenua believe exists in all things in the natural world, including people. Tangata whenua believe it is the vital essence or life force by which all things cohere in nature. When Mauri is absent there is no life. When Mauri is degraded, or absent, tangata whenua believe this can mean that they have been remiss in their kaitiakitanga responsibilities and this affects their relationship with the atua (Māori gods). Mauri can also be imbued within manmade or physical objects.

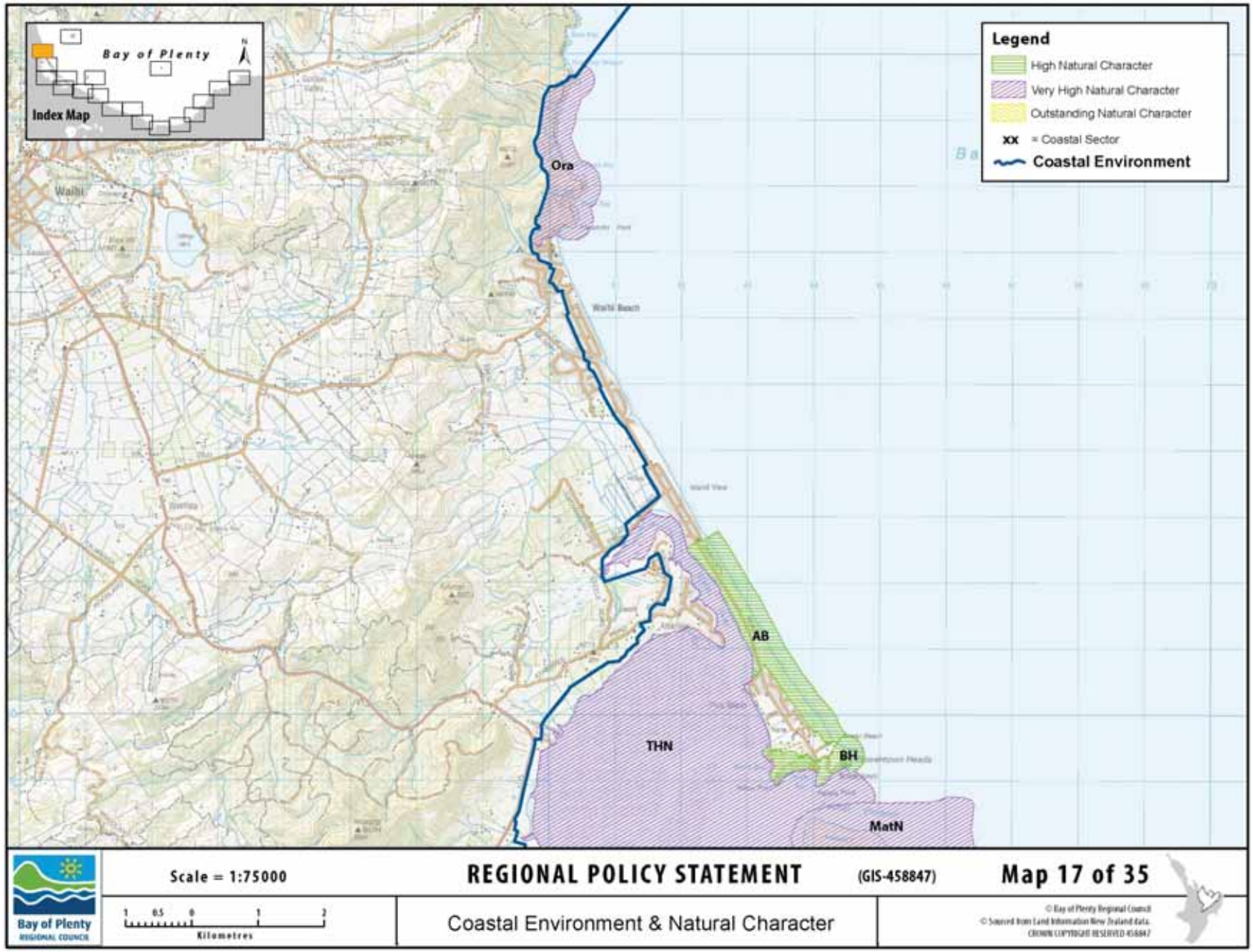
Natural character: The qualities of the environment that give New Zealand recognisable character. These qualities may be ecological, physical, spiritual, cultural or aesthetic in nature. They include modified and managed environs. Natural character exists on a spectrum of values from low to outstanding with areas of high, very high and outstanding natural character being mapped and shown in Appendix I.

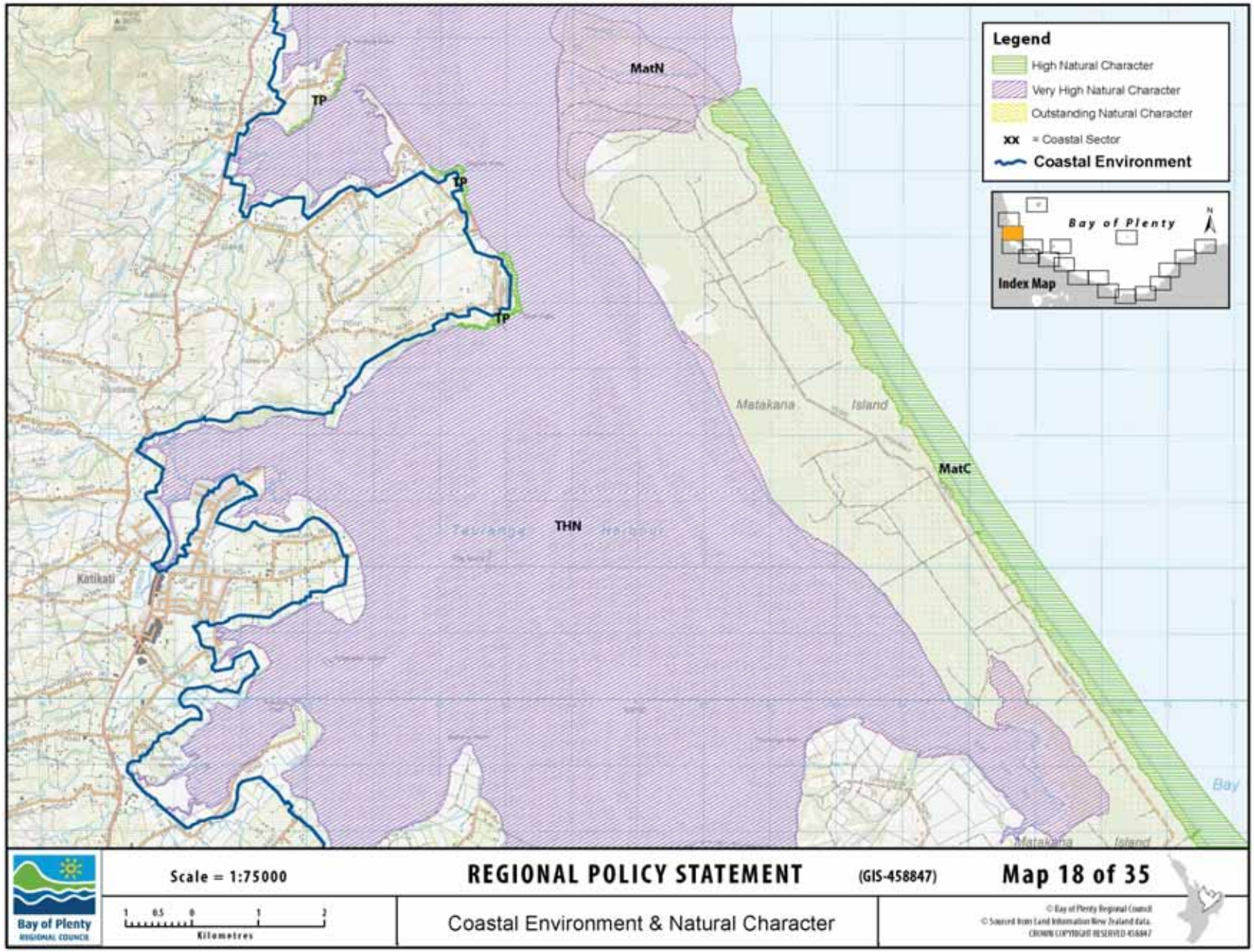
Moana: Sea, body of water.

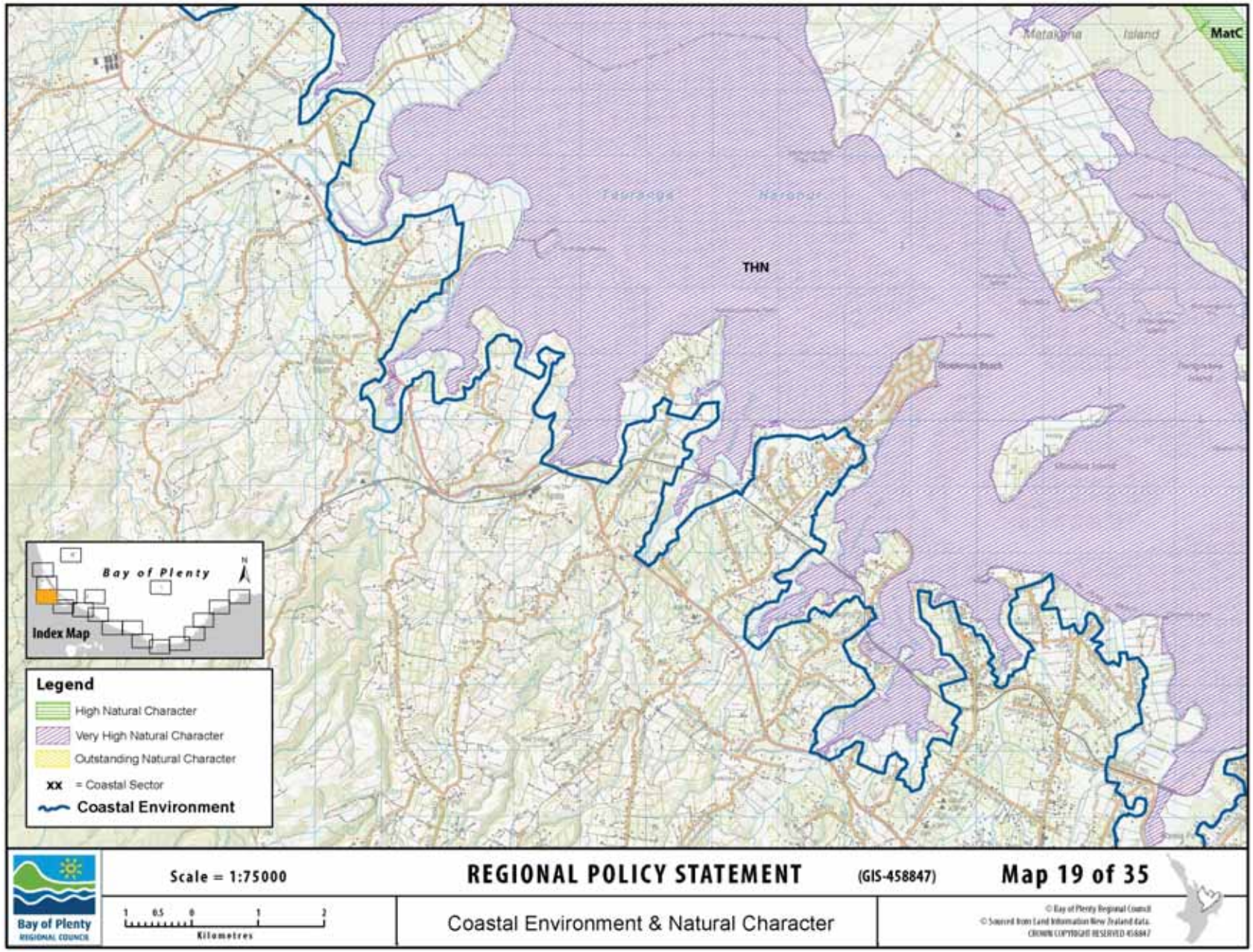
Non-structural: Comprising predominantly of natural processes, non-built solutions or temporary built elements. Excludes concrete, rock or steel structures. Includes sandbags, avoidance, replenishment, sand fences and planting.

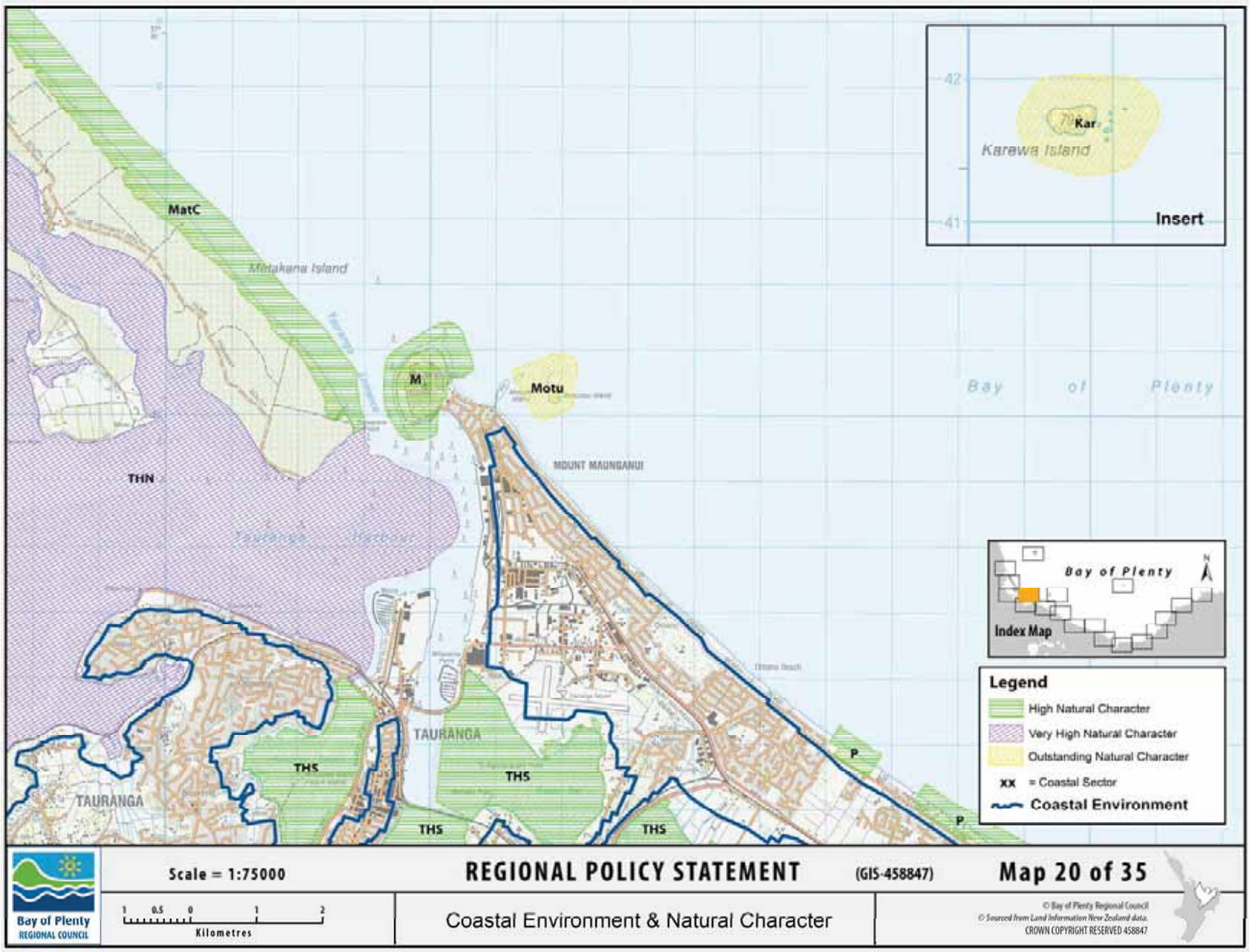
Appendix I – Coastal Environment and Natural Character Maps

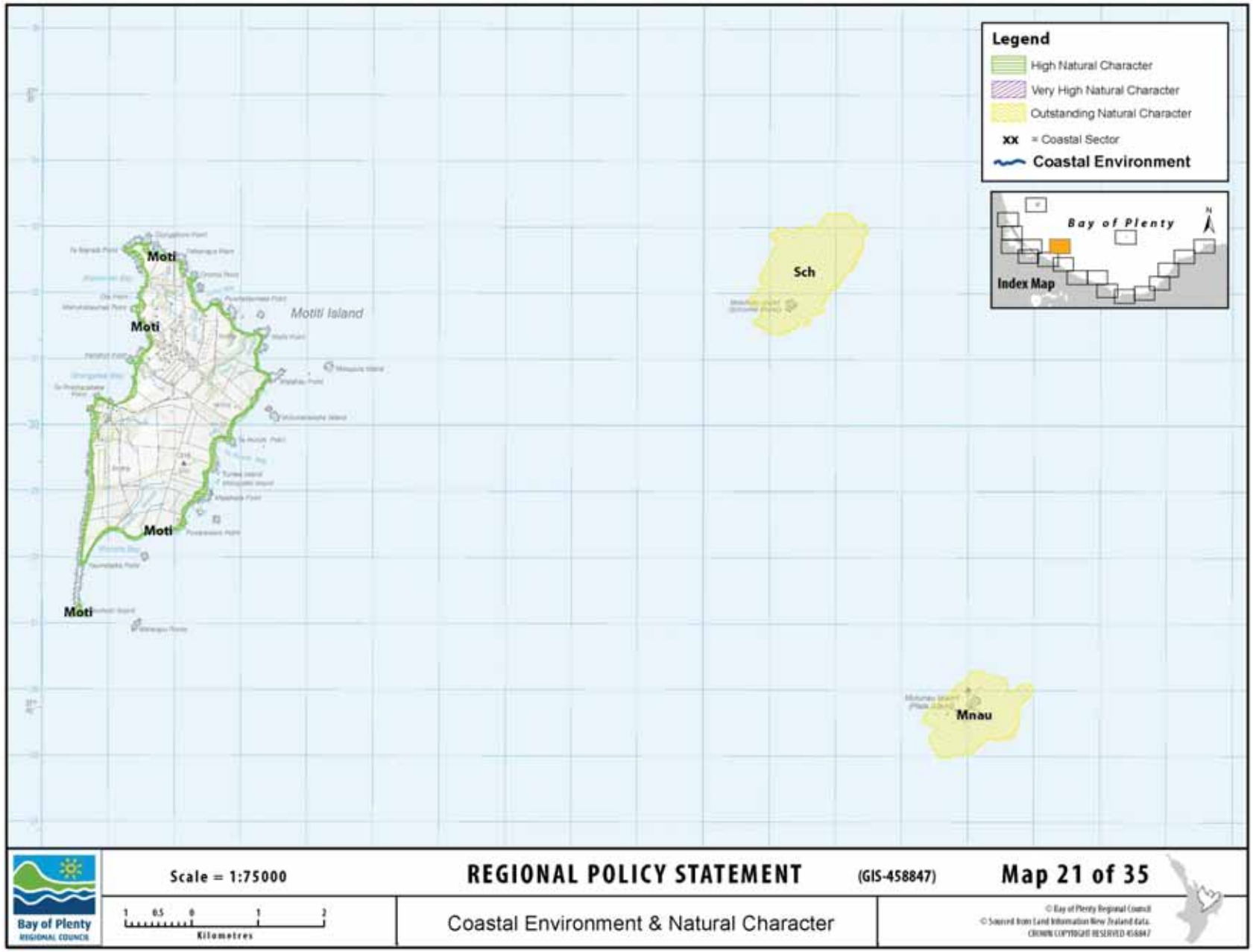
Note: The assessment of Natural Character for Astrolabe reef has been deferred pending restoration of the area as part of the Rena shipwreck remediation program. This area has a default natural character value of “High”.

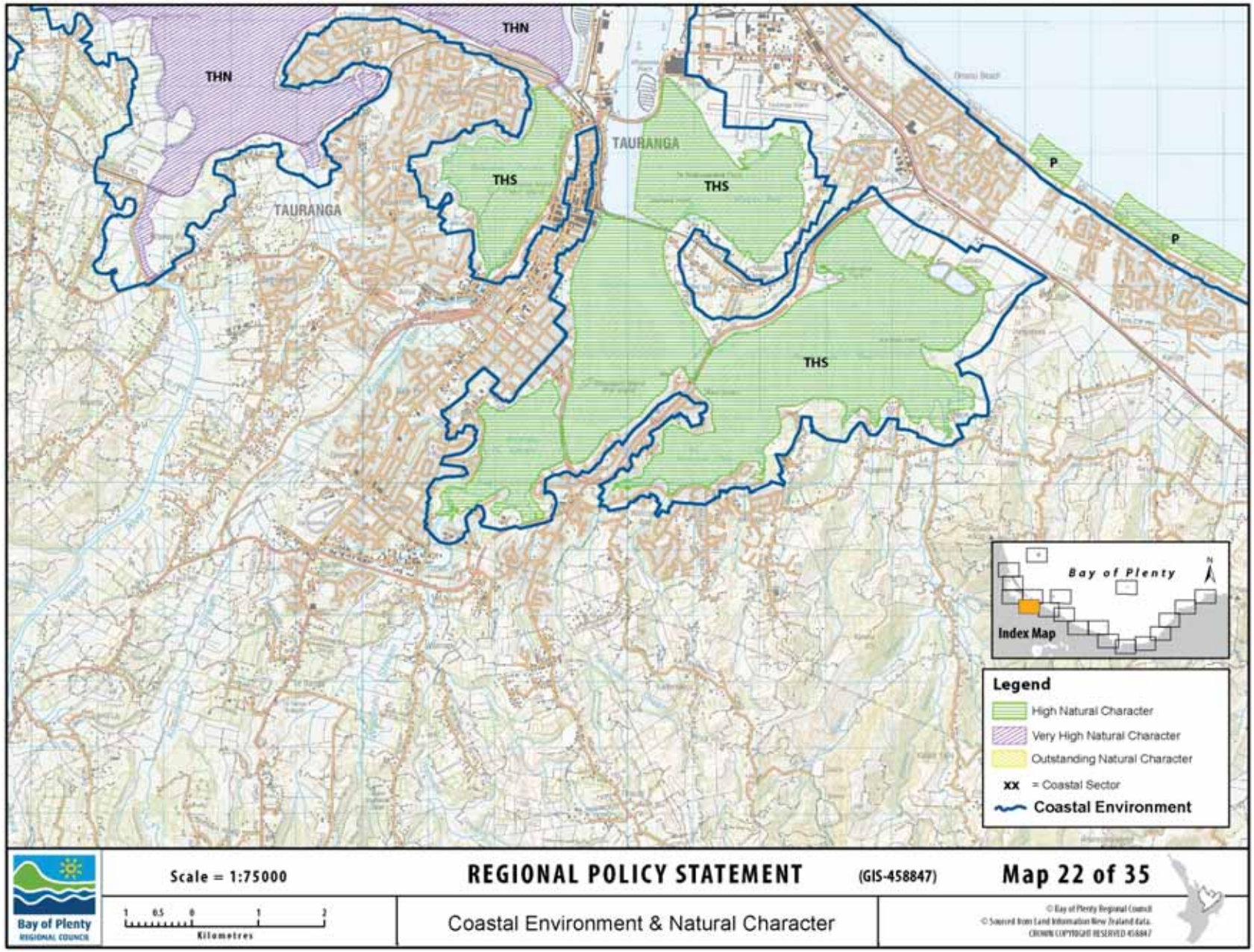

Bay of Plenty
Index Map
Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
XX = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Ora
AB
THN
BH
MatN
Waihi
Waihi Beach
Scale = 1:75000
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 17 of 35
Bay of Plenty
REGIONAL COUNCIL
1 0.5 0 1 2
Kilometres
Coastal Environment & Natural Character

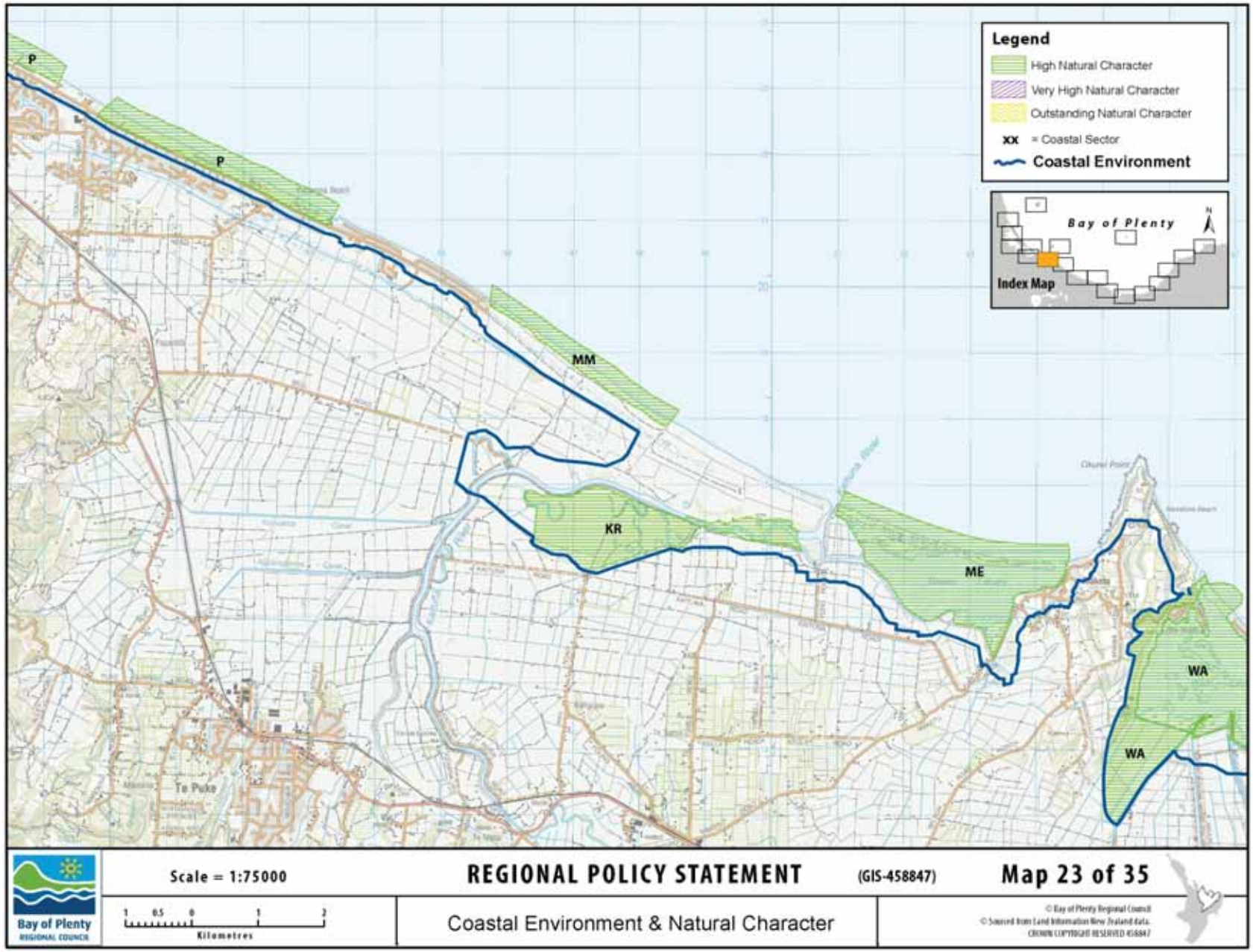

Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
XX = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Bay of Plenty
Index Map
MatN
TP
TP
TP
THN
MatC
Matakana Island
Katikati
Bay
Scale = 1:75000
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 18 of 35
Bay of Plenty
REGIONAL COUNCIL
1 0.5 0 1 2
Kilometres
Coastal Environment & Natural Character

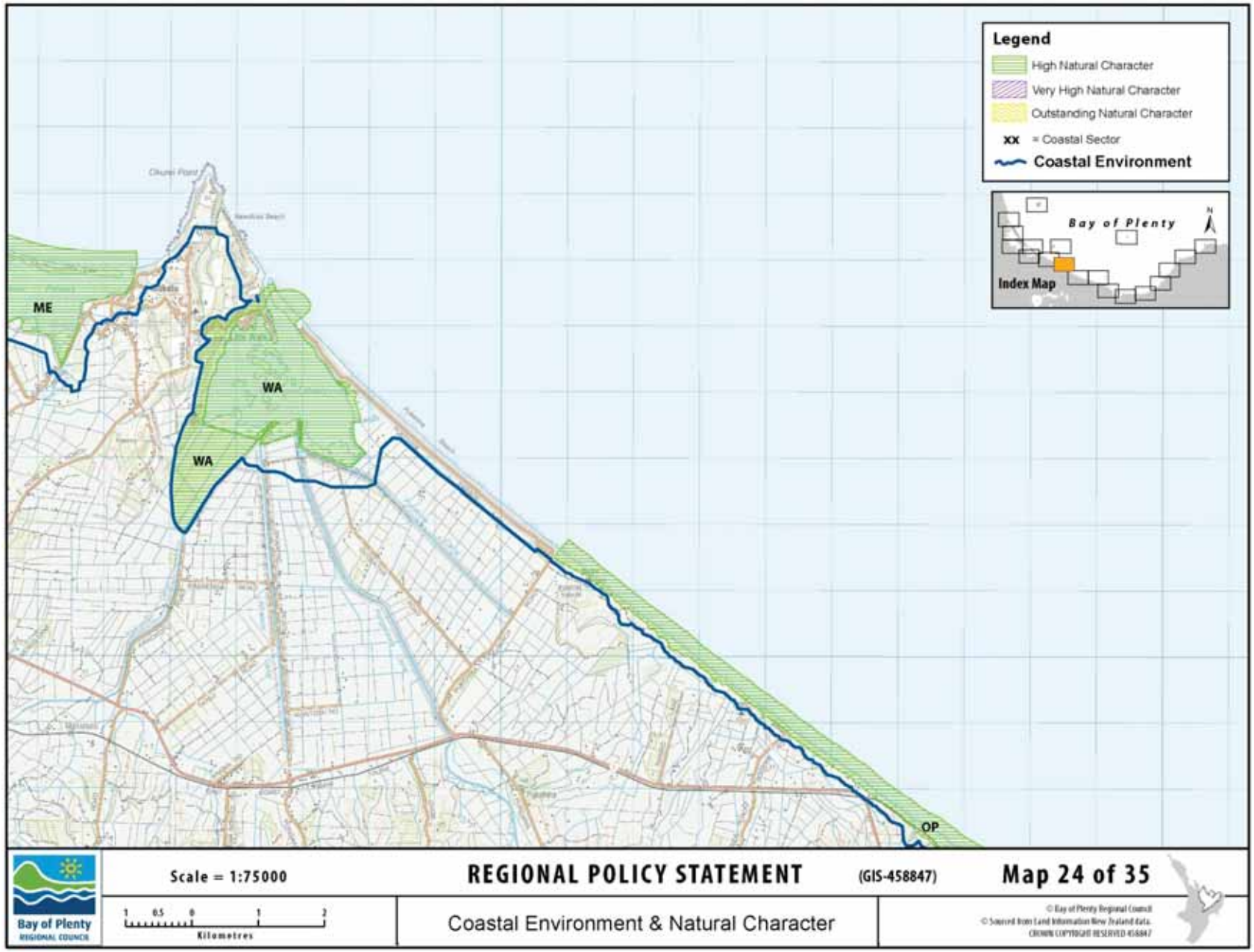

Mataiona Island
MatC
THN
Bay of Plenty
Index Map
Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
XX = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Scale = 1:75000
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 19 of 35
Bay of Plenty
REGIONAL COUNCIL
1 0.5 0 1 2
Kilometres
Coastal Environment & Natural Character
© Bay of Plenty Regional Council
© Sourced from Land Information New Zealand data.
CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED 458847

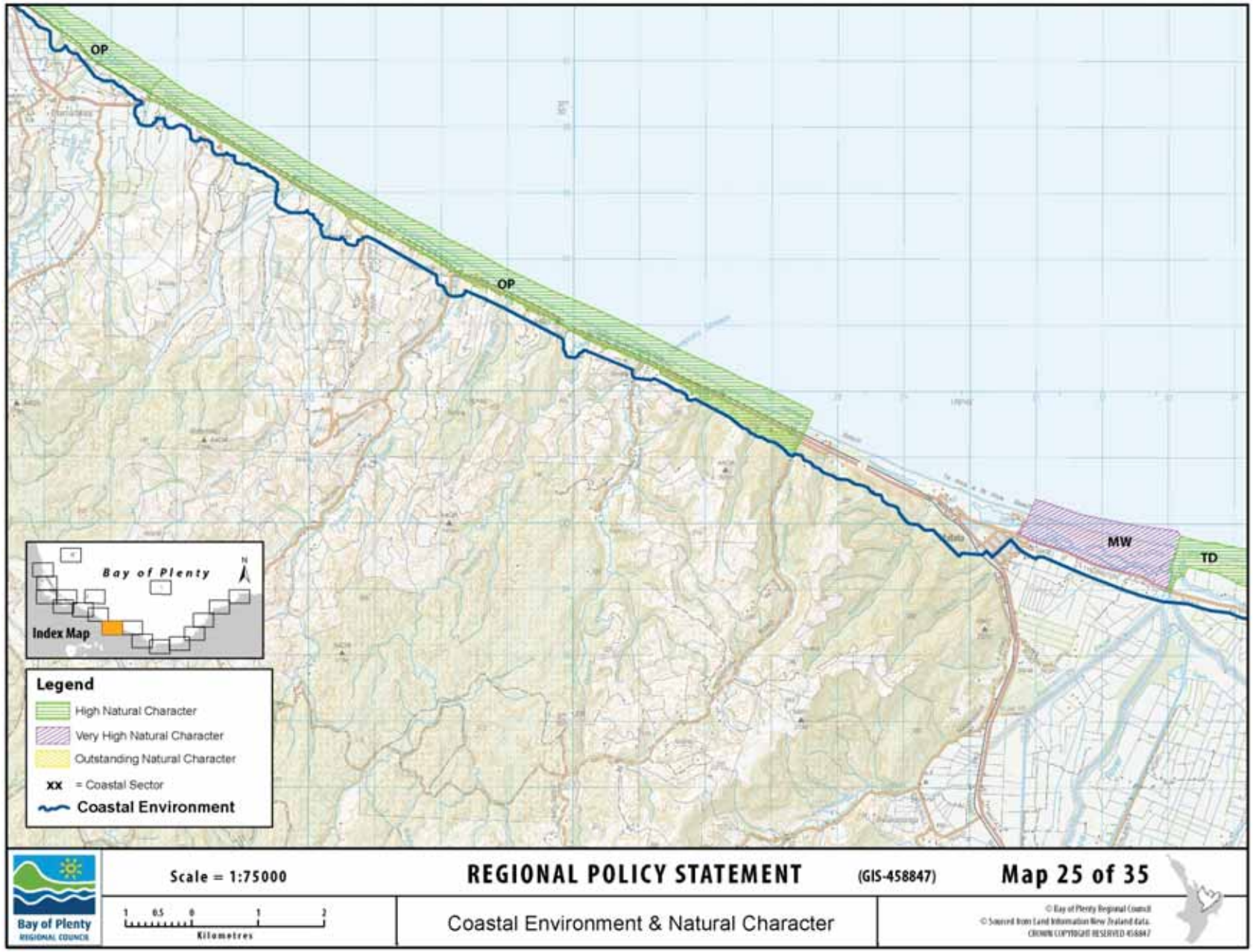

MatC
Mātakana Island
M
Motu
THN
MOUNT MAUNGANUI
Bay of Plenty
TAURANGA
THS
THS
THS
THS
TAURANGA
P
P
Insert
42
41
Kar
Karewa Island
Index Map
Bay of Plenty
Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
XX = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Scale = 1:75000
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 20 of 35
Bay of Plenty
REGIONAL COUNCIL
1 0.5 0 1 2
Kilometres
Coastal Environment & Natural Character
© Bay of Plenty Regional Council
© Sourced from Land Information New Zealand data.
CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED 458847

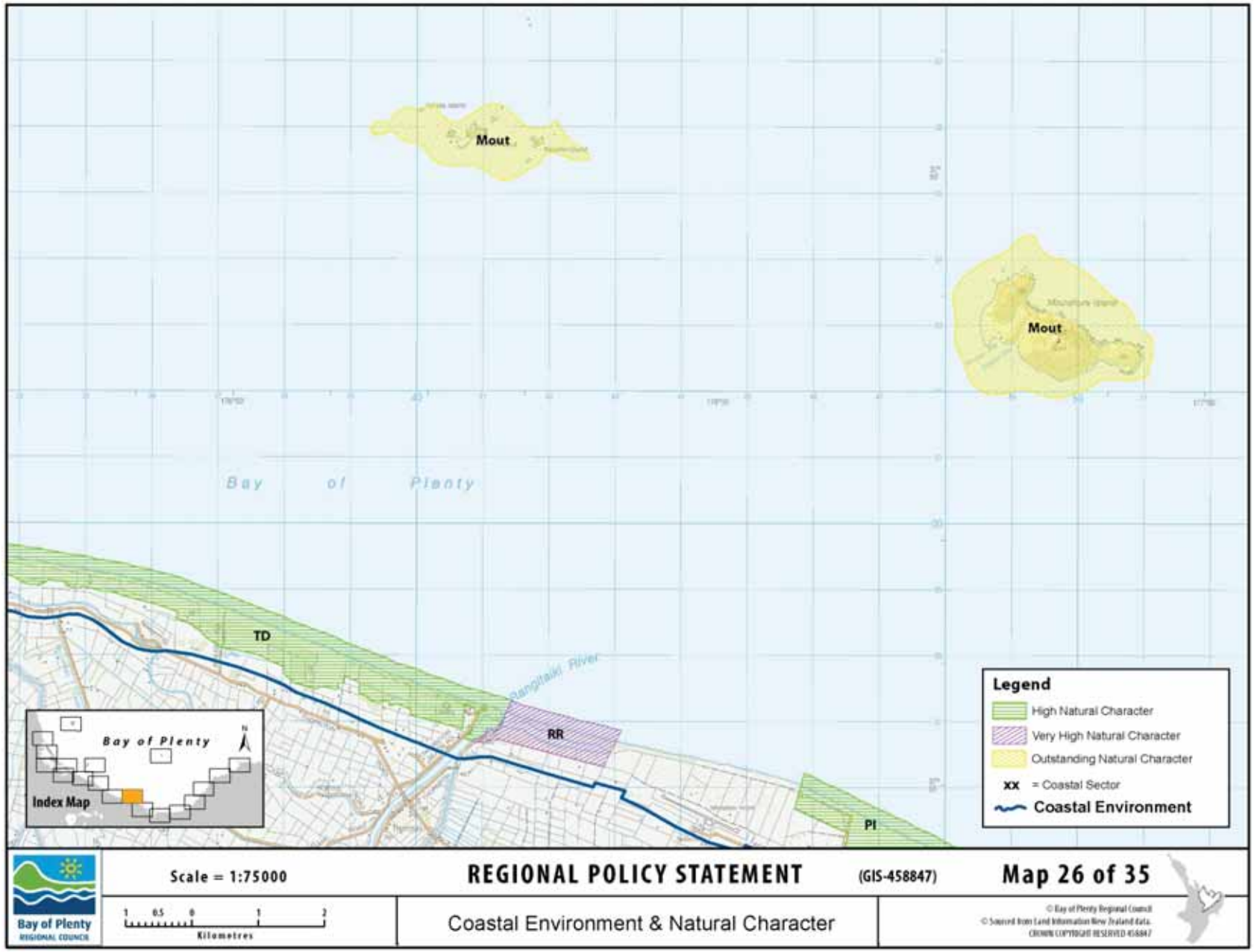

Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
xx = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Bay of Plenty
Index Map
Moti
Moti
Moti
Moti
Motiti Island
Sch
Mnau
Scale = 1:75000
1 0.5 0 1 2
Kilometres
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 21 of 35
Coastal Environment & Natural Character
Bay of Plenty
REGIONAL COUNCIL

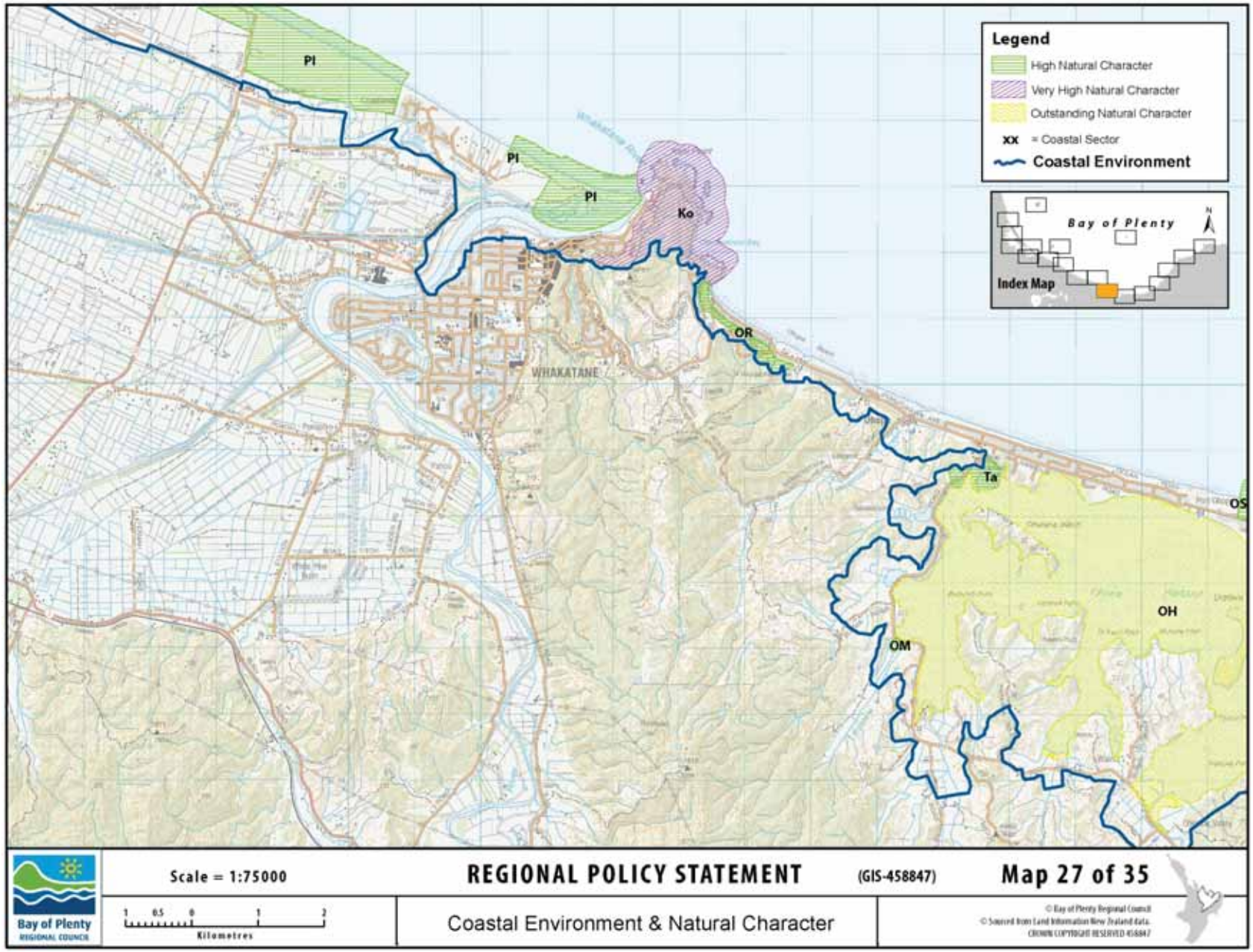

THN
THN
TAURANGA
THS
TAURANGA
THS
P
P
THS
Bay of Plenty
Index Map
Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
xx = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Scale = 1:75000
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 22 of 35
Bay of Plenty
REGIONAL COUNCIL
1 0.5 0 1 2
Kilometres
Coastal Environment & Natural Character

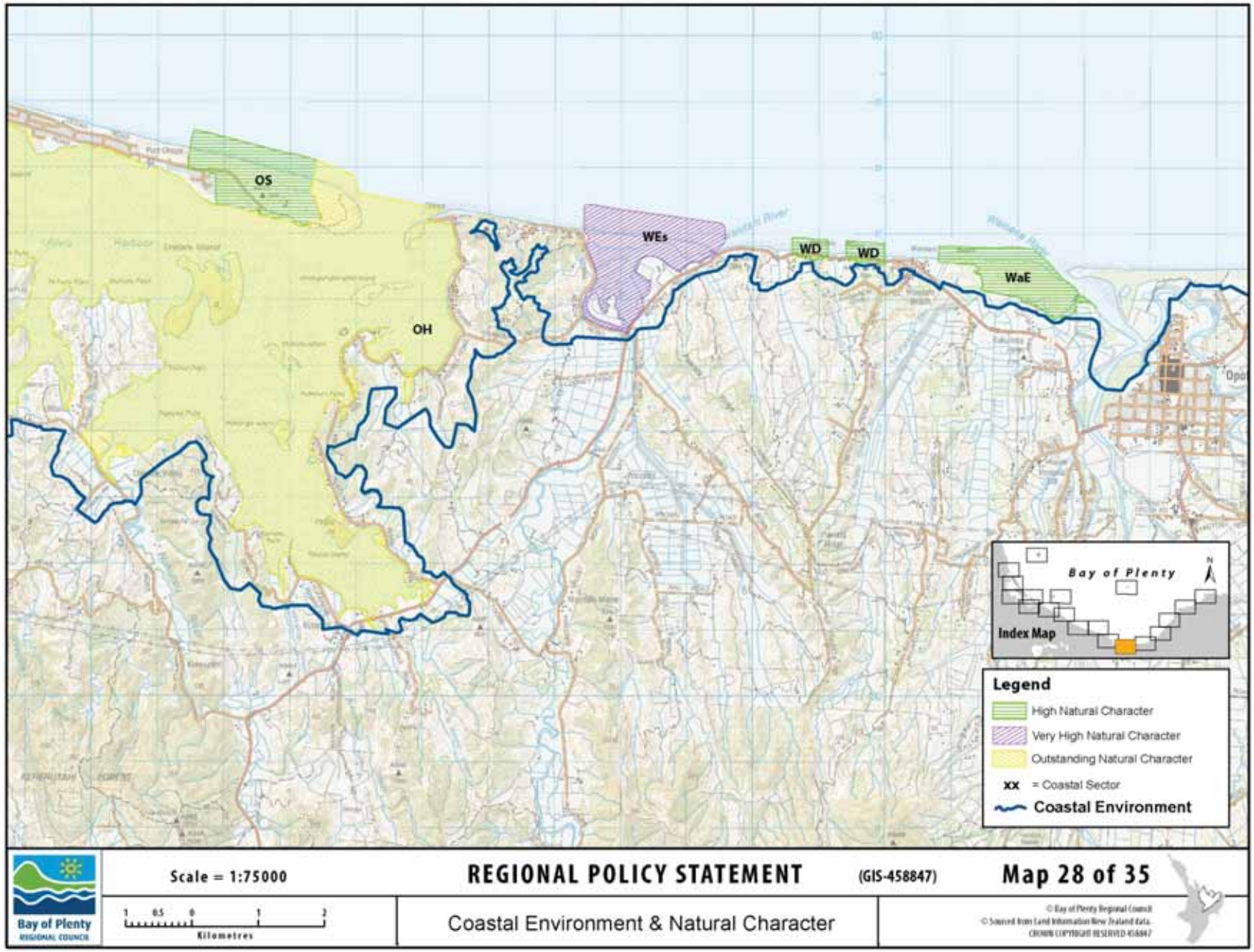

Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
XX = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Bay of Plenty
Index Map
P
P
MM
KR
ME
WA
WA
Te Puke
Scale = 1:75000
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 23 of 35
Bay of Plenty
REGIONAL COUNCIL
1 0.5 0 1 2
Kilometres
Coastal Environment & Natural Character

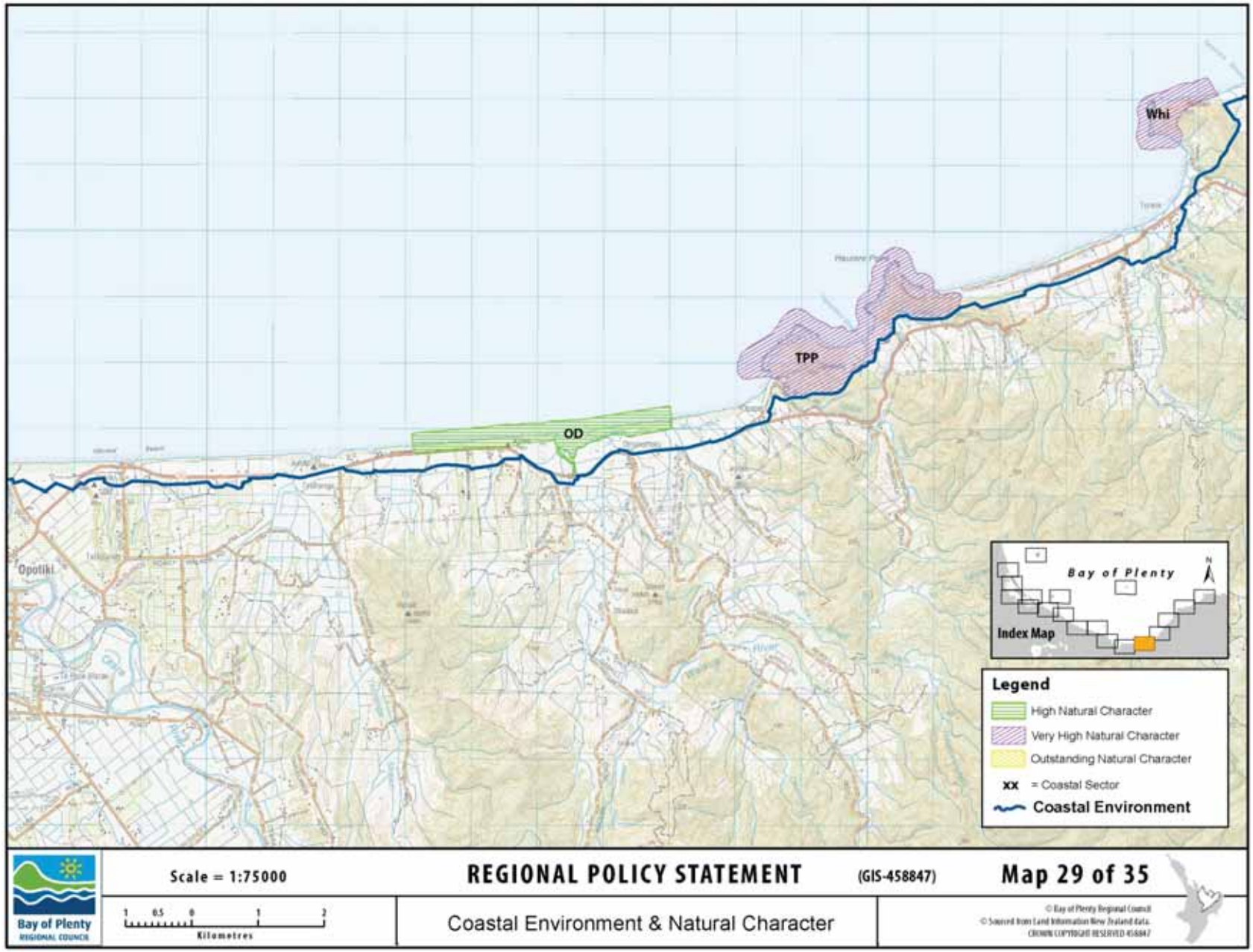

Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
xx = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Bay of Plenty
Index Map
ME
WA
WA
OP
Scale = 1:75000
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 24 of 35
Bay of Plenty
REGIONAL COUNCIL
1 0.5 0 1 2
Kilometres
Coastal Environment & Natural Character

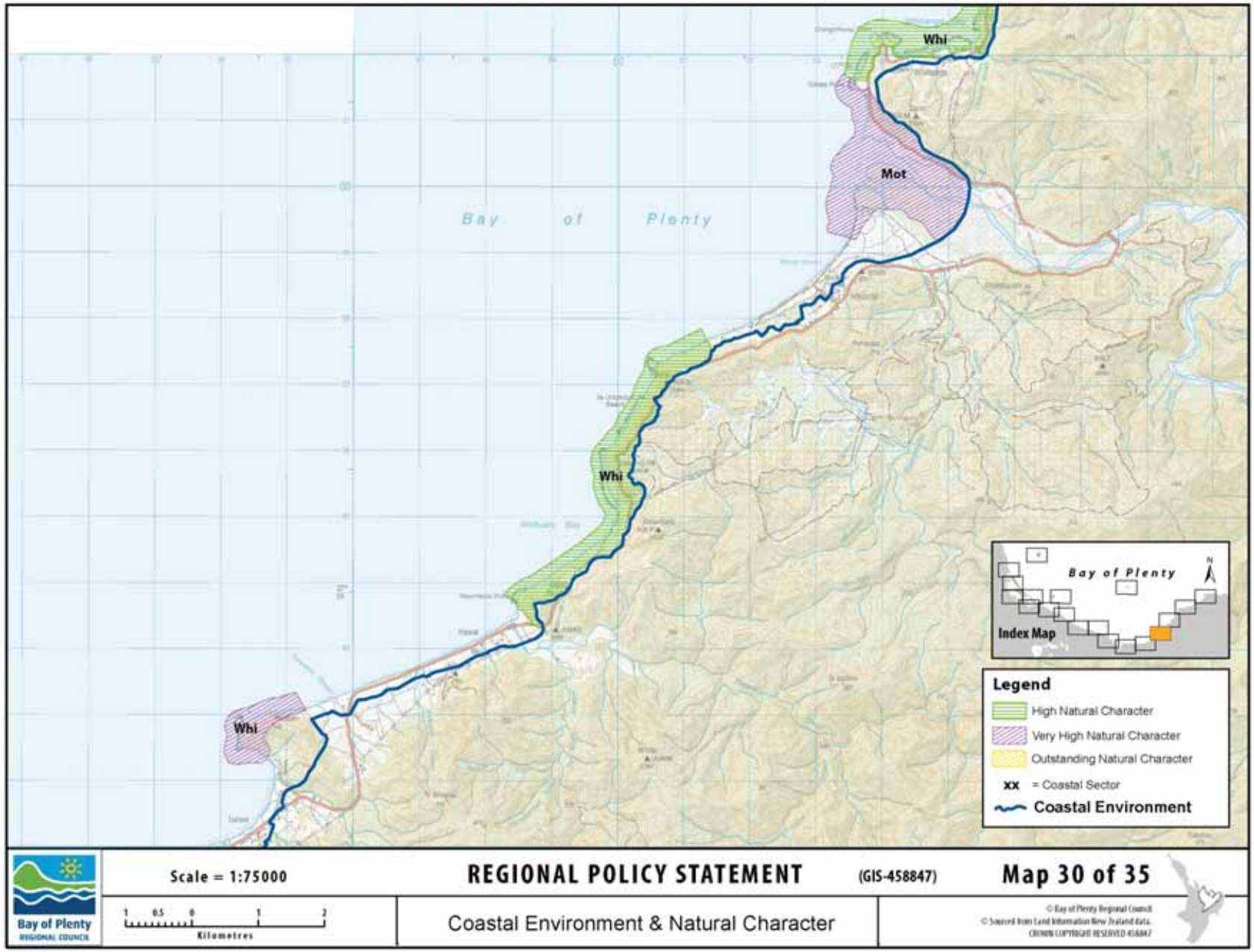

OP
OP
MW
TD
Bay of Plenty
Index Map
Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
XX = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Scale = 1:75000
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 25 of 35
Bay of Plenty
REGIONAL COUNCIL
1 0.5 0 1 2
Kilometres
Coastal Environment & Natural Character

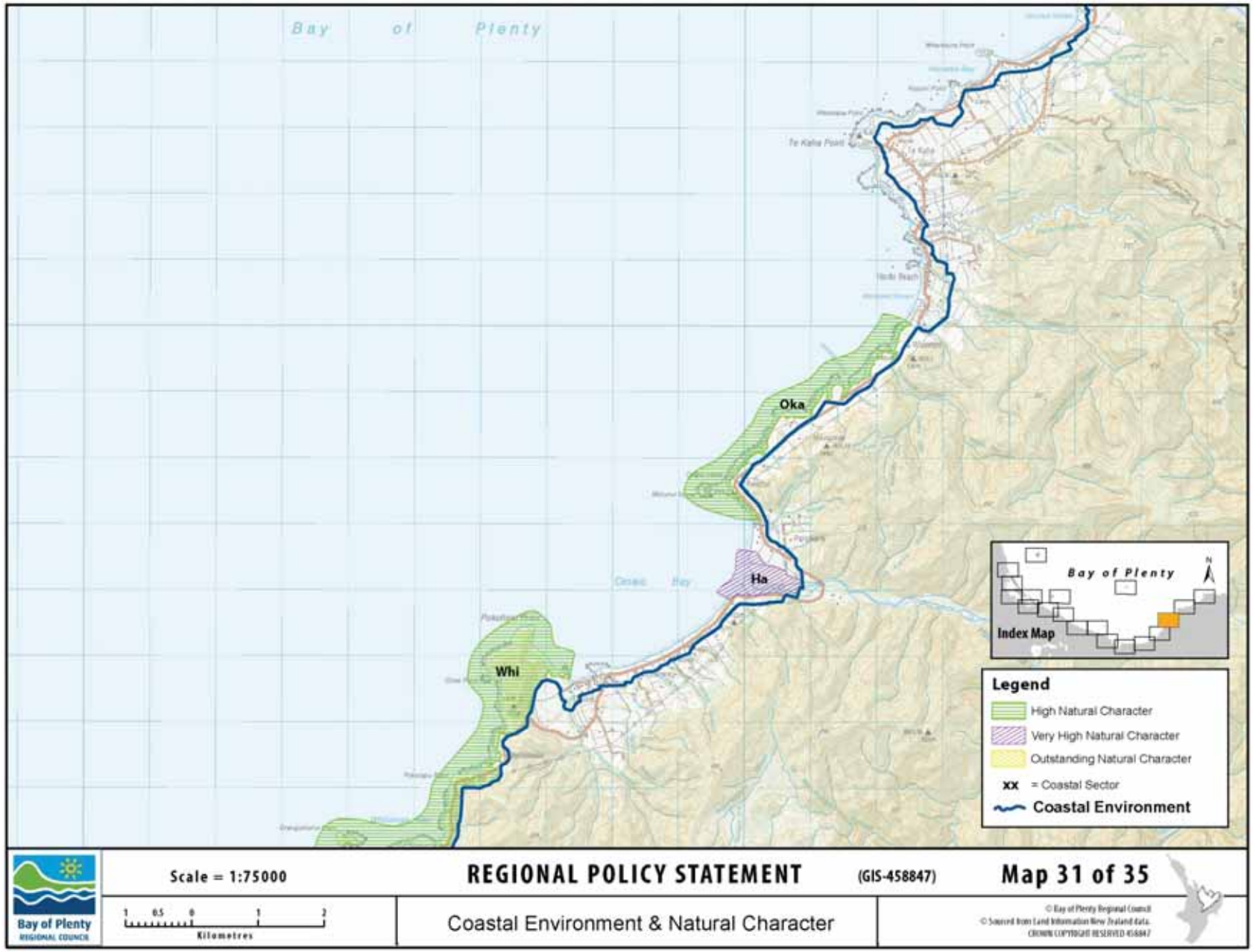

Mout
Mout
Bay of Plenty
TD
RR
PI
Rangitaiki River
Index Map
Bay of Plenty
Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
xx = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Scale = 1:75000
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 26 of 35
Bay of Plenty
REGIONAL COUNCIL
1 0.5 0 1 2
Kilometres
Coastal Environment & Natural Character

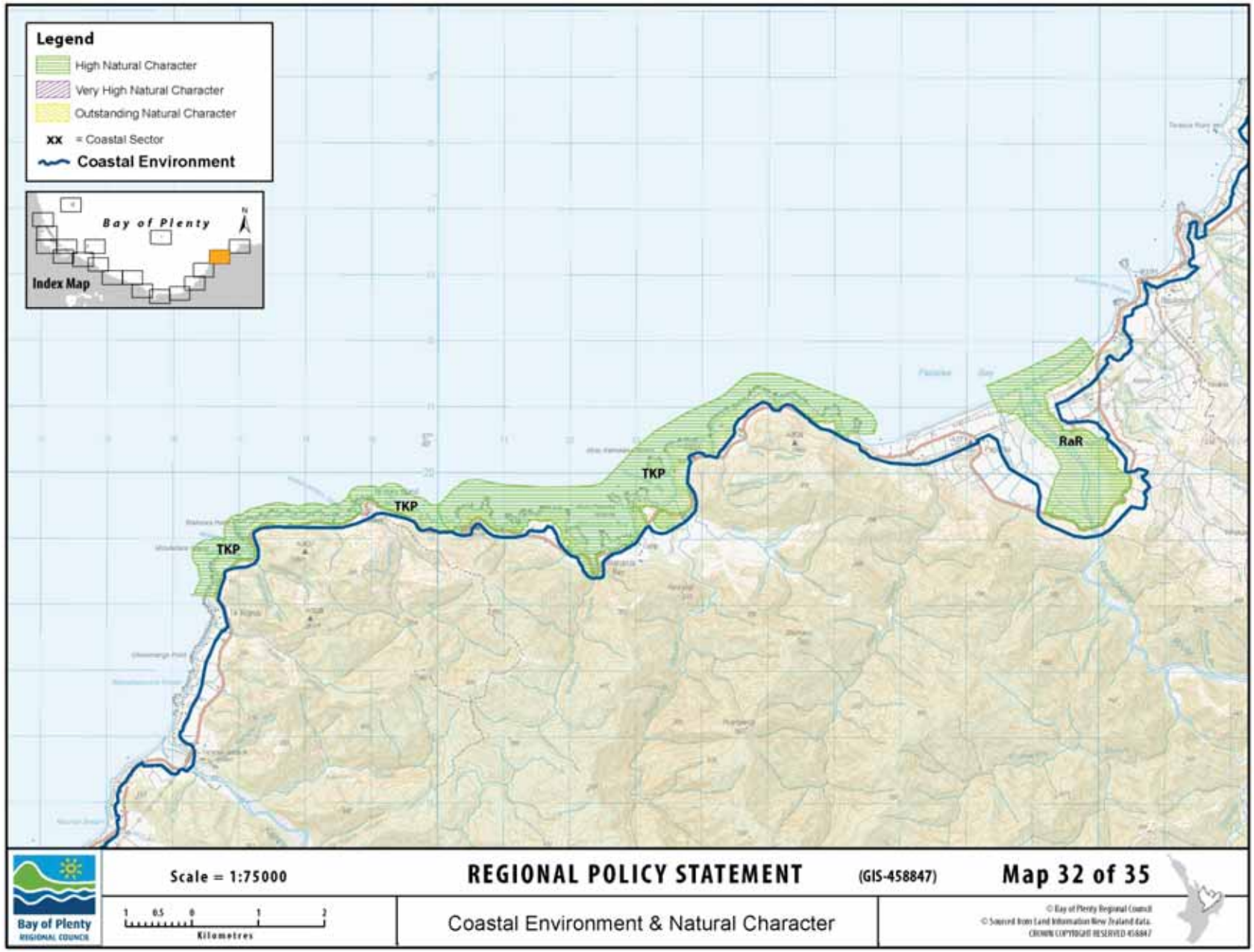

Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
XX = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Bay of Plenty
Index Map
PI
PI
PI
Ko
OR
WHAKATANE
Ta
OS
OH
OM
Scale = 1:75000
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 27 of 35
Bay of Plenty
REGIONAL COUNCIL
1 0.5 0 1 2
Kilometres
Coastal Environment & Natural Character

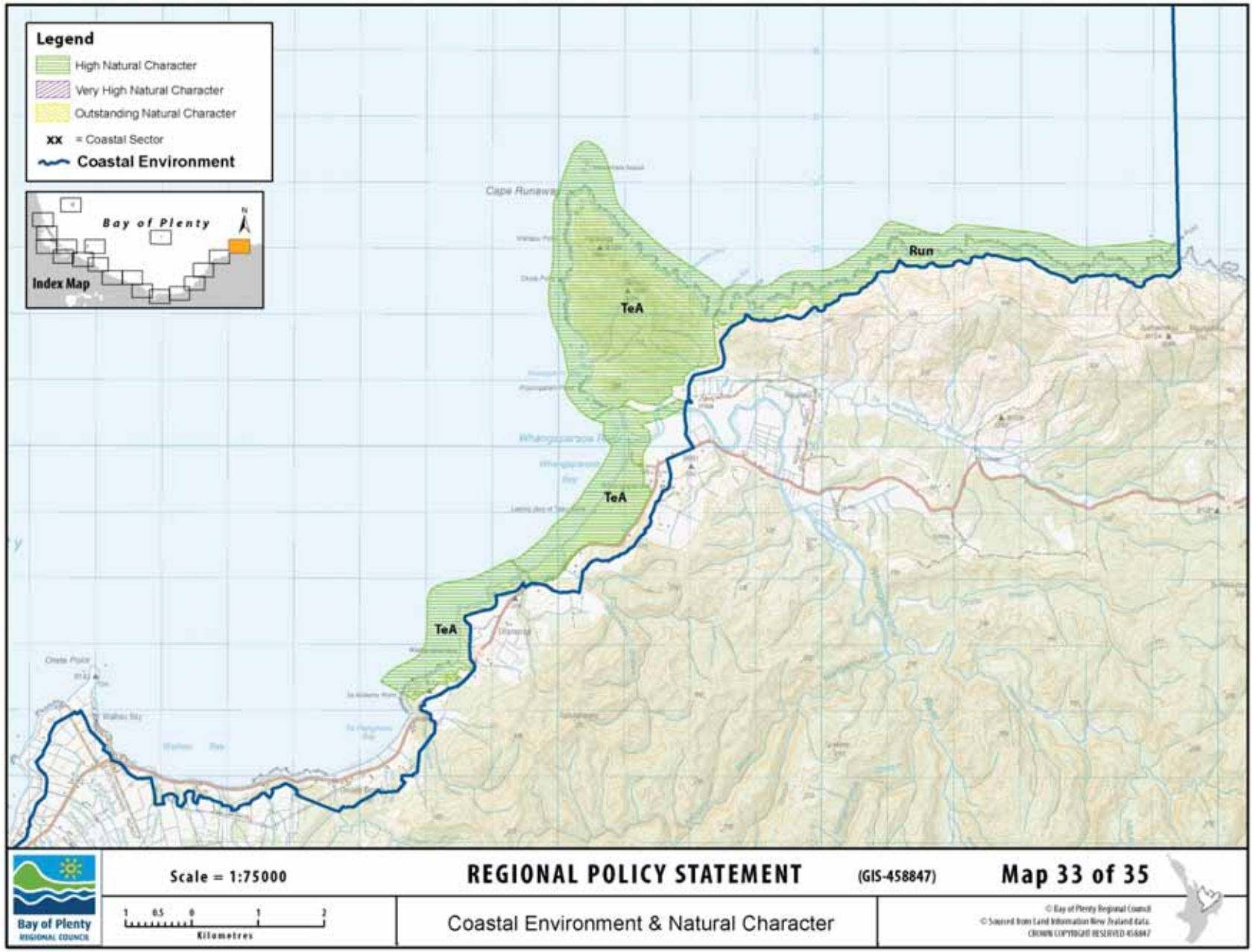

OS
OH
WEs
WD
WD
WaE
Bay of Plenty
Index Map
Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
xx = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Scale = 1:75000
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 28 of 35
Bay of Plenty
REGIONAL COUNCIL
1 0.5 0 1 2
Kilometres
Coastal Environment & Natural Character

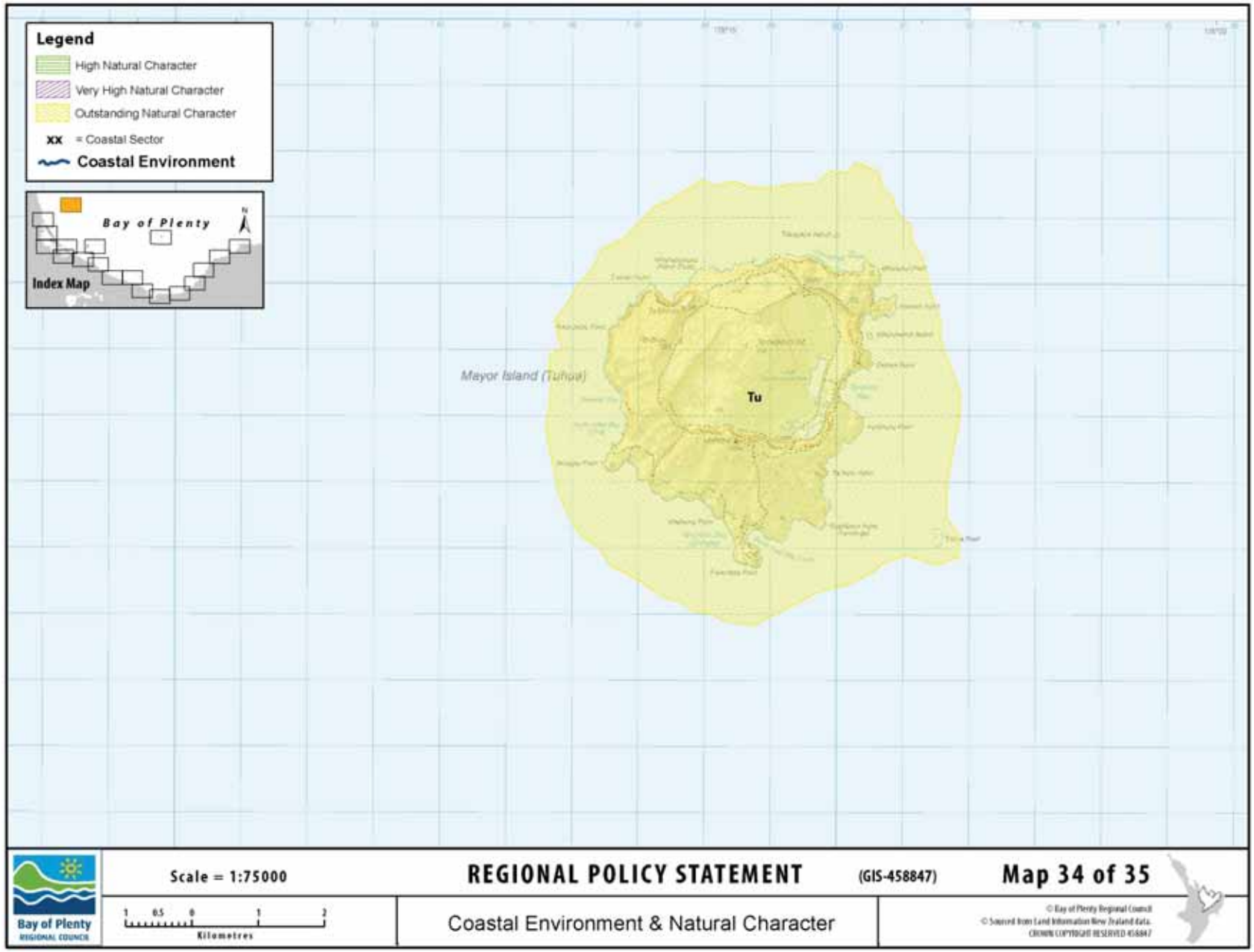

Whi
TPP
OD
Opotiki
Bay of Plenty
Index Map
Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
xx = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Bay of Plenty
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Scale = 1:75000
1 0.5 0 1 2
Kilometres
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 29 of 35
Coastal Environment & Natural Character

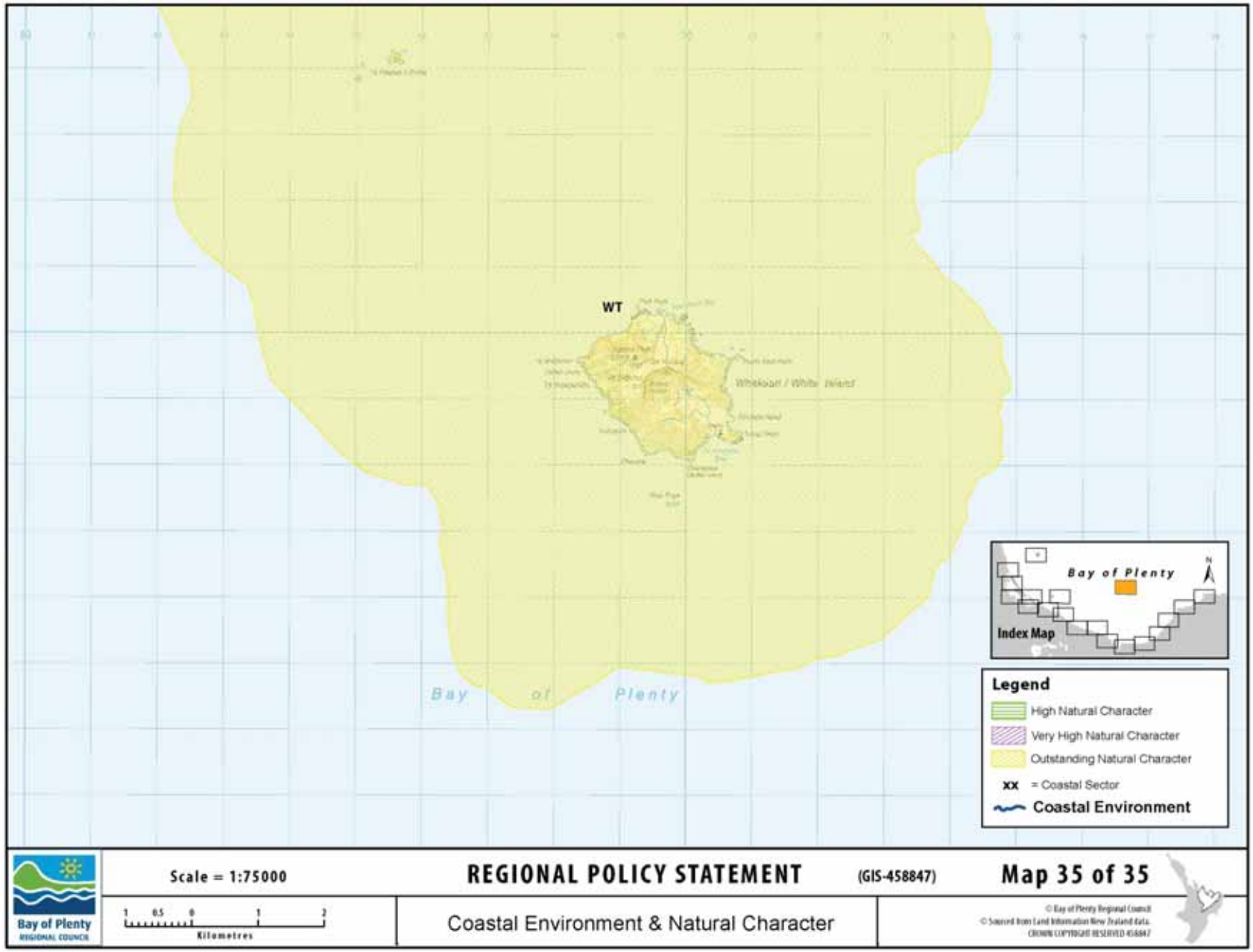

Whi
Mot
Bay of Plenty
Whi
Whi
Bay of Plenty
Index Map
Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
xx = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Scale = 1:75000
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 30 of 35
Bay of Plenty
REGIONAL COUNCIL
1 0.5 0 1 2
Kilometres
Coastal Environment & Natural Character


Bay of Plenty
Oka
Ha
Whi
Index Map
Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
xx = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Scale = 1:75000
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 31 of 35
Kilometres
Coastal Environment & Natural Character


Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
XX = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Bay of Plenty
Index Map
TKP
TKP
TKP
RaR
Scale = 1:75000
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 32 of 35
Bay of Plenty
REGIONAL COUNCIL
1 0.5 0 1 2
Kilometres
Coastal Environment & Natural Character


Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
xx = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Bay of Plenty
Index Map
Cape Runaway
Run
TeA
TeA
TeA
Scale = 1:75000
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 33 of 35
Bay of Plenty
REGIONAL COUNCIL
1 0.5 0 1 2
Kilometres
Coastal Environment & Natural Character


Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
XX = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Bay of Plenty
Index Map
Mayor Island (Tuhua)
Tu
Scale = 1:75000
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 34 of 35
Bay of Plenty
REGIONAL COUNCIL
1 0.5 0 1 2
Kilometres
Coastal Environment & Natural Character


WT
Whakaari / White Island
Bay of Plenty
Index Map
Legend
High Natural Character
Very High Natural Character
Outstanding Natural Character
xx = Coastal Sector
Coastal Environment
Scale = 1:75000
1 0.5 0 1 2
Kilometres
REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT
(GIS-458847)
Map 35 of 35
Coastal Environment & Natural Character
Bay of Plenty
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Appendix J – Natural Character Attributes

Name (Map Abbreviation)	Overall Rating	Description	Water	Land Cover and Land Use	Terrestrial Biotic	Physical Processes and Landform	Perception
Bowentown to Kauri Pt (BK)	High	The inner harbour edge of Tauranga Harbour undulates with a series of headlands, estuaries and embayments. Modification of this coastal edge has been extensive, with small residential settlements and farming land use right to the harbour edge. Small features within the harbour provide remnants of the coastal vegetation that once existed within the entire harbour. In many residential areas coastal erosion protection measures are present for protection of property and coastal walkways.	Clusters of moorings are located around Bowentown, Athenree, Tanners Point, Ongare Point and Kauri Point. Boat ramps providing tidal and deep water access are located at public and private locations along the harbour edge. Several jetty structures are located along the coast including at Tanners Point and Kauri Point.	Residential settlements at Athenree, Tanners Point, Tuapiro Point, Ongare Point and Kauri Point create built clutter within the coastal landscape. Remnant pockets of native coastal pohutukawa remain. Farming of stock and horticulture extend right to the harbour edge with some remaining coastal vegetation.	In most places the coastal margin is modified by residential, agricultural or horticultural development along with infrastructure and coastal erosion protection measures. Where vegetation is present it is generally small and fragmented, highly modified by land use, weed infestation and grazing. The Kauri Point pohutukawa forest has low diversity but is regionally significant.	Limitations on the natural processes occuring within parts of the harbour with seawalls creating solid edges to the harbour, restricting natural erosion patterns.	Moderate levels of activity on the harbour itself and the adjoining beaches, with Anzac Cove being a popular recreational destination. Other areas of popular activity at a local scale are Tanners Point, Tuapiro Point, Ongare Point and Kauri Point. The area is traversed by regionally significant infrastructure.

<<REMAINDER DELETED>>

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
Orokawa Bay (Ora) Map 17	Very High	Orokawa Bay lies at the southern end of the Coromandel Peninsula. Covered in native coastal forest, species such as manuka, pohutukawa, puriri and nikau feature amongst the bush. Shrouded to the north and south with a steep rocky coastline the bay comprises a wide sandy beach with a terraced bush edge. Two DOC campsites are located in open clearings and are accessible only by walking track from Waihi Beach. Much of the site is located within Scenic Reserve.	1. Unmodified rocky coastline. 2. Remnant and regenerating native bush. 3. Vegetation extending to the coastal edge. 4. Remote and isolated with pedestrian access only. 5. Dynamic coastal processes occurring.	1. Unmodified coastal edge with no structures or moorings. 2. Two streams discharge across the beach to the coast.	1. Mixture of regenerating native coastal bush and remnant pohutukawa coastal bush. 2. The beach system remains unmodified with a steep rocky coastline at either end, which extends northwards and southwards towards Waihi Beach. 3. Access is limited to DOC walking tracks and the bay contains two camp sites. 4. Modification is limited to the grassed camp sites and access tracks and associated structures.	1. Part of a larger forest feature, the coastal margin of the Orokawa Scenic Reserve consists of regenerating pohutukawa forest of national significance 2. It is modified by stands of invasive wilding pines. Although the feature has low diversity, it is in good condition and provides habitat for indigenous fauna and plants endemic to the Coromandel Ecological Region.	1. Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes. 2. Modification extends to only the access tracks and open grassed camp sites.	1. Very low levels of activities, with few boats, very few people (pedestrian only) and no settlement. 2. High level of remoteness and isolation for the entire embayment.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
Albacore Avenue to Bowentown Headland (AB) Map 17	High	Waihi Beach extends some 9 km between Rapatiotio Point and the Bowentown Heads. This section remains undeveloped, apart from the main road that extends along the feature and connecting pedestrian access tracks to the beach. Extensive dune vegetation exists with secondary and tertiary dune systems intact.	1. Natural dune profiles intact. 2. Native vegetation dominates the landcover. 3. Minimal modification from access with controlled access provided. 4. Dynamic coastal processes dominant on dune accretion and erosion.	1. No physical modification to open coastal water body.	1. Dominant native vegetation cover with weed management in place. 2. Land is retained in natural landform except for those areas comprising vehicle access.	1. Where the dunes extend across the tombolo dune vegetation has higher indigenous biodiversity of regional significance and provides habitat for threatened indigenous fauna. 2. Narrow dunes have low to moderate diversity and are highly modified by weed infestations, and provide limited habitat for indigenous species other than common species habituated to residential environments.	1. Sand retention nets and walls are located at the outermost ends of this feature.	1. Residential settlement dominates parts of the southern ends of the area. 2. The southern area has limited use but still provides for recreational access. 3. A high level of activity on the beach as it is a popular recreational destination for the community. 4. A moderate sense of remoteness however access to the beach is possible at many points throughout this feature. 5. The lack of modification is visually apparent.
Bowentown Headland (BH) Map 17	High	The Bowentown heads form a striking landform that is regenerating in native bush. Rock caves are found on the remote coastal beach and Anzac Cove is a popular recreation destination for swimming and boating.	1. Unmodified rocky coastline including caves and isolated beach. 2. Dominant headland with native vegetation cover around the escarpments. 3. The isolated rock caves and beach area, on the western edge, are a significant natural feature of the area.	1. Unmodified coastal edge, excluding a boat ramp at Anzac Cove.	1. The two peaks of the headland are covered in a mixture of regenerating native bush with outcrops of mature pohutukawa along the rock edges. 2. Modification to valley between comprises two carparks, roading, access tracks, a boat ramp and amenity planting.	1. The mature and regenerating pohutukawa forest on the headlands also has regional significance and provides habitat for uncommon indigenous plants and nesting sites for penguins, but is modified by weed infestations.	1. The Bowentown headlands and bar demonstrate highly natural processes. 2. The rock caves are an example of the highly dynamic natural processes occurring on this coastal edge.	1. The headland appears dominant with its natural landform and vegetation cover. 2. A sense of isolation is gained at the ocean beach to the west, facing the main harbour entrance.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
Tanners Point, Ongare Point and Kauri Point Headlands (TP) Map 18	High	Modification of this coastal edge has been extensive, with small residential settlements and farming land use right to the harbour edge. However small pocketed features of native vegetation cover along the coastal edge are located at Tanners Point, Ongare Point and Kauri Point headlands. The dominant vegetation cover of pohutukawa provides a habitat for native understorey and assists protect against coastal erosion.	1. Outcrops of dominant pohutukawa clad escarpments with native bush understorey. 2. Natural processes occurring along the intertidal zone. 3. Minor modifications to the coastal edge.	1. Clusters of moorings are located around Bowentown, Athenree, Tanners Point, Ongare Point and Kauri Point. 2. Several jetty structures are located along the coast including at Tanners Point and Kauri Point.	1. Remnant pockets of native coastal pohutukawa remain. 2. Residential settlements at Athenree, Tanners Point, Tuapiro Point, Ongare Point and Kauri Point create built clutter within the coastal landscape.	1. The Kauri Point pohutukawa forest has low diversity but is regionally significant.	1. Areas with minimal coastal edge modifications have higher value. 2. Limitations on the natural processes occurring within parts of the harbour with seawalls creating solid edges to the harbour, restricting natural erosion patterns.	1. The vegetated edge of the harbour margin contribute to a sense of the natural environment and isolation for harbour users.
Mauao (M) Map 20	High	Mauao remains as a dominant feature in the coastal environment. Vegetation patterns have been modified significantly over the years with remnant pohutukawa remaining on the lower base track area. Wild fires, historical grazing, settlement and	1. Rocky shoreline and sandy beaches clad with dominant pohutukawa outcrops. 2. Extensive regenerating native bush. 3. Volcanic features including steep landform and cliff faces.	1. The water body surrounding Mauao, excluding the port's shipping channel, remain largely unmodified. 2. Some navigation and cultural features exist on the rocky outcrops with some historical seawalls near the Tangaroa statue.	1. Mauao has undergone significant modification through pre European settlement, European settlement and practices. Since becoming a reserve the feature has improved its native vegetation cover. 2. Tracks and structures (water reservoir and light house) plus other navigation equipment and managed pasture. 3. Historically Mauao	1. The mature and regenerating pohutukawa forest on Mauao also has regional or national significance and provides habitat for threatened and uncommon indigenous plants and seabirds, but is modified by weed infestations, fire, slope stabilisation, tracks and disturbance associated with recreational use.	1. Parts are highly natural with the main coastal edge remaining unmodified. 2. The base track of Mauao comprises modification to the landform however, the coastal edge remains highly dynamic for its coastal processes.	1. Mauao remains a highly natural feature of the Tauranga landscape. The native vegetation cover, rocky shoreline and steep escarpments provide a sense of naturalness within a highly urbanised environment.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
		infrastructure have resulted in significant modification to the feature. However, the coastal edge remains intact and vegetation patterns are improving through replanting programs.			was settled by Maori and remnant historical features remain within the landform on the mountain.			
Papamoa Dunes (P) Maps 20, 22, 23	High	The Papamoa dunelands are a contiguous system that has been heavily modified at the Mount Main Beach, built upon in established residential areas and modified behind for further residential settlement. Small pockets of unmodified primary and secondary dune systems are found within some Maori and publicly owned land. Te Tumu provides an indicator of the dune patterns once found within Papamoa, prior to residential development.	1. Natural dune profiles intact. 2. Native vegetation dominates the landcover. 3. Minimal modification from access with controlled access provided. 4. Dynamic coastal processes dominant on dune accretion and erosion.	1. The water body along the coast is void of modification with a large sandy beach remaining void of structures. 2. Some stormwater outlets existing within these areas.	1. The Papamoa coastal dune lands comprise extensive areas of native vegetation cover. 2. Some weed infestation remains and is managed as part of the CoastCare program.	1. Where the dunes extend across a wider area and there is less encroachment from residences, dune vegetation has higher indigenous biodiversity of regional significance and provides habitat for threatened indigenous fauna, while retaining a component of exotic species.	1. Parts are highly natural with unmodified dune processes occurring. The landform remains largely unmodified with secondary and tertiary dune systems remaining intact.	1. The dune systems are perceived as a highly dynamic and iconic part of the coastal processes of the Papamoa Beach areas.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
Kaituna River (KR) Map 23	High	The Kaituna River mouth originally exited at the Maketu Harbour mouth and seawalls and retaining are present to manage erosion and water flow into the estuary, at the river cut. The Kaituna wetland is a remnant feature of the wider wetland that once extended immediately behind the dune environment in this area.	1. Kaituna wetlands vegetation cover and water body. 2. Flood plains and intertidal zone within the river corridor comprising remnant wetlands and spawning areas for native fish.	1. The water body of the Kaituna River has been managed within stop banks to manage the flood risk. Lower flood plains within the stop banks form part of the intertidal and flood plain environment.	1. The Kaituna River comprises a distinctive rear coastal wetland.	1. The Kaituna River wetlands have moderate diversity, are modified by weed infestations, and provide habitat for a range of indigenous wetland fish and bird species. 2. The flood plains and wetlands alongside the river provide spawning habitats for native fish species.	1. The Kaituna River and Maketu Estuary have been significantly modified and channelled.	1. Parts of the Kaituna River display highly natural processes and patterns, including intertidal zones and the Kaituna wetlands. 2. The natural floodplains remains visible and reflects the dynamic nature of the river system.
Maketu Estuary (ME) Map 23	High	The Maketu Estuary and dune sand spit are an example of an historic wetland and river system set behind a sandy coastal edge. Modification to the natural patterns and processes has occurred from the creation of a new river mouth for the Kaituna River, stopping the major flows of water into the Maketu Estuary.	1. Native saltmarsh and intertidal vegetation cover within the estuary. 2. Dune planting and natural processes occurring on the dune feature. 3. Extensive intertidal zone within the estuary within minimal modification.	1. Water outlet into the Estuary is highly modified, however, the vegetation patterns within the estuary are largely unmodified.	1. The dune system remains unmodified 2. Some maemae are located within the estuary.	1. The Maketu Estuary, spit, dunelands and saltmarshes have moderate to high diversity with regional significance, are modified by weed infestations, and provide habitat for a very high diversity of indigenous fauna species, notably wading birds.	1. The natural coastal processes are dominant for the coastal dune system. 2. The estuary has undergone modification to the intertidal zone from the Kaituna River cut modification.	1. Despite the modification to the water body the estuary and dune feature appear largely unmodified and highly natural. 2. The community support the restoration and management of this natural feature.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
Waihi Estuary Water Body and Mouth (WA) Maps 23, 24	High	Settlement of Little Waihi has resulted in retaining structures placed along the harbour edge to manage continue coastal erosion. Reclamation of parts of the estuary for farming have resulted in linear patterns within parts of the harbour.	1. Intertidal areas of the exposed estuary floor with associated flora and fauna. 2. Saltmarsh and native vegetation along the margins. 3. Natural patterns along the estuary edge.	1. Minimal activity occurs along the open coast with no structures, jetties or moorings. 2. Maketu Harbour and Waihi Estuary contain maimai, boat ramps and jetties. 3. The harbour has been modified through reclamation, retaining and redirection of the water channels.	1. Modification has occurred to the margins of the Waihi Estuary through farming practices and reclamation. 2. The harbour margin is dominated by residential development at Little Waihi and the Bledisloe Park campground.	1. Indigenous vegetation consists of a narrow fringe of indigenous secondary forest and the freshwater wetlands of the Waihī Estuary. 2. The main body of the estuary, its associated saltmarshes (seaward of the stopbanks) and Pukehina Spit is more diverse and less modified by exotic vegetation or landuse. These areas provide habitat for a wide range of indigenous wading and wetland birds.	1. Seawalls and reclamation existing within the Waihi Estuary.	1. Parts of the estuary and its mouth are unmodified and are wild and scenic. 2. Other areas of the harbour margin are modified for erosion control with built form dominating the edge at the settlement of Little Waihi.
Otamarakau to Piripai Coastal Dunes (OP) Map 25	High	The Matata 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	1. Native dune vegetation. 2. Secondary and tertiary dune profiles remain intact. 3. Rear dune wetlands remain intact. 4. Minimal modification to the natural coastal edge exists.	1. Minimal activity on the water edge and water. As an open coastal edge no physical modification to the ocean is apparent. Two river cuts are apparent, being heavily modified from their original route. 2. Some training walls have been placed at the end of Piripai Spit to manage flood waters and the harbour mouth depth.	1. A dominant coastal dune landscape, structures are apparent along the top of the coastal escarpment. 2. The Matata and Thornton dunes remain largely unmodified except for small settlements located at Matata, Thornton and Coastlands. 3. Dune areas with rear dune wetlands or unmodified patterns still remain.	1. The coastal dunes are narrow and vary from relatively unmodified to highly modified areas. 2. These areas vary from low to moderate diversity and are highly modified by weed infestations, and provide limited habitat for indigenous species other than common species.	1. Dune protection measures and residential settlement managing dune erosion and accretion. 2. Fence lines are present along the Otamarakau escarpments and coastal erosion is very active here.	

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
		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.						
Matata Wetlands (MW) Map 25	Very High	The eastern Matata wetlands remain as a remnant feature of the natural river course of the Tarawera River system. The Tarawera River once exited to the west of Matata through the dune system but was redirected through the Thornton Cut in the early 1900's. The wetland contains a raupo and native sedge	1. Natural dune profiles intact with native vegetation cover. 2. Remnant river system and water course. 3. Native wetland species and habitat.	1. The water bodies original water course has been modified by a man made river mouth. 2. The Awatarariki Stream now feeds the wetland along.	1. Land remains as a coastal reserve and is maintained for its natural habitat. Intact mature native vegetation dominates the wetland and coastal edge.	1. Indigenous vegetation consists of native coastal dune species, with some infestation of weed species. The coastal wetland comprises a mixture of mature wetland species with some weed infestation along the margins of the feature.	1. The natural processes are modified however a natural river discharges into the wetland via a series of culverts. The landform remains intact and largely unchanged from its natural pattern.	1. Viewed from Thornton Road the wetland area appears unmodified, apart from the historical modification of the river course.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
		species, providing a habitat for native and exotic wildlife. Combined with the coastal dune system this area displays very high natural character attributes.						
Thornton Dunes (TD) Maps 25, 26	Very High	The Thornton dunes comprises the natural dune system located between the Tarawera and Rangitaiki Rivers. A unique species of manuka exists in this section of the coast, known as the 'Thornton Manuka' and is a dominant part of the vegetation cover in parts of this feature. Modification from farming land use and some residential housing adjoining the feature has occurred.	1. Native dune vegetation. 2. Endemic native vegetation cover exists. 3. Secondary and tertiary dune profiles remain intact. 4. Minimal modification to the natural coastal edge exists.	1. Coastal waters remain unmodified.	1. Land remains as a coastal reserve and is maintained for its natural habitat. Intact mature native vegetation dominates the wetland and coastal edge.	1. Indigenous vegetation consists of native coastal dune species, with some infestation of weed species.	1. Natural dune profiles remain intact with the secondary and tertiary dune systems present. A dominant dune system that rises some 10 m above the rear dune plains landscape.	1. Displays a number of natural patterns and processes that are dynamic.
Rangitakei River Mouth (RR) Map 26	Very High	The wetland remain as a remnant feature of the natural river course of the Rangitaikei River system. The wetland contains native coastal	1. Natural dune profiles intact with native vegetation cover. 2. Remnant river system and water course. 3. Native wetland	1. The water bodies original water course has been modified by a man made river mouth.	1. Intact mature native vegetation dominates the wetland and coastal edge.	1. Indigenous vegetation consists of native coastal dune species, with some infestation of weed species. 2. The coastal wetland comprises a mixture of	1. Natural processes are dominant with a rear dune wetland, river mouth and coastal beach system present. 2. The coastal dune	1. The natural patterns of the dune system is dominant and recognisable from public viewpoints.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
		wetland species, providing a habitat for native and exotic wildlife. Combined with the coastal dune system this area displays very high natural character attributes.	species and habitat.			mature wetland species with some weed infestation along the margins of the feature.	systems remain intact.	
Piripai Dunes and Spit (PI) Maps 26, 27	High	Large dune systems that remain largely unmodified with natural patterns and native vegetation that dominates the areas. The spit forms part of the Whakatane River mouth with modification to the distal end with flood training walls. Rural and residential subdivision along this coast has significant modified this natural feature with a small front dune system remaining along its edge. Grazing of some areas still continues.	1. Natural dune landform comprising frontal, secondary and tertiary dune profiles. 2. Native coastal and dune species dominating the area. 3. Natural dune patterns remnant of the interface of the natural river and coastal water processes. 4. Estuarine margins of the Whakatane River.	1. Highly dynamic coastal processes occurring along the river and coastal margins. 2. The intertidal processes are significant. 3. Modification to the distal end has occurred to manage erosion of the spit.	1. The frontal dune system and river margins remain largely intact with native vegetation cover. 2. The area has some modification from historical burials and farming practices. 3. Access tracks are found through the site for vehicles and pedestrians.	1. Indigenous vegetation consists of native coastal dune species, with some infestation of weed species. 2. The river margins comprise native estuarine species with some weed infestation along the margins of the feature.	1. The natural processes are dominant in this area with the flood plain for the river forming a large part of the river margins. The landform depicts the dynamic natural processes that continue to dominate this coastline.	1. Whakatane CBD overlooks this area and views a natural coastal dune system with some degradation of the land cover. 2. The dynamic processes are represented in the natural landform and the intertidal processes.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
Kohi Point (Ko) Map 27	Very High	Kohi Point is a dominant landscape feature with native vegetation cover. It demonstrates high levels of natural character through the lack of modification. The pohutukawa clad escarpment behind creates a natural backdrop and is a remnant of the unmodified environment that once occurred along this section of the coast.	1. Unmodified rocky coastline. 2. Remnant and regenerating native bush. 3. Vegetation extending to the coastal edge. 4. Remote and isolated with pedestrian access only. 5. Dynamic coastal processes occurring.	1. Unmodified coastal edge with no structures or moorings.	1. Mixture of regenerating native coastal bush and remnant pohutukawa coastal bush. 2. Unmodified with a steep rocky coastline which extends eastward towards Ohope Beach. 3. Modification is limited to the walking tracks that access through the reserve.	1. The mature and regenerating native bush has regional and national significance and provides a habitat for uncommon and threatened indigenous plants.	1. Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes. 2. Modification extends to only the access tracks.	1. Very low levels of activities, with few boats, very few people (pedestrian only) and no settlement. 2. High level of remoteness and isolation for the entire edge.
Ohope Scenic Reserve (OR) Map 27	Very High	The pohutukawa clad escarpment behind creates a natural backdrop and is a remnant of the unmodified environment that once occurred along this section of the coast.	1. Mature pohutukawa dominated native bush. 2. Location along the escarpment edge.	NA	1. Dominant native pohutukawa species with native understorey form a key indicator of the historical vegetation patterns of the area. 2. Modification to the margins contributes to fragmenting the feature.	1. The mature and regenerating native bush has regional and national significance and provides a habitat for uncommon and threatened indigenous plants.	1. A steep escarpment creates a dominant coastal edge displaying the natural process of coastal accretion and erosion.	1. Vegetation cover creates a scenic backdrop to the Ohope settlement.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
Ohope Spit (OS) Maps 27, 28	High	The Ohope dunelands are similar to all of the northern dunelands where residential development have occurred upon the frontal and secondary dune lands. The Ohope Spit has some modification as a result of the golf course, whilst the remainder comprises high levels of natural character. The harbour mouth is highly dynamic with the sand spit changing its form on a frequent basis.	1. Natural dune landform comprising frontal, secondary and tertiary dune profiles. 2. Native coastal and dune species dominating the area. 3. Natural dune patterns remnant of the interface of the harbour and open coastal water processes. 4. Estuarine margins of the Ohiwa Harbour.	1. Highly dynamic coastal processes occurring along the harbour and coastal margins. 2. The intertidal processes are significant. 3. Modification to the distal end has occurred to manage erosion of the spit.	1. The frontal dune system and river margins remain largely intact with native vegetation cover.	1. Native coastal dune vegetation dominates this coastal area. Some exotic species exist as part of the golf course.	1. The natural processes are dominant in this area for the dune formation. The landform depicts the dynamic natural processes that continue to dominate this coastline.	1. The natural patterns of the dune system is dominant and recognisable from public viewpoints.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
Ohiwa Harbour Maps 27, 28	Outstanding	Ohiwa Harbour is considered in two parts; the harbour and its margins. The harbour supports an important habitat for native wildlife and flora. The landform around the margins remains largely unmodified with exception of Wainui Road, the fish and chip shop, the oyster farm and Port Ohope. In the wider sense these modifications are relatively minor when the whole harbour is considered. The harbour is approximately 27 km^2 in area, with a width of 5.5 km and length of 8 km. Development of the landward extent has been largely from farming practices and associated housing. More recently rural residential subdivision has been a popular activity along the Ohiwa Harbour coastline, with a	1. Large intertidal native habitats. 2. Intact natural margins of the harbour. 3. Large areas of dominant native vegetation cover on islands and margins. 4. Diverse flora and fauna present.	1. Minimal structures exist on the harbour, located at Ohope Wharf and the far western end jetty. 2. The harbour is a water body that displays a diverse habitat of marine aquatic flora and fauna. 3. A shallow harbour system the harbour displays distinctive natural patterns. 4. A small pocket of marine farming is found at the far western end of the harbour.	1. The rural landscape around the Ōhiwa Harbour has scatterings of dwellings consistent with a rural landscape. 2. Much of the coastal vegetation has been lost and all that remains is set within the harbour itself.	1. The harbour margins contain pockets of remnant coastal native bush, including the harbour margins and parts of Ohakana Island. 2. The harbour itself is largely unmodified and displays large areas of saltmarsh and mangrove habitats and pockets of freshwater wetlands grading to saltmarsh. 3. It includes the nationally significant Uretara Island, Hiwarau coastal vegetation and Pataua and Motuotu Island. T 4. he harbour supports a diverse system of flora and fauna and is unique.	1. Some minimal limitations on the natural processes occurring with seawalls, dune protection measures. 2. Most coastal processes still occur with increased siltation of the harbour as a result of inland and coastal erosion processes.	1. The northern end of the harbour is busy with the port commercial activities, residents from Ohakana sland and the users of Wainui Road. 2. The scale of the harbour gives a sense of remoteness and the vegetation patterns and water provides a sense of wilderness.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
		small increase in the visual clutter along the landward extent. The harbour mouth is highly dynamic with the sand spit changing its form on a frequent basis. Historical residential lots for Ohiwa are now located within the harbour's water body, having been eroded.						
Ohiwa Harbour Margins (OM) Map 27	High	The margins of Ohiwa Harbour are the areas that still retain intertidal natural environments but have been physically separated from the harbour as a result of roading infrastructure. These areas contribute to the experience of Ohiwa Harbour however have had some modification to their natural	1. Intertidal saltmarsh habitats. 2. Remnant harbour margin retained.	1. The water body in these areas is managed for tidal movement.	1. Land use remains as a harbour intertidal zone.	1. The harbour itself is largely unmodified and displays large areas of saltmarsh and mangrove habitats and pockets of freshwater wetlands grading to saltmarsh.	1. The natural processes have been modified for the inlet and outlet of water with modification around the feature. However, the feature has adapted and displays similar patterns to that found on the true harbour edge.	1. The pockets of harbour margin display the natural harbour margin as compared to the modified extent from the road edge. These areas contribute to the scenic quality of the Ohiwa Harbour as a whole.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
		processes and patterns.						
Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve (Ta) Map 27	High	Pohutukawa and native bush clad escarpment contributes to the overall experience of Ohiwa Harbour. The bush clad escarpments display an example of the historic vegetation patterns once found around the Ohiwa Harbour.	1. Unmodified rocky coastline. 2. Remnant and regenerating native bush. 3. Vegetation extending to the coastal edge. 4. Remote and isolated with pedestrian access only. 5. Dynamic coastal processes occurring.	1. Unmodified coastal edge with no structures or moorings.	1. Mixture of regenerating native coastal bush and remnant pohutukawa coastal bush. 2. Modification is limited to the walking tracks that access through the reserve and the historic pa site.	1. The mature and regenerating native bush has regional and national significance and provides a habitat for uncommon and threatened indigenous plants.	1. Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes. 2. Modification extends only to the access tracks.	1. This area contributes to the scenic qualities of the harbour itself and the coastal margin.
Waiotahi Estuary (WEs) Map 28	Very High	The Waioeka wetlands and river mouth comprise a largely unmodified coastal edge with some farming around the edges.	1. Intertidal areas of the exposed estuary floor with associated flora and fauna. 2. Saltmarsh and native vegetation along the margins. 3. Natural patterns	1. Minimal activity occurs along the open coast with no structures, jetties or moorings. 2. The harbour has been modified through reclamation, retaining and redirection of the	1. Modification has occurred to the margins of the estuary through farming practices and reclamation.	1. The Waiotahi River estuary and spit consists of a diverse range of indigenous vegetation types from forest to sandfields with high diversity and regional significance.	1. The harbour entrances remain unmodified, however, the Waiotahi Estuary has some river and edge modification.	1. Ohiwa and Waiotahi are small settlements with the coastal environment having a sense of untouched wilderness and remoteness.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
			along the estuary edge.	water channels.				
Waiotahi Dunes and Escarpment (WD) Map 28	High	Rolling foothills extend down to a steep escarpment that meets the coastal dunelands between the Ohiwa and Waiotahi settlements. Pockets of native vegetation cover are located along the roadside edge by Waiotahi settlement.	1. Large outcrop of pohutukawa dominated native bush and coastal dune planting.	1. Open coastal waters unmodified from human activity.	1. State highway extends through the centre of the native bush area immediately adjacent to the frontal dune edge.	1. Large pohutukawa dominated native bush cover iconic of historical coastal vegetation cover.	1. Natural coastal processes are moderately affected by inclusion of road network.	1. Whilst not remote, the perception of the area is of a natural coastal edge, representative of the native bush cover that would have once dominated this coastline.
Waioeka Estuary (WaE) Map 28	High	The Waioeka wetlands and river mouth comprise a largely unmodified coastal edge with some farming practices around the edges.	1. Natural dune patterns and vegetation cover. 2. Intertidal estuarine vegetation with an unmodified edge. 3. River mouth and coastal dune edge.	1. The natural watercourse patterns within the estuary are largely unmodified with a small intertidal stream extending through the estuary to the Waioeka River.	1. Large dune land and wetlands are located adjacent to the Waioeka River.	1. The Waioeka Estuary and associated wetlands has high diversity and regional significance, and provides habitat for a range of indigenous bird and fish species.	1. Limitations on the natural processes occurring with dune protection measures and earthworks on the dunes. 2. The harbour entrance remains unmodified, however the estuary has some modification of its natural edge.	1. Native dune landform and the dynamic natural processes of the coast dominate this area. Whilst not pristine the area is valued for its natural patterns.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
Omarumutu Dunes (OD) Map 29	High	The Omarumutu dunes and inlet comprise a dynamic frontal and secondary dune system with native vegetation cover. A number of access tracks and the National Cycleway extend along this dune system. The rear dune wetland is a remnant path of the nearby Waiaua River watercourse and supports native wetland vegetation cover.	1. Native dune landform and vegetation cover. 2. Rear dune wetland water body and formation. 3. Wetland native vegetation cover.	1. The natural watercourse of the Waiaua River and wetland and its interaction with the open coastal waters displays a highly natural environment. 2. Minor modification to the stream has resulted in channelled stream outlet.	1. A dominant coastal dune landscape the natural patterns are modified from access tracks along and across the dune system.	1. The wider section of sand flats, saltmarsh and estuary at the Waiaua River mouth has high diversity with regional significance, and the estuary provides significant habitat for indigenous fish and bird species, but is modified by grazing.	1. The natural processes are dominant in this area for the dune formation. 2. The landform depicts the dynamic natural processes that continue to dominate this coastline along with the natural patterns of a river mouth, although partially modified.	1. Displays a dynamic natural coastal edge with adjoining development and the state highway detracting from the sense of isolation.
Tarakeha and Pehitairi Peninsula (TPP) Map 29	Very High	From Opape to the end of the region, the coastal environment comprises a rocky coastline with small sandy embayments sited between rocky headlands. The Tarakeha and Pehitairi peninsula are the first of many peninsula in this area that are covered in native vegetation. Pohutukawa outcrops extend around peninsula and form a transition between the rocky coastal	1. Rocky shoreline and sandy beaches clad with dominant pohutukawa outcrops. 2. Extensive regenerating native bush.	1. An unmodified coastline and the water body has minimal modification to it.	1. Native vegetated clad headlands dominate the coastline with minimal modification. 2. The rocky coastline remains unmodified, with settlement located within the embayments. 3. The coastal road extends entirely within the coastal environment.	1. The headlands have vegetation consisting of indigenous scrubland and treeland including pohutukawa and taraire with national and regional significance. 2. Diversity is high because of the range of vegetation types and sequences which support a wide range of indigenous bird species and support a nationally critical endangered plant species.	1. An unmodified natural coastline void of modification from infrastructure or housing. 2. Some modification occurs sporadically for land management purposes, e.g. rural fencing. 3. The natural coastal processes dominate this coastal environment.	1. Dominant headland landform and the dynamic natural processes of the coast dominate this area. Native vegetation cover, whilst not pristine the area is valued for its natural patterns.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
		edge and the landward coastal environment.						
Rocky Shoreline - Whituare Bay to Parinui and Whitianga Bay to Pokohinu Point (Whi) Maps 29, 30	High	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 landuse.	1. Rocky shoreline and sandy beaches clad with dominant pohutukawa outcrops. 2. Extensive regenerating native bush. 3. Steep escarpments and remoteness.	1. An unmodified coastline the water body has minimal modification to it. 2. Small boat ramps located for settlements.	1. Native vegetated clad headlands dominate the coastline with minimal modification. 2. The rocky coastline remains unmodified, with settlement located within the embayments. 3. The coastal road extends within the coastal environment.	1. The headlands have vegetation consisting of indigenous scrubland and treeland including pohutukawa and taraire with national and regional significance. 2. Diversity is high because of the range of vegetation types and sequences which support a wide range of indigenous bird species and support a nationally critical plant species.	1. An unmodified natural coastline void of modification from infrastructure or housing. 2. Some modification occurs sporadically for land management purposes, e.g., rural fencing. 3. The natural coastal processes dominate this coastal environment.	1. Native vegetation cover combined with the rocky shoreline creates a sense of remoteness and emphasises the dominant processes of the ocean upon the coastline.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
Motu River Mouth (Mot) Map 30	Very High	The Motu 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.	1. Natural dune patterns meeting the shingle bank along the shoreline. 2. Natural watercourse patterns and islands of vegetation. 3. Native bush cover along the margins. 3. Dynamic nature of the river watercourse.	1. An unmodified coastline, the water body has minimal modification to it. 2. Natural patterns and coastal shoreline demonstrate a large natural river mouth, now rare along the Bay of Plenty coastline.	1. The river bed has large shingle banks covered in native and exotic vegetation cover. 2. The margins meet native bush cover with the coastal dunes connecting from the west.	1. The Motu River is notable for high wildlife value supporting threatened indigenous fish and bird species and is of national significance.	1. The Motu River displays dynamic natural processes occurring at the river mouth entrance with an undefined channel. 2. In many places the river exits through the shingle bank along the coastal shoreline.	1. The coastal environment has a sense of untouched wilderness and remoteness. 2. There is infrequent use of the coastal environment in this area with only State Highway 35 extending through part of the area.
Haparapara River mouth (Ha) Map 31	Very High	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.	1. Natural dune patterns meeting the shingle bank along the shoreline. 2. Natural watercourse patterns and islands of vegetation. 3. Native bush cover along the margins. 4. Dynamic nature of the river watercourse.	1. An unmodified coastline, the river channel and mouth is unmodified with a meandering and disappearing watercourse.	1. The river bed has large shingle banks covered in native and exotic vegetation cover. The margins meet native bush cover with the coastal dunes connecting from the west.	1. The Haparapara River is notable for outstanding wildlife value supporting threatened indigenous fish species and is of regional significance.	1. The Haparapara River displays dynamic natural processes occurring at the river mouth entrance with an undefined channel. In many places the river exits through the shingle bank along the coastal shoreline.	1. The coastal environment has a sense of untouched wilderness and remoteness. There is infrequent use of the coastal environment in this area with only State Highway 35 running parallel to the feature.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
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 environment. Much of the native coastal vegetation exists around the rocky headlands with the embayments modified for productive landuse.	1. Rocky shoreline and sandy beaches clad with dominant pohutukawa outcrops. 2. Extensive regenerating native bush. 3. Steep escarpments and remoteness.	1. An unmodified coastline the water body has minimal modification to it. 2. The interface between the ocean and streams remains unmodified. 3. No moorings or permanent activity occurs within the immediate coastal waters.	1. Native vegetated clad headlands dominate the coastline with minimal modification. 2. The rocky coastline remains unmodified, with settlement located within the embayments. 3. The coastal road extends entirely within the coastal environment.	1. The headlands have vegetation consisting of indigenous scrubland and treeland including pohutukawa and taraire with national and regional significance. 2. Diversity is high because of the range of vegetation types and sequences which support a wide range of indigenous bird species.	1. Displays a highly natural coastal process with an unmodified rocky coastline. 2. The vegetation patterns remaining within this feature display the natural environment prior to human inhabitation.	1. Native vegetation cover combined with the rocky shoreline creates a sense of remoteness and emphasises the dominant processes of the ocean upon the coastline.
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.	1. Rocky shoreline and sandy beaches clad with dominant pohutukawa outcrops. 2. Extensive regenerating native bush. 3. Steep escarpments and remoteness.	1. An unmodified coastline the water body has minimal modification to it. 2. The interface between the ocean and streams remains unmodified. 3. Small areas of moorings or permanent activity occur within the immediate coastal waters.	1. Native vegetated clad headlands dominate the coastline with minimal modification. 2. The rocky coastline remains unmodified, with settlement located within the embayments. 3. The coastal road extends entirely within the coastal environment.	1. The headlands have vegetation consisting of indigenous scrubland and treeland including pohutukawa and taraire with national and regional significance. 2. Diversity is high because of the range of vegetation types and sequences which support a wide range of indigenous bird species.	1. Displays a highly natural coastal process with an unmodified rocky coastline. 2. The vegetation patterns remaining within this feature display the natural environment prior to human inhabitation.	1. Native vegetation cover combined with the rocky shoreline creates a sense of remoteness and emphasises the dominant processes of the ocean upon the coastline.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
Raukokore River (RaR) Map 32	High	The Raukokore River mouth remains unmodified and demonstrates the natural river patterns and processes of other rivers along this part of the coast.	1. Natural dune patterns meeting the shingle bank along the shoreline. 2. Natural watercourse patterns and islands of vegetation. 3. Native bush cover along the margins 4. Dynamic nature of the river watercourse.	1. An unmodified coastline, the river channel and mouth is unmodified with a meandering and disappearing watercourse.	1. The river bed has large shingle banks covered in native and exotic vegetation cover. 2. The margins meet native bush cover with the coastal dunes connecting from the west.	1. The Raukokore River is notable for outstanding wildlife value supporting threatened indigenous fish species and is of regional significance.	1. The Raukokore River displays dynamic natural processes occurring at the river mouth entrance with an undefined channel. 2. In many places the river exits through the shingle bank along the coastal shoreline.	1. The coastal environment has a sense of untouched wilderness and remoteness. 2. Agricultural farming along the margins detracts from its remoteness however the river patterns display a highly natural environment.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
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.	1. Vertical cliffs demonstrating the natural coastal processes of coastal erosion and tectonic uplift. 2. Coastal vegetation cover dominates part of this feature along with coastal wetlands and dunes.	1. Infrequent use of the coastal waters, mainly recreational, some small scale commercial.	1. Settlement and farming practices around Waihau bay have removed any remnant vegetation cover. 2. Infrastructure and settlement extends along the coast at Waihau Bay. 3. The immediate coastal edge remains largely unmodified from Te Ahikehe Point to Cape Runaway.	1. Whangaparoa Beach and river mouth has high habitat diversity ranging from dunes to wetlands, supporting a diverse indigenous bird and fish fauna. It has national significance but is modified by grazing and weed infestations. 2. The Oruaiti Beach dunes and rocky headlands are part of a larger feature that has vegetation sequences from the coast to the ridgeline, and has high habitat diversity and regional/national significance but is modified by recreational uses and weed infestations.	1. The natural dune processes still occur, modified through land use practices. Coastal erosion dominates Te Ahikehe Point.	1. Whangaparoa Bay has built form which is evident along the coast. 2. Natural coastal sounds dominate but some settlement and associated activities reduces the sense of remoteness. 3. Cape Runaway has minimal use and is very remote with a strong sense of wilderness.
Cape Runaway to Potikirua Point (Run) Map 33	High	Cape Runaway forms a dominant headland and is covered in regenerating bush. A steep rocky coastline extends along this entire sector. Road access is sited behind the dominant ridge and outside the coastal environment.	1. Dominant landform and natural patterns extending toward the steep rocky shoreline. 2. Native vegetation cover. 3. Sparse nature of settlement and human modification.	1. Unmodified steep rocky coastline with infrequent use of the coastal waters.	1. Modification to the landcover has occurred through land use practices of farming. 2. Largely unmodified except for a single remote hotel located along the coast.	1. The sector consists mainly of grazed pasture with isolated pohutukawa forest remnants (grazed) and small areas of scrubland that will provide limited habitat for common indigenous fauna species and have local	1. Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes.	1. The coastal environment having a sense of untouched wilderness and remoteness. 2. Access to the water is limited and a scattering of dwellings do not dominate the coastal

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
		Settlement is sparse in this area with some rural housing and a single hotel located along the mid slopes of the coastal edge. Vegetation cover has been modified to accommodate grazing of stock, however dominant pockets are located along the edge and up into valleys that meet the coastal edge. The rocky shoreline provides a wild and scenic coastline and that has a high sense of remoteness.				significance. 2. The associated rocky reefs and small islets are likely to have relatively unmodified intertidal and sub-tidal indigenous fauna and vegetation.		environment.
Whakaari and Te Paepae o Aotea (WT) Map 35	Outstanding	Whakaari (White Island) is the crater of an active volcano located 44 km off the Bay of Plenty coastline. The island is 19.8 km^2 in area and is boarded by cliffs formed by ocean wave erosion. Vegetation cover on the island is limited to 14 species including pohutukawa.	1. Dominant volcanic processes and formation. 2. Native vegetation cover. 3. The island feature as a whole is iconic for its natural processes at a regional and national level.	1. Some minimal modification to the island for access for tourism and monitoring.	1. Historical mining occurred however remain as remnants only. 2. Structures exist to provide tourist access and remain minor.	1. Both features include the main islands and a number of associated islets and rocky reefs with indigenous vegetation that are naturally of low diversity, and are nationally significant. 2. The islands provide habitat for a range of seabirds. 3. The associated marine reserve recognises the unique marine	1. Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes.	1. Very low level of permanent activity with a high sense of remoteness and wilderness. 2. The volcanic island's active status demonstrates the wilderness and its distance from shore contributes to its remoteness.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
						biodiversity associated with the subsurface geothermal features.		
Moutohora Island and Rurima Island (Mout) Map 26	Outstanding	Moutohora Island (Whale Island) and Rurima Island are located on the Pacific Ring of Fire. Whale Island displays a range of natural features and processes occurring on the island, including a volcanic field running through the centre of the island. Rurima Island is located just north of Whale Island and contains similar vegetation cover and rock formations.	1. Vertical cliffs demonstrating the natural coastal processes of coastal erosion and volcanic processes. 2. Native flora and fauna dominate these islands and contribute to the remoteness. 3. The natural environment dominates this island, with the only visible modification occurring only as a result of the DOC hut.	1. Some minimal modification to Moutohora Island for access for recreation and monitoring.	1. Structures exist to provide tourist access and remain minor. A DOC hut is located on Moutohora Island for accommodation.	1. Rurima Islands Wildlife Refuge includes several islands with complete cover of a diverse range of vegetation types and are nationally significant. They have no mammalian pests, high biodiversity and provides habitat for a wide range of endemic, threatened and rare flora and fauna species, notably tuatara. 2. Moutohora Island Wildlife Management Reserve has complete cover of a diverse range of vegetation types including a unique sequence of geothermal vegetation occurs from the high tide mark up to forest and is nationally significant. It has no mammalian pests, has very high biodiversity and provides habitat for a wide range of endemic, threatened and rare flora and fauna	1. Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes. 2. Moutohora depicts a full range of natural processes from a rocky coastal shoreline to a volcanic crevasse that extends through the island.	1. Very low level of activity with a high sense of remoteness and wilderness. Moutohora island's active volcanic crevasse demonstrates the wilderness and its distance from shore contributes to its remoteness.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
						species. Some exotic weed species are present.		
Tuhua (Tu) Map 34	Outstanding	Tuhua is a 15 km wide shield volcano dominated by a 3 km caldera crater. The volcano has the most diverse history of volcanic eruption types and is renowned for its unique obsidian glass found on the island. As a DOC and Marine Reserve, the island's remoteness is apparent. Vegetation cover is indigenous and remains untouched. Occupation of the island was historically Maori with an existing DOC hut located on the island. Access to the island is gained from South East Bay by boat. Several lakes exist on the island and are geothermally heated. As the largest off shore island, it displays high values in natural character	1. Vertical rocky cliffs demonstrating the natural coastal processes of coastal erosion and volcanic processes. 2. Native flora and fauna dominate these islands and contribute to the remoteness. 3. The natural environment dominates this island, with the only visible modification occurring only as a result of the DOC hut.	1. No modification to coastal edge for access and use. Marine Reserve extends around the island.	1. Structures exist to provide tourist access and remain minor. A DOC hut is located on Moutohora Island for accommodation.	1. The indigenous pohutukawa forest of Mayor Island Wildlife Sanctuary provides almost complete cover on the island and is nationally significant. 2. It is unmodified by possums, has no mammalian pests, has very high biodiversity and provides habitat for a wide range of endemic, threatened and rare flora and fauna species. 3. Some exotic weed species are present. 4. The surrounding rocky reefs are known to support moderate to high marine biodiversity.	1. Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes. 2. Volcanic processes are evident within the thermally heated lakes on the island.	1. Very low level of activity and visible built form. 2. A high sense of remoteness and wilderness are gained from its distance from shore and unmodified state.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
		and is also an Outstanding Natural Landscape.						
Karewa Island (Kar) Map 20	Outstanding	Karewa Island forms a steep rocky island, which provides a DOC sanctuary for tuatara. Vegetation cover comprises native coastal bush and canopy cover. The island is largely inaccessible due to its rocky shoreline.	1. Vertical rocky cliffs demonstrating the natural coastal processes. 2. Native flora and fauna dominate these islands and contribute to the remoteness. 3. The natural environment dominates this island, with the only visible modification occurring only as a result of the wreck of the Taranaki Steamer (which sank off the island in 1878).	1. No modification to coastal edge for access and use. Marine Reserve extends around the island.	1. No structures or manmade landuse practices occur on the island.	1. The indigenous vegetation of Karewa Island Wildlife Sanctuary provides almost complete cover on the island and is nationally significant. 2. It provides habitat for a range of flora and fauna species, notably tuatara and nesting for flesh-footed shearwater. 3. Some exotic weed species are present in low numbers and there are no mammalian pests present. 4. The feature includes a number of outlying rocky islets and reefs.	1. Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes.	1. Very low level of activity and visible built form. 2. A high sense of remoteness and wilderness are gained from its distance from shore and unmodified state.
Motiti Island Margin (Moti) Map 21	High	Motiti Island is the only inhabited offshore island along the Bay of Plenty Coastline. As a flat plateau the island has been developed into cropping and grazing blocks. Much of the coastal	1. Vertical rocky cliffs clad with pohutukawa and native coastal bush cover along the immediate edge. 3. The coastal intertidal zone displays the dominant natural processes	1. Some permanent modification around parts of the island has occurred to provide for ferry, vehicle and pedestrian access to the shoreline.	1. Motiti Island is heavily modified for agricultural, horticultural and residential activities. 2. The area identified supports the interface of native vegetation cover on land	1. Indigenous vegetation consists of a narrow fringe of good quality pohutukawa forest around the coastal margin of the land with moderate diversity and regional significance.	1. Excellent example of natural processes with minor modifications to the coastal processes to enable access to the coastal edge.	1. Motiti Island has a part of its coastline which are inaccessible however the modification contribute to some remoteness.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
		vegetation has been cleared with pockets of pohutukawa extending along the rocky shoreline. The small islands immediately surrounding Motiti are also included in the feature.	surrounding the island.		unsuitable for farming, along the coastal fringe.			
Motuhaku Island (Sch) Map 21	Outstanding	The offshore island of Motuhaku is a relatively small rocky islands with some coastal vegetation located upon the upper plateau of the islands.	1. Vertical rocky cliffs demonstrating the natural coastal processes. 2. Native flora and fauna dominate these islands and contribute to the remoteness.	1. Highly dynamic coastal waters around the steep cliffs, creating caves and striking rock formations around the island.	1. No structures or man made landuse practices occur on the island.	1. The island coastal margins support a range of seabirds, shorebirds and other native bird species. 2. Plate (Motunau) Island is unmodified and has national significance.	1. Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes.	1. Very low level of activity and visible built form. 2. A high sense of remoteness and wilderness are gained from its distance from shore and unmodified state.
Motunau Island (Mnau) Map 21	Outstanding	The offshore island of Motunau is relatively small rocky islands with some coastal vegetation located upon the upper plateau of the islands.	1. Vertical rocky cliffs demonstrating the natural coastal processes. 2. Native flora and fauna dominate these islands and contribute to the remoteness.	1. Highly dynamic coastal waters around the steep cliffs, creating caves and striking rock formations around the island.	1. No structures or man made landuse practices occur on the island.	1. The island coastal margins support a range of seabirds, shorebirds and other native bird species. The Island is unmodified and has regional significance.	1. Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes.	1. Very low level of activity and visible built form. A high sense of remoteness and wilderness are gained from its distance from shore and unmodified state.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
Motutau Island (Motu) Map 20	Outstanding	Motutau Island, also known locally as Rabbit Island, forms a steep rocky island surrounded. Vegetation cover comprises native coastal bush and canopy cover. The island is largely inaccessible due to its rocky shoreline.	1. Vertical rocky cliffs demonstrating the natural coastal processes. 2. Native flora and fauna dominate these islands and contribute to the remoteness.	1. No modification to coastal edge for access and use.	1. No structures or man made landuse practices occur on the island.	1. The indigenous pohutukawa forest of Motuatau Island Scenic Reserve provides almost complete cover on the island and is nationally significant. 2. It provides habitat for a wide range of endemic, threatened and rare flora and fauna species. Some exotic weed species are present but are controlled. T 3. he feature includes a number of outlying rocky islets and reefs including that to the north of the nearby Motuariki Island.	1. Excellent example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes.	1. Very low level of activity and visible built form. 2. A high sense of remoteness and wilderness are gained from its unmodified state. 3. The distance from shore contributes to its reduced perception of remoteness.
Matakana Island - Northern End (MatN) Maps 17, 18	Very High	Matakana Island is the largest barrier island in New Zealand. The coastal extent of the island forms a large sand dune system that extends some 23km between the northern and southern harbour entrances. The harbour extent of the island comprises a raised	1. Striking coastal wetlands at the northern end of Matakana depict the historical vegetation patterns of this island. 2. Dune formation across the island and the interface with the northern harbour entrance.	1. The coastal edge of this feature is unmodified and displays highly dynamic processes of erosion and accretion of the island land mass.	1. Much of the island has been modified through forestry, horticultural and agricultural land use practices. 2. Forestry dominates the immediate edge whilst the inland extent of this feature comprises large areas of significant wetlands.	1. The seaward coastal margin of the island includes dunes and wetlands with high quality and beneath the canopy diverse indigenous vegetation that has national significance and includes threatened plant species. 2. It provides a relatively undisturbed habitat for	1. A good example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes to the majority of the island. However, the dominant pine plantation limits the dune coastal processes and encourages accretion of the dune system.	1. The open coast beach has significant remoteness and appears wild as a result of the expanse of coastal waters along the extensive beach. Human activity is minimal. 2. The harbour extent and landward extent, excluding the settlement areas are

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
		landmass that supports a residential settlement and rural cropping and farming.				a wide range of threatened and uncommon wetland and shore birds, notably nesting areas for NZ dotterel. 3. On the harbour-side coastal margins, Indigenous vegetation consists of mainly of the estuarine saltmarsh and intertidal habitats. These coastal margin features are included in the Tauranga Harbour feature. 4. The wetlands provide relatively undisturbed habitat for indigenous wetland fauna and range in significance from local to national.	2. The inner harbour edge has undergone some modification at settlement areas to manage coastal erosion and access.	remote and wild.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
Matakana Island - Open Coastal Edge (MatC) Maps 18, 20	High	Matakana Island is the largest barrier island in New Zealand. The coastal extent of the island forms a large sand dune system that extends some 23 km between the northern and southern harbour entrances. The harbour extent of the island comprises a raised landmass that supports a residential settlement and rural cropping and farming.	1. Dune formation across the island and the interface with both harbour entrances, including the sand spit at the southern Tauranga Harbour entrance at Panepane Point. 2. Frontal dune profiles. 3. Native dune vegetation in the understorey. 4. Native fauna within the dune system.	1. The coastal edge of this feature is unmodified and displays highly dynamic processes of erosion and acretion of the island land mass.	1. Much of the island has been modified through forestry, horticultural and agricultural land use practices. 2. Forestry dominates the immediate edge with an understorey of native vegetation within the dune system.	1. The seaward coastal margin of the island includes dunes and wetlands with high quality and beneath the canopy diverse indigenous vegetation that has national significance and includes threatened plant species. 2. It provides a relatively undisturbed habitat for a wide range of threatened and uncommon wetland and shore birds, notably nesting areas for New Zealand dotterel.	1. A good example of natural processes with no modifications to the coastal processes to the majority of the island. However, the dominant pine plantation limits the dune coastal processes and encourages accretion of the dune system. 2. The inner harbour edge has undergone some modification at settlement areas to manage coastal erosion and access.	1. The open coast beach has significant remoteness and is wild. Human activity is minimal.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
Tauranga Harbour Northern Harbour (THN) Maps 17, 18, 19, 20, 22	Very High	Tauranga Harbour is a shallow tidal estuary of 224km2 of which 93% is exposed at low tide. Mangroves are present along the coastline along with saltmarsh. More recently in settled areas the mangroves have been removed and unnatural lines formed within the vegetation patterns. Similarly there has been damage to the subtidal sea floor from the removal operations. Sedimentation is apparent in the southern harbour estuaries where reclamation has contributed to the retention of sediment.	1. Natural patterns throughout the harbour, particularly when it is exposed during low tide. 2. Unmodified harbour margins with natural edges and vegetation patterns. 3. Native flora and fauna dominating the harbour margins	1. Inlets and water ingress to the harbour have been modified to concentrate flows of water around built up areas. 2. There has been modification to the harbour margins to accommodate commercial and recreational harbour use. 3. Other parts of the northern harbour estuaries remain largely unmodified and in a natural state. Channel markers are located along the natural deep water channels in the harbour along with navigation signs. 4. Small boat ramps provide recreational access within developed margins of the harbour.	1. The harbour contains some permanent moorings around Omokoroa, Katikati, Tanners Point and Athenree. 2. Minor harbour structures include channel markers and jetties. 3. Remaining natural parts of the harbour remain intact.	1. The northern extent of the harbour below MHWS has low modification and includes the extensive areas of seagrass, saltmarsh around the margins of the mainland and islands, mangrove shrublands, transitions to freshwater wetlands at river mouths, shell and sand banks used by indigenous birds. 2. It has high diversity of habitats and vegetation types, areas with regional and national significance, and supports a wide range of indigenous bird and fish species including uncommon and threatened species.	1. A mixture of excellent examples of coastal processes along with significant changes to the coastal processes. 2. The northern end of the harbour remains largely unmodified except for the settlement areas.	1. Parts of the harbour are inaccessible by boat and foot. 2. Large parts of the northern harbour have a strong sense of remoteness particularly alongside Matakana Island. Adjacent to the mainland the harbour is more accessible and numerous activities occur along the harbour margins. 3. Beaches are popular recreation spots and residential settlements clutter parts of the coastline.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
Tauranga Harbour - Southern Harbour (THS) Maps 20, 22	High	Tauranga Harbour is a shallow tidal estuary of 224 km^2 of which 93% is exposed at low tide. Mangroves are present along the coastline along with saltmarsh. More recently in settled areas the mangroves have been removed and unnatural lines formed within the vegetation patterns. The harbour margins have been modified and reinforced to accommodate residential development. Siltation of the southern extent of the harbour is a likely result of the modifications to the harbour margins and from adjoining land use change. Structures form part of the harbour and its margins. Navigation structures a minor structures with retaining structures along the harbour margin defining a modified harbour	1. Natural patterns throughout the harbour, particularly when it is exposed during low tide. 2. Unmodified harbour margins with natural edges and vegetation patterns. 3. Native flora and fauna dominating the harbour margins.	1. Inlets and water ingress to the harbour have been modified to concentrate flows of water around built up areas. 2. There has been modification to the harbour margins to accommodate commercial and recreational harbour use. 3. Other parts of the southern harbour estuaries remain largely unmodified and in a natural state. Channel markers are located along the natural deep water channels in the harbour along with navigation signs. 4. Small boat ramps provide recreational access within developed margins of the harbour.	1. Part of the harbour have been heavily modified to accommodate boat ramps and deep water access to boat ramps. Channel markers are scattered throughout the harbour and are visible during the night time.	1. Tauranga Harbour below MHWS has low modification and includes the extensive areas of seagrass, saltmarsh around the margins of the mainland and islands, mangrove shrublands, transitions to freshwater wetlands at river mouths, shell and sand banks used by indigenous birds. 2. More recently removal of mangroves has occurred adjoining inhabited areas. 3. It has high diversity of habitats and vegetation types, areas with regional and national significance, and supports a wide range of indigenous bird and fish species including uncommon and threatened species.	1. A mixture of excellent examples of coastal processes along with significant changes to the coastal processes. The southern end of the harbour has more modification as a result of the urbanisation of this part of the harbour. Modification includes reclamation for the port, roads and bridges and retaining for residential settlement to prevent erosion.	1. Parts of the harbour are inaccessible by boat and foot. 2. Adjacent to the mainland the harbour is more accessible and numerous activities occur along the harbour margins. 3. Beaches are popular recreation spots and residential settlements clutter the coastline.

				Main attributes (includes those that enhance and diminish natural character)				
Name	**Amount of natural character**	**General description of area**	**Attributes that enhance natural character**	**Water**	**Land cover and land use**	**Terrestrial biotic**	**Abiotic systems and landform**	**Perceptual**
		edge.						