

land area: WAIMEA INLET				
PIGEON BAY CRITERIA				
(a) THE NATURAL SCIENCE FACTORS:	geological	topographical	ecological	dynamic components
	<p>The western landward coastline of the Waimea Inlet comprises of Moutere Gravel (poorly to moderately well sorted clay-bound gravel dominated by quartzofeldspathic sandstone clasts) with minor gravel floodplains from the tributary streams and a greater flood plain associated with the Waimea River and Delta. The majority of Rabbit Island, Bests and Bells Island consists of a finer quaternary sand with the sheltered side of these islands consisting of beach deposits of gravel and sand, mud and boulder banks. The eastern coastline of Waimea Inlet (Stoke-Monaco) is poorly sorted gravel forming alluvial fans, screes, and colluvial deposits, with a small area of reclaimed land south of the Airport. The Back Beach (forming the back to Tahuna Beach) consists of the same fine quaternary sands as the seaward side of Rabbit Island. (Geological &amp; Nuclear Sciences 1:250 000 Geological Map 9</p>	<p>Waimea Inlet - being 3, 455 hectares (with an internal coastline of 65 kms) is the largest enclosed estuary in he South Island. Waimea inlet has two mouths: one at Mapua to the west, and one around Tahuna to the east. Rabbit, Rough, Best and Bell Islands sit between the east and the west parts of the inlet. Rabbit Island is an important geological feature, being a barrier island that ensures the continuing survival of the Waimea Inlet. There are 10 islands within the inlet, with 22 small streams feeding in to the inlet as well as the Waimea Inlet.</p>	<p>Part of the Moutere ED &amp; Motueka ED. Originally in the Moutere ED was in podocarp forest (totara, matai, rimu, miro and kahikatea). Black beech dominant on the hills (towards the sea); hard beech, red beech, then silver beech prevalent further inland. Sheltered coastal gullies had broadleaf forest (tawa titoki, pukatea, nikau and tree ferns). Coastal bluffs had ngaio, titoki, nikau, totara and black beech. Finging the estuary was similar to Motueka ED (see below). Originally the Motueka ED (ecological district) (apart from the waterways) was almost entirely covered in forest, with a podocarp forest of totara, matai and Kahikatea. On lower hills a mixed forest of black beech, hard beech, rimu, totara, kamahi, titoki and tawa. Along coastal bluffs and fringing the estuaries was ngaio, cabbage tree, kowhai and totara. Freshwater wetlands included lowland kahikatea, harakeke, cabbage tree, tussock sedge and raupo swamps. Estuaries were full of wetland birds, fish and invertebrates. Riparian ecosystems included flax and toetoe. (see Appendix 7)</p>	<p>Flooding from the Waimea River and general aggregation from water flow changes the form within the Inlet. Rabbit Island forms a barrier island that protects and maintains the Waimea Estuary in its current form. Creation of sandbanks by currents, changes to coastline through waves/wind/current. Human modification of shoreline of estuary through reclamation and industrial development.</p>
(b) AESTHETIC VALUES	memorability		naturalness & ecological continued.	
	<p>high aesthetics when the tide in - with views out towards Mt Arthur Range and Takaka mountains in the distant. Sunsets across waters/mirroring of estuary area and high presence of birdlife contributes to perception of natural values. Visual amenity value affected by adjacent factories along northern queen street, powerlines that cross over estuary area and knowledge of sewage treatment ponds creating an area of less visual amenity. Pine trees being exotic also not endemic. Monaco a popular residential area valued as a location adjacent to the sea and warranting high really prices, with the western arm of the inlet generally having greater visual amenity with its backdrop of the Moutere Hills and the art galleries/ studios; and restaurants at Mapua Wharf. Rabbit Island offers picnic areas with views out to the seascape of Tasman Bay and an uncluttered long white coastline. Local artists and photographers enjoy recording the beautiful views of the inlet and mountains, especially on a calm sunny winters day. An ideal spot for this is the Hunter Brown Reserve on Rough Island" (TDC website)</p>		<p>Most of the Moutere ED is gone with only fragments of beech forest remaining. Small remnants of coastal bluff forest, broadleaf forest and podocarp - and some small freshwater wetlands. Estuary margin in Moutere ED is still intact although "fringing vegetation" is largely gone. Most of the original ecosystems in the Motueka ED have been lost. there are fragments of forest and freshwater wetland areas, however the estuaries are surprisingly intact although the "fringing vegetation sequences" are largely gone (see Appendix 7). Although margins have been modified, the Inlet retains a high biological importance: especially the whole western inlet; No-mans Island, O'Connor Creek; Pearl Creek; Higgs Reserve and Stringer Creek; Saxton Island and intertidal flats; MDF Plan to Waimea River (Neiman Creek); Bells Island flats; Tahunanui embayment; Saxton Creek saltmarsh; Arodrome Peninsula flats. Rough Isand has only South Island record of Baumea articulata (sedge). Small wetland to the west has only Nelson representative of Isolepis prolifer. Naturalness reduced by exotic forest pine plantations, sealed roads, adjacent factories reducing natural appearance, sewage ponds. (Department of Conservation, Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy, 1993; Occasional Publication No.14 pg 107-108) Beach in natural state.</p>	
(c) EXPRESSIVENESS (LEGIBILITY)	formative processes			
	<p>Waimea inlet located at the mouth of the large Waimea plains - a notably flat landscape creating an elongated horizontal shoreline with vertical elements introduced by the pine plantations along the shoreline and the Moutere Bluffs further to the north. The inlet reads as the widening of the Waimea River and the collection point of many smaller creeks and streams that feed in to the inlet where they mix with the Tasman Sea.</p>			
(d) TRANSIENT VALUES	occasional presence of wildlife		values at certain times of day/year	
	<p>Home and occasionally visited by many sea birds and waders due to the high diversity of biota (i.e. 112 invertebrate; 41 fish species; 50 species of water bird have been reported . Presence of eastern bar tailed godwit (Limosa lapponica baueri) and South Island pied oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus), banded rail (Rallus philippensis assimilis); Australasian bittern (Botaurus stellaris pocioplilius); marsh crane (Porzana pusilla affinis). Whitebait in river mouth, pingao (Desmoschoenus spiralis) on Rabbit Island (Department of Conservation, Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy, 1993; Occasional Publication No.14 pg 107-108). crabs scuttling across estuary at low tide and paddle crab shells found along shoreline.</p>		<p>the ebb and flow of tide, exposure of deeper channels at low tide within the inlet, wave patterns exposed in the sand. Mirror calm within the estuary - especially in the winter months, and sunset reflected in waters. Strong currents associated with both the estuary mouths. Wave action associated with storm activity creates a more energized wild environment.</p>	
(e) VALUES SHARED/RECOGNISED				
	<p>Waimea inlet considered to be of national significance due to the size and variety of habitats. National significance due to the presence of endangered white heron, threatened royal spoonbill, Australasian bittern and banded rail. No-Mans Island is considered to be internationally significant and is protected as a Nature Reserve (Department of Conservation, Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy, 1993; Occasional Publication No.14 pg 107-108). Views gained from surrounding hillside residences through to Nelson (eastern Port Hills). Growth of Monaco shows high interest of aesthetic qualities associated with the inlet. Rabbit island is a popular recreational destination for picnics, walks along the beach. This is the largest picnic area in the district (TDC website). Also popular for mountain biking. <i>Equetrian facilities also located on Rabbit Island</i> . Mapua has restaurants at wharf, campground, residential areas at Grossi Point and along Moutere Hills. Due to size, many different visual experiences available. Blind Channel used by kite surfers; and rowing (dingys)/kayaking in western arm of Waimea Inlet, otherwise low recreational use due to shallow nature of inlet and tidal activity.</p>			
(f) VALUE TO TANGATAWHENUA				
	<p>Oral traditions record Poheas (people before the Maori fleets) thought to have occupied the area in 1,450 AD. 33 known archaeological sites around the inlet and islands within the estuaries. Mostly middens, however urupa also located along boundary of inlet. Important area for food and materials. Grossis Point/Mapua area of particular archaeological importance (Department of Conservation, Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy, 1993; Occasional Publication No.14 pg 107-108).</p>			
(g) HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS				
	<p>settlements of Nelson and Richmond have led to residential activity along shoreline as well as industrial activity (mainly around Richmond and Stoke). Orchardists have historically populated Moutere Hills.</p>			
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>INLET AND COASTLINE: OUTSTANDING NATURAL LANDSCAPE/FEATURES; MOUTERE HILLS FACING INLET: LPA (SECTION 7 LANDSCAPE)</b>			