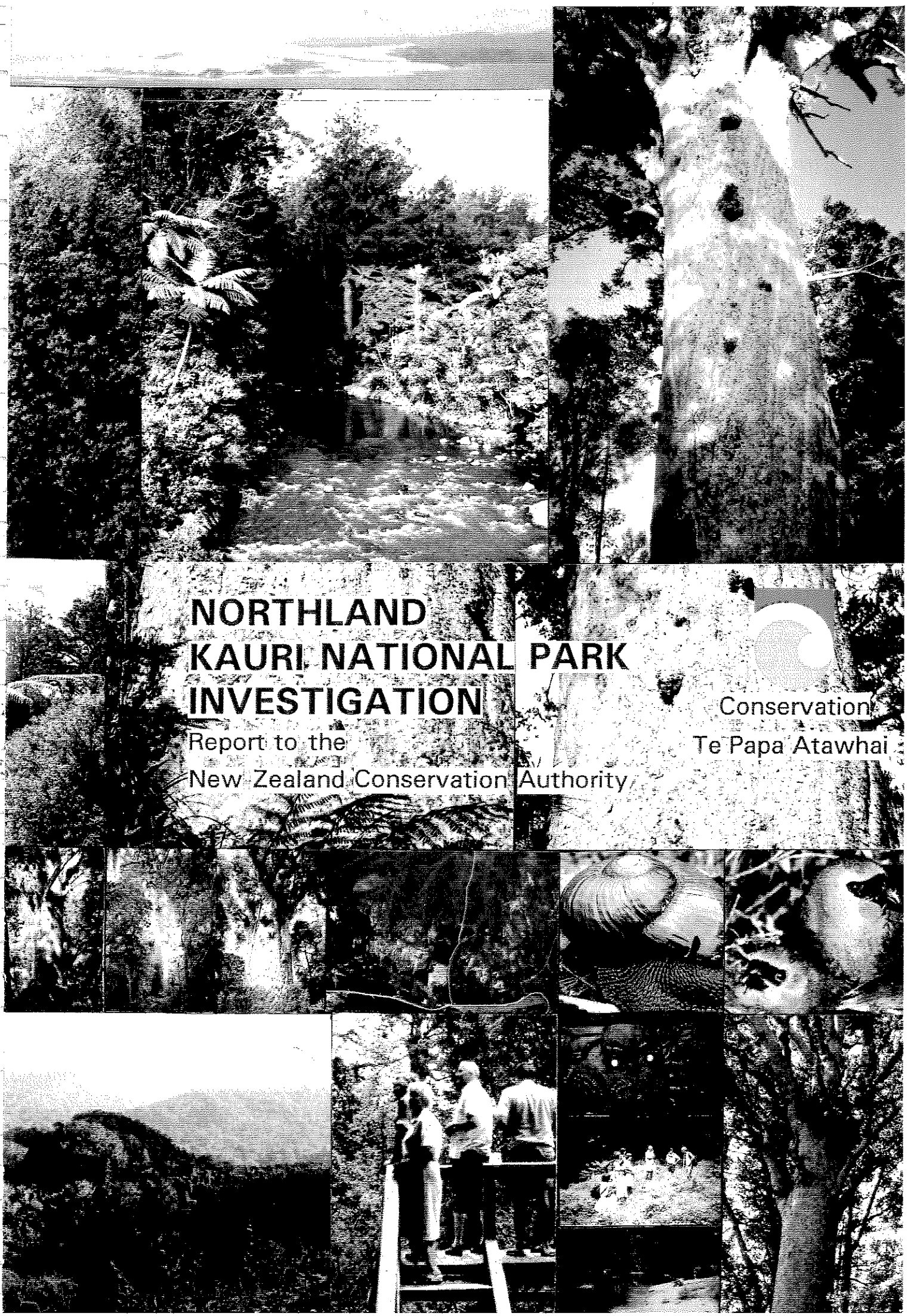


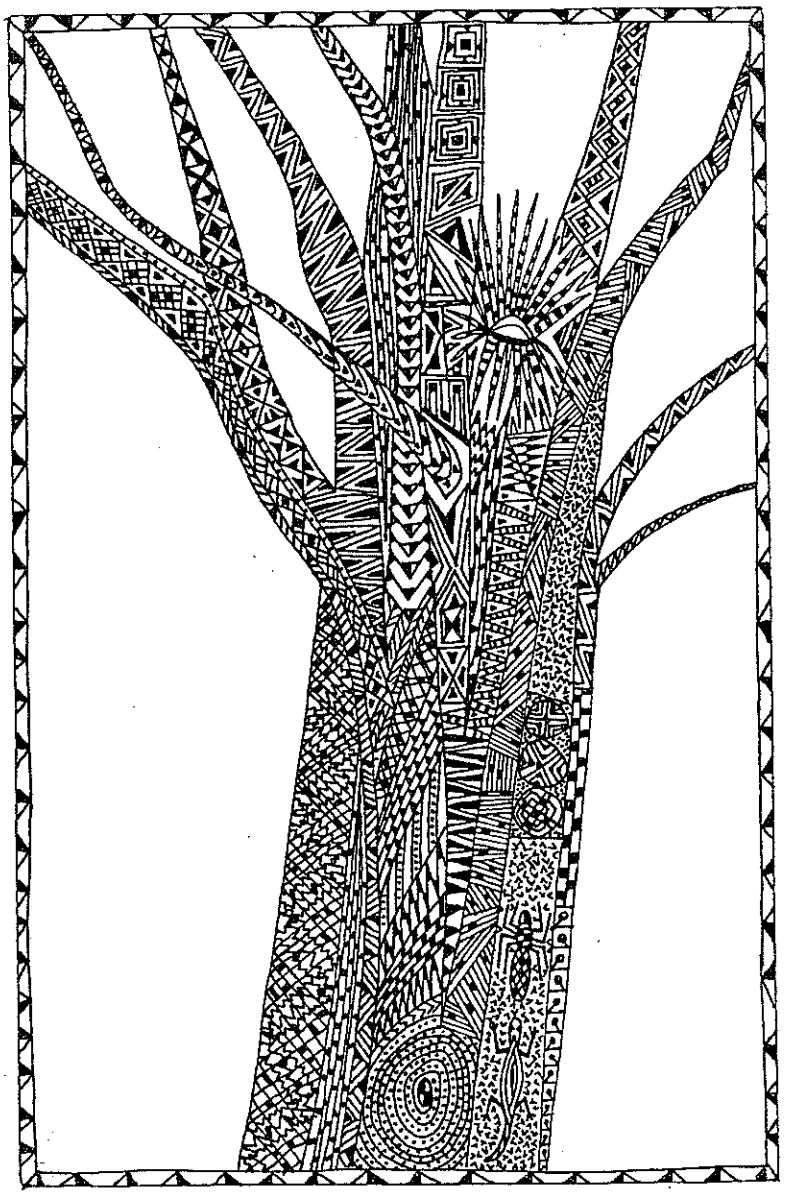
NORTHLAND KAURI NATIONAL PARK INVESTIGATION

Report to the New Zealand Conservation Authority

Conservation Te Papa Atawhai

NORTHLAND KAURI NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL
Investigation Under Section 8 of the National Parks Act 1980

Report by the Director General of Conservation
to the New Zealand Conservation Authority



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Department of Conservation
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09-4380299
May 1992

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CONSERVATION
TE PAPA ATAWHAI

13 July 1992

Mr David Thom
Chairperson
New Zealand Conservation Authority

Dear David

In response to a request from the former National Parks and Reserves Authority and in accordance with Section 8 of the National Parks Act the following report has been prepared by my Department for your consideration.

The report concludes that under the criteria set out in the National Parks Act the areas covered by the proposal qualify for National Park Status. The conclusion also draws attention to outstanding Treaty of Waitangi claims over most of the areas included in the proposal.

Section 4 of the Conservation Act requires that the Act be administered to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. It is my advice that in considering this report the Authority needs to be mindful of its responsibilities under this Act, even though the report is prepared under the National Parks Act. Under the Conservation Act "conservation areas" included in the proposal are clearly subject to consideration of Treaty principles. The legal advice I have received is that those areas in the proposal that currently have the status of reserves should also be treated in the same way. In other words in considering the status of all areas in the proposal it is necessary to do so in a way which gives effect to Treaty principles.

Current claims before, and recommendations already made by the Waitangi Tribunal should also be considered. The Crown's position in response to the Tribunal's recommendations and proposed recommendations on the Te Roroa claim, which affects substantial areas in the proposal, is in the process of being formulated. The advice of the Crown Law Office is that where, as in this case, the Tribunal has recommended redress, the Crown is required to grant at least some form of redress unless there are grounds to justify withholding it and in the meantime should not take any action which would prevent the Crown granting such redress.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
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My recommendations are that the Authority:

(i) Note that in the Department's view the areas covered by the proposal qualify for National Park status;

(ii) Note that there are a number of outstanding Treaty of Waitangi claims over areas included in the proposal;

(iii) Note that the Waitangi Tribunal has made recommendations for some areas under claim and that the Crown is in the process of formulating its position in response to the recommendation;

(iv) Note that until the Crown formulates its response, it would be inappropriate for the Crown to take any action which would prevent the grant of redress; and

(v) Note the Department's advice that in its consideration of the report the Authority should be mindful of Section 4 of the Conservation Act.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Mansfield
Director-General of Conservation

CONTENTS Page

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Piet Nieuwland prepared the text of this document, illustration, poem and cover design.

Nick Hancox prepared the tabular summaries of the public submissions and provided support throughout the investigation.

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Te Aniwaniwa Hona facilitated the organization of many of the hui and meetings with tangata whenua and their representatives.

Max Dunn prepared the Social and Economic Assessment.

Thanks also go to the other members of the original core group, especially John Beachman (convenor), Duncan Enoka (land title investigation) and Graham Smitheram (coordination) for their contribution to the public discussion document.

Lisa Forester and Richard Drake made useful and timely inputs throughout the investigation.

Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Whangarei District Council, Bay of Islands County Council, The Bush Press and Tourism Northland are thanked for the production of discussion brochures.

PRELUDE

then touch the distant light as it fades into shadow,
the Tutamoe clays flow over in lush textured ridges,
and Kawerua the coast slumbers against an aquamarillion haze,

thunder rolls over Waipoua,
light splitting from rewarewa caught in a fractured flash,
the river boils, surges and rushes over rapids, hissing and laughing,
kauri canyons shaking,
sombre trunks, asteliad gardens dripping,
fungi in myriads of cinnabar blues and soft myceliae blooming,
mosses glowing translucent sporophytic generations,
and creamy white florets of nikau gestating,

visual extravaganzas of moonlight,
milkyways and convective cloud wash across a knitted canopy,
its tilted surfaces of leaves and polygonal crowns;
shapes amplified by emergent rata epiphytic and moody,

patchworks of life histories,
falling and decay of branches, cones, fronds, trunks and flowers,
the myriad colours that make shade, seedlings,
the multiplex organism of tissues and membranes,
that is this jungle,

kukupa bleating, harrier soaring,
piwakawaka nimbly flitting on paths of insects,
ruru and kiwi calling from the far valley,
in catchments defined from plateau swamps with frogs,
and waterfalls over basaltic columns,
giant bouldered rambling bends and kokopu pools,

ancient mysteries of the people, Te Roroa,
echoing waiata from their spindling mitotic hearts,
walking through tunnels of chlorophyll and stomata,
permutated variations of foliages and vines,
chordate rata exploring Te Matua Ngahere, the vortex,
standing at this reference point of podzols,
listening to muffled sounds in clay,
fixing centuries of energetic waves,
pulses from distant foaming galaxies,
cyclones bursting on sheets of photosynthetic pigments,
and tui gargling " PN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 1989 the National Parks and Reserves Authority requested the Director-General of Conservation to investigate and report on a proposal to establish a National Park based on the kauri forests of Northland.

The proposed park comprises 47 land units totalling 105249 hectares. These areas are presently protected and classified under the Conservation Act 1987 as Conservation Park (Section 61) and stewardship land (Section 62), and as scenic and other reserves under the Reserves Act 1977.

In July 1990 a discussion document on the proposal was released for public comment in terms of Section 8 of the National Parks Act 1980. Under Section 4 of the Conservation Act a programme of 19 hui and meetings was undertaken to discuss the proposal with tangata whenua.

The proposal drew a total of 934 written submissions and 9654 signatures on petitions, from individuals, interest groups, local authorities and government departments. The overwhelming majority of written submissions supported the establishment of a park in the form of the entire proposal and none opposed the establishment of a national park.

Submissions from tangata whenua in written form but mostly of an oral nature on marae generally stated that support for a national park is conditional on prior resolution of claims and grievances lodged with the Waitangi Tribunal. Tangata whenua also require participation in management and decision making based on an equitable sharing of resources and information. Most areas in the proposal are subject to claim under the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975.

In terms of Section 4 of the National Parks Act 1980 and the General Policy for National Parks, the Department has carried out assessments of the scenery, ecological systems and natural features of the areas under investigation. It concludes that the areas under investigation meet the criteria for reclassification as a national park.

The most important features of the proposed park areas which justify establishment of a national park are:

* scenic elements which are diverse and outstanding and which in combination are not represented elsewhere in any other national park;

* lowland forest ecosystems associated with kauri which are not represented in the New Zealand national park system;

* numerous rare, endemic and threatened species of plants and animals;

* a unique and unrepresented pattern of characteristic soils and geological formations of scientific importance;

* large specimen kauri and other natural, archaeological, historic and cultural features of

outstanding value;

* a wide variety of existing and potential recreational experiences which will add to the established tourism industry and should be of positive economic and social benefit to the region.

The largest of the areas in the proposal, the Maungataniwha range forests, Puketi/Omahuta, Russell and the Waipoua/Waima/Mataraua tract are each on their own of an adequate size for national park status.

The inclusion of the moderately sized and smaller areas is justified on the basis of their contribution to ecological and cultural diversity.

Previously modified, vigorously regenerating areas contain features of archaeological, historic and cultural significance and are particularly valuable for interpreting human relationships with the remnants of the once vast forest.

Outstanding ecological and other values outweigh the fragmented nature of the proposed park. Precedents both within New Zealand and internationally have already been established for national parks composed of fragmented and scattered remnants.

This report concludes that the areas under investigation collectively contain an extensive range of national park values. However the issue of claims under the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975 and the insistence of tangata whenua that they be involved as equal partners in management and decision making require resolution.

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to Investigation

The idea of a national park based on the Northland kauri forests is not a new one. There has been prolonged public debate over the status of Waipoua Forest in particular, with calls for a national park going back to the turn of the century. The establishment of the Waipoua Forest Sanctuary in 1952 under the Forests Act 1949 followed a long public campaign for national park status.

Further steps towards a national park were complicated by the fact that the kauri lands of the Crown were mostly held as State Forests. Some of these forests were subject to timber production and management regimes inconsistent with national park status. In 1984 public concern over the management of these forests led to the establishment of the Northland Forest Park. This included 17 of the largest areas of State Forest and covered over 80000 hectares.

With the enactment of the Conservation Act in 1987, almost all the Crown kauri estate came under the administration of the Department of Conservation. These lands are now managed primarily for the conservation of their natural and historic values, and secondly for public enjoyment and appreciation. In the exercise of all its responsibilities and functions the department is required to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Following receipt of proposals from recreation and conservation organizations in 1987 calling for the establishment of a national park in time for the 1990 sesquicentennial celebrations, the Department of Conservation scoped out a number of possible models for a national park in Northland. After discussion and consideration of these models by the Northland National Parks and Reserves Board and the Northland Forest Park Advisory Committee, the Department prepared a preliminary assessment of the proposal to create a 96000 hectare national park based on over 30 separate areas of kauri forest scattered throughout Northland. In December 1988 the Northland National Parks and Reserves Board endorsed this proposal and it was forwarded to the National Parks and Reserves Authority for their consideration.

At the February/March 1989 meeting of the Authority it was agreed that a *prima facie* case existed for the establishment of a national park in Northland. Accordingly it requested the Director General of Conservation to undertake an investigation of the proposal in terms of Section 8(1) of the National Parks Act 1980.

In terms of Section 8(2) of the Act, the Director General advertised the proposal on 17 July 1990, inviting submissions to be sent to the Regional Conservator, Northland by 15 April 1991. A discussion document describing the proposal in detail and an information brochure were made widely available at this time. In advertising it was stated that arrangements would be made to consult with the tangata whenua, including receiving oral submissions at appropriate hui.

This report contains the result of the Section 8 investigation and incorporates a summary and analysis of the issues expressed in the submissions received from the public. It also includes a summary and analysis of the oral submissions by tangata whenua which were received at

meetings and hui.

1.2 Objectives of Report

The objectives of this report are:

* To assess the specified areas of land in terms of the statutory criteria for national parks (Section 4 of the National Parks Act 1980) and the National Parks and Reserves Authority's General Policy for the selection of new parks and park boundaries (approved under Section 44 of the Act). APPENDIX I and II;

* To assess the likely social and economic implications of the proposed park at the local and regional level;

* To present a summary and analysis of submissions received from the public and tangata whenua;

* To discuss issues raised in relation to the Treaty of Waitangi and their implications for the proposal.

The report has been written largely from previously published material and draws strongly on the Northland Kauri National Park Proposal Public Discussion Paper published in July 1990. In addition, new information and ideas received from a number of public submissions and have been incorporated.

The social and economic assessment is derived from a study prepared by the Northland Regional Council for the Department. The full text of this assessment is contained in APPENDIX III.

Information on land ownership was collated by Departmental staff and that on Waitangi Tribunal claims obtained from the Crown Law Office and Department of Survey and Land Information. This data is held in the Northland Conservancy office of the Department of Conservation in Whangarei.

The report is structured into a number of major parts. Part two describes in general terms features of Northland and the investigation areas in particular and part three outlines the overall concept of the park proposal. Part four relates the biological and physical features to the criteria set out for a proposed national park both for the individual areas and clusters of areas. The fifth part contains a summary and analysis of public submissions and the sixth a summary of tangata whenua submissions. Part seven discusses issues related to land ownership and Waitangi Tribunal claims and part eight examines the social and economic considerations involved in park establishment. Part nine describes existing and potential recreational and tourism opportunities. Part ten summarises the results of the investigation.

PART TWO: OVERVIEW OF INVESTIGATION AREA

2.1 Location and Administration

The majority of the proposed park occupies upland and hill country scattered across the Tai Tokerau region of the North Island of Aotearoa. The larger areas form the upper parts of catchments which drain into the major harbours of Northland. Several areas are located on or near the coast and the smallest blocks are generally located on isolated hills.

While there are no people living within the boundary of the proposed park, there are numerous small, often isolated communities adjacent to possible boundaries. Most of the population of Northland live within 20-30 kilometers of land subject to this investigation.

All land in the proposed park is administered by the Department of Conservation. The total area of the proposal is 105249 hectares and is classified as in Table 2.1

TABLE 2.1 Classification and Area Summary.

Classification	Area (hectares)
Conservation Act 1987; Section 61	81521
Conservation Act 1987; Section 62	12267
Reserves Act 1977; Scenic Reserve	10854
Reserves Act 1977; Other Reserves*	607
TOTAL	105249

*Other Reserves are Historic and Recreation Reserves

This area comprises a total of 47 land units (APPENDIX IV). Some of the larger areas such as Puketi and Omahuta are contiguous but have been described separately. Others, such as Te Koroa/Otangaroa and Kaikanui comprise several small areas in close proximity and are recorded as a single unit. No additional land blocks have been included that were not originally presented in the public discussion document. However there have been some small additions by purchase and corrections to estate boundaries which are included. Land unit names and areas(ha) have also been further refined since the earlier publications.

The entire study area falls within the Northland Conservancy of the Department. It also lies completely within the boundaries of the Northland Regional Council, and the Far North, Kaipara, and Whangarei District Councils.

2.2 Climate

As a result of the extensive west coast harbours and the indented east coast, no part of Northland is more than 40km from the sea. The strong coastal/oceanic influence over the region, combined with the almost subtropical latitude, result in a climate of warm humid summers, relatively mild wet winters, and prevailing southwest winds. In summer, tropical cyclones sometimes give rise to north easterly winds and heavy rain. Mean annual rainfall ranges from about 1000-1500mm in the low lying north-eastern districts to over 2500mm on some of the high western and central hill country. Because many rivers are short, cloudbursts

can cause spectacular and extensive flash flooding. Mean annual temperatures are the highest in New Zealand, ranging from 14 to 15.5 C. Winter frosts are few and light, and mostly confined to sheltered flat areas.

2.3 Topography

Northland consists of a narrow, irregular peninsula no more than 80 km wide, bounded by the Tasman Sea and Pacific Ocean. The inland topography is mainly low lying (0-300masl) steeply rolling hill country. This connects a series of small ranges and plateaux which rise to the highest point, Te Raupua (781masl) in the Waima Range. Modest areas of flat land are restricted to the lower parts of the Wairoa River catchment around Dargaville and the Kaitaia/Awanui area. Numerous rivers, tidal streams, inlets and harbour systems dissect and break the pattern of hills. The largest and longest river is the Wairoa, which drains almost the entire southern part of the region from Mataraua in the west to Russell in the east and Mareretu in the south.

The long, exposed, windswept beaches on the west coast are interrupted by small sections of rocky coast, the prominent Maunganui Bluff, and the large shallow harbours of the Kaipara and Hokianga, and the smaller narrower Whangape and Herekino harbours. The more sheltered and intricate eastern coast features the deep harbours of Whangarei, Bay of Islands and Whangaroa, interspersed with sandy beaches and rocky headlands. Estuarine systems, often with extensive mangrove forests, are characteristic of the Northland coast. Many estuaries have associated freshwater wetlands such as peat swamps and shallow lakes.

2.4 Geology

After separation of New Zealand from Gondwanaland was complete 50 million years ago, five major geological events occurred which have determined the present geology and landforms of Northland.

Strong vertical movement 25 million years ago slid thick sheets of sediments and volcanic crust from the Pacific Ocean floor into Northland from the northeast. This is known as the Northland Allochthon, much of which has been eroded or buried. A feature of the Allochthon is the contrast between landforms resulting from erosion of the soft sedimentary rocks which form the rolling hill country of north-eastern Northland, and the much harder volcanic rocks. The latter form the rugged, isolated and uplifted massifs of Herekino, Maungataniwha, Waima, Warawara and Tangihua.

Fifteen to 22 million years ago two chains of volcanoes (island arc volcanoes) erupted on either side of Northland. The western (Waitakere) chain was largely submarine and deposited vast amounts of lava, breccia, and conglomerates as well as extensive lava sheets which form the striking south-west sloping tablelands, long rounded ridge systems and plateaux of Waipoua, Mataraua, Marlborough and Kaihu. Maunganui Bluff is also part of this formation. The eastern (Coromandel) chain has mostly been eroded away except for the Whangarei Heads, Taranga Island, and Whangaroa Harbour. Between these two volcanic chains was a deep marine basin, the Waitemata Flysch, which gradually filled with sediments and volcanic

debris.

Earth movements about 15 million years ago caused depression of the western side of Northland, preserving rocks of the volcanic chain and Allochthon. The eastern side was raised and broken into tilted blocks which have deeply eroded to expose the basement New Zealand greywackes. These very ancient rocks underlie the forest tracts of Omahuta, Puketi, Russell, Ruakaka and Mareretu.

During the last several million years sporadic shifting fields of volcanism occurred from Whangarei to beyond the Bay of Islands and as far west as Taheke in the Hokianga. Later another volcanic field developed in this region which persisted almost to the time of European settlement. This produced the scoria cones and lava fields of the Lake Omapere district.

The most recent major event was the glacial period, 1.8 million to 25000 years ago. Changes in sea level and climate resulted in the formation of coastal terraces and drowned shorelines. Large quantities of sand accumulated to form the Kaipara Harbour, Aupouri and Karikari Peninsulas, the Hokianga Heads, and Ahipara dunes. Some areas of kauri forest were buried by the accumulation of sand, for example at Lake Ohia.

2.5 Soils

Northland is notable for the diversity and complexity of its underlying rocks, the soils which have formed on them, and the influence of climate and vegetation on soil formation. Several factors have contributed to the high degree of chemical and physical weathering of the rocks of the region:

* the warm, humid, almost subtropical climate;
* most landforms are of greater age and/or stability than those outside the region;
* the rejuvenating effect of the Pleistocene glaciations was much less pronounced;
* soil rejuvenation by tephras from volcanic eruptions was confined to only a few small areas;
* the presence of kauri with its deep layers of highly acidic litter has contributed to the formation of extensive areas of podzols and gumland soils.

These factors have led to the formation of soils which have clay rich profiles over deeply weathered parent rocks and in some cases are poorly drained because of the formation of subsurface iron pans. This contrasts with the rest of New Zealand which has soils which are coarser, shallower, and often over weakly weathered bedrock or drift parent materials.

The predominant soils encompassed within the proposal are steepland soils and soils of rolling and hilly land. Soils of the lowlands, flood plains and coastal sands are represented in small areas only.

On the older and deeply weathered greywacke and argillite of the eastern hill country, moderately leached to weakly podzolized yellow-brown earths and their related steepland soils have formed. These are represented by soils of the Te Ranga and Marua series.

Whereas podzolised yellow brown earths (eg Tangitiki sand) and well developed podzols (eg Te Kopuru sand) tend to occur on the older coastal sands, similar soil units such as the Hukerenui and Wharekohe series are also present under kauri in the wetter upland areas underlain by greywacke and other fine grained sedimentary materials. These podzolised yellow-brown earths and podzols are usually imperfectly or very poorly drained and may contain a subsurface humus or iron alluvial horizon.

The other major soil group represented is the moderately to strongly leached brown granular loams and clays and related steepland soils. These occur on the basaltic lava flows of the Tutamoe range and the older Tangihua volcanics. Typical examples are the Te Kie series steepland soils, Tutamoe friable clay and Waimatenui clay under the large western forest tracts.

Additional groups represented are small areas of strongly leached brown loams such as the Waiotu series in Russell forest, recent Whakapara series in some lower sections of valleys and several small patches of Arapohue series rendzinas. Soils around Lake Ohia illustrate a subtle complex of relic podzols, strongly leached yellow-brown sand, and poorly drained organic and gley soils.

2.6 Vegetation

The face of Northland is a complex mosaic that reflects both natural processes and human modification. It was once almost totally forested from shoreline to mountain top with large freshwater and brackish wetlands. The present day distribution of forest cover largely reflects the pattern of human activity over the past 1000 years. While Maori occupation caused some reductions in forest extent, early European settlement resulted in massive destruction of the original tract. Of the estimated one million hectares of forest containing kauri that existed prior to the arrival of humans, just 7455 ha of mature kauri forest now remain. A further 60000 ha consists of regenerating stands. No effect on the character of Northland has been as profound as the mass destruction of a species and forest so intimately linked with the natural heritage and ecology of the region.

The kauri forest ecosystem, as it remains, stands alongside and merges into several other distinctive subtropical and warm temperate forest types. These northern conifer broadleaf forests as a whole are notable within New Zealand for their species diversity and structural complexity. Over 100 species of threatened plants occur in Northland. The forests are characterised by luxuriant profusions of lianes, epiphytes, tree ferns and a significant component of species with generally Melanesian affinities such as Beilschmedia, kiekie and nikau palms. They can be grouped into a number of broad types or associations.

Dense kauri forest containing mature trees with large spreading crowns occurs on strongly leached sites on flat-rolling hill country and on ridge crests of dissected landforms such as in Puketi, Warawara and Waipoua. The emergent kauri, often with canopy gardens of Astelia and Collospermum, are visually dominant, but the numbers of emergent kauri themselves may be very few. Underneath these huge heads a variety of canopy and subcanopy hardwoods may occur including emergent rata, taraire, kohekohe, tawa, towai, tawari, hinau, maire, pigeonwood and rewarewa. Podocarps such as rimu, miro, tanekaha,toatoa, monoao,

silverpine, and kawaka may also be present. A light open understorey, often with a thick growth of shrubs, is usually present. Species include kauri grass, Gahnia, neinei, Kirk's tree daisy, mairehau, hangehange, mingimingi, and Alseuosmia. Climbing rata, ferns and kiekie are common. In several restricted locations at Berghan Point, Omahuta and Ruakaka a hard beech/kauri community is present.

Podocarp/hardwood/kauri forest is the most extensive forest type. It is composed of a wide variety and density of hardwood species including taraire, tawa, kohekohe, towai, pukatea, rewarewa, and many others. Many podocarp species are scattered throughout the forest, often entangled with epiphytic rata vines. Mature kauri usually occur as scattered individuals or in small clumps on steep sites.

Forests on the highest summits usually lack taraire, kohekohe and kauri above 450m and tawa above 600m, while supporting infrequent occurences of southern rata, Griselinia littoralis, Dracophyllum traversii, horopito, and hutu. The canopy is frequently dominated by towai with a scattered overstorey of northern rata, miro and rimu. Other main species are tawari, swamp maire, tree ferns, raukawa, wineberry, makamaka, supplejack, pukatea and sometimes mangeao.

Podocarp/hardwood forest occurs on well drained slopes with relatively fertile mineral soils. These forests are characterised by rimu-rata, emergent above towai, taraire, and kohekohe with rewarewa and nikau. On lower young volcanic and alluvial sites puriri, totara, and titoki become more common.

Along the coastline the most common hardwoods are pohutukawa, houpara, kowhai, and karaka with puriri and kohekohe scattered throughout. Kauri and podocarps are now rare but do occur at Ahipara, coastal Waipoua, and also in Waikino forest and at Tapuwae where a transition to estuarine mangrove forest occurs.

The coastal dunelands support sandbinding plants, pingao, spinifex and marram, and behind the foredune lupin, marram, flax, toetoe, and manuka may be found.

Past logging, farming and fire have led to the establishment of extensive areas of manuka and kanuka dominated shrubland which contains various mixtures of canopy forming species. Kauri in dense stands is found in all stages of regeneration on drier ridge sites, usually in association with tanekaha, rimu and miro. Many subcanopy and ground cover species usually found in more mature forest are also present. These may include Quintinia, Cyathodes, Gahnia and Astelia.

Two variants of gumland heath are recognisable. Soil profiles beneath gumlands on Pleistocene sands show that in places such as Lake Ohia, kauri has regrown several times, new kauri over old, forming layers of resin and kauri soils. These fossil forests have developed under the influence of sea-level changes and often have long histories of repeated burning. In other areas, most notably Ahipara, leaching over tens of thousands of years has led to upper soil horizons of almost pure silica or sterile clay. In both these cases the perched water table and frequency of burning have led to the development of a stunted vegetation which is characterised by manuka, Dracophyllum lessonianum, clubmosses, mingimingi, rush-like sedges and ferns. A feature of these areas is their diverse orchid communities.

In addition to fire, weed invasion and human impacts the intrinsic values of these vegetation associations are subject to damage and modification by activities of possums, goats, stock, rats and mice.

2.7 Wildlife

The kauri forests of Northland, together with their associated wetland, estuarine and open coastal areas are of outstanding value as habitat for a rich diversity of wildlife. The opportunity to observe some of the less common forest birds, invertebrates and bats especially enhances the recreational appeal of the forests and coastline of the region.

The relatively high diversity of native and introduced birds throughout Northland is comparable to the forests of the King Country and West Coast of the South Island with an average of 31-45 species recorded in each 10000 yard grid square. However Northland's forests lack several species such as the robins, rifleman, and whitehead found further south. Coastal Northland exhibits a high bird diversity with over 45 species recorded in each grid square.

A feature of this bird fauna is a population of less than 100 kokako living in Puketi and Omahuta forests, the largest number in any forest tract in Northland. This endangered species, threatened by reduction of and damage to its forest habitat, is also found in Raetea and Mataraua/Waipoua and may also linger in some of the other large forest remnants such as Warawara and Marlborough that have not been surveyed adequately.

The threatened red-crowned kakariki and North Island kaka either visit or are present in very low numbers in the larger forests. The New Zealand falcon has been reported in both Omahuta and Russell forests but is almost certainly not established or breeding. The North Island brown kiwi and the regionally uncommon pied tit are found in many areas particularly in the western forests, as is the shining cockoo. The kukupa or native pigeon which plays an important role in forest regeneration by distributing larger tree seeds is found in declining numbers throughout and its status may soon be reclassified as threatened. The regionally threatened fernbird often occurs in areas of gumland or regenerating shrubland. The more common species such as tui, fantail, grey warbler, morepork, silver eye, NZ pipit and Australasian harrier are also present.

Species more often associated with coastal, estuarine and wetland habitats such as shags, herons, pukeko, pied stilt, paradise shelduck, and kingfisher are well represented. Birds at risk such as the Australasian bittern, banded rail, and spotless and marsh crakes are also found in scattered wetland habitats such as Lake Ohia. Coastal areas of Northland feature the threatened reef heron and over half the numbers of the threatened New Zealand dotterel. Abundant migratory waders from southern New Zealand such as banded dotterel, and bar-tailed godwit, knot and turnstone from the northern hemisphere also frequent the region's coast. Northland estuaries also support most of New Zealands fairy and little terns and large numbers of Caspian and white-fronted terns.

Both of New Zealands only native land mammals, the long-tailed and short-tailed bats, are represented. The kauri forest subspecies of the endangered short-tailed bat is, at present, only

known from Omahuta forest, but probably also occurs in adjacent Puketi and may possibly be present in Warawara and Waipoua. Long-tailed bats are widespread and occur in or adjacent to the larger northern and western forest tracts.

Northland's forests and shrublands are notable for the variety of reptilian fauna to be found. The ornate skink, copper skink and Pacific gecko are found throughout the region. Both the forest gecko and Auckland green or common green gecko reach their northern limit in the vicinity of the Hokianga/Bay of Islands forests whereas this area is the southern limit of the Northland green gecko. Individuals displaying characteristics of both the common green and the Northland green gecko have been recorded where the ranges of the two species merge. The common gecko has only been recorded in the eastern districts of the penninsula but the shore skink is present along most of the coast.

The northern-most populations of Hochstetters frog occur in the Mareretu and Waipu Gorge forests.

Several of the major rivers of the region including the Waipapa, Wairau, and Waipoua are forested for much or all of their length and the headwaters of many of the smaller rivers and streams originate from areas within the proposal. These relatively undisturbed upper catchment areas provide habitat for a wide variety of native freshwater fish. In many cases these fish may also utilize the brackish lower reaches of the rivers, the shallow saline estuarine harbours, and open ocean. Small dune lakes, of which there are several in the proposal, are also habitat for a number of species.

Seventy five percent of New Zealand's native freshwater fish species are recorded as occurring in Northland, as well as a number of introduced species. The lamprey, both the long finned and short finned eels and common smelt are to be found. Galaxiids include the giant, banded, and short jawed kokopu, inanga and dwarf inanga, and the koaro. The black mudfish inhabits the Kaimaumau wetlands and is also likely to be found in other kauri gum wetlands such as Lake Ohia. Five species of bully, the redfinned, giant, bluegilled, common, and Crans bully are present as well as the torrent fish and possibly the black flounder. Both the yellow-eyed mullet and grey mullet penetrate the lower reaches of many streams.

Ten of New Zealand's sixteen introduced freshwater fish species have populations in Northland waters. These include the brown trout, rainbow trout, catfish, tench, goldfish, koi carp, silver carp, rudd, perch and mosquito fish.

No overall study of the insects of Northland has yet been made. The general impression however is that there is a relict fauna of arthropods in the region, some of which are as distinct, or more distinct, than is the kauri in terms of taxonomy, biogeography, and phylogeny. Given the the warm humid climate, rarity of severe winter frosts, and vegetative diversity, it is highly likely that the arthropod fauna of the region is much more varied and species abundant than other parts of the country. In their submission, DSIR Plant Protection Division highlighted over 40 species particularly characteristic to Northland. Some of the more unusual species include a ground beetle predatory to native snails, several species of flightless weevils found only in Waipoua, and numerous undescribed stone beetles. The batfly and tineid moth associated with the short tailed bat, and the Northland tusked weta are found in some of the larger forest tracts.

The more conspicuous butterflies and moths of the forests feature the forest ringlet, puriri moth, cabbage tree and kowhai moths as well as many of the more common species.

Snail species of note include the carnivorous kauri snail Paryphanta busbyi busbyi, Cytora aranea, Rhytida forsythi, numerous Laoma spp, and many other very small and quite inconspicuous examples.

Examples of subfossilised animals such as Leiopelma waitomensis, cave rail, little spotted kiwi and moa species can also be found.

Threats to the viability of many of these wildlife populations are the competitive impacts of possums, goats, introduced birds and stock on available food supplies. The effects of cats, dogs, rats, stoats, weasels and ferrets, as highly efficient predators, are also of considerable concern.

2.8 Maori Prehistory

Maori oral traditions tell of great voyages of discovery in which famous ancestors built canoes and set forth on the ocean to find new lands. Such voyages reflect a great human achievement; the settlement of the Pacific, a movement which began at least 3000 years before the beginings of European maritime expansion. The discovery and settlement of Aotearoa around 750 A.D. by the ancestors of the Maori people was one of the last major events in a saga which began long before on the western fringes of the Pacific Ocean.

Those early East Polynesian navigators found a land very different from their home islands: colder, wetter, and thickly forested but with an abundance of seafood and large forest birds. Northland was special to the first people of the land because its subtropical climate enabled a long growing season. Its many large harbours and rivers offered abundant fishing and transport, and the forests were rich in valuable plant and animal resources.

Archaeological evidence and the records of 18th century explorers indicate that Northland was once one of the most densely populated regions of Aotearoa. At the present time, approximately 8000 archaeological sites have been identified in the region but it is likely that more than twice this number remain unrecorded. Since the 1970s surveys have covered large tracts of land in the Far North, Waipoua Valley, the Bay of Islands and Whangarei Harbour. However there are still vast areas that require archaeological survey including several east coast harbours, the southern Hokianga, the Kaipara and the Wairoa/Wairua catchment. Many areas in the park proposal have yet to subject to detailed archaeological survey.

On present evidence, the widest variety of site types, indicating long term occupation, tend to be concentrated around sheltered harbours and inland regions with fertile soils. The exposed west coast beaches contain a similar density of sites but these are mainly midden and hangi associated with seafood collection and processing.

Midden deposits show that seafoods, including fish, shellfish, and marine mammals, formed a substantial part of the prehistoric diet. This was supplemented by bird and plant resources from the bush and fern covered hinterland. Cultivated plants were equally important. Early

records note that the full range of plants introduced from tropical Polynesia were cultivated in the North at the time of European contact. Northland was almost certainly the nursery where Maori agricultural techniques were developed. Today, wild taro is widely distributed.

The high density of sites around alluvial valleys, and the well preserved stone features in volcanic areas like Waipoua are evidence of intensive agriculture. In less fertile areas heavy clay soils were modified by the addition of shell, sand, and beach pebbles.

Other important resources which were readily available and widely exploited include flax, pingao and kuta for weaving, and a wide variety of fine grained rock including greywacke, gabbro, basalt, obsidian and chert was used for tool manufacture.

The forests provided large trees like totara, kauri, and puriri for canoes, shelter, and fortification. They were also an important source of food including kiekie, tawa, hinau, taraire and karaka fruit. Birds such as the moa and kukupa were taken as well as petrels nesting in forest cliffs such as in Warawara and Herekino. A wide variety of medicinal plants were also obtained from the forest.

Although agriculture in the more fertile areas must have required forest clearance, evidence of extensive forest removal by Maori in Northland is limited. However McGlone in Glasby (1991) has suggested that Polynesian settlement of New Zealand led directly to the extinction or reduction of much of the vertebrate fauna, destruction of half the lowland or mountain forests, and widespread soil erosion. Goudie in Glasby (1991) also points out that all moa species (about 12 in total), and 21 other bird species were extinct by the time of European settlement. Three factors contributed: the deforestation of one-third to one half of the forested land surface by Polynesian fires; the direct killing of the birds and their eggs by Polynesian hunters; and the depredations of Polynesian dogs and rats.

In addition to the material resources available, the forests were, and still are, of considerable spiritual, cultural, and traditional significance to Maori. Every peak, ridge, valley, and stream is named with associations to the lives, exploits and experiences of the tupuna. These traditions and the locations of wahi tapu and urupa are held as sacred by the tangata whenua.

2.9 History

A French expedition at the Bay of Islands cut down the first kauri felled by Europeans in 1772. Since then kauri has featured prominently in New Zealand's recent history. It was, for the first one hundred years of European settlement, the most important timber species available. Together with its gum it was one of the few major sources of export revenue this country had for many years. Its superiority for sailing ship spars and increased shipping in the South Pacific led to the beginning of extensive felling in the early 1820s.

After the 1840s kauri made a significant contribution to the national economy, mainly as sawn timber exported to Australia. As the colony expanded, particularly the city of Auckland, both the timber industry and the demand for cleared farmland increased. At the peak of exploitation during the early 1900s, 440,000 cubic meters per year were cut. However this rate of destruction could not continue and had reduced to 2400 cubic metres

per year by the 1940s and has now almost completely ceased. Relics of the kauri milling industry such as loggers camps, races, driving dams, railways, roads and bridges provide an important historic resource, significant examples of which remain within the proposal.

Following the exploitation and destruction of much of Northland's forest, the land was available for farming. Some farms were failures, such as the government blocks sold to new immigrants in the Marlborough settlement inland from Waipoua, and the Whangae settlement near Opua. Packhorse tracks, roads, bridges and a few buildings are all that remain of these attempts to farm totally unsuitable areas. Other farming succeeded, prospering in areas of good land, but often struggling on the steeper poorer soils. These poorer soils are now often covered in vigorously regenerating shrubland.

Gumdigging was another major industry in Northland based on the kauri forest, particularly once it had been cleared, either by logging and or burning. It employed thousands from the 1860s to 90s, mainly Maori, and Dalmatian immigrants. Most of the physical record of gumdigging has been lost through subsequent farming practices and much of what remains consists of land pocked with irregular gumholes. The better preserved examples however, such as on the Ahipara plateau, consist of large scale trenches, ditches and dams together with relics of some of the machinery used. Bleeding of mature kauri trees was also a major source of highly prized gum which may have led to the premature death of many large trees.

Although the history of the forests is one of massive destruction, the industry utilizing kauri contributed much to the economic development of Northland. However concerns for the protection of the forests were also frequently voiced. Ferdinand von Hochstetter expressed distress at their decline in 1859 and the possible extinction of kauri was discussed in the Weekly News in 1867. In 1873 Parliament was advised that forests north of Auckland had been reduced in extent from 4 million acres to 1.2 million acres within 43 years. Other voices such as the eminent botanist Leonard Cockayne and Professor W R McGregor also campaigned vigorously for the setting aside of reserves. Significant gains towards the permanent protection of the forests included the setting aside of Trounson Kauri Park in 1923, the gazettal under the Forests Act 1949 of Waipoua Forest as a sanctuary in 1952, and the halt to logging of mature kauri in Puketi Forest in 1980.

In fact, such was the hunger for timber and land, that many of the forests within this proposal were originally purchased for farm settlement. It was only their steep rugged topography and poor access which saved them from the worst excesses of exploitation.

2.10 Recreation and Tourism

Northland provides a wide range of opportunities for recreation and tourism. Its attraction lies in a combination of natural, historic, and cultural features which can be found nowhere else in New Zealand. These attractions include:

* The scenic beauty of the diverse and expansive coastline where the exposed broad windswept sandy beaches of the desolate west coast contrast with the intricate rocky headlands, sheltered beaches, and offshore islands of the eastern coast.

* The island-like character of the region where tidal wetlands of the many broad shallow harbours, and deep narrow inlets mean that no place is far from the influence of the sea.

* The expressed spiritual, cultural, and traditional significance of the region to Maori as tangata whenua and their influence on the character of many communities.

* The pre-eminence of the region as a point of focus for the earliest periods of British, American and European history, represented by churches, mission stations and other buildings, sites, and landscapes of cultural and historic importance.

* The favourable climate of long dry summers and mild winters.

* The richness, complexity, and expanse of the easily accessible subtropical kauri forests which complement and enhance the hilly rural interior, and outstanding coastal landscape.

Tourism is one of the fastest growing components of Northland's economy. Visitor expenditure in the region increased from $225.1 million in 1988 to an estimated $319.2 million in 1991. Corresponding total visitor nights increased from 3751 thousand in 1988 to an estimated 4710 thousand in 1991. Northland is the fifth highest regional tourist dollar earner in New Zealand comprising 6-7% of the total market (Tourism Northland 1991).

Domestic tourism forms 80% of the region's tourist industry with international tourism making up the remaining 20% (Northland Regional Council 1990). The majority of domestic visitors are from the upper part of the North Island, with the most popular destinations being 3-5 hours drive from Auckland.

In the absence of direct international air services, coach tours, bus excursions, rental cars and campervans are the principal forms of transport to the region for international visitors. Predicted growth in use of all forms of transport from 1988-1993 ranges from 29% for buses and coaches, 49% for cars and vans and 61% for domestic air travel (NZ Tourist and Publicity Department 1988). A small but increasing number of cyclists also tour the region.

Visitor activity is based mainly on the region's east coast, especially the Bay of Islands. It is the most popular destination with around 55% of international visitors and 25% of domestic visitors going to the Bay.

Nonetheless the forests and history of kauri are an integral part of tourism marketing in

Northland. In 1991/92 an estimated 70-80 thousand people visited Waipoua forest and its giant kauri. For the last 7 years the Otamatea Kauri and Pioneer Museum has attracted 55-62000 visitors annually. The numbers of visitors to other major scenic and cultural features include over 120000 visitors to the Cape Reinga lighthouse and 90000 per year through the Bay of Islands Maritime and Historic Park visitor center at Russell. Over 90000 adults pay to enter the Waitangi National Reserve each year.

Other proposed park areas receive lower levels of use. Locations such as Arai-Te-Uru, Trounson Kauri Park, Puketi/Omahuta and the summit of the Maungataniwha range on SH1 are each visited by approximately 10000 people per year. Pukenui, Opua, Russell, Ahipara, Ranfurly Bay and Tangihua are other moderately popular areas.

Proposed park areas are generally well serviced by a network of walkways and tracks and access to them is from state highways and secondary roads. Apart from a number of walkways serviced by the Whangarei District Council, the Department of Conservation is the only other major provider of such facilities. Six low key campgrounds, several huts and lodge type accomodation are available within the proposed park. There is scope for expansion of accomodation and associated servicing facilities adjacent to proposed park areas.

The history of the kauri milling and gumdigging industry is well displayed and interpreted throughout the region in numerous museums. The foremost of these is the Otamatea Kauri and Pioneer Museum at Matakohe. Other museums include the Northland Regional Museum and Heritage Park in Whangarei, the Northern Wairoa Maori, Maritime and Pioneer Museum in Dargaville, the Pioneer Village in Kaikohe, the Far North Regional Museum in Kaitaia, Wagener Museum in Houhora, and other smaller facilities in Kaeo and Russell. Historic buildings such as the Waimate Mission House, Clendon House in Rawene and Maungunu Mission House at Horeke reveal facets of the lives of the early pioneers.

Apart from some displays at the Russell visitor center and at Waipoua, interpretation of the many diverse and unique ecological values of the forests and region as a whole is conspicuously lacking. A similar situation exists with the numerous sites of spiritual, cultural and traditional significance to Maori.

Additional information on recreation and tourism patterns and facilities is contained in Part Nine and Appendicies III and V.

PART THREE: THE CONCEPT OF A KAURI NATIONAL PARK

3.1 Introduction

The proposal to establish a national park in Northland based on the remnant forests of the region can be seen either as a radical departure in the perception of what constitutes a national park, or as a logical extension of a system which protects to the greatest extent possible some 9% of New Zealand's total land area. Whatever the case the nature of this proposal has required an intense scrutiny of the criteria for the establishment of new national parks and has raised issues which have hitherto not been addressed in the evolution of national park establishment and management in this country.

This section then, introduces a number of themes which underlie the remaining parts of this report and describes the concept of a kauri national park.

3.2 The New Zealand National Park System

New Zealand presently has twelve national parks. For the most part they occupy remote mountain country or forested steeplands, in some cases with extensive coastal margins. They are generally large contiguous blocks of land with obvious outstanding scenic qualities and limited potential for alternative economic uses. They are major tourist attractions and to a large extent their recreational appeal is based on a remote wilderness type experience.

In the South Island the parks contain sequences of landforms developed as a result of tectonic uplift and movement associated with the shearing of the Indian-Australian and Pacific Plates along the Alpine Fault. The North Island parks are centered on the comparatively youthful landforms developed from intense volcanic activity over the last one million years. Overlying these outstanding tectonic features is the impact of ice and glaciation on the landscape.

Because of their more southerly latitude and the altitudinal range which they span, the vegetation of the existing system of parks is dominated by cool temperate and alpine species. Albiet with several exceptions, beech forest, alpine shrubland, herbfield, fellfield and barrens are the principal vegetation classes represented. Put another way, whilst 43% of New Zealand lies below an altitude of 300m, only 16% of the land in national parks lies below this altitude. In no way are these parks representative of the major ecosystems of this country, particularly the lowland ecosystems.

3.3 The Lineage of Kauri

The Northland proposal is unique in that it focuses on a single species and its associated characteristic ecosystems. While this may appear limiting from an ecological perspective the approach is enhanced by the cultural and historic associations which kauri represents. These issues are dealt with in more detail elsewhere but suffice to say that the importance of the species to the identity and character of Northland and to the early development of New Zealand enhance the notion of kauri as the organizing concept for this proposal.

Kauri, a symbol and physiognomicaly dominant element of the forests of Northland is a member of the genus Agathis. This genus contains 13 species found in the Phillipines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, coastal Queensland, and New South Wales, and islands of the south-west Pacific. Agathis australis is found only in New Zealand as are many species associated with it. These species include nikau palm, kiekie, tree ferns, manuka, and pohutukawa, which also have their origins in similar tropical and subtropical regions.

The natural southern limit for kauri is near Hauturu, not far from the Kawhia Harbour. It occurs naturally north of 38 degrees 7 minutes south in the North Island and on many offshore islands. The largest remaining stands of mature kauri occur in Northland. Only scattered mature stands remain on the Coromandel Peninsula and Aotea (Great Barrier) Island, with pockets of sapling and pole kauri being more common (Ecroyd 1982).

The lineage of kauri began in Triassic times around 225 million years ago when the Araucariaceae, one of the oldest existing conifer families, appear in the fossil record. Agathis as a distinct genus became evident in the upper Cretaceous (70 million years ago), at the same time as the pollen record shows that a substantial number of genera of the modern flora appeared. Agathis australis as a species appeared widespread throughout New Zealand 7 milliom years ago and possibly as early as 20 million years ago. It appears to have retreated from as far south as Invercargill to its present distribution as a result of Pliocene marine transgression, and Pleistocene volcanism and glaciations. During the most recent glacial advance, 25,000 years ago, extensive stands of kauri forest may well have been restricted to north of Dargaville, with only scattered stands further south. These northern forests may represent the only undisturbed, pre-ice age vegetation types which have persisted on their original site. As such they provide an unbroken link back to the ancient origins of New Zealand's biota.

Wardle (1991) reinforces this by stating that the northern mixed forests, including those dominated by kauri, can be regarded as an ensemble from which other mixed forests have segregated, becoming simpler in structure and poorer in species as latitude and longitude increase.

3.4 Optimum Reserve Size

The issue of the size and spatial configuration of the remnant forest areas is central to this proposal given that they range in size from 48 hectares to over 22000 hectares. There is general agreement amongst ecologists that larger reserves are of greater conservation value than smaller ones (O'Connor, Overmars and Ralston 1990). This is reflected in the criteria for establishment of new national parks which prefers parks to be large, in terms of tens of thousands of hectares. There are numerous ecological and other reasons for this.

The number of species a reserve can hold is a function of its area. A large area will nearly always encompass more species and other forms of natural and genetic diversity than a small one and hence minimise random extinction rates.

A large area is more likely to satisfy the minimum genetically viable population size and probably better facilitate the cooexistance of competitors. Large reserves are also more likely

to provide protection against the effects of natural catastrophe, they tend to be less modified, are better buffered against human disturbance and have less edge habitats.

However while large reserves are favoured, small reserves may also have a significant conservation value beyond what they inherently contain. Small reserves provide representative or selected samples of ecosystems that were once more extensive and often contain landscape or biotic elements, including rare species, not otherwise protected. They can provide multiple samples of species throughout their former range thus sustaining genetic variability and act as stepping stones and/or corriors for many species which enhances gene flow. They are also important to surrounding lands by affecting hydrology and erosion and have aesthetic, educational and recreational values.

Small reserves can also act as "ecological islands" because threatening species such as pigs and goats may be unable to colonise them compared with larger more continuous habitats. Fencing of small reserves is easier for species specific protection programmes and the use of possum poison stations is possible in smaller areas but not in large reserves.

Hence given the fact that only 4% of the orginal kauri forests remain in scattered and various sized chunks it would appear well justifiable on ecological grounds to maximise the extent and number of forest remnants protected irrespective of their individual size. The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

3.5 Overseas National Parks

An issue which distinguishes the Northland proposal from most other national parks is its degree of fragmentation. With nearly 50 separate areas totalling approximately 105,000 hectares scattered across 16000 square kilometers of the Northland peninsula, it contrasts markedly with the concept of existing parks. These are generally large, well-defined blocks of land.

The concept of a fragmented national park or reserve system is not a new one however. There are numerous examples both overseas and within New Zealand where parks comprising geographically dispersed areas are managed successfully as a single entity.

* Hungary
  The Kiskunsag National Park between the Danube and Tisza rivers is a complex of six separate land units covering 31529 ha. The national park and protected annexed areas which are managed as a whole consist of saline plains, lakes, sand dunes, swamps and flooded areas.

* Scotland
  The Western Ross National Scenic Area (equivalent to a national park) in the highlands of NW Scotland comprises 15 sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) covering a total of 145,300 ha.

* Wales
  The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park includes four large mainland areas and four islands

offshore. Mostly privately owned there are three national nature reserves, 21 other nature reserves, 200 ancient monuments and two important historic/archaeological sites.

* USA
The Mark Twain National Forest contains eight separate large forest tracts extending across 400 km of the State of Missouri.

* Australia
The East Coast Forests World Heritage Site in New South Wales, and the SW Tasmanian National Parks World Heritage Site are examples of biome based (forests in this case) parks composed of geographically separated, but management coordinated sites.

* Japan
The Saikai National Park off the western end of the Japanese archipelago consists of over 100 small geologically diverse and historically important islands.

Within New Zealand there are also examples of scattered or fragmented reserves managed under a single regime. While not all are classified as national parks they serve to illustrate the concept that geographically separated areas can be managed and promoted as a single entity.

* Bay of Islands Maritime and Historic Park
This park comprises nearly 60 small islands and mainland reserves in an area significant culturally and historically for its association with the first period of both Maori and European settlement.

* Marlborough Sounds Maritime Park
Covering a total area of over 50000 hectares of a deeply indented drowned valley landscape, this park takes in 104 separate reserves scattered amongst forestry operations, farms and baches. It also includes 900 km of foreshore reserve.

* Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park
Twenty islands and groups of islands scattered over 13500 square kilometers reserve a diverse range of historic, cultural, recreational, scientific and wildlife values in close proximity to New Zealand's largest urban population.

* Whanganui National Park
This park covers over 74000 hectares of lowland broadleaf-podocarp-beech forest in 16 separate areas linked by the Wanganui River (which is itself not included in the park).

* Otago Goldfields Park
Comprising a network of 22 historic and recreation reserves and areas of protected private land dispersed throughout the Clutha River valley, this park is based on the theme of the history of large scale goldmining in Otago.

These examples, particularly the more familiar New Zealand ones demonstrate that:

* The concept of dispersed parks has been accepted in this country and the precedent is well established;

* An obvious or well recognised theme rather than a distinctive landform can form the unifying basis of a park;

* Small size of individual blocks and also a relatively small total area is not necessarily a limiting factor if the inclusion of those areas serves to enhance the unifying theme;

* Such a concept is readily acceptable to the public and can be successfully promoted provided access to areas is adequate.

3.6 Partnership and the Treaty of Waitangi

All 12 existing national parks in New Zealand were established, or began the process of establishment, under the administration of the Department of Lands and Survey. However investigation of the Northland proposal has been carried out by the Department of Conservation. Although the appropriate provisions of the National Parks Act 1980 have been followed the Department of Conservation has an additional statutory responsibility. Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 requires the Department to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. Briefly these principles are:

* *Kawanatanga*
  The Government has the right to govern and to make laws.

* *Rangatiratanga*
  The iwi have the right to organize as iwi, and, under the law, to control their resources as their own.

* *Equality*
  All New Zealanders are equal before the law.

* *Reasonable Cooperation*
  Both the Government and the iwi are obliged to accord each other reasonable cooperation on major issues of common concern.

* *Redress*
  The Government is responsible for providing effective processes for the resolution of grievances in the expectation that reconciliation can occur.

In an endeavour to give effect to these principles the Department has established processes and mechanisms which aim to recognise te tino rangatiratanga o te iwi and facilitate iwi participation as full and active partners. These arrangements within the Northland Conservancy of the Department include:

A. The appointment of a senior level conservancy Kaupapa Atawhai Manager whose role is to:

* ensure that effective liason is established and maintained with the tangata whenua and their established runanga and Trust Board authorities;
* ensure that the regional conservator and staff are kept informed of major developments in the iwi view on conservation issues;
* facilitate an awareness programme of tikanga Maori for staff;
* facilitate the interaction of the conservancy and iwi on conservation issues;
* coordinate the flow of information between the conservancy and iwi;
* where appropriate, assist iwi to formulate responses to conservation issues.

B. Evaluation and interpretation of legislative procedures to ensure that iwi views are expressed and recognised in policy formulation and decision making processes.

C. Assisting in the resolution of Waitangi Tribunal claims where the Department's involvement is required by appearing before Waitangi Tribunal hearings, participating in consultation, mediation or negotiation, and research.

As stated earlier this investigation was the first attempt by the Department to manage a major investigation of national priority involving the need to establish a relationship with a large number of iwi. As such it was an opportunity to bring to the fore a responsibility which had previously not been overtly recognised in legislation or in practice. It was also an opportunity for the Department to test its sensitivity and responsiveness to issues of concern to iwi Maori as well as its approach to the workings of a partnership.

Essentially the Department had no preconception of how its performance would be viewed. It did not know in any consistent or agreed manner how it intended to give effect to Treaty principles or what it understood by a partnership with iwi beyond the general guidelines set out in Government policy. The dominant idea prevailing at the time was to use the process of management plan preparation as a means of expressing the partnership.

A further complicating factor is the Waitangi Tribunal claim process, especially over Waipoua and the surrounding lands. There is an expectation that the resolution of this claim, its interpretation of principles, and specific recommendations will provide substantive direction as to the manner in which the partnership evolves. It may also provide precedents for the administration and management of other areas over which the Department currently has statutory authority. Some elaboration on these questions is contained in a subsequent section, the key to which is the exercise of decision making power by the Crown.

3.7 The Concept of a Kauri National Park

The principal objective of establishing a national park in Northland is to recognise, promote, and protect kauri forest ecosystems as a natural feature and as a cultural and historic heritage of national importance.

The concept of the proposal is to utilize the predominance of kauri forest ecosystems in Northland as a link binding the nationally important natural, cultural, and historic features of public interest, recreation and tourism value. It has as its core the Department of Conservation administered forest estate of some 105,000 hectares in 47 separate areas.

The kauri stands as a symbol of the proposal, but other natural features of the north provide the framework of a park which contains a myriad of other values, linking the many separated areas. The exploration and development of complementary management systems particularly with iwi, and other components of the natural, cultural and historic heritage of Northland may be linked under this umbrella. It will provide a unified and coordinated experience which celebrates the human relationships with the significant remnants of the once vast forest and provide a focus for community recognition of the natural heritage of the region.

PART FOUR: ASSESSMENT IN TERMS OF CRITERIA

4.1 Introduction

This part of the report considers the qualities of the areas proposed for a national park in terms of Section 4 of the Act (APPENDIX I). It uses as a basis for discussion the National Parks and Reserves Authority's criteria for selecting new parks and park boundaries (APPENDIX II). The discussion in this part is divided into three major sections. The first describes each of the 47 land units individually, the second assesses 4 clusters or groups of these scattered areas, and the third summarizes the assessment.

4.2 Assessment of Individual Areas

The General Policy for National Parks states, " Areas recommended for national park status must contain, for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public, some or all of the following: ...(7.1(i))". As a starting point for this assessment in terms of criteria a succinct description of the scenic, ecological, natural, historic, archaeologic, and recreational attributes of each of the 47 areas was prepared. Also collated was information relating to modification and boundaries. These statements related to key words or phrases contained in the General Policy for National Parks 7.1 and 7.3. The results of this exercise are contained in APPENDIX V. The following list relates the type of information gathered for each policy:

Name:
DOC land register name of largest classified area in land unit.

Policy 7.1 (i)(a) *Scenery of such distinctive quality*:

The main features of topography and landform as visible from easily accessible and well used vantage points or roads.

Policy 7.1 (i)(b) *Ecological systems so unique or scientifically important*:

Vegetation: Principal vegetation types which have been described and presence of any rare or endangered species.
Wildlife: Wildlife habitat ranking based on Ogle (1982) and occurence of any threatened, endangered or notable species.
Geology: Dominant rock types.
Soils: Soil types occurring in area.

Policy 7.1 (i)(c) *Natural features so beautiful, unique or scientifically important*:

Features of the biology, geomorphology or hydrology not identified elsewhere.

Policy 7.1 (ii)(a) *Generally large, preferably contiguous areas*:

Area: Best available area of land unit in hectares, including any recent purchases and boundary adjustments resulting from land allocation exercises.
Linkages: Proximity to other areas in proposal or other features.

Policy 7.1 (ii)(b) *Predominantly natural areas which can be restored or regenerated, or contain features of significant historical, cultural, archaeological or scientific value, or contain features which have no equivalent in an unmodified area and are so unique.*

Modification: Extent of modification by fire or logging and status of regeneration.
Historic: Structures or sites present and other known historical information refering to surrounding area.
Archaeologic: Presence of recorded archaeological sites, and any other information publically available or disclosed to the Department relating to the significance of the area to Maori.

Policy 7.3 (i),(ii),(iii),(iv),(v),(vi) *Criteria relating to the establishment of boundaries, adjacent land uses, access and efficiency of management* .

Boundaries: Approximate length of boundary in kilometers by adjacent land use type. F = forest or shrubland, P = pasture or farmland, E = exotic forest, C = coastal seas, beach or estuary. Any large contiguous areas of forest or shrubland not in Crown ownership noted.
Recreation/Access: Existing tracks, routes, roads and facilities enabling public access to and enjoyment of the area.

The results of this exercise indicate the diversity of features and values present in the scattered remnant forests of the region irrespective of their size. Also apparent is the wide variety in the quality of available information on them and the need for additional surveys.

This information ranges from detailed vegetation surveys with maps and accompanying type descriptions, to very brief comment on major tree species present. Although the dominant vegetative components are usually recorded the smaller shrubs, ferns, mosses, lichens, and other small or inconspicuous plants remain largely undescribed.

Wildlife values are based on surveys which are almost a decade old and are biased strongly towards the avifauna. Reptile and fish records are based on a limited number of sightings. A comprehensive survey of these and the status of insects and snails is necessary.

Although there is a paucity of specific information on the historic values of these areas, there is a large and expanding literature dealing with many aspects of the transformation of the Northland forests into the present day landscape. The lives of the people who felled the forests are being turned into a body of myth and legend which reveal much about the origins of the characteristics of New Zealand society today (eg MacKay 1991). A comprehensive collation and analysis of this history is beyond the scope or resources of this investigation. More detailed survey of the sites of historic importance within the proposal areas is necessary, particularly the condition of the numerous wooden structures and locations of old

railway formations and tracks used by the bushmen.

Archaeological sites within the proposal areas remain largely unsurveyed. Pressure for survey has been directed to the surrounding areas of private land, much of which is now covered in exotic forest or other land uses. Sites of significance to tangata whenua are little known by the Department but their importance, if not location, is slowly being revealed through the Waitangi Tribunal hearing process and as the Department develops a closer relationship with iwi. The type of this information and the manner in which it is made public remains at the discretion of tangata whenua.

Both geological and soil data are well mapped and described although the subtle complexities of the region's geology continue to be the subject of debate and discussion.

This section therefore contains a data set for each area which will be used as the basis of a more wide ranging discussion. Rather than individually discussing the values of each area against the criteria, and in order to simplify the presentation of the assessment, groups or clusters of areas will be considered in the next section.

4.3 Assessment of Clustered Areas

4.3.1 Rationale for Clustering

The rationale for clustering is based on the need to simplify the presentation of the assessment. It is also an attempt to recognise the dispersed yet linked nature of the component land units in the proposal, this being a core part of the concept of the park.

While such an approach is not overtly contained within the criteria there is a strong suggestion that it can be justified. The use of indefinite and non-exclusive terms in the policy such as: "*some or all of the following*; *and/or*; *in general*; *relatively large*; *preferably*; *predominantly*; *or*;" rather than the definitive "*must*" and "*and*" indicates a degree of flexibility in the interpretation of the criteria. With this in mind, four major groups of land units, clusters, have been assembled based on a number of interrelated factors which derive from the criteria.

The formation of these clusters is based principally on ecological region and ecological district boundaries. These are defined as:

> Ecological District: A local part of New Zealand where the topographical, geological, climatic, soil, and biological features including the broad cultural pattern, produce a characteristic landscape and range of biological communities.
>
> Ecological Region: An aggregation of adjacent ecological districts with very closely related characteristics.
>
> (McEwen 1987)

However these boundaries have been adjusted slightly to account for the relative proximity of the land units, their pattern of recreational facilities and intensity of use, and the location

of primary access roads. The boundaries of the communities of interest as contained in the social and economic assessment were also considered.

The four clusters with land unit numbers as indicated in APPENDIX V are: Tutamoe (1-15), Maungataniwha (16-30), Russell (31-36) and Tangihua (37-47). These are illustrated on the accompanying MAP 1. What follows is an assessment against criteria of those land areas contained within each cluster.

4.3.2 Interpretation of Criteria

Techniques for land evaluation for nature conservation in New Zealand have been reviewed by O'Connor, Overmars and Ralston (1990). They identify criteria and associated concepts which provide a scientific basis for assessment. These criteria are:

* Representativeness
* Diversity and pattern
* Rarity
* Naturalness
* Long-term viability
* Size and shape
* Buffering and surrounding landscape.

Where appropriate these additional ideas will be used to clarify and interpret the criteria contained in the General Policy For National Parks 7.1 and 7.3. The use of such additional criteria was suggested in the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society national submission.

Scenery of Such Distinctive Quality

The interpretation used in this investigation is considered in answer to three questions:

Are the landforms distinctive in their own right ?

Are the landforms distinctive from others in the proposal ?

Are the landforms distinctive from other areas of New Zealand ?

Ecological Systems So Unique Or Scientifically Important

For the purposes of this discussion, ecological systems include the sum of living and non living materials, ie.vegetation, wildlife, geology, soils, and climate of the land units in question. The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines unique as: of which there is only one, having no like or equal or parallel. Scientific importance can be defined as something which is of importance to professional practitioners of the scientific method of enquiry. It will be assumed generally that any ecosystem which is unique will also be scientifically important within this context. The interpretation is considered in answer to three questions:

Is this ecosystem unique or is it represented elswhere ?

Does this ecosystem display diversity in terms of species, communities, and gradients ?

Does this ecosystem contain any rare or distinctive elements ?

Natural Features So Beautiful, Unique, Or Scientifically Important

Do these land units contain any other features or values which are not represented elsewhere in this proposal or any other national park ?

Size

Contiguous and large areas, prefeably in terms of tens of thousands of hectares are preferred in the policy.

What is the size of the land units and how closely are they linked ?

In general the largest area possible is thought to be the most important consideration however smaller areas do make a significant contribution to overall representation and diversity.

Modification

The General Policy states that areas under consideration should be natural areas, but predominantly natural areas will be considered. The interpretation is considered in answer to these questions:

Are modified areas capable of restoration or regeneration ?

Do these areas contain features of significant historical, cultural, archaeological or scientific value ?

Do they contain features which have no equivalent in an unmodified area ?

The degree of naturalness, or extent of modification in this context will be restricted to direct human impacts. Disturbance by other agents such as wild animals will be considered in respect to management issues in the following section.

Boundaries

Policy 7.3 of the General Policy describes criteria which are to be used in establishing the boundaries of parks. These have been paraphrased as:

* resistance to changes on adjacent lands
* domination by adjacent lands of park values
* complete landscape units
* maximum access
* convenience for efficient management
* following physical features

At this stage of the proposal a detailed on the ground assessment of the boundaries of the areas has not been carried out. The boundaries which have been used are existing cadastral boundaries and have not been altered in any way. It is considered desirable to maximise the area included within any one land unit and in the proposal as a whole. Ecological thinking indicates that larger reserves are preferable. Essentially it is believed prudent to firstly establish the principle of the park and gain its acceptance, then evaluate the details of boundaries later.

However it has been possible to collate some information on the issue from maps. A general discussion of this, based on the criteria in Policy 7.3, is included to indicate the broad patterns.

4.3.3 Tutamoe Cluster

Centered on the large western forests, this cluster is based on the Tutamoe ecological district except for a small area in the east, and includes the heads of the Hokianga harbour. Primary access is via State Highway 12 from Dargaville to Opononi and Kaikohe and numerous smaller secondary roads.

*** Scenery**

This relatively compact group of areas can be described as having a sprinkling of jewels emergent from an underlying basis of unity. Forming the highest range in Northland, its peaks vary little from Tutamoe (770m) in the south, to several unnamed high points in Marlborough and Mataraua around 650m, to a group of high points in Waima in excess of 700m, the highest of which are Mt Misery (728m), Ngapukehaua (762m), and Te Raupua (781m).

From several of these peaks and at vantage points on many of the roads, the vista is of a large and unbroken tract of forest stretching far into the distance with the crowns of huge kauri and rata prominent on the long rounded ridgelines. With a change in perspective the intervening farmland becomes visible, with its scattered clumps of totara, smaller remnants of forest such as Trounson and Katui, and in places the expanse of the Tasman sea framed by forest and hill.

State Highway 12 through the Waipoua Forest Sanctuary is an exceptional driving experience, travelling through a narrow corridor of vigorously profuse and densely overhanging vegetation, with occasional large kauri adjacent to the road. Spanning a representative tract 20 km through the forest, four main communities are recognisable. These have been described by Clunie, in Ministry of Works and Development (1987) as: taraire-towai mixed broadleaf forest with emergent rimu and Northern rata; large kauri stands; teatree scrub and mixed species secondary forest; and gumlands scrub. As such the road furnishes a remarkable view of the complexities of Northland's forest.

In contrast to the smooth contours of the forested plateau, the long sweep of coastline provides a variety of outstanding landforms. The most conspicuous of these is the 400m high Maunganui Bluff, an abruptly truncated ridge which terminates 80km of desolate beach extending from the Kaipara harbour mouth. Further north, the Kawerua area provides sequences from ocean to rocky reef, high dunes, shrubland with emergent kauri, to distant forest-clad ranges. This sequence which extends up the Wairau River catchment is the only undisturbed coast to plateau-top scenic and ecological corridor.

But perhaps the most spectacular view is that of the Hokianga harbour mouth with the Kahakaharoa dune rising to 200m on the north side, and the steeply cliffed Arai Te Uru on the south. This energetic, dynamic and everchanging environment is dominated by the prevailing westerly winds and powerful tides and currents which flow between the heads. The moving flux of surf and current, the subtle patterns of golden sand, the distant massif of Warawara, and the lonely stretch of spray and beach extending towards Ahipara is a unique panorama enhanced by the setting sun.

The scenery of this compact cluster of areas with the largest tract of unbroken kauri forest in the country occuring on the highest and dominant landform in the region, with several distinctive coastal elements, is clearly of a quality the preservation of which is in the national interest.

*** Ecological Systems**

Climatically this district is the wettest in Northland, with annual rainfalls of 1400mm on the coast and more than 3000mm on the high plateau. The number of rain days per year, (around 170) is the highest in the region. The district is susceptible to occasional tropical storms from the north and northeast, and is also exposed to the colder south west influence.
Coastal elements in this cluster well illustrate representative sections of the exposed western coast. The large and dynamic quartenary sand dunes at Kahakaharoa with small outcrops of micaceous sandstone and basalt/diorite complexes are closely linked with the consolidated sandstones and coastal vegetation at Arai Te Uru. The Kawerua coast with its long stretches of semi-consolidated sands terminating in the Maunganui Bluff is similarly significant as a high value coastal wildlife habitat with representative components of duneland vegetation.

The forested ecosystems contain numerous exceptional and otherwise unrepresented components. These include a complete vegetative sequence from the coast to the highest points in Northland, which is underlain by a more intricate relationship between altitude and pedological processes.

In Waipoua Forest Sanctuary and the extened protected areas these sequences and relationships are well described by Eadie, Burns and Leathwick(1987) who recognise thirteen different forest types. These include several lowland coastal types described as mamangi-mapou-kanuka and taraire/kohekohe-karaka-nikau forest. On well drained lowland areas kauri/mamangi-kanuka-towai and taraire-towai/kohekohe forest is prevalent and this grades into extensive areas of taraire/kohekohe and kauri/taraire forest at mid-altitude, which follows the upper altitudinal limit of Waipoua clay. Also at mid-altitude are variants of towai-kanuka-miro-Halls totara forest with differing frequencies of taraire and kauri. At high altitude, towai-tawa forest is found with varying proportions of rimu, Northern rata and swamp maire. Kauri/Gahnia tussockland is also recognised in several areas where limited logging took place around 1943. Seven shrubland types with differing mixtures of Gleichenia-Baumea-manuka-Dracophyllum-towai and rewarewa (depending on soil type and topography) have been identified.

The Ngaruku bog is an unusual part of the forest with large areas of Gahnia xanthocarpa and it could be an important site for palynological (pollen analysis) studies. Twenty eight threatened plant species are known from the forest. The largest population of kiwi in New Zealand and large populations of kauri snail, kukupa and pied tit are found in Waipoua.

Soils are mainly brown granular clays and loams developed on massive flows of lower Miocene Waipoua basalt. Extensive areas of Waipoua hill clay, Parataiko hill silt loam, and Hihi, Aranga, and Okaka clays occur at low to mid altitude. On the higher ridges and bordering onto the Mataraua plateau, Tutamoe friable clay, Waimatenui clay, and Te Kie steepland soils dominate. The lower coastal areas of consolidated sands contain Te Kopuru

sand and Tangitiki sandy loam yellow brown earths.

Te Kie steepland soils on Cretaceous Tangihua volcanics occur on the Waima range. Ranked outstanding as wildlife habitat the Waima forest is mostly hardwood/podocarp forest with small pockets of mature kauri and contains 19 threatened species.

Mataraua, as a continuum of Waipoua, contains a wet plateau forest characterised by towai, miro, swamp maire, and tawa with emergent rimu and rata. An unusual population of southern rata is present with 5 other species locally distributed in Northland. A small population of kokako is present. Kaihu forest with its high altitude swamp plateau forest, highest altitude mature kauri stand, and seven uncommon plant species is also notable for its diversity of ferns, mosses and liverworts.

As a significant remnant of mature kauri forest containing seven recognised types, Trounson Kauri Park is a high value habitat at mid altitude with kiwi, long tailed bats and occasional red and yellow crowned parakeets. Maunganui Bluff is important for its coastal elements with several plant species of very restricted distribution. Katui and the three smaller reserves south of Kaihu are all moderate to high value forest habitats with low altitude broadleaf podocarp forest and occasional kauri. Geologically each is distinctive with a corresponding variation in soil type. For example Waimata with its Waiotira clay loam on a micaceous sandstone is distinct from the Takitu gravelly clay on calcareous shale and argillaceous limestone at Maramanui.

Several major rivers in this cluster are important for their ecological values. The upper catchments of the Waipoua and Whirinaki rivers are clothed in intact undisturbed forest. The Wairau river is one of the few rivers remaining in the North Island whose entire catchment is comparatively unmodified. As such these rivers are important representative habitats for a wide variety of native aquatic flora and fauna. Trout are lacking in Waipoua and the diverse native fish fauna includes the short-jawed kokopu.

The diversity of species, communities and gradients typified by the coast to high point sequences, the extensive plateau forests, outstanding to high value wildlife values, unique lower Miocene Waipoua basalts, and the representative coastal elements demonstrate that the ecosystems in this cluster are of significance that warrants their preservation in the national interest.

*** Natural Features**

The massive specimens of mature kauri within the Waipoua Forest Sanctuary are recognised as global taonga. Ranging in height from 30 to 50m these trees are thought to be more than 1000 years old and are almost certainly the largest and oldest living organisms in the South Pacific. The recent rediscovery of another giant rivalling Tane Mahuta and Te Matua Ngahere in size reveals the mystery and inpenetrable nature of these complex and little explored forests. The beauty, uniqueness and scientific importance of these trees alone warrants their preservation in the national interest. Other features are numerous bluffs and waterfalls which distinguish the edge of the plateau generally and the scale of Maunganui Bluff especially.

*** Size**

The total area of land units in this cluster is 31985 hectares in 12 physically separated areas. The largest of these, the Waima/Mataraua/Waipoua Sanctuary and Extension form an unbroken tract of 22793 hectares. This is by itself large enough to meet the criteria and is of a size comparable to both the Abel Tasman and Egmont National Parks.

The addition of the other larger areas is justified by virtue of their close proximity to the core and each other, none being separated by more than 4-5 km. They form an almost contiguous tract whose expanse is increased by the presence of buffer zones of forest and shrubland in private ownership. These include the Dargaville water supply catchment on the edge of Kaihu.

The inclusion of the smaller areas of the Hokianga Heads and the three reserves to the south of Kaihu cannot be substantiated on the size criteria, they are obviously some of the smallest areas in the proposal. However their scenic, ecological and natural values are considerable and this should weigh in their favour.

*** Modification**

Regeneration

All areas in this cluster have been modified to some extent in the past although they appear predominantly natural.

The most significant of these are: about 3500 hectares in Mataraua cleared for farm settlement in 1893; the bulk of Waipoua Sanctuary Extension which was burned, farmed, dug for gum and logged prior to the turn of the century; and part of Marlborough logged in the 1950s.

Smaller modified areas include fire-induced shrubland in the center of Waipoua Forest Sanctuary, the south east edge of Kaihu Forest Ecological Area, and a narrow stand of pines at Kawerua. Other areas have at times been partially logged for kauri.

In all cases the natural regenerative capacity of the vegetation is apparent. Given sufficient time these areas will return to high forest. Studies of seedling density at Waipoua carried out by Lloyd in the 1970s confirm an abundance of high forest species in the proximity of suitable seed trees. The band of pines on the foreshore at Kawerua could be removed but may best be delayed until surrounding scrub is more advanced to reduce the potential for erosion of the dune face.

Archaeology/History

By virtue of the nature of modification, the larger areas in particular contain features of significant historic and archaeological value. The attempted settlement of Mataraua beginning in 1890 by dissatisfied squatters from the South Island is a story of sadness and disillusion.

High rainfall forced retreat to the more sheltered Wekaweka valley. In 1900 a well constructed coach road through Mataraua connecting the Kaihu Hotel at the end of the northern railway with the Taheke road between Kaikohe and Rawene was completed. Use of the road ceased shortly after the completion of the road through the Waipoua Sanctuary in 1926.

The history of the Waipoua Sanctuary and the bordering coastal lands deserves a full and comprehensive account beyond the scope of this report. It is a rich and fascinating story beginning with the arrival of the ancestors of Te Roroa, their occupations of the valley, acquisition by the Crown in 1876, through to clearance for farming, construction of a hotel with a community of nearly 600 gumdiggers, logging and later reservation. Evidence of much of this saga remains on site as pa, pits, stonework structures, gumholes, the Kawerua Hotel building, graves and the forest itself.

The south eastern side of Kaihu and the three small nearby reserves are of considerable historical significance. The largest ever recorded kauri Kairaru was destroyed by fires in the area around 1900. The reserves are central to a territory which produced the greatest volumes of kauri felled in the country at the height of the sawmilling industry in the early 1900s. Evidence of this industry remains as roads, campsites, and driving dams.

The small reserves at the head of the Hokianga harbour have similar historic associations with the expansion of the kauri milling industry as well as being sites of considerable significance to the tangata whenua.

In summary it is argued that the success of regeneration and the obvious archaeological and historic significance of these areas clearly outweighs any compromise in the required degree of naturalness.

*** Boundaries**

The approximate length of boundaries of land uses adjacent to blocks in this cluster are: forest and shrubland (39%) pasture (31%) exotic forest (21%) and coast (9%). Because of their generally higher altitude, proposed park areas are resistant to changes in adjacent land uses which may result in stream sedimentation and erosion. Peripheral fires have rarely been a problem in recent years. The use of fire for exotic forest management has generally been well controlled but remains a potential threat.

The lack of adequate fencing creates problems, particularly with respect to goat farming. Large mobs of feral goats have been reported straying into the forests from poorly fenced farms. These combined with the wild population and in association with possums have caused considerable damage in some areas, especially Waima. Control of the goat population needs to be an ongoing priority. Possums are identified as the major threat to park values, and their control both on private land and park areas is a high priority.

The extensive areas of peripheral forest and shrubland act as buffers for the protection of park values. Given the lack of encouragement for conversion of forest to farmland, these buffers are likely to remain relatively intact for the forseeable future. The prospect of rating

relief to encourage retention of forest, promotion of the Nga Whenua Rahui concept, and the proposed purchase of several areas by the Forest Heritage Fund are all leading to an expansion of the area of protected forest. The actions of the Native Forests Restoration Trust and the QE II National Trust are further forces in this direction.

Plantations of pines are extensive especially on the eastern side of the Tutamoe Range where they abut Mataraua, Marlborough and Kaihu forests. The slopes south of the Waipoua Sanctuary Extension and along the Kawerua coast are in pines. Their impact is visually significant especially at harvest time and the potential for recreational activities is largely restricted to hunting. The linkage of the separated indigenous tracts by pines may be important for some species such as the kiwi.

The invasion of weeds is a problem which has the potential to compromise the intrinsic values of these forests. Ginger, mistflower, Mexican devil weed, Himalayan honeysuckle and ivy are considered to be the most significant threats, especially along SH12. The felling of the extensive peripheral exotic forests which could be accompanied by a proliferation of weeds and the presence of gorse and hakea on the coastal gumlands is also cause for concern.

The proposed park areas, ocurring as they do on the higher and dominant country are in themselves complete landscape units although the boundaries tend to follow a vegetated contour rather than a physical feature. Fencing of these boundaries, especially where they abut pasture will be necessary.

Access to the park areas is well served by SH12, numerous secondary roads and a network of tracks. Submissions did suggest an expansion to the walkways network but public access to most areas is good.

4.3.4 Maungataniwha Cluster

This cluster of 15 land units occupying the northern most section of the proposal is centered on the Maungataniwha ecological district, but also includes most of the Hokianga and small peripheral areas of the Aupouri and Eastern Northland and Islands ecological districts. Access is via State Highways 1 and 10 which loop through the center of the district, and an intricate network of smaller roads which service some of the most isolated communities in the region.

*** Scenery**

Land units in this cluster illustrate a remarkable diversity of coastal and hilly interior landforms of an unmistakeable and unusual quality. Of particular interest is the isolated, massive, uplifted and steeply dissected plateau of Warawara which dominates the northern side of the Hokianga harbour. It provides a spectacular vista to the small south Hokianga holiday communities of Opononi, Omapere, and Rawene, and stands as an almost overwhelming presence for the small communities of Mitimiti, Panguru and Pawarenga.

At Ahipara the desolate windswept plateau and bluffs contrasting with huge golden dunes bounded by a wild open coast and the broad Herekino harbour estuary are a distinctive and unparallelled comination of landforms which are enhanced by their close proximity to the elevated and dissected landform of Herekino Forest.

The large shallow Lake Ohia is surrounded by low shrubland which merges on one side to extensive mangrove forest, and on the opposite side to the large sweep of Tokerau Beach, Karikari Peninsula and Doubtless Bay. Contrast is provided by the dense subtropical luxuriance of the nearby Paranui Scenic Reserve.

As a broad wide-valleyed range rising to several peaks 600-700 masl, the Maungataniwha forests are the focal point for the upper catchments of the Whangapae, Hokianga, Mangonui and Whangaroa harbours. They provide an obvious barrier between the low rolling hill country of the Hokianga and the low-lying flat tombolo sand of the Far North. The main gorge road over the summit provides unique vistas of dense Northland conifer/broadleaf forest with characteristic emergent rimu and rata, one of the very few sections of State Highway 1 which pass through unmodified mature forest.

The Ranfurly Bay Scenic Reserve is singular in its outcropping of weird and wonderfully shaped andesitic volcanic rocks which form the northern side of the deep and sheltered Whangaroa harbour. Its coastal margin of cliffs is rated by Cocklin, Harte and Hay (1989) as of outstanding aesthetic appeal, with the potential to be of national significance.

The scenic appeal of the Omahuta/Puketi forest tract is rated as moderate by Cocklin, Harte and Hay (1989) because of its size, uniformity of cover and similarity of form. However on closer inspection the landform reveals considerable interest. The tract is unique in that it is one of the oldest landforms in the region. Composed of permian-jurassic basement greywacke and argillite, it is broken by the steep and in places narrow Waipapa and Mangapa river gorges and numerous other short steep tributaries. The south eastern side features bluffs

200m high capped by imposing stands of mature kauri.

Motukaraka/Paponga and the nearby Tapuwae Scenic Reserve which occupy the margins of a small mangrove lined tidal estuary in the mid Hokianga are examples of a comparatively rare combination of forest and harbour both within Northland and nationally. Given the very long land/water margin of harbours which contain mangroves there are very few places where protected forest meets the sea in such a way.

In summary it is argued that the land units of this cluster provide scenic vistas and contain landforms which are not only distinctive in their own right but are also unique within the context of the proposal. By encapsulating several of the significant elements of the landscape of northern Northland, the uplands and contrasting sections of the coast, the scenery is clearly of a characteristic quality nationally.

*** Ecological Systems**

Climatically this cluster spans the dry northern coastal areas averaging less than 1400mm of rain per annum to the wetter central uplands of Puketi/Omahuta which receive over 2400mm per annum. Tropical storms, such as occurred in 1959 can cause extensive canopy damage and erosion.

Geologically diverse, the district is dominated by Cretaceous-Eocene basic marine volcanic uplands and the Mesozoic greywacke and argillite underlying Puketi/Omahuta. Ranfurly Bay contains formations of late Tertiary andesites whereas Lake Ohia and part of Ahipara feature Quartenary coastal sands. The other smaller and generally low-lying areas incorporate Early Tertiary-Cretaceous mudstones, siltstones, and sandstones.

Parallelling the diversity in rock types is a corresponding assortment of soil types which are in turn reflected in the vegetation patterns. The occurrence of strongly developed eggcup podzols with impeded drainage under mature kauri is most notable.

Both Ahipara and Lake Ohia contain variations of manuka gumland heaths developed on low fertility podzolized sands with iron humus and silica pans. In the wetter Lake Ohia area gleysols and organic peaty sandy loams occur with weakly saline clays. Such ecosystems are unique nationally and feature not only diverse orchid communities with a number of rare species but also a wide variety of wetland and coastal birds.

Warawara forest ranges in altitude from 30-732masl and so contains broad sequences of low to high altitude forest types. On the steepest slopes soils are predominantly Te Kie steepland stony clay loam, with Tutamoe friable clay on the plateau surface. The swampy plateau contains the largest high altitude kauri stands in New Zealand together with several of the largest individual mature trees. The eastern portion of the forest is mostly broadleaf podocarp forest dominated by taraire. There is a strong coastal element in the vegetation especially on the western side. Seventeen threatened plant species are known from this forest and it is ranked second in Northland in terms of forest bird diversity.

Notable features of Herekino, which ranges from 30-558masl, are the northern-most stands

of mature kauri, and the presence of 15 threatened or regionally uncommon plant species. The forest is also of national significance for the high number of endemic undescribed mosses and liverworts.

Ranging from 60-750masl, the Maungataniwha range forests, like Herekino, contain Te Kie steepland soils. There is only a small component of kauri in these forests however they are the northern limit for several plant species and contain five regionally and one nationally threatened species. Their wildlife value is ranked as outstanding and they contain the highest bird diversity of the seven major forest tracts in the region.

Ranfurly Bay is an important forest remnant containing many coastal elements including outstanding specimens of pohutukawa and several newly discovered sub-species. It appears to be a diverse area of high endemism. The Huia steepland soils of the area are formed on late Tertiary andesite breccias.

Puketi and Omahuta forests lie over a very old Mesozoic greywacke and argillite landform on which have developed complex suites of moderately leached to podzolised yellow brown earths and podzols. Particular features of the forests are the stands of very large mature kauri, the very high floristic diversity and endemism, the remnant kauri/hard beech stands, and the presence of thirty five threatened plant species. A total of over 516 vascular plants have been recorded from Puketi alone including several species at their northern limit. Wildlife values are outstanding with the population of kokako in Puketi, bats in Omahuta and Northland tusked weta. Puketi is the only Northland forest to retain numbers of kaka.

The Waipapa river which flows through a narrow gorge out of the forests has significant value as a major river with a relatively undisturbed catchment. It is habitat for a number of representative native freshwater animal and plant species. These include Hebe acutifolia, Cortaderia puketi and Dracophyllum puketi which grow as rheophytes on the river banks.

The remaining smaller areas of forest in this cluster are significant in many ways as remnants and for their contribution to and representation of the full diversity and range of ecosystems present in the district. Aratoro in particular is an important habitat with both broadleaf-podocarp forest and wet manuka-sedge fernland containing populations of the threatened fernbird, kiwi and bittern.

The cluster thus contains a wide range of ecosystem types. These range from the exposed western coast, the sheltered eastern coast, wetlands, gumlands, isolated forested uplands, rivers, and estuarine mangroves.

Hence, given the unique nature of these ecosystems, their diversity in terms of species, communities and gradients, and the presence of numerous rare and distinctive elements, the lands within this cluster are unquestionably of such significance that their preservation is in the national interest.

*** Natural Features**

The most distinctive natural feature of these areas is the high number of cliffs, bluffs and waterfalls with their unique and largely unstudied rupestral flora which characterise many of the steep upland massifs. Warawara, Puketi and also Ahipara are particularly eminent in this respect, containing sheer sided bluffs rising from the surrounding lowlands or coast often with spectacular waterfalls or cataracts.

Also notable are the group of very large mature kauri within Omahuta and several large specimens in Puketi.

The scientific importance of these forests is well recognised. For example Ahmed and Ogden(1985) report that the long lived mature kauri on north facing ridge top sites are especially valuable for dendrochronological studies. These studies which relate tree growth to climatic factors have assisted in the reconstruction of paleoclimates back to at least 1750. Sites in Puketi, Warawara as well as Waipoua, Trounson and Russell have been sampled for this purpose.

As such these features contribute to the overall beauty, interest and importance of the areas which warrants their preservation in the national interest.

*** Size**

Totalling 49622 hectares there are several tracts in this cluster which by themselves meet the size criteria. These are the Maungataniwha Range forests, 10919 hectares, and the Puketi/Omahuta tract, 16025 hectares. The three other large areas, Warawara (6931 hectares), Ahipara (4300 hectares), and Herekino (4344 hectares) are of substantial size, with their area enhanced by the presence of surrounding buffers of forest. In the case of Herekino this includes the Kaitaia water supply catchment.

Although the remaining 9 areas are small, 200 to 1500 hectares, they are are included on the merits of their outstanding scenic, ecological and natural features.

*** Modification**

Regeneration

Logging for kauri and to a lesser extent podocarps is the predominant form of modification in the larger tracts of this cluster. A large area of mature kauri was removed from the Warawara plateau in the early 1970s, and extensive logging in Omahuta for essential war purposes concluded in 1945. In the 1860s riverside stands of kauri were extracted from Puketi and again in the 1920s. Further logging in the forest interior of podocarps and kauri began in 1951 and was halted in 1979. The logging history of Herekino spans over 80 years, the most recent extractions of kauri being for traditional canoe construction.

The Ahipara Gumfields are severely modified, having been burned, logged and dug for gum

over a long period. Strong leaching and successive cycles of fire have produced a characteristic manuka heath which is in many ways similar to the fire induced pakihi of the western South Island. Wardle(1991) suggests that survival of this interesting vegetation depends on the establishment of reserves where fire can be accepted as a management tool. A similar situation exists at Lake Ohia although wildlife values are much higher.

Most of the other smaller reserves have been logged at some time, with the possible exception of Paranui. The Maungataniwha range forests are comparatively intact although peripheral areas of manuka indicate the occurrence of fire.

As with the modified areas of Tutamoe the profusion of seral vegetation has rapidly recolonised the damaged areas and given sufficient time a return to high forest will ensue.

Archaeology/History

The modified manuka gumland heath at Ahipara is of outstanding significance nationally, as it contains the best preserved and most extensive evidence on the ground of early gumdigging. It is also an area rich in Maori traditions and sites of significance with numerous pa, middens, and burial grounds. A recently excavated midden has been dated as approximately 400-500 years old. Lake Ohia falls into a similar category.

All other modified areas contain evidence of the kauri milling industry, as dams, tracks, camp sites, and in some cases small areas of gumdigging pits and trenches. Also present are a limited number of archaeological sites the true extent of which awaits further survey. Although such sites of historic and archaeological significance may be represented elsewhere, each area has a particular and unique story associated with it, which contributes to the overall cultural significance of the areas.

In summary it is asserted that the presence of adequate regeneration and occurrence of significant historic and archaeological sites well compensates for any previous modification. At Ahipara this modification must be continued to maintain some of the important values of the area.

*** Boundaries**

Adjacent land uses along the boundaries of proposed park areas are; forest and shrubland (42%), pasture (39%), exotic forest (12%), and coast (7%). Boundary issues discussed in relation to the Tutamoe cluster are echoed in this group although the extent of exotic forests is much smaller.

A significant proportion of the boundary is in private forest which is unlikely to be converted to other land uses. Possum and goat control are necessary to protect park values and fencing is also necessary. Pines are mostly restricted to the north western side of Puketi and Omahuta, Te Koroa/Otangaroa, and edges of Tapuwae and Motukaraka/Paponga.

The higher altitude of the blocks mitigates against the flow through of any erosion debris

from adjacent areas. However Lake Ohia has been susceptible to changes in water levels associated with drainage of surrounding low lying farmland. Its level is now controlled by a newly constructed wier at its outflow.

An assessment of weeds present in this district shows that numerous species including pampas, tobacco weed, ginger, mistflower, Mexican devil weed and climbing asparagus all have the potential to cause compositional changes in these forests. Fire induced weeds such as gorse and hakea are a threat on the gumlands.

In the more northerly areas of district the fire hazard can quickly become extreme. The most vulnerable area with the greatest frequency of uncontrolled fires in the conservancy is Ahipara. While it has been argued that fire is necessary to maintain some of the special features of the gumlands its uncontrolled presence on anywhere but parts of the plateau surface is undesirable. Wandering stock is also a problem as fencing in the area is difficult.

All areas are reasonably complete landscape units although the boundaries follow vegetative lines rather than physical features. Access to all areas is good but submissions suggested that additional walkways should be established to link the areas.

4.3.5 Russell Cluster

This small and compact group of forests occupies the central portion of the Eastern Northland and Islands ecological district which have direct reference to Bay of Islands Maritime and Historic Park and the Mimiwhangata Marine Park. Principal routes are State Highway 1 north of Whangarei and several narrow secondary roads which follow the coast and link small seaside communities.

*** Scenery**

As a further variation on the unity provided by the Tutamoe Range in the west, and the diversity of coasts and forests in Maungataniwha, the Russell cluster is exceptional. As a much older deeply weathered landform, Russell Forest, the core of the district, rises to Te Rangi 407m, Pukemoremore 390m, Monoa 410m, and Te Ranga 314m. These peaks fall away to an intricate and finely dissected system of ridges and narrow valleys which eventually drain into the long shallow and sheltered inlets of the Bay of Islands and Whangaruru harbour.

Patterns of past modification by logging, fire and farming, are well illustrated with extensive sequences of kanuka and manuka shrubland in all ages and heights straddling the whole terrain. The vigorous regenerative capacity of the vegetation with characteristic pole and semi mature kauri and tanekaha spanning the ridgelines and steep gullies clothed in dense hardwoods are similarly demonstrated. Complementing the Tapuwae/Motukaraka sequence in the Hokianga is a comparable example of forest and mangroves in the well concealed Waikino Inlet east of Opua. The close detail of these young forests on an ancient landform weathered to bright orange clays can be easily viewed passing along the Waikare Inlet road, the narrow winding Ngaiotonga Saddle Road connecting Russell township with Oakura, and the Oromahoe Road behind Opua.

Visually however, perhaps the most significant feature of these forests is the backdrop which they form to the popular reserves, waters, historic and cultural features and islands of the Bay of Islands Maritime and Historic Park. The proximity of Hukerenui to the famous Ruapekapeka pa, and of Kaikanui to Mimiwhangata Marine Park enhances this perception. Consequently, it is argued that the scenic values of the Russell cluster are of sufficient merit to warrant national park status. The landform itself, linking with, and as a backdrop to the internationally recognised tourist destination of the Bay of Islands, and as a particular variation in the diversity of kauri forest associations are the substance of this case.

*** Ecological Systems**

Ecosystems in this cluster are unique and not represented elsewhere, either in the proposal or in any other national park.

Climatically the district is drier than others in the proposal with rainfall ranging from 1400-2000mm per annum, reaching its maximum on the higher peaks. Summer droughts are prevalent and the area is exposed to occasional cyclonic storms from the north and north

east.

Geologically the district is underlain by a greywacke basement which extends down the eastern side of Northland and is the region's oldest geological structure. This finely dissected Permian-Jurassic greywacke and argillite is fractured and faulted and contains minor areas of quartzite, chert and quartenary basalt. A small area of silicaceous marine deposits contains mercury and manganese. The lower sections of river valleys are filled with undifferentiated alluvium.

Weathering mantles or regoliths in excess of 10m thick have developed on these very old land surfaces. Soils are mainly moderately leached to weakly podzolized yellow brown earths which are prone to slipping during extended wet periods and high intensity rainfalls.

Vegetatively a complete gradient from sea level to 400m is represented. Most species occurring in mature forest are present. The core of the district is a tract of unmodified mature kauri forest in the Waikare basin of Russell forest. This contains large kauri emergent over totara, tanekaha, rimu, and miro.

Catenas of weakly podzolized ridgeline soils grading into more fertile soils on the lower slopes are reflected in the vegetation. Ridgeline stands of pole kauri, tanekaha, and rimu with scattered mature kauri merge into valley stands of rimu, taraire, tawa, towai and kohekohe.

Large areas of kanuka and manuka containing kauri and podocarps in varying densities and all stages of development are present. This regenerating shrubland merges into mangrove forest in the Waikino Inlet and at Te Haumi near Opua.

Rare or distinctive elements of the flora include the vulnerable Calystegia marginata, Pittosporum pimelioides, Loxoma cunninghamii, Meterosideros excelsa x robusta and king fern.

The central large area is ranked high by Ogle(1982) as a forested wildlife habitat with the smaller outliers of ranging from moderate to high. The threatened North Island weka, kaka, and North Island brown kiwi are present. The New Zealand falcon has been reported while the kokako was last recorded in 1940. Ogle(1982) suggests that climatic differences may explain the low numbers of kauri snails and and lower diversity of native forest birds found in the forests. However as the largest tract of forest in the Eastern Northland and Islands ecological region its value as habitat is considerable. This is enhanced by its proximity to high value coastal and estuarine habitat.

Freshwater crayfish, shrimps and limpets as well as red-finned bully have been reported in the Waikare river. The tidal reaches of the Punaruku stream which flows out of Russell forest have been ranked outstanding largely for the population of brown teal there. Distributions of other species including the distinctive distributions of geckos and skinks are described in general terms in Part Two.

Hence it is argued that because of its size, the age of the landform, and the sequences of vegetation present, the forests of this cluster contain ecological systems so unique or

scientifically important that their preservation is in the national interest.

*** Natural Features**

The most distinctive natural features present are the steepsided gullies and ravines sometimes in excess of 100m deep present in the Waiopitoitoi and Tirohanga streams of the Hukerenui blocks and in the headwaters of the Waikare river. The occasionally exposed bright red and orange clays of the deeply weathered regolith, the large tree 'Horiwehiwehi' and the twin-boled kauri are also features which contribute to the beauty and uniqueness of the area.

*** Size**

At 12160 hectares the Russell/Ngaiotonga and strongly linked Waikino, Opua and Hukerenui tracts are within the bounds of the criteria. The presence of very large private areas of regenerating kanuka and manuka shrubland adjacent to these blocks unites these apparently dispersed areas into one system of nearly 20000 hectares. The Kaikanui and Opuawhanga units to the south are separated by 15km of rugged forested and farmed hill country. By virtue of their inherent size and linkage by other forests, it is argued that the size criteria is met.

*** Modification**

Regeneration

All areas in this cluster have been significantly modified by early fires, farming and logging, to the extent that only very small sheltered gullies retain some semblance of the original cover. The best example of intact mature forest occurs in the headwaters of the Waikare catchment in Russell forest.
However the present condition of the forests clearly illustrates the regenerative capacity of the vegetation and its predominantly natural appearance despite earlier massive destruction.

Archaeology/History

Archaeological sites of significance to Ngati Wai are present throughout the forests, especially closer to the coastal margins.

Historically the area is associated with some of the earliest spars sold to the British Navy. Large scale logging began in 1877 and continued for a long period with the construction of driving dams and railways. In 1940 the Kauri Timber Co. built a mill at Punaruku which continued operating till 1948. More detailed histories of the area are contained elsewhere.

The nature and pattern of the early modifications which is reflected in the subsequent development of seral vegetation phases is without parallel in Northland although there are other places in New Zealand with similar histories and subsequent regeneration of seral

vegetation.

*** Boundaries**

The predominant adjacent land use is forest and shrubland (75%) with pasture (16%) exotic forest (4%) and coast(5%). Proposed park areas are well buffered by the extensive areas of regenerating shrubland of a similar character to the park itself. This creates significant linkages between the areas and there may be some scope for the formal establishment of ecological corridors as is suggested in submissions. Their conversion to farmland or pines is unlikely to be of any significant extent.

Again goat and possum control and fencing are priorities. The extermination of a small herd of deer which was reported in the forests is also necessary. Ginger and mistflower are the main weed problems.

The higher altitude of the blocks in relation to surrounding areas means that the forests have important soil and water protection values and are not susceptible to erosion in adjacent areas. They are dominant and complete landscape units with generally good access, especially in the Opua and Russell/Ngaiotonga units.

4.3.6 Tangihua Cluster

This cluster of scattered smaller forests is contained within the Tangihua ecological district, a small eastern part of Tutamoe, and the southern section of the Eastern Northland and Islands ecological districts. Access to the southern forests is via State Highway 1, to the more northerly by secondary inland roads.

*** Scenery**

Being more widely scattered than other clusters, these forests are scenically important as locally and in some cases regionally dominant elements of the landscape.

Pukekaroro near the southern boundary of the region has been described by Clunie in an unpublished report as, " A reserve of exceptional value. An outstanding scenic landmark on State Highway 1. A spectacular and very valuable area of extraordinarily prolific kauri forest regeneration that will improve with time to become a natural feature of national significance ".

Although not scenically distinctive on their own, Waipu Gorge, Mareretu, and Ruakaka/McKenzies are important visible elements of the long straight sections of State Highway 1 which cross the otherwise flat and low lying landscape of Bream Bay.
Pukenui, straddling a small west facing catchment on the edge of Whangarei, is important as it is a largely unmodified portion of a much larger area of forest which forms a backdrop to the city.

The three central forests of Hikurangi, Mangakahia, and Houtu are prominent and easily distinguishable elements of the landscape on a secondary scenic route from Whangarei to Kaikohe. Mangakahia in particular is exceptional, rising abruptly to 700m from a broad valley its height is comparable to the western Tutamoe range.

Motatau and Purua, while not especially distinct in their own right because of their small size, are never-the-less significant in occupying the summits of local but very obvious peaks.

In a district with a marked paucity of forest the isolated sentinel of Tangihua is a conspicuous landmark. Rising to 585m, this steep narrow spine of an ancient volcanic massif is an island like feature in the flat and low rolling country of the north Kaipara.

In summary this widely dispersed group of forests illustrates well the notion of a landscape by default. The surrounding lowlying and easily worked country has been cleared, the only forests remaining are those on inaccessible peaks too steep for farming. Consequently these reference points in the landscape of southern and central Northland are not only distinctive and otherwise unrepresented elements of the proposal, but also important components of an historical landscape, a theme which is implicit throughout the discussion.

*** Ecological Systems**

With the exception of the Upper Tertiary andesites, the younger basalts and coastal sands, this cluster contains representative examples of most of the recognised geological formations in the region. These range from the Lower Tertiary lava flows, mudstones, siltstones and sandstones in the more northerly areas, to Mezosoic greywackes in Ruakaka, Mareretu and Waipu, to the Miocene parahaki volcanics and dacite tuffs of Pukekaroro. Tangihua in particular is distinctive in that in addition to the cretaceous Tangihua basalt and dolerite volcanics it contains a rare block of micaceous sandstone, mudstone and muddy limestone, and a small intrusion of grandiorite and gabbro.

Climatically this cluster is comparatively dry with rainfall averaging 1400-1600mm per annum with mean daily maximum and minimum temperatures ranging from 19.5 to 10.0 degrees celcius.

Soils developed in this cluster are predominantly Te Kie steepland stony clay loam in the north with areas of Tokawhero stony clay and Purua clay loam. On landforms derived from greywacke, moderately leached to weakly podzolized yellow brown earths including Marua clay loam, Rangiora clay loam, and small areas of Wharekohe sandy loam have also formed. Mareretu especially displays well-developed sequences of these soils. Pukekaroro is distinctive with its weakly podzolised Pukekaroro steepland clay loam and a small section of Maungaturoto clay, a rendzina.

Vegetatively the forests as a whole are comparatively diverse. Notable features are the dense pole and ricker kauri-podocarp stands on Pukekaroro which also contains Phyllocladus glaucus. Ruakaka/Mckenzies is important for its kauri/hard beech association, one of the few small and isolated relics of beech in Northland which developed during a colder glacial period. The southern limit of Ackama rosifolia occurs in Mareretu.

Tangihua is important as the largest tract of forest in the Tangihua ecological district. It contains three regionally and two nationally threatened plant species as well as Meterosideros carminea, a species of limited distribution in Northland. Ranging in altitude from 60-627masl a sequence of low to high altitude podocarp-hardwood and hardwood forest is present with pockets of large mature kauri. Despite being 20km from the sea several species typical of the coast are present eg. kowhai, puriri, and karaka.

Illustrating a sequence from 91-546masl Mangakahia forest contains low altitude puriri, taraire and kahikatea which grades into high altitude totara, miro and tawa. Three threatened species are present as is a large remnant of unmodified mature kauri and broadleaf/podocarp forest.

Other areas not discussed contain significant remnants of unmodified conifer broadleaf forest, in some cases with several regionally or nationally threatened species.

All areas are ranked high or moderate to high as wildlife habitat with kiwi, kauri snail, pied tit and many of the more common forest birds present. Mareretu and Waipu Gorge are particularly important as the northern limits of Hochstetters frog.

The scientific and conservation value of these areas as remnants in a district which has been greatly modified is significant and warrants their preservation in the national interest.

*** Natural Features**

In addition to the presence of numerous steep bluffs and waterfalls in these forests Hikurangi Scenic Reserve is especially important. It occupies the unique position of being the hydrological center of Northland. Rainfall striking its northwestern faces flows into the Punakitere river and eventually reaches the Hokianga Harbour. On the eastern side rivers drain into the Kawakawa inlet and the Bay of Islands. To the south waters meet the Northern Wairoa River which continues into the Kaipara Harbour.

The presence of these features enhances the case for the preservation of these areas in the national interest.

*** Size**

Totalling 10002 hectares these 11 widely scattered areas do not meet the size criteria. However the largest, Tangihua, at 3240 hectares is comparable in extent to forests in other clusters such as Ahipara, Herekino, and Kaihu. The case for their inclusion rests largely with their scenic and ecological values and the reasons for protecting small reserves which were described in section 3.4.

*** Modification**

Regeneration/Archaeology/History

Again limited logging and peripheral fires have altered the natural condition of these forests. Abundant regeneration continues to heal the scars of this perturbation in ecosystem stability.

Sites of considerable significance to Maori are present in most areas with attendant on the ground evidence. Specific historical information is poorly documented, however the whole district is well known for its contribution to the kauri milling industry and surviving examples of driving dams remain in several areas.

These factors contribute to the values of the forests and their suitability for national park status.

*** Boundaries**

In contrast to the other clusters, pasture is the dominant adjacent land use (61%) followed by forest and shrubland (27%) and exotic forest (12%). No coast is represented. Most areas occupy steep isolated peaks and ridge systems and so are complete landscape units. Their boundaries follow the vegetative contour although there is often a distinct juncture between

the hills and surrounding lower lying country.

Fencing to eliminate stock trespass, and goat and possum control are all necessary. Without significant buffering most areas are vulnerable, and the expansion of exotic forest is likely to be the only use which may dominate or impact on park values. Weed control, especially for ginger, mistflower, wandering jew, climbing asparagus, pampas and Mexican devil weed will be required in some locations.

4.4 Summary of Criteria Assessment

From the foregoing discussion it can be concluded that the proposed park generally contains the biological and physical attributes described in Section 4 of the Act and meets the Authorities criteria for selecting new national parks. The following points summarise the conclusions that have been reached.

Scenery

* The proposed park contains beautiful scenery of a distinctive quality making a dominant and highly visible contribution to the wider landscape of Northland.

* The scenery contains a number of outstanding, contrasting and diverse elements; coasts, forests, gumlands, lakes, rivers, bluffs, dunes, isolated peaks and plateaux which in combination are not represented elsewhere in any other national park.

Ecological Systems

* Ecological systems in the proposed park contain diverse and structurally complex vegetation types associated with kauri, a wide variety of unique wildlife, numerous rare, endemic and threatened species, a unique pattern of characteristic soils and a multiplicity of geological formations. They are arguably so unique and scientifically important that their preservation is in the national interest.

* These lowland forest ecosystems are not represented in any other national park in New Zealand.

Natural Features

* Very large specimen kauri are a natural feature of several proposed park areas which are the biggest attraction for an increasing number of domestic and international visitors.

* Natural features of the proposed park, including its dunes, bluffs, cliffs, waterfalls and rivers are, in combination with other values, beautiful, unique and scientifically important.

Size

* The largest of the areas in the proposal, the Maungataniwha range forests, Puketi/Omahuta, Russell, and the Wamia/Mataraua/Waipoua tract are each on their own of an adequate size for national park status.

* The inclusion of the moderately sized and smaller non-contiguous areas is justified on the basis of their scenic qualities, representation of ecological diversity and natural features. They also contain important archaeological and historic attributes.

* The presence of many blocks of forest adjacent to the proposed park areas in private, Maori and Trust ownership, some of which are formally protected, serves as a buffer for park values and effectively increases the size of the ecosystems under national park protection.

* As remnants of a once vast forest tract the collective scenic prominence, ecological values, natural features, archaeological, historic, and cultural values serve to link all the scattered areas into a comparatively unified whole.

Modification

* A large proportion of proposed park areas has been modified by logging, fire, farming and gumdigging however there are still substantial tracts of intact natural forest. Proposed park areas are predominantly natural in appearance.

* Regeneration of modified areas is generally prolific and given time a return to high forest will ensue. Controlled fire at Ahipara will be necessary to maintain some vegetation associations in the long term.

* Many areas previously modified contain features of archaeological, historic and cultural significance. These areas are particularly valuable for interpreting the human relationships with the remnants of the once vast forest.

Boundaries

* Almost half the total length of the boundaries meets forest and shrubland, a third adjoins pasture and the remainder adjoins coast or exotic forest. In order to maximise the area in the proposed park for ecological reasons existing cadastral boundaries have been chosen. These may be subject to review once the principle of the park has been firmly established.

* Sustained control of possums, goats, and deer, fencing of boundaries and weed and fire control will be necessary to maintain park values. The impacts of predators, including man, on kaka, kukupa, kokako and kauri snail for example may mean active control of predators is needed in some areas at least.

PART FIVE: PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

5.1 Introduction

In terms of Section 8(2) of the National Parks Act 1980, the Director General is required to give public notice of the proposal. In that advertisement, interested persons and organizations were invited to participate by sending written comments and suggestions to the Director General on the proposal under investigation. The advertisment also contained a full Maori translation with a commitment that arrangements would be made to consult with tangata whenua including receiving oral submissions at appropriate hui.

On Tuesday 17 July 1990 public notices were placed in 12 national and local daily newspapers. In addition to these notices several articles in Northland newspapers were published with a comprehensive explanation of the proposal. Other local advertisements invited the public to attend the final meeting of the Northland National Parks and Reserves Board in Whangarei which was held on the same day. Representatives of all iwi and several major interest groups were individually invited to attend.

Submissions closed on Monday 15 April 1991 although many late submissions were received and acknowledged. The programme of hui did not conclude until the end of September 1991. This is described in Part Six. A total of 934 submissions and 9654 signatures on petitions were received. This compares favourably with the 1653 submissions on the proposed Paparoa National Park, the 1219 received for the Whanganui National Park proposal and 427 for the Red Hills addition to Mt Aspiring National Park. In order to analyse this large number of submissions and to obtain a comprehensive understanding of any consensus, issues of common concern were identified.

5.2 Origin

In order to assess where submissions and comments had come from, New Zealand was divided into four separate regions. These were, Northland conservancy, Auckland conservancy, other North Island, and South Island. Overseas submissions, and those from nationally represented organizations were also assigned separate categories. The origin of all submissions was able to be traced.

The following table lists the location, the number of submissions, and petition signatures received and the percentage of the total number received from each location.

TABLE 5.1 Origin of Submissions and Petitions

Region	Submissions		Petitions	
	Number	%	Signatures	%
Northland	189	20.3	2243	23.2
Auckland	279	29.8	4426	45.8
Other North Island	308	33.0	1511	15.7
South Island	118	12.6	802	8.3
Overseas	23	2.5	672	7.0
NZ National	17	1.8	--	--
Totals	934	100	9654	100

From this it can be seen that the majority of submissions on the proposal came from outside the Northland region indicating widespread national interest in the proposal. Notable also is the much higher level of overseas interest, (over 2.5%) compared to other recent park proposals elsewhere in the country (0.1% for Paparoa and nil for Whanganui).

Of the written submissions, 565 were received on letter forms published and distributed by the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society. The petition forms were also published and distributed by the same society.

Most other submission analyses attempt to obtain a measure of the familiarity of the park to those who wrote submissions. Such an analysis is however difficult to interpret as previous experience in other Section 8 investigations indicates that usually more than half of submissions do not specify whether the area had been visited. It is concluded therefore that such information would not materially alter the interpretation or results of the analysis although it was noted in passing that many submitters displayed evidence of having visited proposal areas.

5.3 Issues

Each submission was read several times and studied to identify the central ideas which were being expressed. It quickly became apparent that there were a number of issues and views of common concern to many of those who had written. These issues were identifed and the number of submissions recognising each issue was totalled. In addition it was possible to separate the issues by the locations contained in Table 5.1. Table 5.2 shows the identifying number of each issue, the number of submissions on each issue from each region, the total number of times each issue was mentioned, and the percentage of the total number of submissions in which the issue was refered to. Issues appear in decreasing order of frequency cited.

TABLE 5.2 Issues Analysis

Issues	Regions						Total	%
	Nthld	Akld	Other Nth Is	South Island	Oseas	NZ Natnl		
01	35	86	84	30	2	5	242	25.9
02	47	46	61	28	0	4	186	19.9
03	27	43	52	29	2	7	160	17.1
04	27	38	56	22	1	1	145	15.5
05	21	50	50	18	4	1	144	15.4
06	34	33	51	11	0	5	134	14.3
07	22	26	27	13	2	7	97	10.4
08	20	18	26	5	1	9	79	8.5
09	10	30	25	7	2	1	75	8.0
10	18	24	18	1	2	2	65	7.0
11	14	19	17	5	0	3	58	6.2
12	11	23	13	4	1	3	55	6.2
13	9	12	8	7	13	1	50	5.4
14	7	11	15	3	1	2	39	4.2
15	13	5	10	0	0	2	30	3.2
16	10	2	9	2	1	5	29	3.2
17	3	9	6	0	2	6	26	2.8
18	9	4	7	0	0	6	26	2.8
19	2	9	11	1	1	1	25	2.7
20	7	4	7	2	0	4	24	2.6
21	4	4	3	0	0	4	15	1.6
22	3	4	2	2	2	1	14	1.5
23	4	3	3	0	0	4	14	1.5
24	5	2	4	0	0	2	13	1.4
25	4	1	4	0	0	3	12	1.3
26	3	2	2	4	0	1	12	1.3
27	6	2	0	0	0	3	11	1.2
28	4	2	3	0	0	2	11	1.2
29	4	1	3	1	0	1	10	1.1
30	6	2	1	0	0	1	10	1.1
31	4	2	1	0	0	3	10	1.1
32	2	2	0	0	0	4	8	0.9
33	3	1	0	2	0	1	7	0.7
34	3	1	0	0	0	2	6	0.6
35	1	3	1	0	0	1	6	0.6
36	1	1	1	0	0	2	5	0.5
37	2	1	0	0	0	2	5	0.5
38	0	2	1	0	0	1	4	0.4
39	0	0	1	0	0	3	4	0.4
40	0	1	1	0	0	2	4	0.4
41	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	0.3
42	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	0.3
43	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0.2
44	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.2
45	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0.2
46	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.2
47	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.2
48	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.1

TABLE 5.3 List of Issues in Descending Order of Frequency Cited.

01 Kauri is an important part of New Zealands heritage and deserves a national park of its own.

02 The small proportion of remaining kauri forest should be given the most prominent protected status.

03 National park status will bring economic benefits from increased tourism.

04 Proposal contains areas of scenic beauty, uniqueness or scientific importance.

05 A national park will benefit future generations.

06 All areas should be included.

07 Representation of subtropical ecosystems in the national park system is required.

08 Simple statement of support for proposal.

09 Proposal includes rare or endemic species or ecosystems.

10 A national park would provide a range of recreational opportunities.

11 A national park would help conserve indigenous species and genetic resources.

12 A national park would protect important cultural and historic sites.

13 Park would provide international recognition of kauri ecosystems.

14 Integrated and coordinated management will ensue from national park establishment.

15 National park criteria are met by areas in the proposal.

16 Animal pests need to be controlled or exterminated.

17 Ecological corridors should be established between areas.

18 Additional areas should be included.

19 Contribution to global forest contribution.

20 Ecological values outweigh failure to meet contiguous or large area criteria.

21 Walkway systems should be extended to link areas in the proposal.

22 Modified areas have the potential for regeneration.

23 Interpretive facilities and information services should be improved.

24 Park facilities should not be overdeveloped.

25 There are precidents for non-contiguous national parks.

26 Protection of soil and water values.

27 Local services such as roads, sewage and water supplies will need to be upgraded.

28 Mining and hydro development should not be permitted.

29 Park status may attract greater funding for protection work.

30 Support for joint Department of Conservation/iwi management of park.

31 Weed pests need to be controlled.

32 The Department of Conservation may lack resources to manage to national park standards.

33 Support for the proposal is conditional on acceptance by tangata whenua.

34 State Highway 12 through Waipoua forest should be sealed.

35 Park should be restricted to areas of greatest size.

36 Waitangi Tribunal claims should be finalised before a park is established.

37 Traditional use of forest materials should not include kukupa hunting or kauri felling.

38 Disabled or less active visitors would have easier access than in other national parks.

39 Mangrove and wetland ecosystems should be included.

40 Park should include other archaeological and historic sites.

41 Inclusion of many smaller areas could compromise the Departments ability to manage to national park standards.

42 Park should be restricted to forests of the Waipoua-Tutamoe area.

43 Park status may compromise resolution of Treaty of Waitangi claims.

44 Some areas should be withdrawn because of their mineral potential.

45 Park should not overlap with the Bay of Islands Maritime and Historic Park.

46 Park should have a Maori name or other name that better reflects Northland.

47 Park status may unduly restrict neighbouring land use.

48 Park status may unduly pressure Maori landowners to include adjacent lands within the park.

5.4 Discussion

None of the submissions received expressed opposition to the proposal and Tables 5.2 and 5.3 essentially summarise the reasons for the considerable public support for the establishment of a new national park based on the kauri forests of Northland.

The most frequently mentioned reasons were that kauri is an important part of New Zealands heritage and that it deserves a national park of its own (issue 01, 25.9%), and that the small proportion of remaining kauri forest should be given the most prominent protected status (issue 02, 19.9%). Seventeen point one percent of submissions felt that economic benefits would derive from national park status (issue 03). The very large petition under the name of David J Bellamy (which is not included in Tables 5.2 and 5.3) with over 9500 signatures strongly reinforces the belief that the kauri is a very special part of New Zealand's heritage

and deserves a national park of its own.

Lengthy and supportive submissions from NZ national organizations such as Greenpeace, National Council of New Zealand Women and Federated Mountain Clubs illustrates the widespread support for the proposal.

Specific reference to criteria related issues (ie issues 04,07,09,10,11,12,13,15,20,22,26) in a total of 67.3% of submissions indicates a widely held view that proposed park areas meet the criteria laid down in the General Policy. Statements embracing references to scenic beauty, uniqueness, scientific importance, representation of subtropical ecosystems, rare or endemic species, important historic and archaeological sites, recreational opportunities and the view that ecological values outweigh failure to meet contiguous or large area criteria are evidence for this conclusion. However support from a very small proportion was conditional and some people wished to see the proposal modified in some way.

Conditional support was principally related to acceptance of the proposal by tangata whenua (issue 33, 0.7%), the need to finalise Waitangi Tribunal claims before a park is established (issue 36, 0.5%) and the potential for the proposal to compromise the process of Waitangi Tribunal Claim resolution (issue 43, 0.2%). These issues were expressed in a total of 1.4% of all submissions.

In 6.4% of submissions, increases in the area of the proposal were suggested. This was divided mainly between those who felt that ecological corridors should be established between the areas (issue 17, 2.8%) and those who felt that other areas were of sufficient quality to merit national park status (issue 18, 2.8%). These areas included the Atuanui forest or Mt. Auckland south of Wellsford, the Kaimaumau wetlands, Rangaunu harbour, the dunes lakes on the Poutu penninsula, a small coastal reserve near Matapouri and the Hukatere scenic reserve and Kauri Bushmens reserve near Matakohe. Other submissions suggested that more unspecified mangrove and wetland areas should be included (issue 39, 0.4%) and that additional archaeological and historic sites warranted inclusion (issue 40, 0.4%).

Reductions in the size of the proposal were advised in only 1.6% of all submissions. Reasons for this included the view that only the largest forest tracts such as Waipoua, Omahuta/Puketi, Warawara, Herekino and Russell met the criteria (issue 35, 0.6%), that only the forests of the Tutamoe range met the criteria (issue 42, 0.3%) and that too many small areas could compromise the Department's ability to manage to a national park standard (issue 41, 0.3%). The largely unknown mineral potential of much of Northland led the Ministry of Commerce to conclude that just 30000 hectares of forest in the Tutamoe cluster should be included (issue 44, 0.2%). A similar proportion considered that there should be no overlap between the proposed park and the Bay of Islands Maritime and Historic Park (issue 45, 0.2%).

Having stated their support for the proposal and outlined several reasons for it, a small but not insignificant proportion, 14.3%, indicated their concern over one or more management issues related to national park status (issues 16,21,23,24,27,28,30,31,32,34,37). Such issues included the need for wild animal and weed control, expansion of walkways and the provision of better interpretative facilities, cautioning against the vandalism of improvement, the need to upgrade SH12 and other servicing facilities, opposition to Maori access to

traditional materials, and support for joint Department of Conservation/Iwi management of a park.

5.5 Conclusions

The number of submissions received from the public, although relatively large, represents only a small proportion of the population of New Zealand. However the following conclusions can be drawn from the submissions received on the proposal.

* The majority of submissions originated from Northland and Auckland indicating considerable interest to local and regional populations.

* A substantial number of submissions was received from the remainder of the country and NZ National organizations. Interest in the proposal is therefore New Zealand wide.

* Overseas interest is significantly greater than other recently proposed national parks elsewhere in the country.

* Most submissions believe that proposed park areas meet the criteria contained in the General Policy.

* The overwhelming majority of submissions support establishment of the park in the form in which it was proposed. This is at a ratio of 63 for, to each 1 whose support is conditional or wants areas excluded. All areas should be included.

PART SIX: TANGATA WHENUA SUBMISSIONS

6.1 Introduction

In view of the spiritual, cultural and traditional significance of the areas in the proposal to Maori embodied in 50-60 generations of manawhenua, the status of Waitangi Tribunal land claims over much of the area, and the responsibility of the Department to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, an extensive programme of consultation with iwi Maori was undertaken. It was accepted that due recognition and acknowledgement of Maori institutional arrangements and the consultative process of Maori decision making needed to be made. This was one of the reasons why the formally advertised process of consultation was extended from the normally accepted period of 2-3 months to 9 months. In fact it did not conclude for Maori until the end of September 1991, a period of some 15 months. Preliminary consultation with iwi also took place during the first formative stages of the proposal as well.

This section briefly outlines the scope of the preliminary consultation, descibes the formal consultative hui undertaken as part of this investigation, and identifies the issues of concern to tangata whenua raised during this part of the process.

6.2 Preliminary Consultation

During the first months of the existence of the Department of Conservation staff were coming to terms with the establishment of a completely new organization and set of largely untested statutory responsibilities. Their understanding of Treaty issues and the organization of Maori institutions and decision making processes was very limited.

In the Kaikohe District of the Department an embryonic relationship with Te Roroa Waipoua was developing. This was formed as a result of archaeological investigations initiated by the NZ Forest Service and inherited by the Department. Because of the importance of Waipoua to the proposal and the frequent meetings regarding archaeological management held with Te Roroa, the people of Waipoua were kept well informed on the nature of the proposal. A member of Te Roroa was employed for a short time to assist in the preparation of the preliminary assessment of the proposal. Links with Te Rarawa were formed through the preparation of a draft management plan for the Ahipara gumfields area.

In the Whangarei District a Project Conservation employment scheme was the basis of the relationship between the Department and the Ngati Wai Trust Board.Through these forums, some preliminary discussion on the proposal ensued.

Departmental links with other iwi having reference to the park areas were less well established. The key points of contact and advice for the Department were at this stage restricted to the Maori members of the Northland Forest Park Advisory Committee (1) and the Northland National Parks and Reserves Board (1). However these members were able to facilitate some discussion and consideration of the proposal with the Tai Tokerau District Maori Council.

In addition, an early paper on options for a park in Northland was discussed with most of the extant local authorities in the region, all of whom had some contact with the Maori community.

At this stage (November 1988) qualified support was expressed for the proposal although it was strongly emphasised that a considerable amount of consultation with tangata whenua would be required if it was to proceed smoothly.

After the hiatus in the investigation in 1989 caused by delays in obtaining a Maori perspective on the proposal, financial constraints and a major restructuring of the Department, the public discussion document was prepared for release. Approval for its release by the Tai Tokerau District Maori Council was subject to the condition that iwi would be provided with the opportunity to participate in a meaningful and effective manner both as tangata whenua and as Treaty partners.

6.3 Consultation with Iwi

A programme of hui and meetings with iwi having reference to areas in the park proposal began at the release of the public discussion document on 17 July 1990. These hui and meetings were usually held with the Rununga or Trust Boards and their appointed conservation portfolio holders. A variety of agenda items were discussed including the kauri park proposal, the allocation of cultural materials, Nga Whenua Rahui and the conservancy intention to prepare a conservation management strategy. The proposal was also briefly discussed at other hui which were primarily called for other reasons. The location and date of these hui and meetings is listed.

Whangarei, Conservancy Office, 17 July 1990
Otiria, Tumatauenga Marae, 8 September 1990
Motuti, Tamatea Marae, 18 October 1990
Pawarenga, Taiao Marae, 12 December 1990
Kaitaia, Ngati Kahu Trust Board, 25 January 1991
Kaikohe, Te Runanga A Iwi O Ngapuhi, 14 February 1991
Kaeo, Te Runanga O Whaingaroa, 17 February 1991
Rawene, Ambulance Hall, 21 March 1991
Mangamuka, Mangamuka Marae, 23 April 1991
Whangarei, Ngati Wai Trust Board, 15 May 1991
Mitimiti, Matihetihe Marae, 27 May 1991
Waimate North, Tauwhara Marae, 13 June 1991
Paparoa, Tanoa Marae, 13 July 1991
Omanaia, Omanaia Marae, 20 July 1991
Kaitaia, Collards Room, 12 August 1991
Kaikohe, Te Runanga A Iwi O Ngaphui, 13 August 1991
Paparoa, Otamatea Maori Trust Board, 21 August 1991
Whangarei, Ngati Wai Trust Board, 22 August 1991
Awanui, Waimanoni Marae, 28 September 1991

The majority of submissions received were of an oral nature. These were recorded by

Departmental staff who attended the meetings and filed as a written record of the points raised. Several written submissions were also received and acknowledged. The following section summarises the issues raised by tangata whenua.

6.4 Issues Raised

* Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

What are the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi to which the Department of Conservation is giving effect to ? The Department should be giving effect to the Treaty as a whole, the principles are sidestepping the issue. Iwi maori demand that the Crown recognise te tino rangatiratanga o te iwi, that is the most important thing for them. There needs to be equity in the decision making processes. Maori need to be asked what their interpretation of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are and how these should be given effect to.

* Partnership

The proposal could be supported if there was an equal Department of Conservation/Tangata Whenua partnership. This would entail a sharing of skills, resources, power and imply equal planning and decision making rights.

It was also suggested that a joint management programme be established where tangata whenua take over management of some areas with the Department providing technical and financial resource support. An important basis for this partnership would be the provision of information held by the Department on the lands which it administers.

The motive behind this is to improve the economic base of the iwi and the people they represent. Revenue producing areas such as campgrounds were especially targetted as enterprises suitable for management by iwi. Generally they feel that initiatives such as the vesting of forest areas in iwi trustees under the Reserves Act are a move in the right direction for joint management programmes.

* Consultation

The main point with respect to consultation is that the Department should consult with the direct descendants of the tangata whenua who sold the land to the Crown. There were divergent views on how this could occur. One view was that the Department should take the kaupapa out to the people on the marae and speak with them on their own ground. Alternatively, the Department should discuss the issue first with the Trust Board or Runanga who would then take it back to the people through their programme of marae committee meetings and other forums. The iwi authority would then report the view of the people to the Department. It was this latter approach which was adopted because of the logistical and time constraints associated with visiting every marae having association with the areas in the proposal.

The second point was that the Department should be paying for the consultation and input from iwi. These views will need to be taken into account in any future processes involving the iwi.

* Representation

With the knowledge of the process by which the investigation would proceed it was felt that there needed to be an equal pakeha tangata whenua representation on both the Northland Conservation Board and the New Zealand Conservation Authority. It was also felt that such structures may not be the best way to represent tangata whenua interests.

* Tribunal Claims

The identification of, research into, and resolution of claims under the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975 is a paramount issue for iwi. Most areas in the proposal are subject to some form of claim and this subject is discussed further in Part 7. The main view held is that by raising the status of the lands to National Park the possibility of them being returned to iwi after a successful claim is diminished. The investigation was considered to be essentially preempting the Tribunal claim process. Hence the position was adopted that the park would not be supported until the resolution of claims had been successfully completed.

Specific requests were made for several areas to be removed from the proposal because they were subject to claims or because of their wahi tapu status. These areas included the Paranui Scenic Reserve (Ngati Kahu) and Pukekaroro, Mareretu, and Waipu Gorge (Otamatea Maori Trust Board).

* National Status

There was a perception that as the National Park system in New Zealand had been started by Tuwharetoa that the mana of the Taupo tribe would be enhanced at the expense of the Tai Tokerau tribes if a park was established.

Related to this was concern over the term 'national' park which implied that the lands would be administered together with other parks on a national basis by bureaucrats in Wellington. The view emerged quite strongly that it was important to retain local management and control of the areas and ensure that decision making power was retained in the Northland region.

* Cultural Materials

The more restrictive provisions of the National Parks Act 1980 compared to the Conservation Act 1987 with respect to the removal of plant and animal materials for traditional cultural purposes were identified.

A more widely representative cultural materials allocation committee was seen as necessary,

especially for those iwi such as Te Rarawa with significant resources in their rohe. It was also felt that the area in Herekino from which waka logs had come over the last few years was now worked out. A request was made that another area needed to be set aside in order to supply the future demand from iwi for waka logs.

The view was also expressed that iwi should be able to take logs for cultural purposes from any area of forest. This was held particularly by Te Roroa who feel they have never ceded their traditional resource rights over extensive kauri in the Waipoua area but are unable to use the trees because of the protective classification on the area.

* Land Title Investigation

The information which had been collated as part of this investigation was greatly appreciated by iwi as part of a an information sharing process which would assist them in the formulation of their tribunal claims.

However it was stated that if the Crown was acting in good faith then it should have proved first that it had clear title to the land. If this had been done then tangata whenua would be more inclined to support the park proposal. In addition its was asserted that in the investigation of land title that the Maori written and oral record of events should not be overlooked in favour of the official written record.

* Forest Condition

Frequent concerns were expressed about the condition of many of the forests, the impact that possums were having on then, the Departments apparent inability to effectively control them and the potential for employment generation in possum control programmes. The lack of adequate consultation prior to the proposed 1080 drop on Waima forest was particularly annoying to some tangata whenua.

Concerns were also expressed about some of the statements which appeared in the media regarding the harvest of kukupa. However there was support for a research programme into kukupa numbers to provide a basis for an appropriate level of harvest for traditional purposes.

* Tourism

The impact of increased tourist numbers visiting the forests and how they could be controlled was an issue. Similarly the effect on local communities of the need to improve or upgrade rubbish disposal, sewerage disposal and water supply facilities was raised. The key question asked was how would increased numbers of tourists in the area be of benefit to iwi when they did not have the financial resources to establish services that the visitor might use ?

* Traditional Perspectives

There was a need to include to a much greater extent something of Maori lore into the proposal documentation as a balance to the largely scientific terminology. However there was also a view that knowledge of Maori cultural values was part of an oral tradition and should not be written down. In particular knowledge of the location and significance of wahi tapu and urupa would continue to be held as sacred by tangata whenua and would be released only at their discretion. The Department needed to ensure that the correct Maori names and spelling of these was adhered to on any maps or in reports.

* Telecommunication Sites

Although related to a part of the Muriwhenua land claim (WAI45) pain, sorrow and grief were expressed over the desecration of Maungataniwha by the construction of the TVNZ transmitter on the summit. This structure represents a major loss of mana and pride for the people of Mangamuka especially as they had never been consulted prior to its construction and received no payment or compensation. A similar situation applies to telecommunication sites on Maunganui Bluff which are part of the Waipoua claim (WAI38) by Te Roroa.

6.5 Conclusions

General conclusions that can be drawn from the tangata whenua submissions are as follows:

* Their support for a national park is conditional on the resolution of claims and grievances lodged with the Waitangi Tribunal. They do not want to become involved in another Crown agenda until the issue of ownership of the lands has been investigated thoroughly and a satisfactory conclusion reached.

* They seek future participation in management of the lands whether under a national park or any other classification based on an equitable sharing of resources, information, and participation in decision making.

* They ask that the cultural materials committee provide for tangata whenua of the area from which the material is sourced to be involved in the process of allocation.

PART SEVEN: LAND OWNERSHIP

7.1 Introduction

Although not a statutory requirement as part of this investigation, it was foreseen that the issue of how the land in the proposal came into Crown ownership was one which would have a major bearing on the attitude of tangata whenua to the proposal. A similar exercise carried out by the Department of Lands and Survey prior to the establishment of the Whanganui National Park had demonstrated to some extent the legitimacy of Crown ownership and was a factor contributing to iwi support of the park.

7.2 Land Title Investigation

The objective of this exercise was to clearly establish the legitimacy of Crown ownership of the areas under investigation. This was to entail research into two aspects;

* The details of the purchase from Maori owners including the amount paid, to whom, when and where.

* How the land title came under Crown control.

Priority areas for research were the largest areas which form the core of the proposal but information pertaining to most of the lands was able to be obtained. This information relating to the original alienation from Maori was derived from records of the Department of Survey and Land Information and Turtons Deeds. The research is however far from complete and as such no substantive conclusions can be drawn as to the actual legitimacy of Crown ownership of the areas under investigation.

It is beyond the authority of Departmental staff to be able to make any judgements on this issue. What has been gained is a starting point for further research. It is only through the proper process of the Waitangi Tribunal that questions of ownership can be thoroughly addressed and answered.

The present Departmental policy with respect to this process is that it will contribute to the resolution of all claims affecting it as is required by Government. The Department will continue to manage those lands allocated to it according to its statutory responsibilities until such time as it is directed not to by Governmental adoption of a Tribunal recommendation, through mediation, or direct negotiation.

7.3 Waitangi Tribunal Claims

The following is a list of claims registered with the Waitangi Tribunal which appear to include areas of the proposal. In the absence of more detailed information, particularly maps, it is not possible to specifically ascribe areas in the proposal to particular claims. However it can be assumed that most lands in the proposal are the subject of one or more of these claims lodged before the Waitangi Tribunal.

PC5 Taemaro Block/Stoney Creek; Ngati Kuri

WAI38 Waipoua State Forest, Manuwhetai, Whangaiariki: Te Roroa/Ngati Whatua

PC41 Te Kauae O Ruru Wahine; Te Rarawa

PC62 Allot 39 Omanaia; Pickering

PC72 Motatau 1B5B5; Ngaro Tirita Whanau Trust

PC76 Motukiore OLC 130 and many others; Birch

PC79 Various islands and other lands; Ngati Wai Trust Board

WAI16 Karikari; Ngati Kahu

WAI17 Taipa; Ngati Kahu

WAI45 Muriwhenua County, Three Kings; M Rata and others

PC75 Land at Motatau and Russell; W Henare

PC74 Land at Omapere and Punakitere; R Henare

PC93 Crown land in Tai Tokerau; Ngapuhi, Ngati Whatua, Te Kotahitanga o Aotearoa

PC96 Omanaia 28; Ngati Kaharau, Ngati Hau

PC97 Mountain Range from Waima to Whirinaki in Hokianga, namely Whakatere, Pukehuia, Ngapukehaua, Okarihi, Te Ramaroa, and others: Te Rarawa, Ngapuhi

PC109 Puhi Puhi Blocks 1,2,3; Ngati Hau Marae Trust Board

PC110 Numerous reserves and islands in Bay of Islands area ; Te Rawhiti Investigating Trustees

DOSLI162 Pukekaroro Block; Ngati Whatua

DOSLI169 Tauwhare Block and Te Karae Block plus others, may include Raetea and Warawara Forests

DOSLI172 State Forest and Crown Land on Russell Penninsula

DOSLI190 Warawara Forest; Tai Tokerau

DOSLI191 Puketi Forest; Tai Tokerau

DOSLI290 Ahipara 2B55 and Mapere; Korou Trustees

DOSLI291 Section 6 Block XVI Whangapae SD; Motuti Trust

DOSLI304 to DOSLI628 Numerous areas of land throughout Tai Tokerau; Local Hapu

DOSLI803 to DOSLI818 Numerous areas of land within Tai \Tokerau; Local tribe or tribal executive

PC131 Crown lands and lands to be transferred to SOEs and DOC, Compensation for lands subject to this claim now in private ownership. Fishing, water, sand and mineral rights; Tamihana Akitai Paki, Eru Manakau and nga hapu of Ngati Whatua

WAI128 Northern Hokianga Harbour; Te Rarawa Ki Hokianga

WAI58 Whangaroa lands and fisheries; Whangaroa Tribal executives

WAI49 Taumarere River and Te Moana o Pikopiko i Whiti including Oriwa, Motatau, Ruarangi, Te Raupo and Opua lands; Sir J Henare and others

WAI229 Pukekaroro, Mareretu, Waipu Gorge and all scenic reserves and Crown lands within Otamatea district; Te Uri o Hau

WAI262 The Indigenous Flora and Fauna; Ngati Wai, Ngati Kuri, Te Rarawa and others

There is also another category of land which is under dispute but is not subject to a claim under the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975. In these cases tangata whenua wish to resolve disputes over ownership by direct negotiation with the Crown thereby avoiding the need for the often lengthy, costly and time consuming Tribunal process. The extent and location of such areas is not known at present. However the requirement to establish the manawhenua of tangata whenua if this is in unclear, and the need for thorough research into the history of alienation is necessary before any negotiation can proceed.

7.4 Waitangi Tribunal Recommendations

Te Roroa Report

The interim report of the Waitangi Tribunal on Te Roroa claim, WAI 38, over Waipoua and surrounding lands was released in April 1992. This report makes reference to this investigation and several recommendations arising from it have implications for the future of the national park concept and this proposal. These recommendations are:

* That Maunganui Bluff Scenic Reserve cease to be Crown land and be vested in tangata whenua in accordance with precedents set by the return of Hikurangi to Ngati Porou and Taupiri to Tainui;

* That the Crown return to tangata whenua that area of land omitted from the Wairau Native Reserve by survey on its southern boundary;

* That approximately 30 acres of land at Kawerua cease to be Crown land and, together with access, be vested in tangata whenua as a Maori reservation.

Having reviewed all the evidence there are many findings upon which the Tribunal was unable to make informed recommendations. They have therefore put forward a set of proposals to assist the parties in formulating submissions on remedies. These submissions will assist the Tribunal in completing a final set of recommendations. The proposals of the Tribunal include:

* The return of Waipoua No. 2 block which includes the Tahamoana Scenic Reserve and several other small areas in this national park investigation;

* Vesting the Waipoua Forest Headquarters in tangata whenua;

* The provision of legal and adequate access from Katui to the Waipoua Settlement and Kawerua;

* Reactivation of the Waipoua Archaeological Project;

* The initiation of an environmental training scheme for young tangata whenua that enables them to acquire skills in environmental and conservation management;

* The provision of resources for the labour required for community based employment schemes;

* That the Crown re-affirms the traditional and Treaty rights of tangata whenua to control and protect their own wahi tapu and requires the Department of Conservation and other of its agents concerned in the management of national and cultural resources to give practical effect to this commitment:

* That the Crown resource an advocacy service to provide advice to Maori in relation to resource management and conservation issues;

* That the Crown direct the Department of Conservation to ensure the effective participation of tangata whenua in the management of the Waipoua Forest Sanctuary and other conservation estates.

The Crown and Department of Conservation response to these recommendations and proposals is yet to be formulated. The proposals of the Tribunal do however support the broad direction of iwi views of this national park proposal, namely that of greater participation of tangata whenua in the management of conservation lands.

A further implication is that the provisions of the National Parks Act 1980 are inadequate and need review to recognise clearly the Crown's reponsibilities under the Treaty of Waitangi. This is being investigated in relation to the Ngai Tahu claim over Crown lands and national parks in the South Island.

Other Waitangi Tribunal Claims

Hearings on the Muriwhenua Land Claim WAI45 have resumed although the recommendations on this claim are likely to be some time away. Many of the other claims could be subject to mediation or direct negotiation in an effort to speed up the resolution process. Nevertheless much background research is necessary to establish the basis of the claims. The Department is participating in this by providing research support to claims over Warawara Forest and surrounding areas.

7.5 Conclusions

In the absence of any conclusive findings from the land title investigation, and the very large and uncompleted Waitangi Tribunal claim process it is not possible to make any definitive judgements as to the legitimacy of Crown ownership. However there is a continuum of dispute over lands in the proposal ranging from those which were willingly sold by Maori to those which were confiscated or sold under duress. The present Departmental policy is that the lands will continue to be managed under the relevant legislation until the Government adopts a Waitangi Tribunal recommendation which says otherwise.

PART EIGHT: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

8.1 Introduction

The General Policy on National Parks (policy 7.2) requires that any investigation under Section 8 is required to include an assessment of the likely economic and/or social implications at the local, regional or national levels for consideration by the Minister. These socio-economic considerations do not form part of the Authority's recommendation to the Minister on the park proposal, but serve to allow the socio-economic impacts to be identified and discussed.

Other assessments of this nature in areas such as the Paparoas and Whanganui have mainly been concerned with debates over competing land uses and the relative costs, benefits and impacts. Should the land be used for indigenous logging, exotic afforestation, farming and or mineral extraction or should it be protected as a national park for its natural and recreational values ?

In contrast to this, all areas of land in the Northland proposal are already protected for their natural and historic values under the Reserves Act 1977, or the Conservation Act 1987. The issue then becomes: what are the social and economic impacts of reclassifying these areas as national park and what benefits, if any are to be gained ?

The assessment, completed by the Northland Regional Council in December 1990 is divided into 3 major sections. The first describes the demographic profile and structure of the Northland economy. The second section examines the economic and social impacts of park establishment by describing the regional role of tourism, and possible expenditure and employment effects. Also discussed are possible impacts on eight relatively large communities which relate to the main park blocks. The final section looks at the current extent of farming, forestry and mining activites in the proposed park areas and their future potential. It also examines the opportunities for hydroelectric power generation and other utility services to be established in park areas.

Rather than reproduce the body of the assessment within core of this report, the full text is contained in APPENDIX III. The following section is the summary statement of the assessment.

With respect to mineral and energy resources, the Ministry of Commerce have prepared a more detailed assessment of these resources. The concluding summary of their report is contained in section 8.3.

8.2 Social and Economic Assessment

Northland is a population growth region close to Auckland, the country's major metropolitan area. It has a relatively young population, a sizeable labour force and high unemployment. The region has a large Maori community and a unique cultural and natural heritage. This heritage is very much related to the extensive kauri forests which once existed in the region.

The regional economy is based on farming, with developing horticultural, forestry and tourism industries. Like many other regions it has been affected by recent changes in the New Zealand economy and international trading markets. Tourism is seen as a potential growth area.

The proposal to establish a national park in Northland is expected to boost the region's tourism industry. The park should form the basis of a 'forest' or 'heritage' visitor attraction which complements the region's predominantly 'coastal' image and visitor patterns. It should encourage holiday makers visiting the coast and other areas to extend their stay in the region. With national promotion and some facility development the park also has the potential to create its own small niche of predominantly park based visitors. Surveys show that national parks have particular appeal to people from overseas who presently make up 20% of the visitors to the region.

The extent to which the park boosts tourism will depend largely on the management policies of the Department of Conservation in terms of track development and other facilities. The degree of promotion undertaken by the Department, Tourism Northland and major tourist operators will also be important. Formal establishment of the park will not in itself have a major impact as most of the key attractions, for example the Waipoua Forest and Trounson Kauri Park, already attract considerable numbers of visitors.

The impacts of the park upon the various communities in Northland will vary because of its scattered makeup. The greatest impacts are likely to be felt in the Hobson area. It contains a quarter of the park blocks including the Waipoua Forest which is expected to be the primary focus of the park and possible site of its headquarters. The Mid-North and in particular the communities around the Omahuta/Puketi blocks are also likely to be affected. Some roading impacts can be expected in these areas with park development.

Most urban communities, especially in the Bay of Islands, are well adapted to the tourist trade and are likely to pick up much of the additional park based business. The major park blocks are within an hour's drive of established tourist towns like Kaitaia, Paihia, Kerikeri and Dargaville. However there are likely to be some opportunities for people in rural areas adjacent to the major park blocks to establish small accomodation and tour guide businesses.

The proposed park blocks generally have very little potential for alternative uses, with the possible exception of mineral extraction. The blocks are mainly dense native bush and not suitable for extensive farming or forestry operations. Whilst grazing operations are carried out on parts of the proposed blocks, the areas concerned are generally small. Only the Paponga block and Trounson Kauri Park have substantial grassed areas and a history of grazing. Parts of the Ahipara Gumfields and Lake Ohia wetlands which have a scrub cover have some physical potential for farming. However such development is unlikely to be financially attractive.

Forestry, like farming is not a significant alternative use, apart from possibly at the Paponga block and parts of the Ahipara Gumfields. The development costs would be very high and there are many physically more suitable areas available in the region.

Mining is also not considered a major alternative use of the proposed park areas even though

a quarter of the blocks are within current exploration licence areas. Whilst there has over recent years been exploration interest in the region there is little prospecting or mining currently taking place. The region is not a major mineral producer, apart from aggregate and other construction related materials. None of the proposed park blocks or adjacent areas have a mining history, apart from kauri gum extraction. However exploration licences cover about a quarter of the region including several of the major park areas. There is also a prospecting licence over a small part of the Manginangina Scenic Reserve (Puketi). The discovery of large and economically accessible precious metal deposits in the proposed park is a possibility.

Several of the park areas contain major rivers and streams which are important water supply sources for some farming and urban communities. However there are no water storage or supply facilities in any of the proposed park areas and none of the rivers are known to have potential for hydro-electric power generation.

The establishment of the proposed Kauri National Park will add a unique northern park to New Zealand's present network of twelve national parks. It will not involve 'locking up' a significant area of land which has potential for alternative uses. It will however add another dimension to the region's already established tourism industry and should be of positive economic and social benefit to the region.

8.3 Mineral Resources Assessment

In a document entitled 'Mineral and Energy Resources of Northland' Resource Information Report No 14, the Ministry of Commerce have summarised a detailed analysis of existing information on mineral and energy resources from their geological database, university theses and fieldwork. What follows are the conclusions of this report pertaining to the proposed national park in Northland.

Recent exploration for precious metals has been centered on alteration zones in volcanic rocks of younger than Miocene in age. Mineralisation in older volcanics (Tangihua and Waipapa rocks) has been shown to be erratic, localised and generally uneconomic. Mineralisation does occur at some of the altered Waipapa terrane - younger volcanic contacts (eg. at Te Mata and Te Pene). Except for the Ranfurly Bay Scenic Reserve, Russell forest blocks, Mangakahia and Purua forests, there is little conflict between Northland's resources and the proposed Northland Kauri National Park. These areas of non-conflict generally lie on Waipoua Basalt, Tangihua Volcanics or Waipapa terrane basement rocks.

There has been some exploration interest shown within the Tangihua Volcanics in the Ahipara - Herekino forest - Maungataniwha Range region. Geochemical sampling and reconnaissance work has delineated a few Cu-Pb-Zn and Ni anomalies, and the area has potential for a copper ore body. The chance of a spectacular copper or nickel discovery still attracts prospectors, but only small, erratic, concentrated pockets of ore have been identified so far.

This assessment of Northland's resources verifies that the Waipoua and adjoining Waima forest, Mataraua forest, and Tutamoe range have low resource potential. The kauri forest

blocks immediately to the north of this area (Hokianga forests), namely the Warawara forest, Motukaraka Scenic Reserve, Tapuwae Scenic Reserve, Omahuta and Puketi forest areas, also have low resource potential.

Several of the remaining blocks nominated for Northland's Kauri National Park occur in areas where geochemical sampling and reconnaisance exploration has shown the potential for mineralisation. Other nominated national park blocks are relatively small and fairly isolated. These areas are all largely untested and until more detailed exploration has been carried out it would, in the view of the Ministry of Commerce, be unfortunate for Northland's economic future if these areas were locked away in a national park.

Northland is prospective for a number of resources. At present mining in Northland is limited, except for aggregates, and the very high grade china clays mined by New Zealand China Clays Limited at Matauri Bay and at Maungaparerua. Limestone is also mined for cement production at Portland and at Wilsonville. Small local quarries produce lime for agriculture and roading purposes. The value of Northland's present mineral extraction is based mainly on supplying raw materials of a bulky non-metallic type, however Northland's metallic mineral potential still remains largely untested.

PART NINE: RECREATION AND TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

9.1 Introduction

National Parks are set aside "... for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public..." (Section 4(1) National Parks Act 1980). The General Policy criteria, Policy 7.1(i) relate the benefit, use and enjoyment to scenery, ecological systems and natural features. This part of the report identifies the existing recreational and tourist facilities of the proposed park areas and suggests potential future opportunities. It is divided, as in Part Four in accordance with the four clusters described on Map 1.

9.2 Tutamoe Cluster

* Existing Activities

As the core of the proposed park the forests of this cluster provide a wide range of recreational opportunities unique to Northland.

Several long tracks, some of which are part of the NZ Walkway system, traverse the largest blocks of forest. Entry points to the Waima Main Range track and the highest peaks in Northland are obtained via the Six Foot track from the end of Mountain Road, the Waiotemarama Gorge walk and the Taita stream track in the lower Wekaweka valley. These tracks all lead to the Waoku Coach Road Walkway, accessible also from the end of the Waoku road and end of the Wekaweka road. This part of the NZ Walkway passes along an historic route across the Mataraua plateau to Tutamoe.

The NZ Walkway also extends from the sightseeing, picnicing and fishing mecca at Arai-Te-Uru on the south head of the Hokianga harbour down the west coast to camping, fishing and diving spots at Kawerua. It continues along the coast to a campsite at Waikara beach then over the Maunganui Bluff and down to camping at the Kai Iwi lakes. A NZ Walkway in Kaihu forest reaches the summit of Mount Tutamoe. Camping facilities and short walks are available at Trounson Kauri Park.

The most widely known and heavily used facility is SH12 through Waipoua forest and the picnic areas and short walks to Tane Mahuta, Te Matua Ngahere and the Four Sisters. These areas receive particularly high use from bus tour operators. Other short walks include the Toatoa, Rickers, and Lookout to Headquarters. The longer Yakas track connects the Headquarters with the Yakas tree and Te Matua Ngahere carpark. One kilometer off SH12 down a narrow gravel road to the forest headquarters are camping, hut and lodge accomodation together with information and interpretive services. Picnic and swimming sites together with the historic Maxwell's cottage are other attractions.

*** Potential Opportunities**

Some expansion of the existing track system in an east-west direction, the sealing of SH12 and improved and more easily accessible educative and interpretive facilities would greatly enhance visitor's appreciation and enjoyment of the forests in this cluster.

Several additional tracks which link the top of the range with the coast have been proposed in submissions. The first would begin near the Tutamoe end of the Waoku coach road and follow a ridge to a 27m high waterfall in the headwaters of the Waipoua catchment. It would continue west to the Toetoehatiko trig (543m) then down to the fallen giant of Toronui. The final leg would follow the old Toronui track down to the Waipoua river bridge and the forest headquarters.

The second proposal begins near Te Matua Ngahere, passes the Cockayne kauri and the recently rediscovered large tree and then links with the old Pawakatutu road to continue down to the coast at Kawerua. Alternative routes exist for these tracks but the essential concept is the creation of an east-west route which would enable a 4-5 day tramp throughout the whole of the largest tract of forest in the region. Another possibility is a walkway through Marlborough and Kaihu forests allowing a trip along the entire length of the Tutamoe range from Waima to Mt Tutamoe.

The sealing and possible realignment of SH12 through the forest have been strongly promoted as a means of increasing visitor numbers along the west coast and improving their experience of the forest drive.

The opportunity to enrich the understanding that the many thousands of visitors have of the forests has been recognised. One conceivable option is to establish a permanent visitor information centre in the vicinity of the largest trees possibly at the gravel dump near the Te Matua Ngahere turnoff or at the Tane Mahuta carpark. There is considerable scope for guided tours, and comprehensive displays explaining the ecological processes and cultural history of the area as the centre of a national park. An aerial walkway or forest tower permitting intimate views into the epiphytic canopy gardens of the mature kauri can also be imagined. Another option is to upgrade the present facility at the forest headquarters by sealing the road, redesigning the information centre and developing and expanding the camping and accommodation facilities. Existing facilities at the forest headquarters could be redeveloped as an outdoor education centre and as a potential venue for small conferences.

Other recreational activities such as canoeing or rafting down the Waipoua and perhaps the Wairau rivers, abseiling on the steep bluffs and waterfalls in Waima, and night walks could be explored. The unique combination of history, Maori traditions and spectacular scenery at Arai-Te-Uru is worthy of explanation and interpretation.

9.3 Maungataniwha Cluster

* Existing Activities

Recreational activities in the forests of this cluster are largely tramping, camping, picnicing, river swimming, short walks, sightseeing and hunting. Coastal areas provide a further range of experiences.

The largest forest blocks contain significant segments of the NZ Walkway system. After trekking down Te Oneroa A Tohe, (Ninety Mile Beach) it is possible to cross Herekino forest via the Kaitaia walkway. The walkway begins again at the end of the Takahue Valley road and follows the main ridgeline across Raetea forest to the summit of the Mangamuka Gorge on SH1 and then on to the Maungataniwha telecommunications tower. From Jacksons road on the northern end of Omahuta the track follows a ridge above the Nikauponuponu and Maungapukahukahu streams and then drops down to the Waipapa river. From here it is possible to walk south to the road end camping area at Forest Pools, or east up the Waipapa River to the forest headquarters, trampers hut and camping area.

Other facilities in these forests include a track which begins from the Herekino gorge in the west to traverse the center of the forest and link with the end of the Kaitaia walkway. In addition to picnic areas at the soda springs in the Mangamuka Gorge, at the forest lookout and on the summit of SH1 there is a large picnic/camping area at Raetea on the northern side of the forest. The sanctuary in the center of Omahuta is the focal point for this forest. Several short loop walks and picnic areas are linked by the longer Pukekohe stream track which crosses part of the forest to the Taheketiti camping area near the forest entrance. Puketi is well served by a number of long tracks which cross the forest and several small tracks and loop walks on its periphery. These include an interpreted nature trail at the headquarters, the Manginangina walk, Waiohanga gorge walk, and tracks to a kauri dam and the Mangahorehore viewpoint. A 4WD tour has recently begun circumnavigating the Puketi/Omahuta tract interpreting features of the area.

Warawara forest is generally regarded as a wilderness forest. The Golden Stairs Walkway skirts one edge linking the community of Pawarenga with the exposed coast by following along the narrow fiord-like entrance to the Whangapae harbour. Another track crosses the high plateau from Pawarenga to the summit of Maungapohatu and down to Mitimiti.

A wide range of recreational activities are possible at Ahipara including walks through the historic gumdiggings, camping, picnicing, hunting, swimming, surfing, diving and fishing. A 4WD tour regularly completes a circuit of the plateau, duneland and coastal features of the area. At Lake Ohia a track through the gumdiggings, the spectacular Tokerau beach and the birdlife of the lake and adjacent Rangaunu harbour are special attractions. Ranfurly Bay on the northern arm of Whangaroa Harbour has a walking track which links the small community of Totara North with a cottage available to the public at Lane Cove. Diving, boating, fishing and rock climbing are the principal pursuits in this area. The area is also a popular stop off point for guided sea kayaking along the coast.

*** Potential Opportunities**

There are many opportunities for expanding the range of adventure tourism type activities in these areas. These could be augmented by increased emphasis on interpretation of the diverse natural and cultural heritage.

Horse trekking and mountain biking are possible activities on old logging roads in Herekino and Omahuta and on parts of the Ahipara gumfields. The bluffs, cliffs and waterfalls at Ranfurly Bay, Ahipara, Warawara and the Waihoanga gorge at Puketi are all suitable for abseiling and rock climbing. Canoeing or rafting down the Waipapa river into and throughout the Hokianga harbour, and canoeing in the Whangaroa harbour are other potential adventures.

A gumfields museum and marae based accommodation have been proposed for Ahipara and there is considerable scope for a maritime and kauri milling history museum at Totara North. The nocturnal kiwi house at Fairburn near Kaitaia could be connected by a track or horse trek to the nearby Paranui Scenic Reserve. Proposals for an outdoor education centre on the northern side of the Hokianga harbour coupled with a track with several huts along the coast from the Kahakaharoa dune to Whangapae Harbour then across the Warawara wilderness are being explored. Uniting the various segments of the NZ Walkway system into a single continuous route could be investigated and promoted. Sealing of the Pungaere road from Waipapa near Kerikeri to the Puketi headquarters would enhance access to this forest.

9.4 Russell Cluster

*** Existing Activities**

Leisure pursuits in this district are dominated by the coastal and historic attractions of the Bay of Islands Maritime and Historic Park and the Waitangi National Reserve.

The main forms of recreation provided in the proposed park areas are walking, camping, picnicing and sightseeing. Short tracks to large kauri trees and lookout points are present in Opua, Russell and Ngaiotonga. The much longer Ngaiotonga-Punaruku Walkway traverses Russell forest joining several campsites, the most easily accessible one being in the Punaruku valley. The smaller blocks of forest are untracked but are easily reached by roads which pass through or near to them. In the case of Kaikanui and Opuawhanga the Mimiwhangata Marine Park with lodge and hut accommodation is the focal point in the area. Hukerenui is close to the famous Ruapekapeka pa.

*** Potential Opportunities**

Although expansion in recreational opportunities is likely to remain focussed on the coast, there are also possibilities in the proposed park areas. The old logging roads along the ridges in Russell forest could be suitable for horse trekking and mountain biking. The development of an outdoor education center at Punaruku with an emphasis on tikanga Maori is a prospect. There are also opportunities for guided walks, interpretative facilities, and combining coastal

with forest based activities. These could include adventure tourism packages which encompass tramping, cycling, canoeing, sailing, and diving.

9.5 Tangihua Cluster

*** Existing Activities**

Although most blocks in this cluster are easily accessible by road, recreational facilities are limited to several key areas. Tangihua forest is well served by a network of tracks, a camping ground and an outdoor education center. A short NZ Walkway loops through Pukenui forest and a short track leads to a waterfall in Waipu Gorge. The summit of Hikurangi can be reached by road and there are several picnic sites adjacent to Houtu.

*** Potential Opportunities**

The greatest potential for further recreational development lies in the forests near to the population centers of Whangarei and the coastal holiday communities of Bream Bay. There are proposals to extend the walkway through Pukenui to the Northland Regional Museum and link it with other tracks on adjacent land administered by the Whangarei District Council. A track through the unique kauri/hard beech forest in Ruakaka and possibly through Mareretu would complement the experiences available in the Waipu Caves and the popular beaches of Bream Bay. Because of its significance to tangata whenua Pukekaroro should persist as a scenic and spiritual introduction to Northland and remain untracked. There is a distinct possibility that the development of a Maori cultural and recreational experience will be centered on Motatau forest.

9.6 Summary

In general terms existing recreational facilities in proposed park areas allow for tramping, short walks, camping, picnicing, hunting and sightseeing with coastal areas providing more water based activities. Most areas are readily accessible and the numerous entry points to the forests via tracks and roads can enable a relatively quick appreciation of their qualities. Interpretation of the many features of the areas is very limited.

There is considerable potential to capture current interest in adventure tourism by expanding and promoting the range of recreational experiences with guided package tours taking in several park areas or circuits. An annual Northland wide multisport endurance event including park areas and the coast would be one way of raising the profile of the park and its recreational facilities.

The linkage of several existing walkways by new tracks would permit extended tramping opportunities which could rival the more popular routes available in other parts of the country.

Several outdoor education centers which focus on tikanga Maori and cater for the young

domestic population could be envisaged.

Interpretation of the many natural and cultural features of the proposed park areas will be necessary in at least one key high profile location. The concept of kauri heritage trails throughout the region which link and interpret the ecological and cultural values of the proposed park with other features such as museums, historic buildings, communities, harbours and landscapes could be further explored.

PART TEN: SUMMARY

10.1 Summary

From the foregoing discussion a number of points can be summarized on the suitability of the areas investigated for reclassification under national park status. These are presented below.

Overview of Investigation Area

* The Northland region contains a mild temperate almost subtropical climate with an intricate and generally low lying topography dominated by an extensive coast, large harbours and several prominent ranges and plateaux.

* Geologically the region contains a wide variety of formations ranging from Permian-Jurassic greywackes, early Miocene sediments and volcanic massifs, mid Miocene lava sheets and island arc volcanoes, Pliocene volcanic fields and Quartenary coastal sands.

* Soils in the region are notable for the influence that parent rocks, climate and vegetation have had on their formation. Their profiles are characteristically clay rich and more deeply weathered which distinguishes them from other parts of New Zealand.

* The vegetation of the region, dominated by kauri and associated ecosystems has been considerably fragmented and reduced in extent over the last 1000 years of human habitation.

* The remaining forests are distinctive for their species diversity, structural complexity, significant component of species with Melanesian affinities, high degree of endemism and large number of threatened species.

* Wildlife of the region is very diverse and contains a significant representative proportion of species endemic to New Zealand. Many of these species are under threat by competition for food, physical disturbance and from predatory agents.

* The region contains a considerable number and range of archaeological features, and sites of spiritual, cultural and traditional significance to Maori, the locations of which are generally not well known to the public.

* The complex history of the region was, in its early stages, dominated by the exploitation of the once vast tract of forest which covered the land.

* Recreation and tourism based mostly on the eastern coast are an important part of Northland's economy but activities centered on the forests and historic features make a significant contribution.

The Concept of a Kauri National Park

* The New Zealand national park system is based mainly on large mountainous tracts of land and contains limited representative components of lowland forest ecosystems.

* Kauri with its ancient lineage and the forests of Northland may represent the only undisturbed pre ice-age vegetation types which have persisted on their original site.

* Large reserves are preferable for conservation purposes but small reserves are of considerable value and have advantages for individual species management and protection programmes.

* The precedent for scattered and fragmented national parks is established both in New Zealand and internationally.

* The Department of Conservation has a reponsibility to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and establish an equitable partnership relationship with iwi Maori in respect of the lands which it administers.

* The concept of a kauri national park is to utilize the predominance of kauri forest ecosystems in Northland as a link binding the nationally important natural, cultural and historic features of public interest, recreation and tourism value. The development of complementary management systems particularly with iwi and other components of the regions heritage may be linked under this umbrella.

Assessment in Terms of Criteria

* Individual areas of forest subject to this investigation contain a wide variety of natural and cultural features and values when judged against the criteria for establishing national parks.

* The assemblage of four clusters of areas based mainly on ecological districts is an attempt to simplify presentation of the proposal and recognise the dispersed yet linked nature of the component land units under investigation.

* Interpretation of the criteria contained in the General Policy for National Parks is based largely on the application of land evaluation concepts for nature conservation. These include ideas of representativeness, diversity, pattern, rarity, naturalness, viability, size and buffering.

* The summary of the assessment against criteria shows that the proposed park contains the required attributes described in Section 4 of the National Parks Act 1980 and the General Policy for selecting new national parks.

* The scenery contains a number of outstanding elements; coasts, forests, gumlands, lakes, rivers, bluffs, dunes, isolated peaks and plateaux which are of a distinctive quality whose preservation is in the national interest.

* Ecological systems contain representative, diverse and structurally complex vegetation types associated with kauri, a wide variety of unique wildlife, and numerous rare, endemic and threatened plants and animals. Together with the pattern of soils and geological formations the ecological systems are both so unique and scientifically important that their preservation is in the national interest.

* The very large specimen kauri, dunes, cliffs and other natural features of the proposed park areas are arguably so beautiful, unique and scientifically important that their preservation is in the national interest.

* The four largest areas in the proposal are each large enough to qualify for national park status. The inclusion of the moderately sized and smaller non-contiguous areas is justified on the basis of their important contribution to scenic quality, representation of ecological diversity and natural features. They also contain important historic and archaeological attributes.

* The presence of many blocks of forest adjacent to the proposed park areas in private, Maori and Trust ownership, some of which are formally protected, serves as a buffer to park values.

* A large proportion of proposed park areas has been modified by human activity but is predominantly natural in appearance and regeneration in these areas is generally prolific.

* Many areas previously modified contain features of archaeological, historic and cultural significance which are particularly valuable for interpreting the human relationships with the forest.

* In order to maximise the area in the proposed park for ecological reasons existing cadastral boundaries have been chosen. These may be subject to review once the principle of the park has been firmly established.

* Sustained control of possums, goats and the many predators to wildlife, fencing of boundaries, and fire and weed control will be necessary to maintain park values.

Public Submissions

* A total of 934 written submissions and 9654 signatures to petitions were received from individuals, interest groups, local authorities and government departments. Most of the submissions came from the upper part of the North Island and a small but not insignificant number from overseas.

* Most submissions believe that proposed park areas meet the criteria for establishment of new national parks. The overwhelming majority of submissions support the establishment of a park in the form in which it was proposed.

Tangata Whenua Submissions

* Submissions from tangata whenua representatives in written form but mostly of an oral nature received at meetings and hui state that their support for a park is conditional on the prior resolution of claims and grievances lodged with the Waitangi Tribunal.

* Tangata whenua seek future participation in management of the lands under national park or any other status based on an equitable sharing of resources, information and participation in decision making.

* They ask that allocation of cultural materials provide tangata whenua of the area from which the material is sourced the right to be involved in the decision making process.

Land Ownership

* In the absence of any conclusive finding from the land title investigation and the very large and uncompleted Waitangi Tribunal claim process it is not possible to make any definitive judgements on the legitimacy of Crown ownership of the lands in the proposal.

* Present Departmental policy is that the lands will continue to be managed under the relevant legislation until the Government adopts a Waitangi Tribunal recommendation which says otherwise.

Social and Economic Assessment

* This assessment concludes that the proposal to establish a national park is expected to boost the regional tourism industry. The extent to which it does this will depend largely on the management policies of the Department and the degree of promotion undertaken by tourism interests.

* Impacts of a park upon the various communities will vary but are likely to be greatest in the Hobson area and the Mid-North. Most urban communities especially the Bay of Islands are well adapted to the tourist trade and are likely to pick up any additional park based business. There are however additional opportunities for small accommodation and tour guide businesses away from the east coast.

* Proposed park areas have little potential for alternative uses with the possible exception of mineral extraction. A quarter of the blocks are within current exploration licence areas.

Existing and Potential Recreation and Tourism

* Existing recreational facilities allow for tramping, short walks, camping, picnicing, hunting, and sightseeing with coastal areas providing other water based activities. Most areas are readily accessible with numerous entry points to the forests and coast via tracks, walkways and roads.

* There is considerable potential to capture current interest in adventure tourism by expanding and promoting a wider range of recreational experiences with guided package tours taking in several park areas or circuits. Additional activities could include horse trekking, mountain biking, canoeing, rafting, and rock climbing.

* The linkage of several existing walkways by new tracks would permit extended tramping opportunities which could rival the more popular routes available in other parts of the country.

* Interpretation of the many natural and cultural features of the proposed park will be necessary in at least one high profile location.

10.2 Conclusions

There is considerable public support for a national park covering all 47 land units covering 105249 ha. It has been determined that the areas collectively meet the criteria for the establishment of new national parks. The substantive issues which remain to be settled are the timetable under which claims before the Waitangi Tribunal are resolved, the possible results of the claim process, and the implications that these may have for the establishment of a national park.