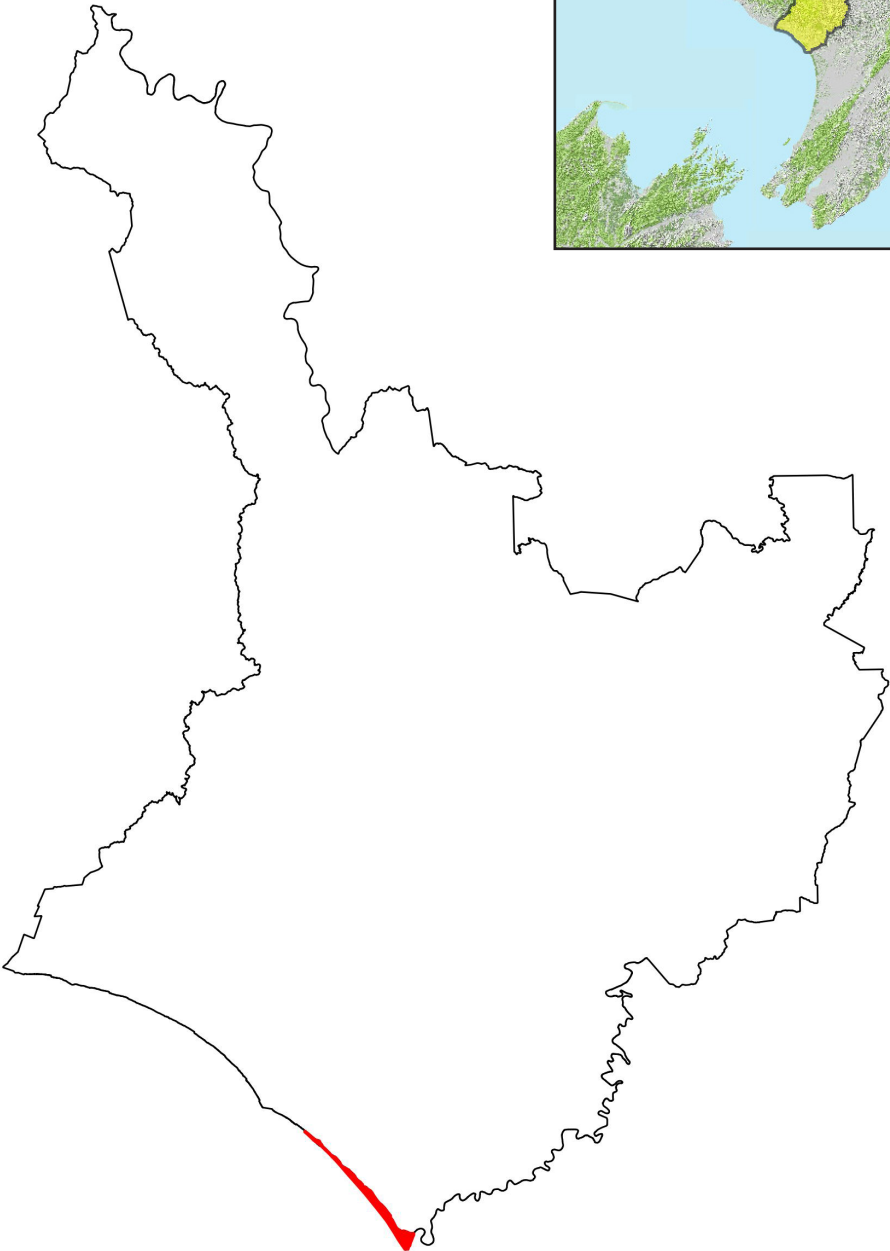
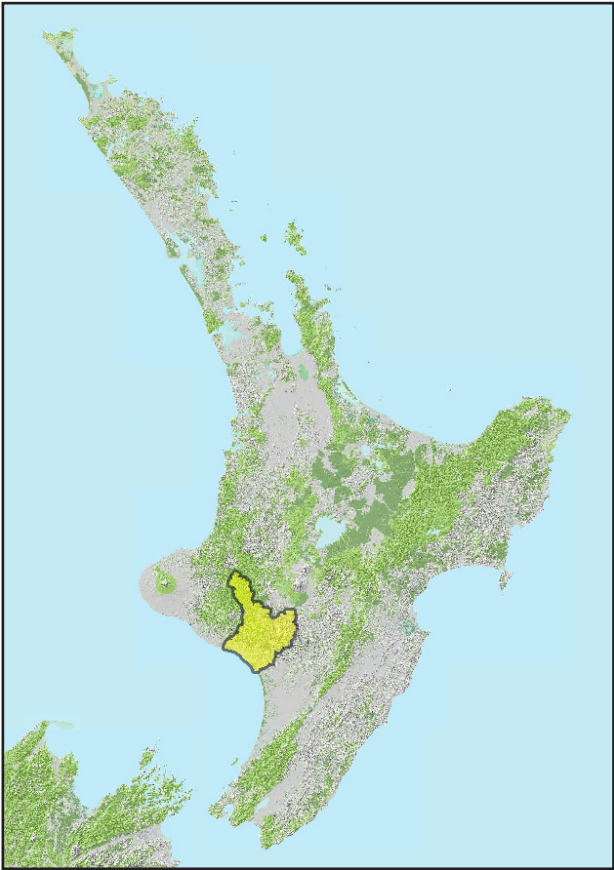


# Area 7 Whanganui Eastern Coastline









<b>Name:</b>	<b>Whanganui Eastern Coastline</b>
<b>Location:</b>	NZ Topo 50 – BL23
<b>Description:</b>	Coastal foredunes from Whanganui River to District boundary at Whangaehu River
<b>ONL/ONF:</b>	Outstanding Natural Feature

Natural Science	Geological/ Geomorphological	Coastal dune system along the seaward of the rural east of the Whanganui River. Includes active dune areas located along the entire coastal strip. Inland area derived from uplifted sedimentary deposits and overlain with dunes formed along the coastal edge.
	Biological/ Ecological	Modified vegetation with prevalence of coastal grasses covering dunes between the high water mark and scattered pine plantations and farming inland of the coast. The rural and plantation areas lie outside the ONF.
	Hydrological	The ONF runs along the seaward edge of the Whanganui River south spit and the northern edge of the Whangaehu River mouth.

Associational	Historical	The beach was the highway in early European times. The port operated at the Whanganui River mouth servicing steamships from the mid 1800's, with construction of moles either side of the river mouth in the late 1800's and early 1900's.
	Tangata Whenua	Foredunes are part of the wider coastal dune system, which was highly significant to Maori. Linked with the historic wetlands inland of the coastal dunes, fish (e.g. eels), flora (e.g. flax, pingao) and fauna was an important food source for Maori.
	Shared/ Recognised	Dunes recognised for the importance they play in coastal processes and coastal natural character. The DOC estate, located on the coast immediately west of the Whangaehu River, contains an examples of a dynamic dune system, which once stretched eastward right along the coast. The Reserve is partially planted in exotic pine plantation, the areas of which are excluded from the ONL.
	Recreation	Foredunes accessed from coastal roads, although off-road vehicles threaten their stability, particularly in proximity to these road ends.

Perceptual	Memorability	Memorable as an extensive linear unbuilt coastal foredune system.
	Legibility/ Expressiveness	Clearly expressive of coastal dune processes.
	Transient	Climatic changes of onshore/offshore winds, sea spray and coastal birds.
	Aesthetic	Extensive linear repetitive dune landform combined with the coastal grassland and native vegetation cover contributes to the coherence of this feature and is vivid particularly when observed from the beach. High aesthetic value due to naturalness and linear extent of unbuilt coastal frontage. Significant presence of logs and driftwood deposited liberally along the coast above the high tide mark gives a wilderness character to the beach and foredune area.
Naturalness	Generally high naturalness, but with some areas of modification due to vehicle tracks and non-native vegetation. Naturalness also influenced by proximity of settlements and pine plantations parallel to the beach. Proximity of airport and sewage treatment plant diminishes the natural and reduces the width of the ONF accordingly, as do the groynes and river control structures along south spit.	

Summary of Key Values	Vital contribution to healthy functioning of coastal processes and erosion control. Aesthetic values of expressiveness and naturalness resulting from extensive unbuilt coastal strip.
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Potential Threats	Erosion, loss of vegetation cover, earthworks, wind farms, buildings/subdivision, off-road vehicles.
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Potential Policies	Avoid ground disturbance and maintain free of wilding pines, weeds and development. Make provision for cycleway to enhance aesthetic appreciation of the area.
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