

land area: PUPONGA INLET				
PIGEON BAY CRITERIA				
(a) THE NATURAL SCIENCE FACTORS:	geological	topographical	ecological	dynamic components
	A combination of weathered beach deposits of gravel & sand of raised terraces; and well sorted gravel forming modern flood plains, & young fan gravels of Quaternary era (Geological & Nuclear Sciences 1:250 000 Geological Map 9)	estuary of 40 hectares, with a narrow entrance to the sea. Two causeways are located across the inlet - one forms access to Farewell Spit and the other to Whanganui Inlet. The surrounding hills are clad in regenerating forest & manuka, with a flax/raupo stream at the head of the Inlet. The limestone cliffs at the head (to the west) create a dramatic backdrop. scrub covered hills which are higher to the north west lowering to the east) enclose forming a discrete basin. A small arm of land separate all but the mouth of the estuary from the coastline. Abel Head is located east on the coastline.	Habitat of threatened banded rail <i>Rallus philippensis assimilis</i> , Australasian bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris poiciloptilus</i> and South Island fernbird <i>Bowdleria punctata punctata</i> . A white heron <i>Egretta alba modesta</i> periodically present. Giant bully (<i>Gobiomorphus gobiodeo</i>) and inanga (<i>Galaxias maculatus</i>) have been recorded. Whitebait species in small stream. saltmarsh vegetation includes <i>Juncus maritimus</i> , <i>Leptocarpus similis</i> , <i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i> , <i>Selliera radicans</i> and <i>Flagjianthus divaricata</i> (Department of Conservation, Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy 1993; Occasional Publication No.14 pg 41). Part of West Whanganui ED (see Appendix 7). This area runs from Kahurangi Point up to Farewell Spit and includes Whanganui Inlet. The area was initially covered in warm temperate rain forest (mainly Kahikatea) rising to red and hard beech forest inland. Wetlands were dominated by flax and cabbage trees, with coastal cliffs covered in <i>Phormium cookianum</i> . pakihiki-like manuka shrubland inhabited less fertile soil. Endemic species were <i>Pseudowintera traversi</i> (large land snails).	wave platforms extend into estuarine environment. Catchment area flows down from the Burnett Range and from the Limestone outcrops to the north.
(b) AESTHETIC VALUES	memorability		naturalness	
	Semi enclosed by the Burnett Range Behind and the limestone cliffs to the north and east. Limestone Cliffs have high aesthetic due to their impressive form and unusual shape. The enclosure by the surrounding mountains creates contrast against the flatness of the estuarine environment, with finer textures associated with the reeds and flax compared to the bush clad hills. Reflective qualities of the estuary surface - either from full tide or still wet mudflats contribute to the aesthetics. Semi enclosure fits in to the prospect and refuge formula (i.e. a balance between enclosure and openness).		Present day inland forest cover remains with lower slopes now in farmland with pockets of bush. There are still significant wetlands, however most dune areas are now covered in marram grass or pasture (see Appendix 7) "Freeman Access" road cuts across seaward boundary, but otherwise high degree of naturalness due to regenerating bush and low human modification. High naturalness associated with flax and rushes along the edge estuary with the mountainous backdrop contribute to create a highly natural view. The development is largely located to the east along the shoreline to the west of the foot of Farewell Spit.	
(c) EXPRESSIVENESS (LEGIBILITY)	formative processes			
				wave platforms and associated cliffs along the north-eastern shore. The catchment area is readily visible to the viewer as is the basin form linked to the collection of fresh water, with the tidal influence also readily visible, mixing the two separate water sources.
(d) TRANSIENT VALUES	occasional presence of wildlife		values at certain times of day/year	
				Seabirds present at low tide - international/national wader species. Fish present during high tide. waterfowl and white heron, banded rail, Australasian bittern, South Island fernbird, inanga & giant bully in streams (Department of Conservation, Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy 1993; Occasional Publication No.14 pg 41)
(e) VALUES SHARED/RECOGNISED				
				the ebb and flow of tide, shadows cast on the adjoining limestone cliffs and close cropped grazed hills. Sunlight highlighting vegetation, mudflats or water within estuary. Sunsets add high values in the evening.
				considered of national importance due to presence of the vulnerable banded rail and due to high degree of naturalness due to lack of extensive human development, wave platforms and associated cliffs are of geological importance (Department of Conservation, Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy 1993; Occasional Publication No.14 pg 40-41)
(f) VALUE TO TANGATAWHENUA				
				Small area of Maori reserve land is located at Puponga settlement. Three archaeological sites are recorded at Abel Head. Puponga is translated as "Hunched up, with limbs drawn up (the local mountains are like this)" (pg 23 of Beautiful Golden Bay New Zealand - compiled by Golden Bay Promotion assn)
(g) HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS				
				Puponga Coal mine - evidence of tramway to this still evident in n/w corner of the inlet. Wharf remains and boat remains in estuary mouth.
CONCLUSION:	INLET AND COASTLINE: OUTSTANDING NATURAL LANDSCAPE/FEATURE			