The Hastings coastal environment provides for the economic, social and cultural well being for the residents of the Hastings District and wider Hawke's Bay Region.

The coastal environment includes a number of sites and areas of significance to tangata whenua, including waahi tapu, kai moana resources and other taonga.

The coastal environment has significant amenity and special character values for the residents of Hastings. It is an important area for recreation and for residential activities.

There are significant areas of Maori Land and ancestral lands within the coastal environment. The philosophy of partnership in management of these resources is provided under the Treaty of Waitangi.

The Hastings coastal environment is valued for its sense of wilderness and remote coast.

The bush at Waipatiki is one of the few remaining areas of remnant indigenous vegetation in the Hastings coastal environment.

The Tangoio Bluff, Tombolo and Whakaari Headland is considered an outstanding landscape, of geo-scientific significance. The Whaling Station is also historically significant.

The Esk River and wetland is an important habitat for indigenous fauna.

The confluence of the Ngaruroro and Tutaekuri Rivers has significant landscape and natural character values. The Colenso Mission site is also historically significant.

The estuary and lagoon of the Tukituki River is an important habitat for significant indigenous fish and bird species.

The lagoon at Te Awanga provides habitat for the rare Gossamer Damselfly. Local hapu have identified the area as traditionally important for the collection of shellfish.

Cape Kidnappers is identified as an Outstanding Landscape of international significance. The area is also highly significant to tangata whenua.

Ocean Beach is valued as a wild and remote coastal environment. The intact dune system to the north is recognised as a significant natural area. The Whaling Station at Rangaiika is also historically significant.

Bare Island has been identified as a significant natural area, providing habitat for marine birds and mammals.

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