



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

- Landforms** | intact landform with strong relief and a jagged profile. Steep prominent ridge lines extend west from the main Coromandel Range down toward the Firth of Thames.
- Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns** | sequence of remnant and regenerating coastal forest cover the ridges and slopes which reinforce underlying topography. Wilding pines are apparent on steep slopes.
- Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies** | the flat expanse of the Firth of Thames amplifies the relief and steepness of the coastal slopes.
- Land Uses / Activities / Structure** | devoid of buildings and structures although wilding pines and proximity to nearby development reduce cohesion and naturalness.
- Habitat Value** | varied forest habitat benefiting from low modification, extensive indigenous vegetation cover and dynamic landform including valleys, ridgelines, streams and coastal slopes.
- Natural Processes** | coastal landforms. Interplay of indigenous forest with regenerating shrublands and exposed slopes reinforce areas of coastal erosion, river and stream entrenchment.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics □ □ □ **□** □
Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

- Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness** | despite nearby dwellings located outside the unit, the extensive vegetation cover and the landforms engagement with the Firth of Thames impart a sense of wildness.
- Experiential Attributes** | the scale and dramatic vertical relief of the landform as well as the relationship with the Firth of Thames impart a sense of naturalness.
- Context / Setting** | rural outlook including a sequence of modified and developed pastoral valleys which contrast with vegetated ridges and slopes. The character unit itself is devoid of modification and connects to the open expanse of the Firth of Thames and the extensive forest cover of the Coromandel Range.
- Transient / Dynamic Attributes** | the elevated landform and the exposed slopes make the unit highly receptive to atmospheric conditions with the upper slopes being lost to low cloud in adverse weather. The streams display ephemeral qualities due to variations with seasons and weather patterns.
- Night-time Values** | a high degree of naturalness is derived from limited exposure to lights given the absence of dwellings and structures. Proximity to SH25 and dwellings at Whakatete Bay, Ngarimu Bay and Thornton Bay start to affect the perceived intactness of the coastal environment.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics □ □ □ **□** □
Very Low.....Very High

Overall Natural Character Evaluation
(Biophysical and Perceptual Values) HIGH