



**NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE**

**Biophysical Characteristics**

- Landforms** | the unit consists of four major islands and several additional rocky outcrops. Headlands, bluffs, escarpments and rocky shoals are highly expressive of coastal erosion. The landform of each island varies from small rocky profiles to larger undulating landmass.
- Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns** | patches of regenerating and remnant native coastal vegetation inhabit parts of all the islands with Rangipukea Island being markedly different due to extensive pasture cover.
- Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies** | the ocean of the outer Manaia and Te Kouma Harbours provide contrast to the vertical island extrusions imparting a strong degree of naturalness.
- Land Uses / Activities / Structure** | despite the presence of marine farms, pasture, tracks, trig stations, wilding pines and other exotic weeds, the unit retains a sense of wildness due to its intact landform and characteristics.
- Habitat Value** | low overall modification of the coastal environment and separation from the mainland provides unique coastal habitat and includes rocky shorelines, different aspects, and coastal scrub.
- Natural Processes** | coastal qualities are clearly evident in the island landforms, rocky outcrops, bluffs, stony beaches and vegetation patterns contributing to a very endemic landscape.

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

**Perceptual Characteristics**

- Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness** | the expressive landform, strong sense of exposure, and isolation imbue a sense of wilderness further reinforced by vegetation patterns.
- Experiential Attributes** | legible coastal processes associated with the exposed nature of the island group and interaction with the tidal variations of the sea impart a strong sense of naturalness.
- Context / Setting** | the islands form part of a sequence of volcanic remnants that surround Coromandel Harbour. The landforms punctuate the flat surface of the sea amplifying the prominence and relief of the landform.
- Transient / Dynamic Attributes** | the island group directly engages with the ebb and flow of the outer Manaia and Te Kouma Harbours and displays ephemeral qualities resulting from atmospheric conditions, variations of day / year, tide and wildlife.
- Night-time Values** | despite the presence of marine farms, a high degree of naturalness is derived from limited exposure to lights, given the absence of dwelling and structures and isolation from the mainland.

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

**Overall Natural Character Evaluation** **HIGH**  
(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)