



**NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE**

**Biophysical Characteristics**

**Landforms** | landform comprising rolling coastal hills, rugged headlands, the rocky shore and the expanse of the Coromandel Harbour beyond. Motupohukuo (Turkey) Island is one of many islands which punctuate the flat expanse of the Hauraki Gulf.

**Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns** | windswept native coastal forest flank the hills and valleys behind Kikowhakarere Bay, Oamaru Bay and Koputauaki Bay reinforcing underlying topography. Motupohukuo (Turkey) Island, covered in coastal scrub, retains a sense of wildness despite the presence of exotic trees.

**Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies** | the flat water of Oamaru Bay extending into the eastern Hauraki Gulf amplifies the relief of the landform and complexity of the coastal edge.

**Land Uses / Activities / Structure** | the presence of marine farms, the road, pasture and wilding pines on the mainland are subservient in the context of the wider landscape. The presence of a dwelling on Motupohukuo (Turkey) Island is apparent however the remoteness, striking landform and strong engagement with the Hauraki Gulf retain a sense of naturalness.

**Habitat Value** | low modification, extensive forest cover connecting to the greater Coromandel Peninsula forests and landform including valleys, hills, streams, coastal slopes, rocky shore and islands provide varied habitat.

**Natural Processes** | Golden Bay and the small peninsula marking the north edge of the character area comprise a steep rocky shoreline overhung by Pohutukawa, expressive of coastal erosion. Motupohukuo (Turkey) Island is highly expressive of the interplay of the underlying landform and coastal erosion with a rocky shoreline and sandy beach.

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

**Perceptual Characteristics**

**Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness** | the extensive vegetation cover and the landforms engagement with the Hauraki Gulf imbue a sense of wildness.

**Experiential Attributes** | the varied landform in contrast to the flat expanse of the sea, as well as endemic vegetation patterns, impart a sense of naturalness.

**Context / Setting** | the unit is part of a contiguous sequence of elevated hill country covered in indigenous forest increasing the sense of naturalness. The settlements and associated rural pasture of Koputauaki Bay, Oamaru Bay and Kikowhakarere Bays as well as nearby marine farms start to have an effect on the perceived intactness of the character unit.

**Transient / Dynamic Attributes** | the ebb and flow of the ocean and the streams display ephemeral qualities resulting from atmospheric conditions, variations of day / year, tide and wildlife.

**Night-time Values** | marine farms, SH25 and the settlements of Koputauaki Bay, Oamaru Bay and Kikowhakarere Bays start to have an effect on the perceived intactness of the character unit due to light exposure.

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

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