



0 0.25 0.5KM

— Outstanding Natural Character Area
— High Natural Character Area



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | low headland and coastal hill country that enclose Oahuru Bay flanked by rocky shoreline and shallow tidal flats of Koputauaki Bay. Part of a sequence of coastal foothills that extend down from the Coromandel Ranges.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | regenerating indigenous coastal vegetation interspersed by patches of pasture which reinforce the underlying topography. An area of pine trees located in Oahuru Bay is apparent and disrupts the cohesion of vegetation cover.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | the tidal flats of Koputauaki Bay extending into the Firth of Thames contrasts with and amplifies the relief of the landform and highlights complexity of the coastal edge.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | despite the presence pines, the unit imparts a sense of naturalness due to the clear expression of coastal processes and connection to the sea.

Habitat Value | low modification, vegetation cover, the rocky shore, tidal bays and landform including valleys and coastal slopes provide varied habitat.

Natural Processes | this landscape is highly expressive of the interplay between the elevated headland, Koputauaki Bay and the Firth of Thames. The Firth of Thames tidal rhythm provides a counterpoint for the local streams natural variations of flow, clarity and flood cycles.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | the amalgam of intact landforms, vegetation and the prominence of Koputauaki Bay provide a strong sense of wildness/remoteness despite the nearby dwellings and infrastructure.

Experiential Attributes | prominence of natural processes, limited presence of structures/buildings and endemic vegetation patterns impart a strong sense of naturalness.

Context / Setting | the unit is part of a contiguous sequence of elevated hill country covered in indigenous forest. Nearby settlements and associated rural content of Koputauaki Bay as well as marine farms start to have an effect on the perceived intactness of the unit.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | strong ephemeral qualities due to the evident ebb and flow of the Firth of Thames and resulting atmospheric conditions, variations of day / year, tide and presence of wildlife.

Night-time Values | the nearby settlement of Koputauaki Bay and SH25 impacts on the perceived intactness of the unit.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

HIGH