



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

**Landforms** | two large mounded island landforms and a small rocky outlier characterised by headlands, bluffs, escarpments and coastal slopes. Dynamic interaction with the sea evident with the presence of sandy beaches and a rocky shore.

**Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns** | small pockets of remnant and regenerating coastal forest inhabit steep slopes. These are windswept and reflective of exposure and underlying topography.

**Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies** | the contrast between the flat profile of the Waimate Channel and the sudden rise in elevation of the islands amplify the prominence and relief of the landform. The ebb and flow of ocean and its dynamic interaction with the coast impart a strong sense of naturalness.

**Land Uses / Activities / Structure** | pasture is the predominant land use. Waimate Island contains several built structures and the surrounding waters are home to several marine farms. Despite this the islands retain a high degree of naturalness due to isolation, atmospheric conditions and expression of coastal processes.

**Habitat Value** | a range of habits occur a result of vegetation patterns, varying exposure (due to aspect), the dynamic tidal shoreline and the varied coastline which provides sheltered bays exposed rocky faces.

**Natural Processes** | exposed bluffs and outcrops reveal underlying geology and are expressive of the landscapes formative processes as well as wind exposure and coastal erosion.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics



Perceptual Characteristics

**Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness** | the combination of the islands remoteness and expression of coastal processes impart a strong sense of naturalness and wilderness despite modified land cover.

**Experiential Attributes** | evident coastal processes associated with the exposed nature of the landform coupled with the dynamic tidal variations of the sea impart a sense of naturalness.

**Context / Setting** | Motukopake and Waimate Islands form part of a larger group of volcanic remnants which scatter this part of the Hauraki Gulf providing a strong sense of isolation.

**Transient / Dynamic Attributes** | the tidal passage between Motupake and Waimate Islands is narrow and therefore highly expressive of the seas tidal rhythm. Ephemeral qualities resulting from atmospheric conditions, variations of day / year, tide and wildlife impart a high degree of naturalness.

**Night-time Values** | a high degree of naturalness is derived from limited exposure to lights. The presence of a few structures and marine farms start to affect the perceived intactness of the coastal environment.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics



Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

**HIGH**