



0 0.25 0.5KM

— Outstanding Natural Character Area  
— High Natural Character Area



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

**Landforms** | intact landform with medium relief located behind Te Puru township. The unit lies on a prominent ridgeline which extends west from the main Coromandel Range with coastal slopes continuing down towards the Firth of Thames.

**Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns** | consistent remnant and regenerating indigenous forest across the unit reflects underlying topography. Wilding pines apparent on steep slopes.

**Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies** | the flat expanse of the Firth of Thames amplifies the relief of the coastal slopes.

**Land Uses / Activities / Structure** | devoid of buildings and structures although wilding pines and nearby development reduce coherence and naturalness.

**Habitat Value** | low modification, extensive forest cover and landform including valleys, ridgelines, streams and coastal slopes provide opportunities for varied habitat.

**Natural Processes** | coastal landforms. Vegetation patterns are expressive of the interplay between coastal erosion 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 elevated landform, vegetation cover and proximity to the Firth of Thames, conveys naturalness.

**Context / Setting** | on the coastal edge the character unit is perceived against Te Puru settlement to the south and an area of pastoral land to the north. The character unit itself is void of modification and connects to extensive forests which cover the Coromandel Range, retaining a sense of wildness.

**Transient / Dynamic Attributes** | the elevated landform and the exposed slopes make the unit highly receptive to atmospheric conditions. The streams display ephemeral qualities which vary during seasons and weather patterns.

**Night-time Values** | naturalness is derived from limited exposure to lights given the absence of dwellings and structures within the unit. Proximity to SH25 and dwellings at Te Puru does 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**