



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | Motukawau Island group comprises a conglomerate of more than ten islands with a variety of sizes and profiles ranging from small rocky protrusions to larger vegetated landforms. The intact landforms are characterised by a sequence of headlands, bluffs, escarpments, coastal slopes, coves and rocky shoals.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | windswept coastal scrub clings to the landform, articulating the exposed nature of the island group. Larger trees inhabit hollows giving way to coastal scrub on rocky faces and exposed ridgelines.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | the open surface of the Firth of Thames provides a dramatic setting and defines the island landscape.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | apart from a marine farm, the island group is devoid of modification, imparting of strong sense of wildness.

Habitat Value | significant habitat due to a sequence of coastal habitat types and isolation from the mainland.

Natural Processes | a combination of sheer cliffs, craggy rock formations and rocky shoals provide strong expression of coastal processes which are eroding the underlying volcanic landform.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics



Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | well-defined natural landforms, land cover, evidence of coastal processes and atmospheric conditions; heighten the remote, raw and wild character of these islands.

Experiential Attributes | evident coastal processes associated with the exposed nature of the island group, atmospheric conditions and interaction with the sea impart a sense of naturalness.

Context / Setting | Motukawau Island group are part of an assemblage of islands in the eastern Hauraki Gulf that provide dynamic contrast to the flat expanse of the sea increasing the sense of naturalness.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | direct engage with the ebb and flow of the ocean. Ephemeral qualities resulting from atmospheric conditions, variations of day / year, tide and wildlife.

Night-time Values | a high degree of naturalness is derived from limited exposure to lights given the absence of dwellings and structures and isolation from the mainland.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics



Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

OUTSTANDING