



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

**Landforms** | coastal foothills and valleys characterised by rocky shoals, outcrops, bluffs, headlands, bays and steep eroding slopes. Partially submerged rocky outcrops further express the natural state of the coastal environment.

**Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns** | regenerating forest covers the majority of the character unit, giving way to pioneer coastal shrub and pasture on ridgelines and exposed coastal slopes. Steep coastal hills and bluffs reinforced by indigenous vegetation patterns.

**Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies** | the steep dynamic coastal landform provides dramatic engagement with the Hauraki Gulf and Colville Bay.

**Land Uses / Activities / Structure** | with very little development within the coastal environment, the pastoral ridge line and scattered dwellings become subservient to the interplay of landforms, regenerating coastal forests, escarpments, exposed cliffs and the open waters of Colville Bay and the Hauraki Gulf.

**Habitat Value** | vegetation cover provides an ecological sequence connecting the foothills to coastal marine area providing opportunity for a variety of habitats.

**Natural Processes** | the coastal edge is dynamic featuring rocky shoals, outcrops, headlands and steep eroding slopes, highly expressive of tidal interaction and coastal exposure.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics



Perceptual Characteristics

**Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness** | the absence of modification, contiguous swathe of coastal scrubland, terminating with jagged rocky outcrops, accentuates the landscapes pronounced relief and imparts a strong sense of wildness.

**Experiential Attributes** | evident coastal processes associated with the exposed nature of the landforms and dynamic tidal variations impart naturalness. The character unit is orientated towards the Hauraki Gulf providing a strong sense of isolation.

**Context / Setting** | the unit is part of a contiguous sequence of elevated hill country covered in indigenous forest adding to the sense of naturalness.

**Transient / Dynamic Attributes** | the coastal hills directly engage with the dynamic ebb and flow of the ocean and displays ephemeral qualities resulting from atmospheric conditions, variations of day / year, tide and wildlife.

**Night-time Values** | presence of scattered dwellings are apparent on Te Whau Point. Wharf Road winds its way up to the prominent ridgeline of the headland. These features are starting to affect the perceived integrity of the natural environment at night due to light pollution.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics



Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

**OUTSTANDING**