



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | the sequence of rolling, coastal foothills from Te Kawau Point to Otautu Point contrasts with the coastal plains of the Waiaro Stream. The coastal edge comprises eroding rocky shoals and outcrops interspersed by a series of beaches.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | interplay of windswept regenerating and indigenous forest remnants and pasture, reinforce underlying topography. Windswept stunted Manuka scatter the shoreline at Waiaro and Te Kawau Point with impart a sense of wildness.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | the Waiaro Stream estuarine environment imparts a strong sense of naturalness due to the intactness of the tidal flats and evident natural processes.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | limited development within the coastal environment, the open areas of pasture become subservient to the interplay of coastal vegetation, landform relief and the open waters of the Hauraki Gulf.

Habitat Value | intact estuarine environment with low modification, pockets of native vegetation and sequence of ridgelines, streams, saltmarsh, the rocky shore and beaches provide varied habitat.

Natural Processes | evident natural processes through stream fluctuations due to precipitation and tidal variation Expressive of the interplay of tidal interaction and coastal exposure affording the landscape a high degree of naturalness despite surrounding pastoral land use.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics

 Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | the patterns of windswept vegetation, exposed landforms, and engagement with the Hauraki Gulf imbue a sense of rawness and wilderness to the coastal environment.

Experiential Attributes | evident coastal processes associated with the exposed nature of the headlands and interaction with the Waiaro Stream. Marked naturalness values and strong interplay of underlying topography with areas of bush and swathes of exposed pasture.

Context / Setting | pastoral land cover is subservient in the context of the wider forest flanked foothills and mountains of the Moehau Range imparting a strong sense of remoteness.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | the headland landforms directly engage with the ebb and flow of the Hauraki Gulf. The Waiaro Stream and estuarine environment display 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.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics

 Very Low.....Very High

Overall Natural Character Evaluation
 (Biophysical and Perceptual Values) **HIGH**