



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | intact landform, featuring incised gullies and ridgelines with medium relief, plunges into the rocky shoreline. Boulder strewn grassy slopes are expressive of the underlying geology.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | the hills are flanked in extensive native coastal forest for much of the character area, giving way to pasture on the southern coastal slopes and ridges. The windswept nature of the vegetation reinforces the exposure and rawness of the landscape. Pohutakawa line the rocky shore imparting a sense of naturalness.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | the steep relief of the landform extends into the Hauraki Gulf providing a strong engagement between the two. The contrast between the flat profile of the ocean and the sudden rise in elevation of the landform amplify the prominence and relief of the ridgelines and coastal slopes.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | despite the presence of dwellings, roads, tracks farmland and fencing, the unit retains a sense of wildness due to intact landform and the raw exposed characteristics.

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

Natural Processes | the shoreline of the character unit is dynamic featuring, rocky shoals and stony beaches expressive of tidal interaction and exposure.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics

 Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | presence of farming activities are subservient to landform, exposure, and surrounding forest cover and therefore the feeling of wilderness and remoteness are strong.

Experiential Attributes | the scale and dramatic vertical relief of the landform, sequence of vegetation as well as the relationship with the Hauraki Gulf impact a sense of naturalness

Context / Setting | rural outlook is subservient to the backdrop of the wider forest flanked foothills and mountains of the Moehau Range, imparting a strong sense of remoteness.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | the elevated landform and the exposed aspect make the unit highly receptive to atmospheric conditions, with upper slopes being lost to cloud in adverse weather. The streams display ephemeral qualities which vary during seasons and weather patterns.

Night-time Values | a high degree of naturalness is derived from limited exposure to lights given the few number of dwellings and structures within the unit. Proximity to Port Jackson Road will have minimal effect on night-time values.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics

 Very Low.....Very High

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