



0 0.5 1KM

— Outstanding Natural Character Area
— High Natural Character Area



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | intact gully and upper slopes of the Moehau Range. The coastline is dynamic with ridgelines meeting rocky shoals, outcrops and sandy beaches.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | the valley is flanked in extensive native coastal forest which reinforces the underlying topography. The vegetation is reflective of exposure, with windswept coastal scrub clinging to exposed faces. Large podocarp trees occupy the valley floor and Pohutukawa line the rocky shore imparting a strong sense of naturalness.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | the steep landform has dramatic engagement with the Hauraki Gulf. The contrast between the flat profile of the sea and the sudden rise in elevation of the landform amplify the prominence and relief of the ridgelines and coastal slopes.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | aside from the presence of the Fantail Bay Campsite, some small patches of pasture, the doc track and the Port Jackson Road, the unit is devoid of modification imparting a high degree of naturalness.

Habitat Value | the vegetation connects to the wider forests of the Moehau Range and provides an ecological sequence from the upper hill slopes down through the Fantail Bay gully to the coastal marine environment. This provides for a wide range of habitat opportunities.

Natural Processes | the vegetation patterns and underlying landform are highly expressive of formative processes coupled with the interplay of tidal interaction and coastal exposure.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | limited modification, isolation and the intactness of vegetation and landform provide a strong sense of wildness.

Experiential Attributes | the scale and dramatic vertical relief of the landform flanked by extensive indigenous forest impart a high degree of naturalness.

Context / Setting | enclosed valley with a strong relationship to the sea. Areas of pasture to the north are inconsequential.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | the elevated landform and the exposed aspect make the unit highly receptive to atmospheric conditions. 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 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)

OUTSTANDING