



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | a clearly articulated dune system backs the north end Port Jackson beach, consisting of several dune sequences from the intact fore-dune to the abutting pastoral edge. The majority of the unit is characterised by intact steep coastal slopes, escarpments, outcrops, and the rocky shore.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | Spinifex and Pingao dune grasses cover the vast majority of the dune sequence. Coastal scrub shelters along the back edge of the dune system. Small patches of windswept regenerating and remnant vegetation, cling to the steep coastal slopes.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | the landform has dramatic engagement with the Pacific Ocean, a result in the contrast of the flat ocean with the sudden rise in elevation.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | the unit is devoid of modification, except for pastoral land use and the Muriwai Walk, imparting a high degree of naturalness.

Habitat Value | landform including valleys, ridgelines, coastal slopes, an intact dune system, the Murawai stream and the rocky shoreline of the coastal marine environment provide varied habitat opportunities.

Natural Processes | exposed rock reveals underlying geology and is expressive of the landscapes formative processes as well as wind exposure and coastal erosion. The dunes and sandy beach are evidence of the dynamic nature of the coastal environment.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics



Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | while the land use is predominantly pastoral, a strong sense of wilderness remains due to isolation, expression of natural processes, and atmospheric conditions.

Experiential Attributes | dramatic vertical relief of the landform and exposure impart a high degree of naturalness.

Context / Setting | the character unit is predominantly outward facing towards the Pacific Ocean, enhancing the strong sense of isolation. The small settlement of Port Jackson provides an indication of civilisation however the extensive pastoral hills with tracts of regenerating bush enhance the feeling of remoteness.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | the elevated landform and the exposed aspect make the unit highly receptive to atmospheric conditions. The Murawai Stream, Jackson Bay Beach and intact dunes display ephemeral qualities which vary during seasons, time of day and weather patterns.

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

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics



Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

HIGH