



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

- Landforms** | dramatic sequence of rugged headlands, islands, reefs, bluffs, escarpments, and shoals backed by ridgelines and valleys of the coastal foothills. The landform is intact imparting a strong sense of naturalness.
- Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns** | windswept and pioneering vegetation species cling to coastal cliffs reflecting coastal exposure. The hills from Sugar Loaf to Poley Bay feature regenerating coastal vegetation inhabiting valleys and steep slopes interspersed with pasture. South of Poley Bay the hills are flanked in intact coastal forest.
- Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies** | Square Top Island, The Pinnacles and the steep coastal escarpments of the mainland provide dramatic contrast to the flat expanse of the Pacific Ocean.
- Land Uses / Activities / Structure** | the pastoral land cover, presence of power lines and walking tracks are subservient in the context of the wider coastal environment.
- Habitat Value** | landform including valleys, ridgelines, coastal slopes, and the rocky shoreline of the coastal marine environment provide varied habitat opportunities. Forests connects to the extensive vegetation cover of the Moehau Range.
- Natural Processes** | exposed red rock faces and soils are indicative of volcanic origins. The dynamic coastline of the mainland is highly expressive of coastal exposure and tidal interaction evident through exposed eroding slopes, rocky beaches, outcrops, and shoals.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

- Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness** | the raw nature of the landform, expressive vegetation patterns and the sense of isolation impart a strong sense of remoteness and wildness.
- Experiential Attributes** | the volcanic islands are highly weathered and the degree of exposure is reinforced by windswept vegetation which clings to cliffs. Coastal conditions, seasonal change, atmospheric conditions and tidal processes impart a high degree of naturalness.
- Context / Setting** | the character unit is predominantly outward facing to the Pacific Ocean enhancing the strong sense of isolation. The hills are connected to the wider forest flanked Moehau Range further enhancing the naturalness of the landscape.
- 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. Rocky shoals and islands change with the ebb and flow of the ocean.
- Night-time Values** | an outstanding degree of naturalness is derived from no exposure to lights given the lack of dwellings and roads within the unit. This is further emphasised by the units outward facing aspect resulting in a strong sense of isolation.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Overall Natural Character Evaluation HIGH
(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)