



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | part of the hill country landforms of the northern Moehau Range and comprises headlands, escarpments, slopes and shoals.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | rich indigenous forest covers the slopes of the Moehau ranges, highly expressive of the underlying jagged landform and volcanic formative processes.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | strong relief reinforced by indigenous vegetation patterns result in dramatic engagement with the Pacific Ocean. The diversity derived from the enclosed and sheltered waters of Shag Bay and the open expanse of the Pacific Ocean provide a high degree of naturalness.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | despite the presence of walking tracks and a powerline, an outstanding degree of naturalness remains due to intact landform, vegetation patterns and relationship to the Pacific Ocean.

Habitat Value | the landform and vegetation cover enable an ecological sequence connecting the upper ridgelines, through valleys coastal slopes and escarpments to the rocky shore and Coastal Marine Area; providing for a range of habitat opportunities.

Natural Processes | the rugged landform with steep relief is telling of formative processes. Expressive of the interplay of tidal interaction and coastal exposure with craggy headlands, steep bluffs, and stony beaches.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics



Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | the character unit has an outstanding degree of naturalness due to very little modification which imparts a strong sense of wilderness.

Experiential Attributes | the scale and dramatic vertical relief of the landform, the sequence of vegetation as well as the relationship with the Pacific Ocean impart a strong sense of naturalness.

Context / Setting | slopes predominantly oriented towards the intact Shag Bay and the Pacific Ocean enhances the strong sense of isolation. Where slopes face the structures and pasture of Stony Bay this experience is lessened but not removed due to the endemic backdrop of the Moehau Range.

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 limited exposure to lights given the lack of dwellings and roads within the unit. The few structures and elements associated with Stony Bay campground start to impede on this state in the southern portion of the unit.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics



Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

OUTSTANDING