



0 0.25 0.5KM

— Outstanding Natural Character Area  
— High Natural Character Area



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

**Landforms** | intact landform with medium relief reinforced by vegetation patterns. The hill country lies on the edge of the northern Moehau Range and includes ridgelines, hollows and valleys.

**Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns** | regenerating to mature podocarp forest covers the hill slopes beyond Stony Bay, highly expressive of the underlying landform and volcanic formative processes.

**Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies** | the flat expanse of the Pacific Ocean amplifies the relief of the coastal slopes.

**Land Uses / Activities / Structure** | aside from two small patches of grass the unit is devoid of modification imparting a strong sense of naturalness.

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

**Natural Processes** | coastal landforms. The interplay of indigenous forest with regenerating shrublands reinforces coastal exposure and stream entrenchment.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

**Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness** | despite nearby Stony Bay Campground located outside the unit, the extensive vegetation cover and the landforms engagement with the Ocean imbue a sense of wilderness.

**Experiential Attributes** | a clearly articulated hill and ridge sequence reinforced by vegetation patterns which imparts a sense of naturalness.

**Context / Setting** | despite modified outlook to the Stony Bay campground, a strong sense of isolation remains due to backdrop of the Moehau Range, intactness of landform and indigenous vegetation cover.

**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 degree of naturalness is derived from limited exposure to lights given the absence of dwellings and structures within the unit. Proximity and orientation towards the Stony Bay does start to affect the perceived intactness of the coastal environment.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

**HIGH**