



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | forms part of the hill country landforms of the northern Moehau Range and comprises craggy headlands, steep bluffs, escarpments, slopes and shoals. Strong elevated relief reinforced by indigenous vegetation patterns.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | the rich indigenous forest cover is highly expressive of the underlying landform and volcanic formative processes. The wind swept vegetation and coastal erosion reinforce the exposure and rawness of the landscape.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | dramatic engagement with the Pacific Ocean and waters of Sandy Bay and Port Charles is derived from sudden vertical relief reinforced by indigenous vegetation patterns.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | apart from Stony Bay Road, a power line and the Stony Bay Fishing Track this character unit is relatively unmodified imparting a strong sense of wilderness.

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 landform is highly expressive of the interplay between tidal interaction and coastal exposure with craggy headlands, steep bluffs, and stony beaches.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics



Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | a contiguous swathe of coastal scrubland and podocarp forest on mid to upper slopes, terminates with jagged rocky outcrops, accentuating the landscapes pronounced relief and imparting a strong sense of wildness.

Experiential Attributes | wind swept vegetation and coastal erosion reinforce the exposure and rawness of the landscape and provide a sense of isolation.

Context / Setting | the unit is part of a broader sequence of ridges and valleys covered by indigenous vegetation that extends up to the wider Moehau Range. Strong connection with the expanse of the Pacific Ocean. Developed area of Sandy Bay, Port Charles and Stony Bay are apparent and start to affect the cohesion of the unit's margins.

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 within the unit. Proximity and orientation towards Sandy Bay and Port Charles does start to affect the perceived intactness of the coastal environment.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics



Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

OUTSTANDING