



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | coastal foothills on the outer edge of the Moehau Range characterised by valleys, broad ridgelines, headlands, a sequence of bays, bluffs, escarpments, and shoals providing strong engagement with the ocean. Waikawau Bay showcases an intact dune system behind the white sandy beach, and the Waikawau River outlet.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | regenerating to mature podocarp forest cover on Mt Onekura, giving way to pioneer coastal scrublands on ridge lines and exposed coastal slopes. Wind swept vegetation and coastal erosion reinforce the exposure and rawness of the landscape.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | the flat sea of western Rauporoa Bay, Potiki Bay, Te Karaka Bay & northern Waikawau Bay contrast with the strong relief of the landform.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | the character unit is relatively unmodified imparting a very strong sense of naturalness.

Habitat Value | extensive vegetation cover and intact landform 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 | highly expressive of the interplay of tidal interaction and coastal exposure with craggy headlands, steep bluffs, and stony beaches. The sand formations and patterns at the north end of Waikawau Bay are expressive of the tidal interactions with the natural flood cycles of the Waikawau River.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics □ □ □ □ ■
Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

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

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

Context / Setting | the character unit imparts a high degree of naturalness with slopes predominantly oriented towards the wider expanse of the Pacific Ocean enhancing the strong sense of isolation. Similarly the backdrop of the vegetation flanked Moehau Ranges enhances the sense of naturalness.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | elevated landform and the exposed aspect make the unit receptive to atmospheric conditions. The Pacific Oceans tidal rhythm provides a counterpoint for the Rivers natural flow variations, clarity and flood cycles. Other transient factors such as salt spray from Waikawau Bay and wading birds emphasise the landscape's natural processes.

Night-time Values | absence of dwellings and structures both within and in proximity to the character unit impart a high degree of naturalness at night. Views of the night sky will be clear with absence of light pollution.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics □ □ □ □ ■
Very Low.....Very High

Overall Natural Character Evaluation
(Biophysical and Perceptual Values) **OUTSTANDING**