



0 0.5 1KM

— Outstanding Natural Character Area
— High Natural Character Area



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | Waikawau River estuary, the white sands Waikawau Beach, and an extensive dune system enclosed by headland and bluffs at Kamakamakura Point. The dune system is clearly articulated backing the full length of the beach and consisting of several dune sequences from the intact foredune to the abutting pastoral edge.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | estuarine environment comprises salt marsh and wetlands. Dune system is covered by Spinifex and Pingao grasses. Coastal scrub shelters in between dune sequences and along the back edge of the dune system. Mature Pohutukawa mark the southern edge of beach at Kamakamakura Point.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | the estuarine environment of Waikawau River imparts a strong sense of naturalness due to its intactness and evident natural processes. The ebb and flow of the ocean has dynamic interaction with the sands of Waikawau Beach.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | apart from the Waikawau Beach Road crossing the unit in several places it is devoid of modification, imparting a high degree of naturalness.

Habitat Value | rich, sensitive and diverse range of habitats from estuarine environments, dunes, the beach, the rocky shore, headland and forest cover of Kamakamakura Point.

Natural Processes | natural qualities are clearly evident in the interplay of landform with tidal rhythm and exposure to the Pacific Ocean.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | the dynamic and ephemeral nature of the Waikawau River inlet imparts a strong sense of naturalness despite the presence of surrounding pastoral landscape. The orientation towards the Pacific Ocean and the backdrop of indigenous forest covered mountains impart a sense of wilderness.

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

Context / Setting | both the beach and inlet are backed by pastoral farming, dwellings and the Waikawau Camping Ground lies adjacent to the unit. These land uses are evident however remain relatively subservient in the context of the wider landscape.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | 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 also emphasise the landscape's natural processes.

Night-time Values | nearby dwellings and Waikawau Beach Road 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