



0 1 2KM

— Outstanding Natural Character Area
— High Natural Character Area



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | intact coastal foothills with valleys characterised by broad ridgelines, headlands, a sequence of bays and coves, islands, bluffs, escarpments, and shoals providing strong engagement with the ocean.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | extensive native coastal forest reinforce the strong elevated relief. Regenerating to mature podocarp forest gives way to pioneer coastal shrublands on ridgelines and exposed coastal slopes. The rocky islands are highly weathered and the degree of exposure is reinforced by low growing vegetation which clings to rock faces.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | the flat expanse of the Pacific Ocean from eastern Little Bay to Waihirere provide contrast to the elevated landform.

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

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

Natural Processes | windswept vegetation and coastal erosion reinforce the exposure and rawness of the landscape. Highly expressive of the interplay of tidal interaction and coastal exposure with craggy headlands, steep bluffs, and stony and sandy beaches.

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

Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | relatively unmodified and highly expressive of the interplay of tidal interaction and coastal exposure, imparting 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 | slopes predominantly oriented towards the wider expanse of the Pacific Ocean, enhancing the strong sense of isolation. Connection to the extensive Coromandel Peninsula forests enhancing the sense of naturalness.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | the elevated landform and the exposed aspect makes the unit highly receptive to atmospheric conditions. Rocky shoals and islands change with the ebb and flow of the ocean imparting a strong sense of naturalness.

Night-time Values | views of the night sky due to absence of dwellings and structures both within and in proximity to the character unit impart a high degree of naturalness.

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

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