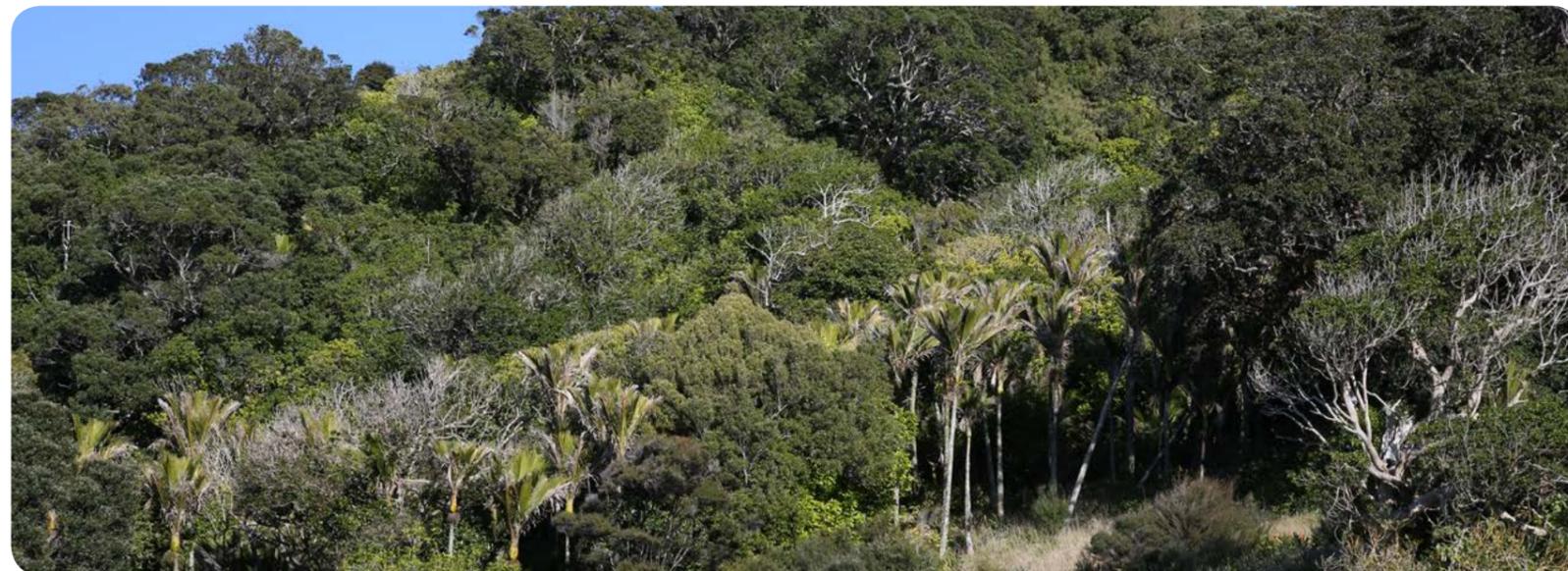




0 0.15 0.3KM
— Outstanding Natural Character Area
— High Natural Character Area



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | Intact steep coastal ridge and escarpment – part of a broader sequence of ridges and hill country that extend down from Whanake.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | sequence of remnant coastal forest including groves of Nikau Palms cover the ridges and slopes which reinforce underlying topography.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | exposed aspect and interaction with the Pacific Ocean amplify the relief and steepness of the coastal slopes.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | devoid of buildings and structures – the adjacent settlement and road corridor impacts on the cohesion and naturalness of the coastal environment

Habitat Value | varied forest habitat with low modification, extensive indigenous vegetation cover and exposed coastal landform

Natural Processes | Interplay of indigenous forest with regenerating shrublands and exposed slopes reinforce proximity to coast.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | the extensive vegetation cover and the landforms engagement with the Pacific Ocean impart a sense of wildness, despite nearby dwellings located outside the unit.

Experiential Attributes | the scale and dramatic vertical relief of the landform as well as the relationship with the Pacific Ocean impart a sense of naturalness.

Context / Setting | the rural outlook including a sequence of modified and developed pastoral valleys which contrast with vegetated ridges and slopes. The character unit itself is void of modification and connects to the open expanse of the Pacific Ocean and the extensive forest cover of the Coromandel Range.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | a highly atmospheric interaction with Pacific Ocean, affected by weather and light conditions, time of year / day. Apparent coastal birdlife.

Night-time Values | a high degree of naturalness is derived from limited exposure to light sources within the unit given the absence of dwellings and structures. Lighting from nearby settlement affects the perceived intactness of the adjoining coastal environment.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

HIGH