



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | an intact prominent headland (Mt Kahutara) encloses Kennedy Bay, which is part of a broader sequence of ridges and hill country that extend down from the main Coromandel Range. Exposed weathered cliffs and escarpments dominate the coastline combined with moderate to high relief, steep peaks and ridges with incised stream valleys.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | a contiguous swath of regenerating to mature podocarp forest covers Kautara giving way to coastal shrubland on exposed peaks and coastal slopes.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | the 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 – adjacent settlement and road corridor affect the cohesion and naturalness of the coastal environment

Habitat Value | diverse coastal habitat due to the contiguous coverage of indigenous vegetation and intact coastal landform. Very limited human presence.

Natural Processes | exposed cliffs and outcrops in the landform reveal their underlying geology and are expressive of the landscapes formative processes. Vegetative sequence from mature indigenous forest to coastal scrubland, combined with exposed jagged peaks, reinforces the topography and pronounced relief of the landform. These also reflect coastal erosion and wind exposure.

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

Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | the absence of modification, and a contiguous swathe of coastal scrubland and podocarp forest on the mid to upper slopes, terminate with jagged rocky outcrops and coastal bluffs. These aspects accentuate the coastal environments pronounced relief and imparts a strong sense of wildness.

Experiential Attributes | the scale and dramatic vertical relief of the landform, sequence of vegetation and the relationship with the Pacific Ocean impart a very strong sense of naturalness.

Context / Setting | the unit is part of a broader sequence of ridges and valleys covered indigenous vegetation that extend up to the main Coromandel Range. Strong connection with the expanse of the Pacific Ocean. Settlements to the north and south are apparent and start to affect the cohesion of the unit's margins.

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

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

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

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