



0 0.25 0.5KM
— Outstanding Natural Character Area
— High Natural Character Area



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | coastal foothills of the Coromandel Range, comprising volcanic landform with medium relief. Sequence of ridges lines, hollows, incised gullies, streams and valleys extending down towards the Firth of Thames.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | isolated pocket of coastal remnant and regenerating forest containing large Pohutakawa and wind swept vegetation on coastal slopes. Presence of forestry species has begun to affect the integrity of the vegetation cover in places.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | the flat expanse of the Firth of Thames amplifies the relief and steepness of the coastal slopes.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | presence of dwellings, pasture, forestry, power lines, wilding pines and other exotic weeds within the unit are starting to compromise the intactness of the coastal environment.

Habitat Value | complexity of landform, presence of streams, variety of aspects and vegetation cover, provide a range of habitat types.

Natural Processes | coastal landforms expressive of volcanic formative processes. Interplay of indigenous forest with regenerating shrub lands and exposed slopes reinforce coastal erosion, river and stream entrenchment.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics



Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | built elements effect the perceived intactness of the coastal environment in places. Despite this, a sense of wilderness is retained through indigenous vegetation and strong relationship to the Firth of Thames.

Experiential Attributes | dynamic landform in contrast to the flat expanse of the Firth of Thames and endemic vegetation patterns impart a sense of naturalness.

Context / Setting | extensive area of forestry to the east of the unit significantly reduces the cohesion of the wider coastal environment.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | elevated landform and exposed aspect make the unit receptive to atmospheric conditions. The streams display ephemeral qualities which vary during seasons and weather patterns.

Night-time Values | presence of dwellings and structures as well as proximity to SH25 starts to affect the perceived intactness of the coastal environment.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics



Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

HIGH