



0 0.5 1KM  
 — Outstanding Natural Character Area  
 — High Natural Character Area



**NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE**

**Biophysical Characteristics**

**Landforms** | largely intact coastal estuarine plains and open tidal inlets which mark the entrance to Kennedy Bay and drains the catchment of the entire north east Coromandel Range. Both estuaries are flanked by a narrow sand spit that separates them from Kennedy Bay. The flat coastal plains contrast with the elevated foothills surrounding them.

**Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns** | sequence of shrub, salt marsh and patches of mangroves cover the majority of the intertidal flats. Areas of pasture interspersed with wetland characterise the inland margins of the coastal plain.

**Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies** | The inlet comprises a highly legible open body of water. Over a dozen tributaries from the Coromandel Range feed the estuaries.

**Land Uses / Activities / Structure** | Pastoral farming, forestry and scattered houses about the inlet but remain relatively subservient in the context of the wider landscape.

**Habitat Value** | estuarine habitat benefiting from low modification and flanked by indigenous vegetation on foothills and within the majority of the coastal plain - connection with adjacent sand spit.

**Natural Processes** | the estuarine flats and the tidal variation of the inlet display an expressive interplay with the coastal environment. The Pacific Ocean's tidal rhythm provides a counterpoint for the inlet's natural flow variations, clarity and flood cycles.

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

**Perceptual Characteristics**

**Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness** | the enclosure of the coastal plain by elevated foothills, indigenous vegetation cover, and the dynamic engagement of the coastal plain with the ocean imparts a sense of wildness, despite the presence of isolated dwellings and pasture,

**Experiential Attributes** | the dynamic and ephemeral nature of the inlet imparts a strong sense of naturalness, despite the presence of the Kennedy Bay settlement, forestry, and surrounding pastoral landscape. Enclosing landforms, particularly Coromandel Range to the west, also contribute to the feeling of naturalness.

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

**Transient / Dynamic Attributes** | highly atmospheric interaction with Pacific Ocean, affected by weather, light conditions, and time of year / day. Other transient factors such as wading birds also emphasise the coastal environments natural processes.

**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 isolated dwellings 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**