



0 1 2KM
 — Outstanding Natural Character Area
 — High Natural Character Area



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | the extensive sequence of intact coastal hill country includes a series of dramatically cliffed headlands and bays, together with prominent ridgelines that strongly define the coastal environment. The coastal edge is characterised by a distinct craggy shoreline interspersed by white sandy beaches and an intact dune sequence including Wainuiototo Bay.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | extensive and contiguous swath of regenerating to mature podocarp forest covers the upper coastal hill country giving way to coastal shrubland on exposed peaks and coastal slopes.

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

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | devoid of buildings and structures – adjacent pine forestry and farmland to the south impacts on the cohesion and naturalness of the adjoining coastal environment.

Habitat Value | very diverse coastal habitat due includes a clearly defined matrix of native forest descending into coastal margins, including windswept scrub on steep coastal slopes, and bays and rock shelves that clearly articulate the processes underlying this landscape.

Natural Processes | exposed coastal edge and outcrops of the landform reveal their underlying geology and are expressive of the landscapes formative processes. Clear vegetative sequence from coastal scrubland to podocarp forest, combined with exposed cliffs which reinforce the topography and pronounced relief of the landform as well as coastal erosion and wind exposure.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics



Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | the absence of modification, contiguous swathe of coastal scrubland and coastal forest on mid to upper slopes, terminating with jagged rocky outcrops along the skyline and coastal bluffs, accentuates the landscapes pronounced relief and imparts a strong sense of wildness.

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

Context / Setting | part of a broader sequence of ridges and valleys covered indigenous vegetation that extend to the Coromandel Range. Strong connection with the Pacific Ocean. Settlements to the north and south are apparent although they have little impact on the cohesion of the Unit. Pine forestry along landward extent of the unit is generally not visible from public locations.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | Interplay of land and harbour including variation resulting from atmospheric conditions, time of day / year, tide and wildlife. Wading and sea birds prevalent

Night-time Values | limited exposure to lights due to the absence of dwellings and structures within the unit imparts a strong sense of naturalness.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics



Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

OUTSTANDING