



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | sequence of prominent coastal slopes and valleys that frame Whangapoua and Wainuioto Bay.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | remnant native coastal forest and mature pohutukawa dominate the coastal margins and are interspersed with areas of pasture across the coastal slopes.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | the coastal environment enjoys a dynamic interaction with the open waters of the Pacific Ocean but also frames and encloses the tidal estuary of the Pungapunga River.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | a number of buildings are apparent along the coastal margin along with areas of pasture on ridges and coastal slopes although these land uses do not disrupt the integrity of the underlying landforms, vegetation cover or the overall cohesion of the coastal environment.

Habitat Value | diverse coastal habitat includes pockets of remnant indigenous vegetation, intact coastal landform and the connection and proximity to Pungapunga River, dunes and beach area of Whangapoua.

Natural Processes | interplay between remnant vegetation and rural pasture reinforces landform. The estuarine environment of Pungapunga River is expressive of the interplay between the Pacific Ocean's tidal rhythm and the Rivers natural flow variations, clarity and flood cycles.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics



Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | the presence of dwellings, tracks and pasture affect the perceived intactness of the coastal environment, however, a sense of wildness is maintained by the patterns of remnant and regenerating coastal forest, connection with adjoining areas of coastal forest and hill country, and the relationship of the underlying landform to the coastal edge.

Experiential Attributes | clearly articulated hill and ridge sequence that is attractively reinforced by remnants pockets of coastal forest and stream corridors which impart a sense of naturalness.

Context / Setting | visual and physical connections are evident with adjoining areas of coastal forest and hill country. Whangapoua settlement and barren areas of farmland to the south start to affect the cohesion of the unit's margins.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | a highly atmospheric interaction with Pacific Ocean is affected by weather and light conditions, time of year / day. Tdynamic interaction fo the Oceans tidal rhythm and the rivers natural flow variations, clarity and flood cycles.

Night-time Values | lighting from nearby settlement affects the perceived intactness of the adjoining coastal environment.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics



Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

HIGH