



0 0.5 1KM

— Outstanding Natural Character Area
— High Natural Character Area



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | largely intact sequence of prominent ridges, coastal slopes, valleys, and headland that frame the adjacent coastal flats of Whangapoua Harbour. Includes and series of low lying depositional islands within the harbour area and Te Rehutae Point.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | a contiguous cover of remnant and regenerating indigenous coastal forest that adjoins the harbour and Pacific Ocean.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | the coastal environment interacts dynamically with the waters of the Whangapoua Harbour and Pacific Ocean.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | a number of buildings are apparent on coastal slopes above Whangapoua Road and associated causeway, however given the predominance of natural attributes, this modification does not disrupt the integrity of the underlying landforms, vegetation cover or the overall cohesion of the unit.

Habitat Value | diverse coastal habitat due to the sequence of vegetation from mangrove, salt marsh and coastal scrub through to remnant indigenous vegetation on elevated coastal slopes.

Natural Processes | clearly defined matrix of native forest descending into coastal margins, including mangrove colonies, bays and rock shelves that clearly articulate the processes underlying the coastal environment.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | natural qualities are clearly evident in the amalgam of landforms native forest remnants and their relationship with both the Whangapoua Harbour and Pacific Ocean / contributing to a sense of wilderness.

Experiential Attributes | very clearly defined headland landform, and sequence of ridges, slope, islands, bay combine with indigenous forest to create a very clearly articulated coastal landscape. This is framed and enhanced by the open sea and adjoining harbour.

Context / Setting | visual and physical connections 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 | highly atmospheric interaction with Pacific Ocean and tidal influence of the Whangapoua Harbour, affected by weather and light conditions, time of year / day.

Night-time Values | Lighting from nearby settlement 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