



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | northern dunes, distal spit and southern side of Whangapoua Harbour entry channel – a defining feature for both the harbour and the western end of Matarangi Beach.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | open exposed sandy areas of the spit characterised by patches of dune grasses while the southern side of the spit is dominated by sequences of mangroves, saltmarsh, coastal scrub and grasses, and pines.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | distal spit feature linked with wider ocean beach and harbour mouth.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | senescent pine, scattered houses surrounding the golf course about the spit but remain relatively subservient in the context of the dominant patterns and processes of the coastal environment.

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 | dynamic series of sandy shoals and islands projecting out into the CMA creating a gateway to the Whangapoua Harbour.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics



Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | despite the presence of isolated dwellings and pasture, 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.

Experiential Attributes | archetypal spit landform at the junction of the harbour and open sea.

Context / Setting | direct influence of harbour entrance, and expansive open water body of Whangapoua Harbour. Proximity to Matarangi settlement is visually and physically separated by littoral pines.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | combination of dune spit and tidal harbour and Matarangi Beach including variation resulting from atmospheric conditions, time of day/year, tide and wildlife. Presence of wading birds and sea birds.

Night-time Values | a high degree of naturalness is derived from limited exposure to lights within the unit given the absence of dwellings and structures - pines within golf course visually and physically separate the unit from Matarangi settlement.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics



Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

HIGH