



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | intact sequence of steep coastal ridges and escarpments – part of a broader sequence of ridges and hill country rising up to Black Jack Hill and Waitaia. Includes a series of small stony beaches interspersed by craggy cliffs and rock platforms.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | sequence of remnant coastal forest and windswept scrub cover the ridges and slopes which reinforce underlying topography.

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

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | devoid of buildings and structures – adjacent road corridor and forestry impacts on the cohesion and naturalness of the coastal environment.

Habitat Value | varied forest habitat benefiting from low modification, extensive indigenous vegetation cover and exposed coastal landform.

Natural Processes | highly expressive landform and interaction with the sea; strong backdrop to the northern end of Kuaotunu.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics



Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | despite nearby dwellings located outside the unit, the extensive vegetation cover and the landforms engagement with the Pacific Ocean impart a sense of wildness.

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

Context / Setting | part of wider sequence of coastal hill country rising up to Black Jack and acting as the gateway to Otama and Opito Bay to the east.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | highly atmospheric interaction with Pacific Ocean, affected by weather and light conditions, time of year / day. Apparent coastal birdlife.

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. 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