



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

- Landforms** | largely intact sequence of steep coastal escarpments between Kauwera and Papatai Point including a conspicuous weathered rock field that covers its slopes, forming a distinctive shoreline of basalt boulders. A series of rocky outcrops punctuate the relatively uniform shoreline (Tokarahu Point).
- Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns** | pasture dominates the headland and coastal escarpments while windswept coastal scrub and remnant pohutukawa line the coastal edge. Spinifex and Pingao dune grasses cover the fore dunes to the back of Opito Bay Beach.
- 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 – the open areas of pasture become subservient to the interplay of landforms, escarpments, exposed cliffs and the open waters of the Pacific Ocean.
- Habitat Value** | varied shoreline habitat resulting from boulder beaches, remnant coastal forest, steep craggy shoreline, and island formations.
- Natural Processes** | strongly expressed coastal processes evident in the sequence of landforms and their dramatic interaction with the Pacific Ocean. The basalt rock fields and exposed andesite reliefs are expressive of the landscapes formative processes.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics



Perceptual Characteristics

- Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness** | absence of building and structures and the raw and exposed character of the coastal environment impart a strong sense of wildness.
- Experiential Attributes** | the raw and exposed character of the coastal environment is accentuated by the field of weathered boulders, exposed andesite reliefs on the western headland as well as the relationship with the Pacific Ocean all contributing to a very endemic landscape.
- Context / Setting** | part of broader sequence of coastal hill country that forms Kauwera Point characterised by pastoral / farming activities – natural elements, patterns and processes are less prevalent further inland.
- Transient / Dynamic Attributes** | variations resulting from atmospheric conditions, time of day/year, tides, and wildlife reinforce the landscapes natural processes.
- 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.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics



Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

**HIGH**