



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | extensive intact sequence of headlands, ridges and valleys with moderate to high relief, exposed weathered cliffs and escarpments, predominately rocky shoreline interspersed by three sandy bays (Sandy, Horseshoe & Double Bay).

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | a contiguous swath of regenerating to mature coastal forest covers the upper slopes and valleys giving way to coastal shrubland on exposed peaks and escarpments.

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 | essentially devoid of buildings and structures with some access tracks.

Habitat Value | very diverse coastal habitat due to the contiguous coverage of indigenous vegetation and intact coastal landform – limited human presence.

Natural Processes | exposed cliffs and outcrops of the landform reveal their underlying geology and are expressive of the landscapes formative processes. The interplay of mature indigenous forest and the vegetative sequence from coastal scrubland to coastal forest, combined with rocky outcrops reinforces the topography and pronounced relief of the landform.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics



Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | The absence of modification, contiguous swathe of coastal scrubland and podocarp forest on mid to upper slopes, terminating with jagged rocky outcrops and coastal bluffs, accentuates the landscapes pronounced relief and imparts a strong sense of wildness.

Experiential Attributes | entirely natural wilderness experience informed by very clearly articulated sequence of hill and river valley topography combined with forest remnants and natural coastal margins to create a very clearly structured and patterned hill country and coastal landscape. The whole landscape has a very strong endemic signature.

Context / Setting | the unit is part of a broader sequence of ridges and valleys covered indigenous vegetation that extent up to Waitaia.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | Interplay of land and Ocean including variation resulting from atmospheric conditions, time of day / year, tide and wildlife. Wading and sea birds prevalent.

Night-time Values | very high 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)

OUTSTANDING