



0 1 2KM
 — Outstanding Natural Character Area
 — High Natural Character Area



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | sequence of small coastal headlands, ridges and valleys with moderate to high relief flanking the elevated peak of Maungatawhiri – shoreline includes exposed weathered cliffs and escarpments and the extensive ocean sandy beach of Whauwhau Beach.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | the lower slopes of Maungatawhiri are predominantly covered in pasture with regenerating forest in valleys and along the steep coastal slopes. This gives way to extensive remnant and regenerating forest on upper slopes of Maungatawhiri and the northern slopes of the character unit.

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 | isolated dwelling with some access tracks scattered across the unit which are subservient in the context of the coastal environment due to a predominance of natural elements patterns and processes.

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

Natural Processes | 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 as well as coastal erosion, wind exposure which are expressive of coastal natural processes.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics



Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | despite a degree of modification due pastoral landuse and the presence of several dwellings the unit retains a sense of remoteness due to its amalgam of intact coastal landforms, extensive forest cover and pronounced relief of Maungatawhiri.

Experiential Attributes | signature Coromandel landscape combining key elements of bush, coastal fringe, elevated peaks / coastal escarpments. An iconic landscape.

Context / Setting | the unit is part of a broader sequence of ridges and valleys covered indigenous vegetation that extent north to Waitaia. Remains relatively distinguishable from nearby Wharekaho Beach settlement.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | interplay of land and Ocean including variation resulting from atmospheric conditions, time of day / year, tide and wildlife.

Night-time Values | very high naturalness is derived from limited exposure to lights within the unit given the limited number and isolation of dwellings.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics



Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

HIGH