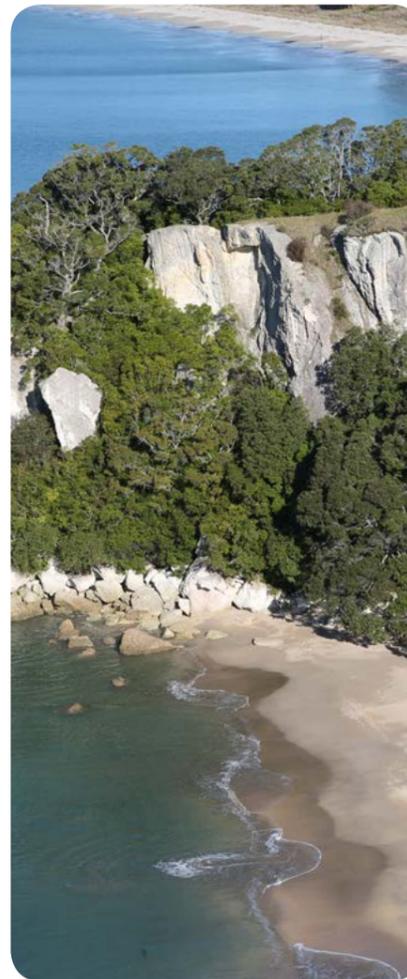




0 0.25KM

— Outstanding Natural Character Area
— High Natural Character Area



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | intact very prominent headland feature together with cliffs / promontories & coves - pumice rich volcanic rock gives the Cliffs their distinctive white appearance, which is synonymous with much of the adjoining eastern coastline. Includes Flaxmill and Cook Stream outlets and associated beach area adjacent to Cook Bluff.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | largely covered remnant and regenerating coastal forest with a small grassed reserve atop of the headland. Windswept coastal scrub and remnant pohutukawa line the coastal edge.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | the cliffs maintain a direct and highly expressive interaction with Mercury Bay, providing a dramatic setting that defines the coastal landscape.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | devoid of buildings – small lookout platforms, gravel access and carpark area.

Habitat Value | clearly defined matrix of indigenous forest descending into rocky outcrops and sandy beaches.

Natural Processes | strongly expressed coastal processes are evident in the dramatic interface between the line of cliffs, enclosed beach area, and the Pacific Ocean. The clear pattern and structure of the landforms is positively reinforced by vegetation patterns.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics

□ □ □ □ □
Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | the absence of development / modification , amalgam of sculpted landforms, windswept and remnant coastal forest / scrub land, the dynamic and obvious natural processes at play along the coastline impart a sense of remoteness and wildness.

Experiential Attributes | the coastal environment incorporates an iconic amalgam of natural elements, coastal features and processes that have a high degree of cohesion, structure, and patterning, as well as considerable diversity. The prominent forested landforms enclosing Lonely Bay create a sense of intimacy, devoid of human activity.

Context / Setting | part of a broader sequence of distinctive ignimbrite rock features along the coastline. Proximity to Cook Beach and Maramaratotara Bay settlements affects perceived intact of the coastal environments margins.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | coastal erosion, tidal processes, seasonal change, atmospheric conditions, and windswept vegetation combine to create a dynamic interplay between this landform and the Pacific Ocean.

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 within. Intactness of units margins affected by adjoin settlements.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics

□ □ □ □ □
Very Low.....Very High

Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

HIGH