



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

- Landforms** | amalgam of intact coastal landforms, rocky outcrops, bluffs and shoals; backed by pastoral rolling hills with moderate relief. The landform is highly expressive of formative processes and coastal erosion.
- Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns** | regenerating and remnant native coastal bush characterise the valleys and reinforce underlying topography. The interplay of remnant pockets of vegetation with surrounding pasture, impart a strong sense of naturalness. A mixture of coastal scrub, mature Pohutakawa and wilding pines occupy the steep and eroding coastal slopes.
- Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies** | the flat expanse of the Firth of Thames interacts with and amplifies the relief of the landform.
- Land Uses / Activities / Structure** | despite the presence of dwellings, roads, power lines, wilding pines, pasture, and fence lines, the coastal exposure and legibility of landform imbue a sense of naturalness.
- Habitat Value** | landform relief, vegetation cover and the rocky shore provide a broad range of habitat types.
- Natural Processes** | coastal landforms expressive of formative processes. The rocky shoreline, steep slopes and indigenous vegetation patterns reinforce topography, and exposure.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics

 Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

- Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness** | the units connection with the Firth of Thames, absence of built form, regenerating native forest and expressive landform provide a sense of wilderness.
- Experiential Attributes** | characteristics clearly linked with the area's exposure to the Firth of Thames, elevated landform, endemic vegetation and rugged appearance.
- Context / Setting** | part of a wider sequence of pastoral hills with regenerating native forest in valleys. Limited presence of buildings and structures imparts a sense of remoteness.
- Transient / Dynamic Attributes** | the landform directly engages with the tidal rhythm of the Firth of Thames as well as exhibiting ephemeral qualities resulting from atmospheric conditions, variations of day / year and wildlife.
- Night-time Values** | high degree of naturalness is derived from limited exposure to lights given the absence of dwellings and structures. Proximity to SH25 and nearby dwellings have an impact on the perceived intactness of the coastal environment.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics

 Very Low.....Very High

Overall Natural Character Evaluation
 (Biophysical and Perceptual Values) HIGH