



0 0.75KM

— Outstanding Natural Character Area  
— High Natural Character Area



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

**Landforms** | assemblage of offshore island landforms comprised primarily of volcanic rock which rises sharply from surface of the sea. Bare rock escarpments / headlands / slopes & islets characterise the islands coastal edge.

**Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns** | small pockets of windswept remnant indigenous shrubland & bush cling to the tops and slopes of the Islands while the more exposed cliffs and escarpments remain bare.

**Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies** | the open waters of the Pacific Ocean and Mercury provide a dramatic setting and defines the island landscape.

**Land Uses / Activities / Structure** | no human activities or structures exist or are apparent on the Islands.

**Habitat Value** | provides significant habitat due to sequence of coastal habitat types and isolation from mainland.

**Natural Processes** | exposed highly weathered cliffs and craggy rock formations reveal their underlying geology along with and windswept indigenous vegetation are expressive of the landscapes formative processes.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

**Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness** | the unmodified state of these islands together with the sculpted rocky landforms and battered vegetation are both highly dramatic and expressive of coastal processes while their exposed position and atmospheric conditions at the entry to Mercury Bay heighten the remote, raw and wild character of the islands.

**Experiential Attributes** | completely unmodified rocky islands with a character that expresses both natural processes and evokes a strong sense of being divorced from human activity. Their sculpted rocky landforms and battered vegetation are both highly dramatic and heighten the sense of coastal exposure.

**Context / Setting** | the open surface of the Pacific Ocean and Mercury Bay provides a dramatic setting and defines the island landscape

**Transient / Dynamic Attributes** | interplay of island landform, exposed slopes and open waters of the Pacific Ocean including variation resulting from weather and light conditions, time of year / day.

**Night-time Values** | a very high degree of naturalness is derived from the islands distance away from nearby settlement at Hahei.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

**OUTSTANDING**