HEREHERETAURA POINT TO PUPUHA POINT COASTLINE   UNIT NO: 72

Outstanding Natural Character Area
High Natural Character Area

0   0.25   0.5KM

NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | prominent sequence of Rhyolite headlands, promontories, escarpments, bluffs and rocky outcrops east and south of Hahei – sheer sculpted cliffs jut out into the sea and flank a series of coves and stony/ boulder bays.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | largely dominated by pasture atop of the cliff face with patches of indigenous coastal shrubland covering its margins – remnant pohutukawa cling to the cliff edges.

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

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | devoid of buildings and structures. Open pasture reverting to gorse and coastal scrub atop of the cliff face - this modification impacts of the perceived naturalness of the coastal, however the intact and prominent headland landforms remain dominant elements within the coastal environment.

Habitat Value | cliff edge habitat with indigenous remnant forest descending into rocky outcrops.

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

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics

Very Low..................Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | distinct eroded cliff landforms, indigenous vegetation and consistent weathering and patterning from coastal exposure impart a sense of remoteness and wildness despite the proximity of nearby houses and pine forestry.

Experiential Attributes | the coastal environment incorporates an amalgam of natural elements, coastal features and processes that have a high degree of cohesion, structure, and patterning. The prominence and height of the landforms encloses several coves which create a sense of intimacy, devoid of human activity.

Context / Setting | much of the coastal hinterland behind the cliffs has been cleared and are in pasture and pine forestry. A number of residential properties and associated roads, buildings and plantings are setback from the headlands and are orientated towards the Pacific - this modification negatively impact of the naturalness 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.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics

Very Low..................Very High

Overall Natural Character Evaluation
(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

HIGH