



0 0.5 1KM

— Outstanding Natural Character Area
— High Natural Character Area



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | prominent sequence of Rhyolite headlands, promontories, escarpments, bluffs and rocky outcrops adjoin the north end of Hotwater Beach – an expansive ocean beach & Holocene dune system demarcated by river corridors at each end a prominent knoll at the southern end.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | cliff tops largely dominated by pasture and pines with patches of indigenous coastal shrubland – remnant pohutukawa cling to the cliff edges. Spinifex and pingao dune grasses cover the vast majority of the extensive dune sequence, particularly the fore dune and exposed back dunes.

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. Dynamic interplay of the ebb and flow of the ocean, hot water beach and the ephemeral natural of the Huruhurutakimo Stream salt marshes.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | devoid of buildings and structures. Open pasture and sculpted pine plantations 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 | diverse range of habitat types ranging from cliff edge habitat with indigenous remnant forest descending into rocky outcrops to the expansive sand dune system backing Hot Water Beach.

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

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, elevated dune sequence impart a sense of remoteness and wildness despite the proximity of nearby houses and pine forestry.

Experiential Attributes | the presence of natural thermal hot springs accessible two hours either side of low tide, tidal processes, atmospheric conditions, times of day/year and presence of wading birds, all express the highly dynamic natural processes at play in this environment.

Context / Setting | much of the coastal hinterland behind the cliffs and beach 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