



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | sequence of andesite foothills, headlands, escarpments, and extensive rocky shoreline south of Hot Water Beach.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | predominantly covered in remnant and regenerating indigenous coastal forest and shrubland (down to the shoreline in places) interspersed by areas of pasture revealing exposed rock in places.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | steep coastal escarpment and rocky shoreline is highly expressive of the interaction with the Pacific Ocean providing a dramatic setting that defines the coastal landscape.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | devoid of buildings and structures. Patches of pasture are subservient to the interplay of the coastal landform and Pacific Ocean.

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 raw coastal slopes and rocky shoreline and the Pacific Ocean. The clear pattern and structure of the coastal escarpment landform is positively reinforced by vegetation patterns.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics



Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | The combination of raw landforms, remnant forest, prominent rocky coastal features and the landscapes relative isolation imbue this landscape with a strong sense of naturalness, remoteness and wildness.

Experiential Attributes | The coastal outlook and orientation of the elevated coastal escarpment, slopes and valleys falling to the sea, along with the craggy weathered coastal edge results in a dramatic and cohesive coastal landscape abutting the Pacific Ocean.

Context / Setting | remains isolated from HotWater Beach settlement despite its proximity. Part of a broader sequence of coastal hill country extending south toward Otara Bay.

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



Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

HIGH