



0 1KM  
 — Outstanding Natural Character Area  
 — High Natural Character Area



**NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE**

**Biophysical Characteristics**

- Landforms** | extensive sequence of coastal hill country focusing around peaks of Tapuaetahi (277asl) and Kohungahunga (270asl), with steep escarpments and rocky outcrops points, islands and bluffs, as well as a several sandy beaches.
- Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns** | contiguous cover of remnant and regenerating indigenous coastal forest giving way to coastal shrub land on more exposed slopes and extending to the shoreline.
- Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies** | rocky exposed eastern coastline has a strong interaction with the Pacific Ocean. A number of streams and tributaries drain this hill country, running along the base of the deep valleys and gullies to the coast.
- Land Uses / Activities / Structure** | devoid of buildings and structures. Very small patches of pasture are subservient to the interplay of coastal landform, coastal forest and the Pacific Ocean.
- Habitat Value** | diverse and expansive habitat ranging from forested gullies and ridges descending into rocky outcrops and expansive beach areas.
- Natural Processes** | rugged coastal environment highly expressive of the interplay between the rocky coastline and the Pacific Ocean. Windswept vegetation and coastal erosion on steeper slopes and outcrops further reinforces the dynamic natural process at play.

**Rating of Biophysical Characteristics**



**Perceptual Characteristics**

- Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness** | the combination of raw landforms, remnant forest, prominent rocky coastal features and the landscapes isolation imbue this landscape with a strong sense of naturalness, remoteness and wildness.
- Experiential Attributes** | exceptionally dramatic, dynamic distinctive landscape. Highly atmospheric qualities due to isolation and dominance of natural attributes – wild remote qualities strongly expressed.
- Context / Setting** | part of a broader sequence of hill country extending further west. Remains buffered from settlement to the south and west.
- 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)

**OUTSTANDING**