



0 0.75KM

— Outstanding Natural Character Area
— High Natural Character Area



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | extensive steep narrow harbour escarpment (just over 2.5km in length) and rock bluffs flanking the western edge and entrance of Whangamata Harbour– includes the immediate intertidal harbour flats, sandbanks and channels.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | contiguous remnant indigenous coastal forest cover descending to salt marsh & mangroves.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | continuous steep escarpment and bluffs have a strong interaction with the tidal margins and cyclic action of the Whangmata harbour.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | no human activities or built developments are present within this unit.

Habitat Value | sequence of mature and regenerating indigenous coastal forest to tidal estuarine environment.

Natural Processes | columns of exposed rock devoid of vegetation are visible on steeper slopes of the escarpment illustrates erosion of underlying bedrock material of the peninsula combined with the immediate cyclical and ever changing harbour environment is highly expressive of natural coastal processes.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | the combination of raw exposed landforms, continuous coastal forest and direct connections with the estuarine margins of the harbour imbue this landscape with a sense of remoteness and wildness despite the presence of nearby housing.

Experiential Attributes | clearly articulated and dramatic escarpment sequence and its interaction with the harbours tidal flats impart a high degree of naturalness.

Context / Setting | the crest of the escarpment adjacent to the unit consists of exotic forestry which is visible in parts rising above indigenous forest – this negatively affects the perceived naturalness of the coastal environment as a whole. Proximity of moorings within the harbour channel, while very apparent, are subservient to the natural landform and patterns of the escarpment.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | Interplay of land and harbour including variation resulting from atmospheric conditions, time of day / year, tide and wildlife. Wading and sea birds prevalent.

Night-time Values | absence of dwellings and lighting imbue the coastal environment with a sense of naturalness.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics

Very Low.....Very High

Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

HIGH