



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

- Landforms** | very pronounced sequence of headlands, promontories, sheer cliffs and escarpments, rocky outcrops interspersed with coves, sandy beaches and dune systems around the southern coastline of Great Mercury Island.
- Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns** | remnant and regenerating indigenous coastal forest cover with patches of open pasture.
- Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies** | sheer cliffs, promontories, rocky shoreline, and beaches have a strong interaction with the open waters of the Pacific Ocean.
- Land Uses / Activities / Structure** | devoid of building and structures – incorporates patches of open pasture along the margins of the coastal environment.
- Habitat Value** | diverse ranges of habitat including mature and regenerating indigenous coastal forest connected to cliffs, rocky outcrops and beach / dune roosting areas.
- Natural Processes** | dramatic interface between the Islands sheer cliff faces, steep and shallow coastal escarpments, enclosed sandy beaches, and the Pacific Ocean are expressive of coastal processes.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics □ □ □ ■ □
Very Low.....Very High

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 sense of remoteness and wildness despite the presence of production forest behind.
- Experiential Attributes** | exposed and rugged coastal environment with clearly articulated sequence of coastal slopes, beach areas and rocky shoreline, absence of buildings and structures impart a strong sense of naturalness.
- Context / Setting** | unit is backed by production pine forest & pasture which affects the perceived intactness of the coastal environment.
- Transient / Dynamic Attributes** | coastal erosion, tidal processes, seasonal change, atmospheric conditions, and windswept vegetation combine to create a dynamic interplay between the sequence of landforms and the Pacific Ocean.
- Night-time Values** | absence of dwellings and lighting reinforce the perceived intactness of the coastal environment.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics □ □ □ ■ □
Very Low.....Very High

Overall Natural Character Evaluation
(Biophysical and Perceptual Values) **HIGH**