



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

Landforms | largely intact assemblage of prominent headlands, coastal cliffs and escarpments, sandy beaches, craggy bays and reefs. The contrast between the flat profile of the Manaia and Te Kouma Harbours and the sudden rise in elevation of the peninsulas amplify the prominence and relief of the landform.

Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns | extensive mangrove colonies occupy the eastern ends of Manaia Harbour and to a lesser extent Te Kouma Harbour. Pockets of remnant and regenerating forest occupy Hikurangi Point and its upper catchment while pasture interspersed with remnant native forest cover the majority of Te Kouma Head.

Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies | the Manaia and Te Kouma Harbour estuarine environments impart a strong sense of naturalness due to their intactness and evident natural processes.

Land Uses / Activities / Structure | with very little development within the coastal environment, the open areas of pasture become subservient to the interplay of coastal vegetation, landform relief, escarpments, and the open waters of the Coromandel Harbour. Marine farms are starting to have an impact on the intactness of the outer harbour coastal environment.

Habitat Value | high diversity of habitat types and low overall modification of the coastal environment, including expansive estuarine environments, rocky shorelines, and remnant and regenerating coastal forest.

Natural Processes | extensive intertidal harbour areas comprising sequences of mangroves, salt marsh, mudflats, and coastal scrub are expressive of tidal inundation. Rocky shores and sandy beaches on exposed headlands are expressive of coastal erosion.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics



Perceptual Characteristics

Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness | the patterns of regenerating vegetation and the landforms engagement with the vast intertidal flats, mangrove colonies and lack of built development or structures imbue a sense of rawness and wilderness to the coastal environment.

Experiential Attributes | evident coastal processes associated with the exposed nature of the headland landforms and interaction with the more enclosed dynamic tidal variations of the harbours impart a sense of naturalness.

Context / Setting | with very little development within the coastal environment, the open areas of pasture on Te Kourma Head become subservient to the interplay of landforms, remnant coastal forests, escarpments, exposed cliffs and the open waters of Harbours.

Transient / Dynamic Attributes | the headland landforms directly engage with the dynamic ebb and flow of the Harbours, rivers and creeks and display ephemeral qualities resulting from atmospheric conditions, variations of day / year, tide and wildlife.

Night-time Values | high degree of naturalness derived from limited exposure to lights given the absence of dwelling and structures, although proximity to SH25, marine farms and dwellings at Manaia and Te Kourma start to affect the perceived intactness of the coastal environment.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics



Overall Natural Character Evaluation

(Biophysical and Perceptual Values)

