

Appendix B: Main Steps Involved in the Assessment Process

Step 1: Site Familiarisation

- This involved a visit to each of the (then) 20 proposed construction sites and the surrounding area, where access was permitted. The May Road, Keith Hay Park, Frederick Street Pump Station 23 and Haycock Avenue sites were all assessed from adjoining publically accessible areas such as reserves and roads.
- Photographs of each site and its landscape context were also taken and many of these photos were used in the Supporting Figures document which accompanied the written assessment report. In addition, recent aerial photography (flown 2010 and 2011) and one metre ground contours have been available for most sites and these were used to assist in the analysis of potential effects where possible.
- For a number of sites subsequent visits were made to review revisions to the design, make adjustments to the landscape mitigation proposals, refine the assessment of effects and to take additional photos.

Step 2: Document Review

- The assessment of landscape and visual effects report was based on a review of a number of documents which were prepared for the concept design of the Project. In addition, the landscape assessment relied on arboricultural information from Arborlab Consulting Services Ltd which documented the removal of trees and shrubs that will be required at a number of the sites.

Step 3: Site Assessments and Reporting Template

- Utilising the documents provided, and the site survey information gathered, the following approach was used to outline and describe the information and potential effects for each of the site locations, the current land use, access, and any notable features on the site and in the surrounding area, including the potential for views from residential areas, within parkland or other areas.
- *Proposed Construction Site and Works* – this section describes the works that will be undertaken during the period of construction. This was described under the following headings:
 - Landscape and Visual Effects – which describes both the effects on the landscape (i.e. landform, vegetation, watercourses) including where relevant the natural character of the coastal environment and the margins of streams; and the effects on the visual amenity due to the construction works.

- Extent of Visibility and Viewing Audience – which describes the area from which the proposal would be visible, and the different types of viewing audiences.
- Level of Temporary Effects – outlines the magnitude of the temporary effects. As outlined above these effects were separated into:
 - (i) open space and landscape character effects (including natural character and physical landscape effects where relevant); and
 - (ii) visual amenity effects.
- *Permanent Works* – a discussion which describes the completed works and the level of landscape and visual effects. This also included a discussion of:
 - Mitigation Measures – which outlines proposed avoidance and/or mitigation measures for each site; and
 - Level of Long Term Effects – the extent to which effects would continue and their duration.

This scale is:

Very High Adverse Effects	(-5)
High Adverse Effects	(-4)
Moderate Adverse Effects	(-3)
Low Adverse Effects	(-2)
Very Low Adverse Effects	(-1)
Neutral Effects	(0)
Very Small Beneficial Effects	(+1)
Small Beneficial Effects	(+2)
Moderate Beneficial Effects	(+3)
Highly Beneficial Effects	(+4)
Very High Beneficial Effects	(+5)

- For assessment purposes, adverse effects that score -1 and -2 can be considered to be less than minor; whereas a score of -3 can be considered to be minor, and scores of -4 and -5 can be considered to be more than minor.

Step 4: Summary of Site Assessment Effects

- The individual site assessment effects have been collated into two separate tables, one for the Temporary Effects and one for the Permanent Effects using the above rating scale applied across the two types of effects.

Step 5: Landscape and Urban Design Principles

- For the project as a whole, drawing together the range of protected effects and mitigation resources relevant to each site, a set of principles have been outlined to be utilised at the more detailed design phase of the project associated with an Outline Plan of Works, and Site Reinstatement Plans.

Step 6: Summary of Effects

- This provides a summary of the effects and groups these in relation to the various types of sites – primary, secondary (intermediate) and secondary (small).