

Appendix One

Landscape

Areas of Outstanding Landscape Value: Criteria for Selection

The dimensions of landscape are landscape *character* and landscape *quality*.

The analysis of landscape character and quality draws heavily on the visual assessment of particular localities in the Sounds carried out in 1989 and 1990 by the Department of Conservation and in particular, Earl H. Bennett (see references).

Landscape Character

Landscape character can be described and used as a record of what is seen in the environment. It gives the place identity and makes it distinctive. Rather than classifying whether one landscape is better than another, character describes the landform and land cover elements that make up the landscape. It can provide a basis for the comparison of landscapes and can distinguish different landscape areas.

An assessment of the landscape character may identify distinctive landscapes and how changes are most likely to alter the character of any particular landscape.

By delineation of the landscape into individual units of landscape type it may be possible to identify the dominant character of a particular landscape. This can assist by providing a clear point of reference (a description of landscape type or feature) against which land use proposals can be assessed.

Descriptions of landscape character can be divided into the land component and the coastal segments of the landscape unit. The land component is the wider landform and land cover of the landscape unit. The coastal segments are smaller units, usually a narrow band along the land/water edge.

The key expressions of landscape character are:

- 1 **form** = the overall shape of the landscape; the sense of scale; the degree of enclosure or openness apparent to the eye; the cross-section created by significant landforms; the volume or shape of any significant formations or features.
- 2 **line** = trace of a point moving through space; commonly an edge which is perceived where two elements or planes meet; a line can occur along skylines (between sky and landform); along ridgelines (between landforms and backdrop); along shorelines.
- 3 **texture** = the nature of the surface of the landscape; the density of the land cover; the effect of light and shade on land cover and landform; the way individual land surfaces are broken up by vegetation, erosion scarring, rock outcrops or run-off channels; the way the surface of water is affected by tide, rocks, seaweed or wind; the sea bed beneath the water described in terms of smoothness or roughness.
- 4 **pattern** = the way in which features, land cover, form or line are arranged; the series of repetitions of arrangement which establish a pattern over the landscape; the landscape or waterscape could be entirely without pattern - random; or could have a highly regular pattern and appear highly arranged.

- 5 **colour** = the combined colours of land, vegetation, water, and sky which change with the seasons; and the variations of colour within and between the landscape units.

Different kinds of expression can be identified with a range of grades for each of these key expressions. No one kind or gradation is better than the other. They are simply different. Table 1 describes types of landscape character for the overall landscape. Table 2 describes types of landscape character for the **coastal segments** of the landscape.

Within the Sounds it is possible to identify examples of dominant or typical characteristics which contribute significantly to the quality of the landscape. Some of the examples are included in Table 3, Examples of Typical and Significant Sounds Landscape Characteristics.

Landscape Quality

Landscape quality is an evaluative measure of a landscape unit in comparison with other units within a region. From this, a range of values can be derived. Quality also provides a measure of the vulnerability of particular landscapes to different types of change and how important those landscapes are to a region.

The key indicators of quality are:

- 1 **Vulnerability** indicated by:
 - Lack of structures = a measure of how unmodified the landscape is by structures; the presence or absence of settlements, roads, visible utility services, built structures on land or on the surface of water;
 - Naturalness = the degree of modification to natural character; modification to landform and indigenous vegetation; the presence or absence of exotic species and crops;
 - Extent of sensitive areas = the presence or absence of **visually** sensitive areas; areas which are important to the visual character of the landscape; areas which might occur as patches of indigenous vegetation or the curve of a beach, the skyline, a landform peak, a ridge line or saddle; and
 - Memorableness = a measure of how strong an impression it leaves in the mind; a measure of whether the visual experience of the coastline is memorable or forgettable.
- 2 **Importance** indicated by:
 - Rarity = a measure of how unique a landscape is; a comparison with the rest of the area being studied; a measure of the value as an example of its kind; and
 - Coherence = the visual unity or harmony between the elements of a particular landscape; a measure of how well the landscape "hangs together"; the presence of deviations or unusual features which stand out from the background character - examples might be wilding pines within predominantly indigenous vegetation or a jetty perpendicular to a curved beach or a firebreak cut down a hill face.

3 **Visiblness** indicated by:

- Visiblness = the visibility of the landscape from human vantage points such as state highways, other roads, scenic routes, walkways, recreation areas, major boating channels, camping areas or settlements. This contributes to the overall significance of the landscape unit and is used to modify vulnerability and importance attributes in the interpretative process.

Each indicator of quality can be divided into gradations from “low” to “high” as described in Table 4 Landscape Quality (Coastal Segments within Landscape Units) and Table 5 Landscape Quality (Overall Landscape Unit).

Outstanding Landscapes

In terms of the VAMPLAN methodology used in the source documents, landscapes which are likely to warrant extreme control and preservation management regimes are those which have high indicators of quality in one or more of the quality indicators. Landscapes which are likely to warrant strict control and preservation-oriented management regimes are generally those which have moderate-high indicators of quality and/or high in ranking in one or several key indicators.

Interpretation of the landscape studies’ findings is that outstanding landscapes are those which equate with those needing extreme control and preservation management and are at one high end of the scale. Therefore, outstanding landscapes can be defined as being:

Outstanding landscapes = landscapes exhibiting high quality in one or more indicators which might be expressed as landscapes which have the following characteristics:

- None or very few structures, roads or excavated tracks;
- Existing development is insignificant or small scale or well camouflaged from view from major routes, waterways and public areas;
- None or very little modification of natural landform or indigenous vegetation;
- Very distinct natural character;
- None or very little apparent modification of the land/water shoreline;
- Very few exotic species apparent;
- The coastal segment is unforgettable and remains distinct in the memory;
- Many visually sensitive areas or large areas that are visually sensitive;
- Uniqueness with no or very few similar landscapes within the region;
- Very clear harmony in the landscape;
- Strong coherence in the landscape;
- Very few negative, or out-of-character, deviations from overall coherence; and
- Highly visible or easily seen from major population centres, roads, waterways, scenic areas, recreation areas or settlements.

The higher the rating in all Quality attributes the greater the likelihood of having a significance to the Marlborough Sounds area. For example, for a landscape which is a good example of its kind and is highly visible, development is likely to seriously compromise landscape value.

Assessing Effects of Proposed Changes in the Landscape

Effects on the landscape should be assessed in terms of their effects on *quality and character*. The key is to identify what the significant characteristics are within the landscape unit; then to assess the effects of the location and land use change on those characteristics in terms of the indicators of quality.

The evaluation will help determine whether the effects of a proposed change will be positive, neutral or negative examples and what levels and kinds of management is appropriate and/or required.

Evaluation criteria may include:

- Will it add a significant level of structures or roading to the landscape?
- Will it compromise natural landform by modifying elements of the landscape?
- Will it reduce the area of or degrade the significance of any indigenous vegetation?
- Will it compromise the natural character of the coastal edge through modification by artificial structures or land disturbance?
- Will it alter the landscape in such a way that the landscape's unique status is compromised?
- Will it introduce into the landscape a feature, activity, form, line, or texture which is incongruous with the dominant character and coherence of the landscape?
- Will it introduce into the landscape a feature, activity, form, line, or texture which enhances or improves the overall coherence of the landscape?

References

- Department of Conservation 'Marlborough Sounds Draft Landscape Assessment: Selected Sites' Earl H. Bennett, Landscape Architect, July 1989.
- Department of Conservation (Nelson) 'Marlborough Sounds Visual Impacts of Coastal Development - Selected Locations' Earl H. Bennett, FNZILA, Landscape Architect, June 1990 (principal report and appendices).
- Department of Conservation (Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy) 'Draft Regional Landscape Assessment' Sissons and Conway Ltd, June 1993 (a draft unpublished report).

Table 1: Types of Landscape Character (Overall Landscape)

| Primary Expression | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| Form - Enclosure scale character of the overall landscape unit and degree of enclosure apparent from normal eye level | low enclosure = virtually no sense of enclosure or visual containment; expansive, open landscape | moderate-low enclosure = visual enclosure is indistinct; weak enclosure | moderate enclosure = visual containment is apparent but not dominant | moderate-high enclosure = strong sense of enclosure; visual containment is dominant | high enclosure = visual containment is immediate; very strong sense of enclosure | |
| Form - Perceived Cross-Section two-dimensional representation of general cross-section of landscape unit | flat | gently curving | curving | distinct sides or walls | narrow V-shape | |
| Form - Volume the shape of any significant three-dimensional formations found within landscape unit | spherical | truncated conical or cone shape | cone shape | pyramid shape | truncated pyramid shape | |
| Line the alignment of line occurring where two edges meet; along skylines, ridgetines, shorelines | straight | smoothly curved | sharply curved | angular | broken or branching | |
| Texture the nature of the surface of the landscape which results from the effect of light and shade on land cover and determined by the way individual surfaces are broken up by vegetation, erosion scars, rock outcrops, run-off channels | smooth or fine = consistently very small individual components relative to overall size of landscape unit | medium-smooth or medium-fine = small components having limited variety in size and shape | medium-smooth or medium-fine = moderately-sized components relative to the size of the overall landscape unit and limited variety in size and shape | medium-rough or medium-coarse = large individual components having variety in size and shape | rough or coarse = very large individual components relative to the overall landscape unit's size and great variety in their size and shape | |
| Pattern the series of repetitions in a landscape which creates recognisable regularity or landform or vegetation or other characteristic; often recognised as a series of two dimensional shapes | geometric = largely rectangular shapes having apparently similar outline and shape in a very regular pattern | consistent = shapes having similar outline even though sizes may vary; occurring in a regular pattern | random = a mixture of shapes and sizes but with limited variety; with some regularity of pattern | irregular = a variety of shapes and sizes with no regularity of pattern | very irregular = a great variety of shapes and sizes; few repetitions of many different shapes and sizes | |
| Colour derived from the land and vegetative cover; with changes in colour occurring with the seasons | | | | | | |

Table 2: Types of Landscape Character (Coastal Segments Within Landscape Units)

| Primary Expression | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| Form - Enclosure scale character of the coastal segment and degree of enclosure apparent from normal eye level | low enclosure = virtually no sense of enclosure or visual containment; expansive, open landscape flat | moderate-low enclosure = visual enclosure is indistinct; weak enclosure dominant | moderate enclosure = visual containment is apparent but not dominant | moderate-high enclosure = strong sense of enclosure visual containment is dominant | high enclosure = visual containment is immediate; very strong sense of enclosure |
| Form - Cross-Section two-dimensional representation of general cross-section of coastal segment | gentle slope | low hills/dunes | steep hills | cliffs or bluffs | |
| Line - Detail of Edge the edge between water and land | straight | smoothly curved | sharp | angular | broken |
| Line - Edge Alignment the overall alignment of the land/water edge within the coastal segment | straight | gentle | smooth | sharp | sinuous |
| Line - Edge Regularity regularity of pattern of the line of the land/water edge | regular | consistent | random | irregular | intricate |
| Texture - Water Component a measure of the visual breaking-up of the water surface; the roughness of the water surface caused by movement and/or the presence of rocks and other objects | smooth or fine = flat, unbroken surface; little apparent movement; no protruding rocks | medium-fine = essentially unbroken surface; some ripples or small waves; very few protruding rocks or other objects | medium = water surface is broken by eddies and waves; some protruding rocks and other surface interruptions | medium-coarse = water surface broken by larger waves; some white water; many interruptions to the surface | coarse = very broken water surface; a great deal of white water; many surface interruptions |
| Texture - Land Component the nature of the surface of the land component of the coastal segment; results from the effect of light and shade on land cover and determined by the way individual surfaces are broken up by vegetation, erosion scars, rock outcrops, run-off channels | smooth or fine = individual components are very consistently small relative to overall coastal segment; | medium-fine = individual components are relatively small; limited variety in size and/or shape | medium = individual components area moderate in size; limited variety in size and/or shape | medium-coarse = individual components are relatively large; some variety in size and/or shape | coarse = individual components are very large; great variety in size and/or shape |
| Pattern - Water Component the series of repetitions that creates a recognisable regularity of arrangement of water; the pattern that derives from the arrangement of natural and artificial elements | geometric = geometric shapes; very regular | consistent = shapes of similar outline but varying sizes; regular pattern | random = mixture of shapes and sizes; no apparent regularity | irregular = variety of shapes and sizes; no apparent regularity | very irregular = a great variety of shapes and sizes; few repetitions of many objects |
| Pattern - Land Component the series of repetitions in a landscape which creates recognisable regularity or landform or vegetation or other characteristic; often recognised as a series of two- dimensional shapes; applied only to the land component of the coastal segment | geometric = largely rectangular shapes having apparently similar outline and shape in a very regular pattern | consistent = shapes having similar outline even though sizes may vary; occurring in a regular pattern | random = a mixture of shapes and sizes but with limited variety; with some regularity of pattern | irregular = a variety of shapes and sizes with no regularity of pattern | very irregular = a great variety of shapes and sizes; few repetitions of many different shapes and sizes |

| Example of Characteristic | Reason for Significance | Activity Types Having Greatest Potential Impact |
|--|---|--|
| Prominent headlands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a point of focus and visual presence (a visually sensitive area); • Contribute to enclosure of landscape units; • Provide distinct division between landscape units; | Form and texture changes: eg structures, pylons, land disturbance, vegetation clearance, vegetation changes |
| Spurs, ridges, and steep hillsides | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the backdrop to landscape units and contribute strongly to visual enclosure; • Give strong lines to landscape; • Define the shape of the cross-section of valleys; • Provide the pattern of hills and valleys in the landscape; | Form and line changes: eg structures, pylons, land tracks and roads, vegetation disturbance, clearance, utility network lines, shelterbelts |
| Significant landform peaks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be visible from long distances and from many angles; • Define the cross sectioncross-section of the broader landscape; • Strongly define the shape of the landscape unit; • Contribute to the natural pattern of the landscape; | Form and line changes: eg structures, pylons, land disturbance, tracks and roads, vegetation clearance, utility network lines, shelterbelts |
| Skylines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the predominant line of the landscape; • Are highly visible and dominate the landscape such that contrasting land use changes visible there significantly deviate from the natural line; • Colours at the skyline edge are consistent either side of the line and contrasting colours which are visible there significantly interrupt line and colour coherence; | Line changes: eg structures located on skylines, utility network lines, pylons, shelterbelts, vegetation clearance at skyline |
| Horizon/water interface viewed to open sea | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define a strong line to the waterscape; • Are highly visible and dominate the landscape such that contrasting land use changes visible there significantly deviate from the natural line; • Colours at the horizon are consistent either side of the line and contrasting-coloured structures which are visible there significantly interrupt line and colour coherence; • The horizon defines the clear flat plane of the coastal element of the landscape; | Line changes: eg structures in coastal marine area, utility network lines |
| Water surface | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defines the flat plane cross sectioncross-section of the coastal element of landscape; • Provides a mirror to the land; • Provides variety and changing colour and light reflection; • Its texture varies with tide and weather and seabed changes but is generally consistent over large areas such that changes which introduce contrasting texture (fixed structures) can significantly interrupt the coherence of natural texture; • Variations in seabed, tide, weather, and light create water patterns which are vulnerable to change by contrasting structures or features; | Texture and colour changes: eg structures in coastal marine area, disturbance of seabed and tidal areas, floating structures on water surface |
| Shorelines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a point of intense interest at the water/ land interface and are visually sensitive areas; • Highly visible from usual vantage points; • Highly accessible from water therefore highly visible; • Strongly defines the linear edge of the landscape's coastal/land interface; • Establish pattern in the regularity of the curve or straightness of the shore edge; | Line and form changes: eg structures in coastal marine area, structures on land, utility network lines, vegetation clearance, land disturbance Water based activities |

| Example of Characteristic | Reason for Significance | Activity Types Having Greatest Potential Impact |
|---|---|---|
| Small coves | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly enclose parts of the landscape; • Provide a human scale when viewed from the water; • Features within the cove can be visually contained within the cove; • Establish curved lines at the land/water edge; • Establish pattern of a series of indented or curved beaches and headlands • Contribute to the intricacy of the alignment of the coastline (an individual cove may be one of a series of coves important for the pattern they create in their natural state and may need to be judged in a wider context than just within the cove itself); | Form, line, and pattern changes: eg structures on land, structures in coastal marine area, land disturbance, utility network lines |
| Significant areas of indigenous vegetation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly define the unique New Zealand texture of the land cover; • Establish natural patterns in their coverage of landform, flowing with the topography of the landscape; • Create soft edges at ridgelines, skylines, shorelines, and at edges with other vegetation; • Contributes to visual enclosure of individual coves; • Strongly define the muted green colour of the landscape and its reflection in water; • Significant in contributing to coherence of landscape; | Texture, pattern and colour changes: eg vegetation clearance, land disturbance, structures |
| Areas of re-growth scrub | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defines unique New Zealand texture and pattern as low cover over landform; | Texture pattern and colour changes: eg vegetation clearance, land disturbance, structures |
| Scattered small baches and jetties, where small and unobtrusive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occur as positive deviations in the landscape; • Add visual interest and activity to the landscape; • Contribute to variety in the texture of the landscape; • Create a visual pattern depending on their distribution | Texture pattern and colour changes: eg large obtrusive structures prominently sited |
| Distinctive drowned valleys | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide clear U-shaped and V-shaped cross-section; • Provide open and expansive (super-human) landscape scale; • Provide distinctive pattern in ridge lines and valleys | Form and pattern changes: eg land disturbance, utility network lines |
| Flat valley floors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly define the cross section having distinct sides and floor; • Provide open, expansive landscape, and large scale (larger than human scale); | Form changes: eg storage of materials, landform changes, macro-scale utility network structures. |
| Pasture on valley floors and hill slopes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defines particular fine texture of landscape; • Provides distinct colour and contrast; • Often accompanied by paddock fences which provide a geometric pattern and linear edges; | Texture changes: eg land disturbance, vegetation change |
| Coastal cliffs and bluffs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define a strong edge to the coastline; • Create a blunt linear edge to the cross-section of the landscape at the land/water interface; • The detail of the skyline and land/water edge created at cliff edges and cliff bottoms is often intricate and establishes distinctive pattern at the coastal edge; • Often define the visual "front door" of the Sounds and are therefore visually significant and sensitive; • Highly visual from long distances at sea and therefore visually significant and sensitive; • Rugged appearance of land creates distinctive surface texture which is generally fine and consistent across the face of the cliff with distinctive rocks and varied texture at cliff bottoms | Line, pattern and colour changes: eg structures, vegetation change, land disturbance water discolouration. |

| Example of Characteristic | Reason for Significance | Activity Types Having Greatest Potential Impact |
|---|--|---|
| Tidal narrows and passes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are visually significant in themselves as events and as visually sensitive areas; • There are few known locations so their rarity value is significant; • Contribute strongly their own particular water texture as tide changes; | Texture changes: eg structures in coastal marine area |
| Exotic (pine) plantations shelter belts wood lots | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute their own distinctive uniform texture to the landscape; • Create sharp lines of contrast with other land cover; • Contribute a different colour to land with reflection to water; • Establishes variety of patterns depending on the landform and the shape of boundaries and edges and age of trees and size of plantation; | Texture, pattern and colour changes: eg vegetation clearance, vegetation change, land disturbance, and water discolouration. |
| Fire breaks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define strong lines through and across landscape; • Occur as negative deviations to overall coherence of land cover and landscape pattern; • Are highly visible, often from large distances, and are therefore visually significant depending on the degree of re-growth; | Line changes: eg; vegetation change |
| Tree Exotics (eg; Wilding Pines) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolated clumps of exotics exotics/riparian trees/rogue exotics can occur as negative deviation to overall coherence of landscape; | Texture and colour changes of exotic plantations |
| Rock Outcrops | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedrock formations which extend out of the land or land/sea interface; • Contribute to variety and diversity of landform and natural pattern of landscape; | Texture, form and line changes: eg land disturbance structures, vegetation changes utilities |
| Islands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller landforms and associated features associated within the waterscape; • Occur as positive features which add detail to landscape and are focal points which are of significant visual interest; | Form and line changes: eg land disturbance, structures, utilities |
| Homesteads and Farm Structures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structures which are scattered throughout sounds rural landscape which add variety and interest to landscape; • Contribute to variety in the texture, pattern and colour of landscape, and a strong focus from the surrounding landscape and waterscape; | Texture, pattern and colour changes: eg vegetation change, location and scale of structural additions |
| Pastoral Landscape | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defines pastoral rural landscape area and contrasts strongly with scrub and tree crops; • Provides a clear expression of landforms and can significantly interrupt or be interrupted by areas of scrub and forest; • Has no capacity to camouflage structures, tracks, utilities. | Texture and pattern changes: eg vegetation change, land disturbance. |

Table 4: Landscape Quality (Overall Landscape Unit)

| Criterion | | low = | moderate-low = | moderate = | moderate-high = | high = |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| Determines Vulnerability of Landscape | Lack of Structures a measure of how unmodified the landscape is in terms of settlements, roads, visible utility services | a great number of structures and extensive road and service networks | many structures and a well-developed road and service network | several structures and roads | a few structures or roads | very few structures or roads; any existing development is insignificant or small-scale |
| Determines Vulnerability of Landscape | Naturalness a measure of how modified the landform or vegetation of the landscape is | low = great deal of modification to landform and/or vegetation | moderate-low = modification of landform and/or vegetation is obvious; exotic vegetation dominates | moderate = some modification of landform and/or vegetation is apparent; native vegetation need not dominate | moderate-high = little apparent modification of landform and/or vegetation; a dominance of native vegetation is apparent; few exotics | high = very little apparent modification of landform and/or vegetation; very few obvious exotics |
| Determines Vulnerability of Landscape | Extent of Sensitive Areas an indicator of the presence of visually sensitive areas; usually occur at shoreline edges, on skylines, at peaks, near conspicuous landscape features, at saddles, at foci of strong visual axes, within framed views, at areas that form settings to towns, at areas of scenic quality eg; reserves | low = no or very few areas of sensitivity | moderate-low = very few areas of sensitivity; all small in size | moderate = limited number and size of areas of sensitivity | moderate-high = several areas of sensitivity | high = many or extensive areas of sensitivity |
| Determines Importance of Landscape | Rarity a measure of how common or uncommon a landscape unit is; compares particular landscape character within area of study | low = many similar units | moderate-low = several similar units | moderate = a limited number of similar units | moderate-high = very few other similar landscape units | high = the landscape unit is unique or distinctive in the study area |
| Determines Importance of Landscape | Coherence a measure of visual unity; of how well the landscape "hangs together" visually; level of harmony evident in the components of the landscape (the elements and expressions); deviations from coherence would occur as unusual visual events or features which could be positive or negative in the context of the landscape unit | low = obvious lack of harmony; obvious negative deviations from any pattern | moderate-low = some disharmony; presence of some negative deviations from patterns | moderate = some harmony; few negative deviations | moderate-high = harmonious relationship between elements and expressions of landscape; readily-apparent unity; limited negative deviations | high = very harmonious relationship; high level of unity; nil or very few negative deviations |

Table 4 (cont): Landscape Quality (Overall Landscape Unit)

| Criterion | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Determines Visiblteness | <p>low = not visible from settlements of transport routes</p> <p>moderate-low = visible from small settlements, minor roads, or minor walking tracks</p> <p>moderate = visible from secondary routes, railways, small settlements; readily accessible from major population centres and primary transport routes, scenic routes, recreation areas or major walking tracks</p> <p>moderate-high = close to and visible from major population centres, primary transport routes, scenic areas or recreation areas or major walking tracks</p> <p>high = very close to or easily seen from or surrounding major population centres, primary transport routes, scenic areas or recreation areas</p> |
| Criterion | <p>Visiblteness determined by the visibility of the landscape unit from or proximity to state highways; scenic routes; country roads; principal access routes to national parks and forest parks or major recreational areas or major camping areas or population centres; rail routes; walkways and walking tracks; settlements; major recreation areas eg; camping, water sports</p> |

Table 5: Landscape Quality (Coastal Segments Within Landscape Units)

| | | Criterion | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| Determines Vulnerability of Landscape | Lack of Structures a measure of how unmodified the landscape is in terms of settlements, roads, visible utility services | low = the land/water edge is completely structured; eg; may be concrete-lined or have geometrically-shaped stopbanks | moderate-low = the land/water edge has obvious structure; eg; extensive rip-rap or groynes | moderate = several structures are apparent; some edge protection and/.or small structures in the water component | moderate-high = few structures; very limited edge protection | high = very few apparent structures; any existing structures are insignificant, not visible, or small scale | |
| Determines Vulnerability of Landscape | Naturalness a measure of how modified the landform or vegetation of the landscape is | low = great deal of modification to land/water edge and/or vegetation | moderate-low = modification of land/water edge and/or vegetation is obvious | moderate = some modification of land/water edge and/or vegetation is apparent; native vegetation need not dominate | moderate-high = little modification of land/water edge and/or vegetation; a dominance of native vegetation is apparent; few obvious exotics | high = very little apparent modification of land/water edge and/or vegetation; very few obvious exotics | |
| Determines Importance of Landscape | Memorableness a measure of how strong an impression the visual experience of the coastal segment will create | low = mental image is so weak as to be forgettable | moderate-low = the memory is indistinct; easily confused with other coastal segments | moderate = a memorable coastal segment; may be occasionally confused with others | moderate-high = the coastal segment is clearly memorable; very little confusion in recall of the image | high = the coastal segment is unforgettable; image remains distinct in memory | |
| Determines Importance of Landscape | Rarity a measure of how common or uncommon a coastal segment is; compares particular landscape character within area of study | low = many similar coastal segments | moderate-low = several similar segments | moderate = a limited number of similar segments | moderate-high = very few other similar coastal segments | high = the coastal segment is unique or distinctive in the study area | |
| Determines Importance of Landscape | Coherence a measure of visual unity; of how well the landscape "hangs together" visually; level of harmony evident in the components of the landscape (the elements and expressions); deviations from coherence would occur as unusual visual events or features which could be positive or negative in the context of the landscape unit | low = obvious lack of harmony; obvious negative deviations from any pattern | moderate-low = some disharmony; presence of some negative deviations from patterns | moderate = some harmony; few negative deviations | moderate-high = harmonious relationship between elements and expressions of landscape; readily-apparent unity; limited negative deviations | high = very harmonious relationship; high level of unity; nil or very few negative deviations | |

Table 5 (cont): Landscape Quality (Coastal Segments Within Landscape Units)

| | | Criterion | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| Determines Visiblness | Visiblness determined by the visibility of the coastal segment from or proximity to state highways; scenic routes; country roads; principal access routes to national parks and forest parks or major recreational areas or major camping areas or population centres; rail routes; walkways and walking tracks; settlements; major recreation areas eg; camping, water sports | low = not visible from settlements of transport routes | moderate-low = visible from small settlements, minor roads or minor walking tracks | moderate = visible from secondary routes, railways, small settlements; readily accessible from major population centres and primary transport routes, scenic routes, recreation areas or major walking tracks | moderate-high = close to and visible from major population centres, primary transport routes, scenic areas or scenic routes, recreation areas or major walking tracks | high = very close to or easily seen from or surrounding major population centres, primary transport routes, scenic areas or routes, major recreation areas |

