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Landscapes

Strategies

Protect indigenous vegetation along roadsides, coastal edges, waterways, wetlands, estuaries, hill slopes and other viewing corridors.

Retain existing shelterbelts and exotic feature planting where it is a feature of the area.

Where shelterbelts, avenue or honour planting or exotic feature plantings are lost, old, degraded or incomplete, replacement planting should be the same species, unless that species is invasive and in that case a complementary non-invasive species should be used.

Protect significant views and vistas, including:

- Long and extensive views of the coastal and hinterland landscape from main roads.
- Largely natural and unbuilt views of lakes and other water bodies from their edges.
- Gateway views at topographic rises along roads, in particular those that terminate at the coast, walking tracks, recreational facilities and formal scenic lookouts.

Design and site structures to minimise the loss of canopy trees and understorey vegetation.

Maximise the area on a lot able to support vegetation.

Design and site buildings to minimise their visual intrusion into the landscape by encouraging low building heights, open style fencing and using vegetation to provide screening.

Use existing landscape features to define edges to settlements.

Minimise views of buildings and structures from road corridors other than those that have been traditionally located adjacent to the road.

Minimise the visual dominance of buildings from ridge tops and prominent hill faces by:

- Siting development in the lower third of the visible slope, wherever possible.
- Setting buildings and structures amongst existing vegetation, and/or establishing gardens of locally compatible species.
- Designing buildings to follow the contours or step down the site to minimise earthworks.
- Articulating buildings into separate elements and avoiding visually dominant elevations.

Encourage buildings or structures to be set back from the foreshore, coast and natural coastal landforms.

Use materials and colours that are durable and complement the coastal environment, and minimise contrast with the surrounding landscape.

Minimise visual clutter of the hinterland landscape with built development to retain open spaces that provide views to the coast, capes and hinterland.

Retain the dominance of the pastoral landscape in the hinterland areas.

Retain trees that form part of a continuous canopy beyond the property, and plant new trees in a position where they will add to such a continuous canopy.

Encourage planting to delineate property boundaries, instead of fencing. If fencing is necessary, this should be of an open style and not visually obtrusive (e.g. post and wire style traditionally used in rural areas).

Retain natural landforms and indigenous vegetation as an essential component of the character of the rural hinterland.

Policy documents

Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study (2006)