



APPENDIX 6.1:

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT THRESHOLD CRITERIA

The terminology used in this section is based on threshold criteria examples in Appendix 9 of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (2nd Edition) by The Landscape Institute and The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment 2002.

Significance Criteria for Landscape Character and Visual Amenity Effects	
Negligible	No discernible deterioration or improvement in the scale, land-form or pattern of the landscape / townscape quality over the existing situation
Substantial Positive	A change that results in a major improvement in the quality of the landscape character and visual amenity.
Moderate Positive	A change that would cause a noticeable improvement in the existing view or view and fits very well with the existing character. The change has the potential to improve the landscape through removal of land-uses that are detrimental to the existing landscape setting.
Slight Positive	A change that is barely perceptible in terms of effects on existing views or the landscape setting but would improve their quality or character and fits in well with the scale and pattern of the landscape. This includes the restoration of key landscape features or characteristics partially lost through other land uses.
Slight Adverse	A change that is barely perceptible in terms of effects on existing views or the landscape setting but results in a minor change to the existing landscape form or scale and may effect the a recognised landscape character.
Moderate Adverse	A change that would cause a noticeable deterioration in the landscape character and visual amenity and would be out of scale with local patterns, land-forms and landscape setting resulting in an adverse effect on a landscape of recognised quality that will be difficult to fully mitigate.



Substantial Adverse	A change which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity causes a major deterioration in the landscape pattern, landforms and views. The changes permanently degrade, diminish or destroy the integrity of valued landscape characteristics, features, elements in the existing landscape setting and can not be fully mitigated
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Determination of Landscape Quality	
High	Areas that exhibit a strong landscape structure and character with valued features that combine to give the experience of unity, richness and harmony. These are distinct landscapes that may be considered to be of particular importance to conserve and maybe sensitive or very sensitive to change.
Medium	Areas that exhibit positive character but may have evidence of degradation or alteration to features resulting in areas of more mixed character. In general, areas that are potentially sensitive to change but have features worthy of conservation.
Low	Landscape structure has been disturbed, damaged or degraded with few, if any, valued features. Detracting features dominate. Remedial works and landscape management required.

Determination of Landscape Value	
High	High importance and rare landscapes of designated nature e.g. internationally or nationally recognised landscapes such as National Parks, NHA's, World Heritage Sites. No or limited potential for substitution.
Medium	Medium importance and rarity with limited potential for substitution. While the landscapes may not carry designations, they may be valued locally which is expressed through non-official publications or demonstrable use.

Environmental Statement

Proposed 350MW Gas Fired Power Plant at Lumcloon



Low	Low importance and rarity with few redeeming features. Areas possibly identified for recovery or improvement.
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Glossary of Other Terminology used in Landscape and Visual Assessment	
Temporary	Effect lasting for one year or less.
Short-term	Effect lasting one to seven years.
Medium-term	Effect lasting seven to twenty years.
Long-term	Effect lasting twenty to fifty years
Permanent Effect	Effect lasting over fifty years.
Cumulative Effect	The addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant, effect.
Worse case" scenario	Principle applied where the environmental effects may vary (e.g. seasonally) to ensure the most severe potential effect is assessed.
Do nothing Effect	Continued change/evolution of a landscape in the absence of the proposed development.