Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project

PRELIMINARY LANDSCAPE and VISUAL IMPACT APPRAISAL

Prepared by Hansen Partnership
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Version	Title	Date	Issuer	Notes / changes
A	Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project – Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal	09/09/2025	SS	Final

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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Title
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
DEM	Digital elevation model
EE Act	Environment Effects Act 1978
EES	Environment Effects Statement
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
LCA	Landscape character area
LVIA	Landscape and visual impact assessment
TLVE	Theoretical limit of viewshed extent
ZTV	Zone of theoretical visibility

GLOSSARY

The following terms and their definitions have been developed by Hansen Partnership with consideration of relevant LVIA guidance documents, primarily by the ***Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition, 2013 .***

Term	Definition
Baseline assessment	The assessment of existing landscape conditions and statutory framework relevant to the area of landscape within the site study area.
Baseline studies	Work done to determine and describe the environmental conditions against which any future changes can be measured or predicted and assessed.
Digital elevation model	The representation of continuous elevation values over a topographic surface by a regular array of sampled z-values, referenced to a common datum. To be expressed as a grid or raster data set. The DEM is ground only representation and excludes vegetation such as trees and shrubs and human constructed features such as sheds and houses.
EES Scoping Requirements	Environment Effects Statement (EES) Scoping Requirements are prepared by the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to set out the matters to be investigated and documented in an EES.
EIS Guidelines	Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines are prepared by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water(DCCEEW) to set out the matters to be assessed in an EIS.
Terms of Reference	The collective term for the EIS Guidelines and the EES Scoping Requirements specified by DCCEEW and DTP respectively.
EE Act referral	The written request for a new or amended project, which could reasonably be expected to have the potential for a significant effect on the environment, to the Victorian Minister for Planning to determine whether an assessment under the Environment Effects Act is required.
EPBC Act referral	The written request for the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water to decide whether the action proposed is a controlled action requiring assessment and approval under the EPBC Act.
Landscape	Landscape is an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.
Landscape character	A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements that occur in the terrestrial area that make one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.
Landscape character area	Distinct areas of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character and share a combination of geological, hydrological, topographical, drainage, vegetative, land use and settlement layout features.
Landscape character assessment	The process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape, and the unique combination of elements and features that make a defined area of land distinctive.
Landscape significance	The importance of a landscape to communities as evident either through statutory controls, preference indicators or other reliable objective data.
Landscape value	The term 'landscape value' is used interchangeably with the term 'landscape significance', and in the context of this SLVIA the two terms have the same meaning.
Landscape visual sensitivity	The sensitivity of a landscape or seascape to visual impacts arising from a proposed development, determined on the basis of the value or significance of that landscape and the extent to which it is visually exposed to the proposed development.
(Offshore Wind Farm) Feasibility Licence Area	Refers to the area covered by Feasibility Licence FL-012 for the Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project in the Declared Area OEI-01-2022
Receptor	Individuals and/or communities who have the potential to be affected by a proposed development.
Referral Area	Area included in the referrals to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water under the EPBC Act and to the Victorian Minister for Planning under the EE Act. The Referral Area consists of: Export Cable Corridor Investigation Area (onshore) Export Cable Corridor Investigation Area (offshore) Offshore Wind Farm Feasibility Licence Area The Referral Area is larger than the eventual Project Area to provide flexibility for design and project options.
Statutory landscape significance	Areas of landscape identified as being of importance at international, national or local levels, either defined by statute or identified in applicable planning schemes or other documents. Can be interchangeably referred to within this SLVIA as 'statutory significance'.
Theoretical limit of viewshed extent	The distance from proposed project infrastructure at which the vertical height of the proposed project infrastructure occupies a specified percentage of the vertical field of view.
Viewshed	A theoretical calculation based on 3D terrain modelling that determines areas of land that are potentially visible from a proposed project infrastructure, and conversely, determines land from which the proposed project infrastructure would be visible.
Wireframe photomontage	An accurate presentation of the proposed project infrastructure within an existing view photomontage which is represented as a coloured outline. The image represents the location/position of the proposal as seen from the viewpoint, including behind existing landform, landscape or built elements.
Zone of theoretical visibility	The total area of land from which there are potential views of a proposed project infrastructure (i.e. land that is within the assessed Viewshed and Theoretical Extent of Visual Exposure).

1 INTRODUCTION

Iberdrola Australia OW 2 Pty Limited (Iberdrola Australia) proposes to construct and operate the Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project (the Project), a renewable energy development to be located off the Gippsland coast of Victoria, Australia.

Hansen Partnership Pty. Ltd. (Hansen Partnership), via Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd, has been engaged by Iberdrola Australia for the purpose of supporting its referrals.

The purpose of this report is to provide a preliminary appraisal of the potential landscape and visual impact arising from the proposed Project.

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

Aurora Green is a 3 GW offshore wind project being developed by Iberdrola Australia in Gippsland, located 25+ kms from the coast. The Project is proposed offshore between Seaspray/Honeysuckles and Woodside Beach within Commonwealth's Declared Area OEI-01-2022 in Gippsland.

The electricity would be transmitted to a connection point onshore, via a transmission system of cables and substations, and would connect into the National Electricity Market (NEM) to deliver electricity to homes and businesses. With a proposed operational life of 30-40 years, the Project would be developed in stages to align with the development of the industry and supporting infrastructure.

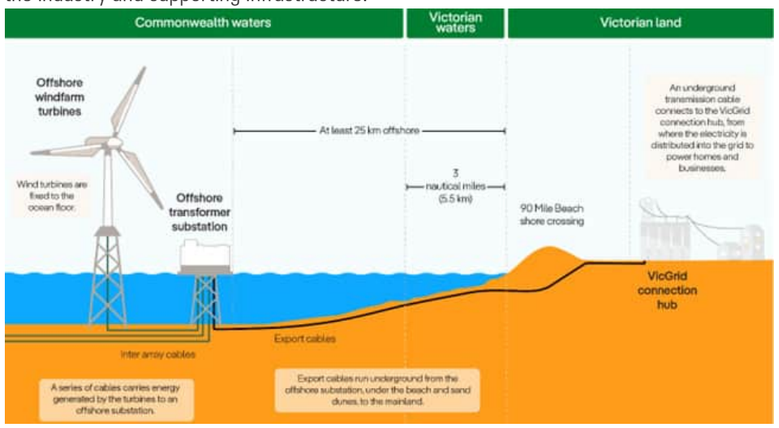

Figure 1 Project overview

Once complete, it is expected that the delivery of the Project by Iberdrola Australia would provide the following benefits to the State of Victoria and Australia:

- Up to 3 GW of offshore wind power generating capacity
- Clean energy to power up to 2.25 million households
- 600 long-lasting, skilled jobs during operation
- 1800+ jobs during construction
- $8 billion boost to the Victorian economy
- Grow and support local talent through apprenticeships, scholarships and research programs

The Project comprises both offshore and onshore components, including:

- Offshore wind farm (OWF), in Commonwealth waters, located between approximately 25 km and 50 km offshore from the towns of Woodside Beach and Seaspray/Honeysuckles, covering an area of 700 km2, in water depth ranging from approximately 40 m to 60 m. The OWF would comprise up to approximately 150 wind turbines depending on the final design. It also includes inter array cables (IAC) and offshore substation(s).
- Export cable corridor (ECC), to transmit the electricity generated from the turbines to the onshore connection point, encompassing offshore and onshore export cable portions spanning across both Commonwealth and Victorian State waters and land. The export cables would make landfall at a shore crossing location, with the offshore and onshore cable portions connected via underground cable transition joint bays (TJB) located within approximately 500 m of the coast. An Export Cable Corridor Investigation Area is currently being assessed to determine a final export cable corridor.
- Onshore connection point, comprising an onshore substation to be located within the VicGrid Connection Hub located in the Gippsland Shoreline Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).
- Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Facility, to support the ongoing operation and maintenance of the project. The O&M facility shall be located at an existing nearby port. The O&M facility is not part of the Referral area.

The delivery of the VicGrid Connection Hub does not form part of this Project. Iberdrola Australia would work with the party ultimately chosen by VicGrid to build, own and operate the transmission infrastructure in Gippsland that will facilitate the connection of offshore wind developments in the region.

Iberdrola Australia's approach to the Project considers a staged development and construction, with three phases, each of nominally 1 GW installed capacity, subject to commercial offtake, grid connection availability and approvals.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to undertake a preliminary assessment of the potential landscape and visual impacts associated with the Project for the purposes of informing and supporting the project referrals to determine the potential for significant environmental effects.

This Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal provides a level of information required for the purposes of the referrals. The limitations of this appraisal (considered in the context of a full technical assessment) are outlined in Section 4.4 Limitations. A full landscape and visual impact assessment would be prepared for the purposes of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Please refer to Figure 7 for full methodology diagram.

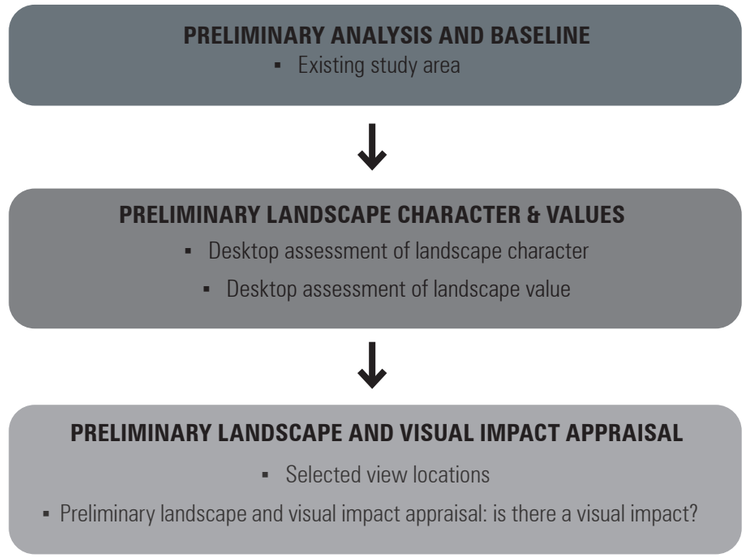

Figure 2 Report structure diagram

1.3 APPROACH

This report documents the approach to the Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal undertaken by Hansen Partnership for the purposes of the project referrals.

The report provides a preliminary outline of existing statutory designations relevant to the assessment, and an assessment of landscape and visual impact appraisal at three representative locations.

The report subsequently provides assessment of whether there would be a seascape, landscape and visual impact. The methodology is outlined in Section 2 Methodology.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Study area

The study area has been determined through Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) assessment, which includes:

- Viewshed mapping, and
- Determination of the Theoretical Limit of Viewshed Extent (TLVE)

It is important to emphasise that the ZTV assessment process undertaken relies on viewshed mapping informed by topographical data only. As such, the ZTV assessment should not be relied upon as a definitive representation of the visibility (or otherwise) of the proposed project infrastructure, but rather should be used to guide the subsequent identification of representative view locations for the preparation of photomontage images, which can be relied upon as definitive representations of visibility and visual impact.

A map of the study area is provided in Figure 5.

2.2 Establishing the study area

2.2.1 Zone of theoretical visibility

2.2.1.1 Viewshed mapping

The following describes the viewshed assessment methodology used to develop the viewshed mapping. This mapping is a digitally-produced graphic representation of areas surrounding the project from which the proposed project infrastructure is potentially visible. This assessment is subsequently used to guide the selection of photomontage view locations.

It is important to emphasise that the viewshed mapping process undertaken is a 'virtual' exercise, which utilises only topographical data to generate viewshed assessment mapping. It does not take into account 'real world' obstacles such as buildings and vegetation, which obstruct or reduce views. In this regard, it presents what can be described as a 'worst case assessment', as the presence of existing buildings and vegetation almost always results in a 'real' viewshed being less extensive than a virtual viewshed, for any given point.

A viewshed is defined as a theoretical calculation based on 3D terrain modelling that determines areas of land that are potentially visible from a proposed project infrastructure, and conversely, determines land from which the proposed project infrastructure would be visible. This is referred to as the 'intervisibility' relationship. The visibility between two points depends on the presence of on-ground obstacles, such as vegetation and buildings along the sight-line which connects the two points. Such obstacles may obstruct or reduce the reciprocal vision of the same two points.

Viewshed mapping involves the use of computer software packages to translate topographical data (i.e. contour lines) into a 3-dimensional digital terrain model. The project was modelled using DEM map data. This information was subsequently used to guide the identification of view locations for which photomontages were generated as a means of demonstrating the visual impact of the project, and the degree to which mitigation of visual impact is required.

2.2.1.2 Theoretical limit of viewshed extent

The study area extents are determined by the TLVE. This is a standard measure that determines the distance from proposed project infrastructure at which the vertical height of the proposed project infrastructure occupies a specified percentage of the vertical field of view.

'Human Factors in Design' (Dreyfuss, 1960)[1] provides guidance with respect to the field of view of the human eye, and describes a normal horizontal and vertical field of view as comprising approximately 60 degrees (horizontal) and 20 degrees (vertical).

Noting the ZTV description in the previous section, in the absence of intervening topographical features which would otherwise limit the extent of a particular viewshed, it is theoretically possible for a computer-modelled viewshed to have an infinite extent. To address this, in circumstances where topography does not provide a limit to viewshed extent, a limitation can be applied on the basis of the known characteristics of the human eye field of view.

In practice, the curvature of the Earth creates a physical limit to how much of an object can be seen at long distances. Beyond a certain distance, the lower portions of objects are progressively hidden behind the horizon. As distance increases, a greater proportion of the object is obscured until it disappears beyond the horizon. The exact point at which this occurs depends on the height of both the viewer and the object.

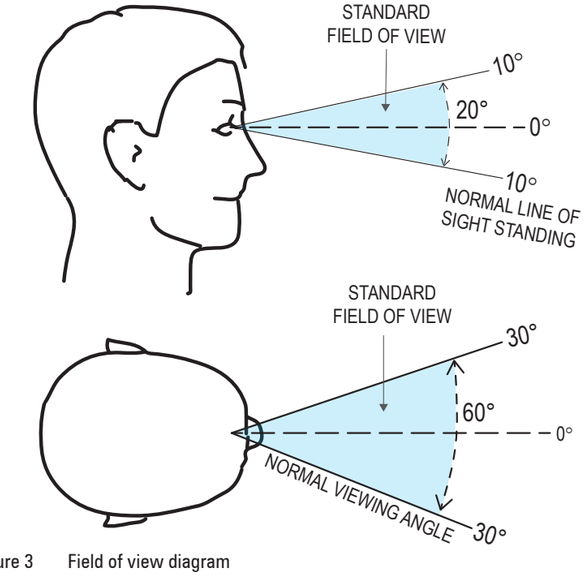

Figure 3 Field of view diagram

For this preliminary landscape and visual impact appraisal, an assumption has been made that any object which occupies less than 5% of the human eye vertical field of view (equivalent to 1 degree) is unlikely to result in an unacceptably-high visual impact, due to the relatively small proportion of the total field of view it would occupy.

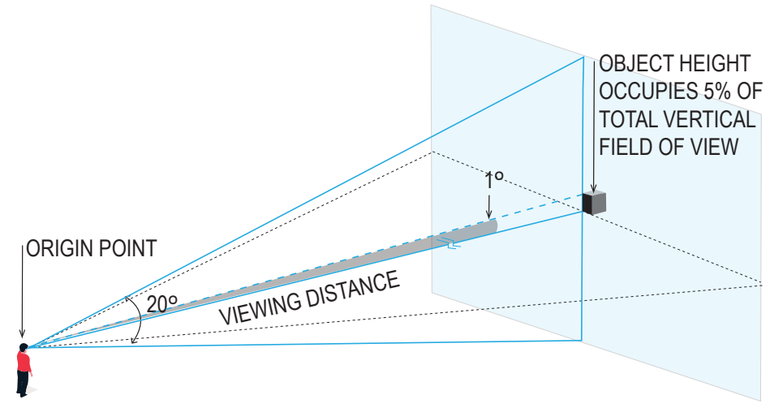

Figure 4 Theoretical limit of viewshed extent diagram

A 1-degree vertical angle measured from an origin point to a horizontal distance of 1 kilometre yields a height at that distance of 17 metres above the level of the origin point. Conversely, an object of that height, at a distance of 1 kilometre from an origin point (or viewing point) would occupy a vertical field of view not greater than 1 degree (or 5% of the vertical field of view).

Within these extents, potential sensitive receptors are identified as having a range of visual exposure ranging from 'very low' to 'very high'. This relationship can hence be applied to any structure with a vertical height and used to determine an appropriate viewshed extent.

Review of the potential cause and effect pathways for visual impacts identified that the key issues and impacts are more likely to result during the project's operation phase because of the introduction of wind farm infrastructure, including views of the infrastructure from potentially sensitive viewpoints. There is also the potential for the presence of transmission infrastructure such as substation, switchyard and overhead transmission lines to result in a potential visual impact, depending on final design and siting of infrastructure.

For the purposes of this preliminary landscape and visual impact appraisal, the TLVE has been calculated for the relevant project component:

- Wind farm infrastructure: based on uppermost blade turbine tip heights at 340 metres above ground level, a maximum TLVE would be 20 kilometres. Notwithstanding this, the Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal adopts a conservative approach through the assessment of a study area encompassing land within 50 kilometres of any proposed wind turbines. Refer to Figure 6 for TLVE and study area extent.

1 'Human Factors in Design', Dreyfuss 1960

2.2.1.3 Study Area and Theoretical Limit of Viewshed Extent

The TLVE provides a baseline estimate of the maximum distance at which an individual structure of a given height is likely to have a perceptible visual impact. This threshold helps inform initial scoping of the assessment area.

However, the TLVE does not represent an absolute visibility cutoff. In practice, a combination of factors—including topography, atmospheric clarity, cumulative visibility of multiple structures, and viewer sensitivity—can extend the potential zone of visual influence beyond the TLVE.

To ensure a conservative and comprehensive assessment, the study area for this appraisal extends to 50 kilometres from any proposed wind turbines.

Within these extents, sensitive receptors are identified. Operation phase project components have been considered from the nearest representative sensitive view location which would represent a 'worst-case' parameter. Where sensitive receptors are identified within these extents, the project component is considered to have a 'potential visual impact'.

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Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project

Context Map

Legend

- Licence Area
- Study Area Extent (50km)
- Theoretical Limit of Viewshed Extent (20km)
- Local Government Area Boundary (LGA)
- River
- Main Road
- Settlements

Source: VIC DATA/ Google Map

0 10 20km

Project Ref:	23.0725
Dwg No.:	LVIA-1
Scale	1:600,000
Date:	09/09/2025
Revision:	P3

Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd
Melbourne | Byron Bay | Vietnam
Level 10, 150 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
T 61 3 9654 8844
E info@hansenpartnership.com.au
W hansenpartnership.com.au

Figure 5 Context map

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Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project

Aerial Map

Legend

- Licence Area
- Study Area Extent (50km)
- Theoretical Limit of Viewshed Extent (20km)
- Local Government Area Boundary (LGA)
- River
- Main Road
- Turbine Locations / Viewshed Points
- Settlements

Source: VIC DATA/ Google Map

0 5 10 15km

Project Ref: 23.0725
Dwg No.: LVIA-2
Scale 1:400,000
Date: 08/09/2025
Revision: P3

Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd
Melbourne | Byron Bay | Vietnam
Level 10, 150 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
T 61 3 9654 8844
E info@hansenpartnership.com.au
W hansenpartnership.com.au

Figure 6 Study area map

2.3 Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal Method

The landscape and visual impact appraisal methodology is summarised in Figure 6.

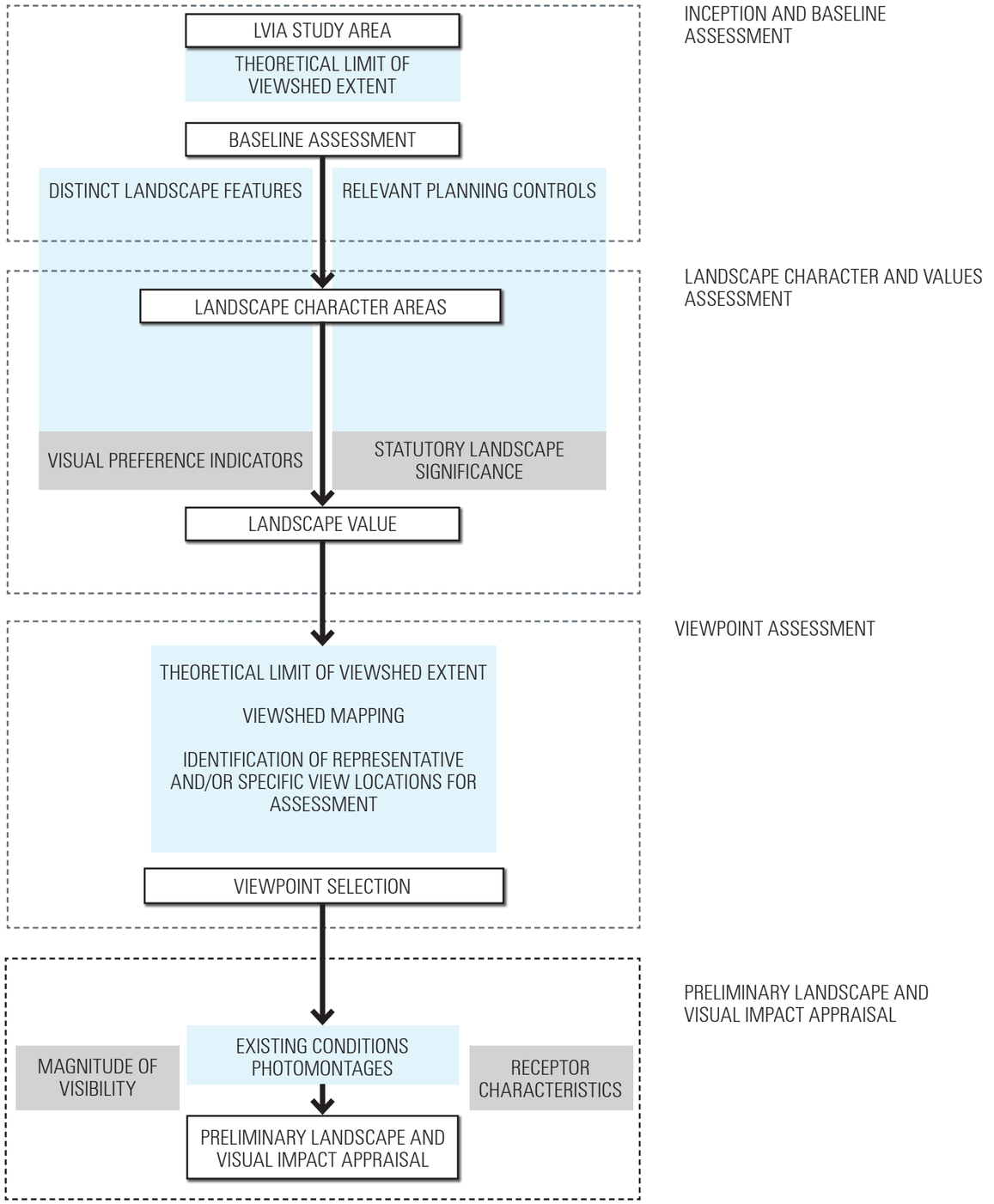

Figure 7 Hansen Partnership Pty. Ltd. preliminary landscape and visual impact appraisal methodology

2.4 Existing conditions assessment

2.4.1 Landscape character assessment

Landscape character assessment is a key tool for understanding the overall character of the landscape and seascape in the study extent, including distinctions between Landscape character types based on the particular combinations of elements and perceptual aspects that make each area distinctive.

For the purposes of this Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal, guidance is primarily drawn from the *Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study* (CSLAS) prepared for the Victorian State Government in 2006. This study identifies and describe landscape character types based on broad areas of common physical, environmental, and cultural characteristics.

2.4.2 Landscape value

This section of the assessment aims to assess the existing landscape value of the study area and surrounding landscapes in an objective manner. Guidance is taken primarily from the CSLAS, which classifies landscapes within the study area as being of either local, regional or state significance.

In addition to designations of significance within the CSLAS this Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal also assumes that landscapes of national significance include landscapes and places which are included in *Australia's National Heritage List* and/or *Commonwealth Heritage List*.

For the purposes of this Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal, the following assumptions are made:

- Landscapes which are identified as being of national significance are considered to be of very high value;
- Landscapes which are identified as being of state or regional significance are considered to be of high value;
- Landscapes which are identified as being of local significance are considered to be of moderate value, and
- All other landscapes within the study area are considered to be of low value.

Guidance is also taken from the Wellington Shire Planning Scheme. Within the study area, landscapes recognised by a Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO) are considered to be of regional significance and therefore considered to be of high value.
The value of the landscape within the study area is determined on the basis a matrix (refer to Table 1). Relevant Environmental Significance Overlays (ESO) will also be considered.

Table 1 Landscape Value matrix

Landscape Significance	Landscape Value
National	Very High
State	High
Regional	High
Local	Moderate
None	Low

2.5 Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal

2.5.1 Visual exposure

The visual exposure of landscapes within the study area is determined through viewshed mapping.

Relative levels of visual exposure to proposed project infrastructure are determined by individually mapping the viewshed extent of the proposed project structures and subsequently overlapping the individual viewsheds to develop an appreciation of the cumulative viewshed of project infrastructure.

Landscapes within the study area which fall within the viewshed of a relatively high proportion of the proposed project structures are identified as having high or very high levels of visual exposure to the project, whereas landscapes within the study area which fall within the viewshed of a relatively low proportion of the proposed project structures are identified as having low or very low levels of visual exposure to the project.

Visual exposure mapping is utilised for selecting viewpoints.

2.5.2 Viewpoint selection

For the purpose of a preliminary landscape and visual impact appraisal, three view locations were selected for consideration in the preliminary report on the basis that they:

- Comprise of public vantage points in locations where higher concentrations of people are anticipated by virtue of their proximity to existing recreational, commercial and civic facilities; and/or
- Contain public vantage points in locations with significant statutory landscape significance.

These three locations are detailed in Section 4.6 appraisal of landscape and visual impact from representative view locations of this report.

2.5.3 Preliminary landscape and visual impact appraisal

The Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal, determined on the basis of landscape and visual impacts assessed at each representative viewpoint is arrived at on the basis of 3 variables:

- Landscape value;
- Expected magnitude of visibility, and
- The nature, number and frequency of visual receptors.

Each variable is assigned a weighting, and these are combined to produce a final impact score.

2.5.3.1 Magnitude of visibility

In adopting a series of criteria for assessing the magnitude of visibility of project infrastructure visible from representative view locations, it is important to define a range of terms which provide some indication of the extent to which a view location may be impacted upon visually by the project, and when mitigation measures are considered necessary.

In determining this range a grading system of visual magnitude categories is described below.

Very High: entailing close proximity in an exposed location incapable of effective mitigation, where the proposed structures occupy a significant proportion of the view and are visually-dominant.

High: where the proposed structures form a major element in the view. There will be a tendency for proposed structures to be more dominant than other landscape elements.

Moderate: where proposed structures will typically be visible, sometimes obviously so. Notwithstanding this, the distance of project infrastructure from the viewpoint and/or the contribution to visual screening provided by topography or vegetation, results in situations where proposed structures will not be a dominant element in the view.

Low: where proposed structures are visible but form only minor elements in available views as a result of distance and/or screening by vegetation or topography.

Very Low/Negligible: where proposed structures are visible in clear conditions and may be recognisable, but conversely may sometimes not even be noticed.

Nil: where proposed structures are entirely screened from view by topography, vegetation or other existing structures, and hence not visible. In circumstances where the magnitude of visibility is assessed as nil, the overall impact appraisal is also considered to be nil, regardless of the assessed level of landscape value and receptor sensitivity.

NOTE: This preliminary assessment assumes clear conditions and maximum visibility.

2.5.3.2 Visual receptors

Consistent with guidance provided within the *Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, Guidelines for Landscape Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition, 2013,* consideration of visual receptors is necessary, in order to identify and understand who will be affected by visual amenity impacts resulting from the project. Visual receptors can include:

- People living within the study area;
- People working within the study area;
- People travelling through the study area;
- People visiting recognised landscapes or attractions within the study area, and
- People engaged in recreational activities within the study area.

It is recognised that people have differing responses to changes in views and visual amenity depending on the context and purpose for being in a particular place. It is generally accepted that changes to views and visual amenity which affect a workplace are typically perceived as being of a lower order of impact than changes which affect a recognised landscape or attraction. It is also generally accepted that changes to views and visual amenity which affect a private residence are typically perceived as being of a higher order of impact by the occupants of that residence, but not necessarily by a broader audience.

The impact appraisal incorporates a weighting in order to ensure an appropriate level of consideration of the perception of the particular receptors who will see and experience the changes to views and visual amenity, outlined as follows:

Sensitivity of receptor: private residents are assumed to have very high level of sensitivity to visual impacts regardless of the circumstances, visitors within National Parks or other recognised scenic destinations (such as designated lookouts and/or areas with statutory protection on the basis of landscape value/significance) have high visual sensitivity, with other receptors in the public realm assumed to have a moderate level of sensitivity to visual impact. Receptors in their regular place of work, and undertaking regular work activities, are assumed to have a low level of sensitivity to visual impact;

Number of receptors: relative visitation numbers are considered, using the rationale that viewpoints which experience higher levels of visitation are assumed to experience higher levels of visual impact;

Frequency of receptors: the frequency of visits to a viewpoint by individual receptors is considered, using the rationale that a visual impact which is experienced more frequently is likely to be felt more significantly. For example, a receptor who experiences a view daily is considered to experience a greater level of impact than a receptor who only experiences it once a year or less. This rationale underpins the assumption that private residents are more sensitive to impacts felt at their place of residence where they might spent entire days, because they travel to and from that location more frequently, and

Duration of receptors: the period of time which receptors typically spend at a viewpoint is considered, with longer durations assumed to result in higher levels of visual impact.

This rationale also underpins the assumption that private residents are more sensitive to impacts felt at their place of residence, and supports an assumption that short-term views, such as those experienced from moving vehicles, would be associated with lower levels of visual impact.

3 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

3.1 Introduction

This section of the report focuses on describing the landscape character of the preliminary landscape and visual impact appraisal study area by identifying the main characteristics of the landscape. This assessment adopts the landscape character descriptions from CSLAS.

3.2 Landscape character types

3.2.1 CSLAS

This section details the landscape character areas adopted from CSLAS, describing each area as follows and as shown on Figure 10, the Landscape Character Area Map.

The CSLAS Study was commissioned in December 2004 as part of the Coastal Spaces Initiative, led by the Victorian State Government Department of Sustainability and Environment. The study focuses on the coastal areas of Gippsland (Bass Coast to the NSW border), the Bellarine Peninsula and the coast west of Warrnambool to the South Australian border.

The report identifies and maps individual Landscape characteristics within these coastal regions, identifies significant landscapes and provides an implementation framework to assist local government and other agencies in managing development impacts within coastal landscapes. The study is designed to implement the objectives of the Coastal Management Act 1995 and the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2002.

The report identifies Wilsons Promontory, Nooramunga Marine Park and Environs and Ninety Mile Beach Coast and Gippsland Lakes as landscapes of State significance. Refer to Figure 9.

With respect to Landscape character, the report identifies the following CSLAS Landscape Character Types which are relevant to this assessment, as shown in Figure 8:

Character Type 1: South Gippsland Coastal Plains

Landscape Character Area: 1.5 Waratah Bay / Corner Inlet

This low-lying, flat Character Area covers a long stretch of varied coastline at the gateway to Wilsons Promontory. The area exhibits a strong and open rural character wedged between the dramatic topographies of the lower Strzelecki Range and Wilsons Promontory. Scenic coastal landforms and extensive views to the Promontory provide valued visual links to natural landscapes. To the north, the Strzelecki Range and Mount Hoddle form the boundary and create prominent landscape features adjoining the flat plains. Low-density development is scattered throughout, with several small lifestyle settlements on the coast and medium sized rural towns in the east.

Character Type 2: Gippsland Plains

Landscape Character Area: 6.1 Gippsland Lakes Plains

This is a flat to gently undulating mostly pastoral Character Area adjoining the Gippsland Lakes. Large inland waterbodies including Lake King, Lake Victoria and Lake Wellington are the major landscape features, the edges of which are locations of increasing pressure for recreational uses and settlements. Very flat topography provides open and expansive views. Although there are few topographic features to break up the expansive plains, scattered vegetation and settlements create points of variation to the character.

Landscape Character Area: 6.2: Ninety Mile Coast

In this Character area, recent coastal and alluvial landforms have formed a series of narrow spits and peninsulas which separate the Bass Strait Coast at Ninety Mile Beach from the extensive inland lakes system of the Gippsland Lakes. There is an unspoiled natural character to the northern half of the Character area, where extensive indigenous coastal vegetation dominates, and the intersection of landforms and lakes creates a scenic setting to minor settlements and recreation locations. In the south, the Character area has been substantially cleared and less dramatic landform and a low-density scattering of built development creates a uniform rural character to the coast edge.

With respect to landscape significance, the coastal strategy identifies landscapes of local, regional and state significance, on the basis of the following criterion:

"The landscape is significant for its visual qualities, including landform features, views, edges or contrasts, and for its predominantly natural or undeveloped character, in which development is absent or clearly subordinate to natural Landscape characteristics."

Ninety Mile Beach is identified within this study as an area of state significance for the following reasons:

- *Potentially of National Significance in the National context*
- *Visually significant as the longest stretch of uninterrupted beach in the country*
- *Characterised by sandy beaches, low dunes, peninsulas and wetlands set against the wild seas of Bass Strait*
- *Valued by the community for the intact indigenous coastal vegetation and scenic ocean views*

Nooramunga Coast and Islands are also identified as a landscape of state significance on account of the following:

- *Visually significant as a coastal area and chain of small sand islands that protect mangroves and mudflats from the wild seas of the Bass Strait*
- *Characterised by coastal barriers, spits, sandy islands and extensive mudflats, as well as rare and endangered plant species*
- *Valued by the community for panoramic out-views of Wilsons Promontory, particularly from Snake Island*

Gippsland Lakes are identified as of State significance for the following reasons:

- *Visually significant as a unique estuarine environment with a network of lakes fringed by Ninety Mile Beach and extensive coastal dune systems*
- *Characterised by the prominent water features of Lakes Victoria and Wellington, and a collection of islands and small peninsulas*
- *Valued by the community as a recreation resource, and for the diverse array of flora and fauna*

The coastline between McLoughlins Beach and Seaspray is identified as being of local significance.

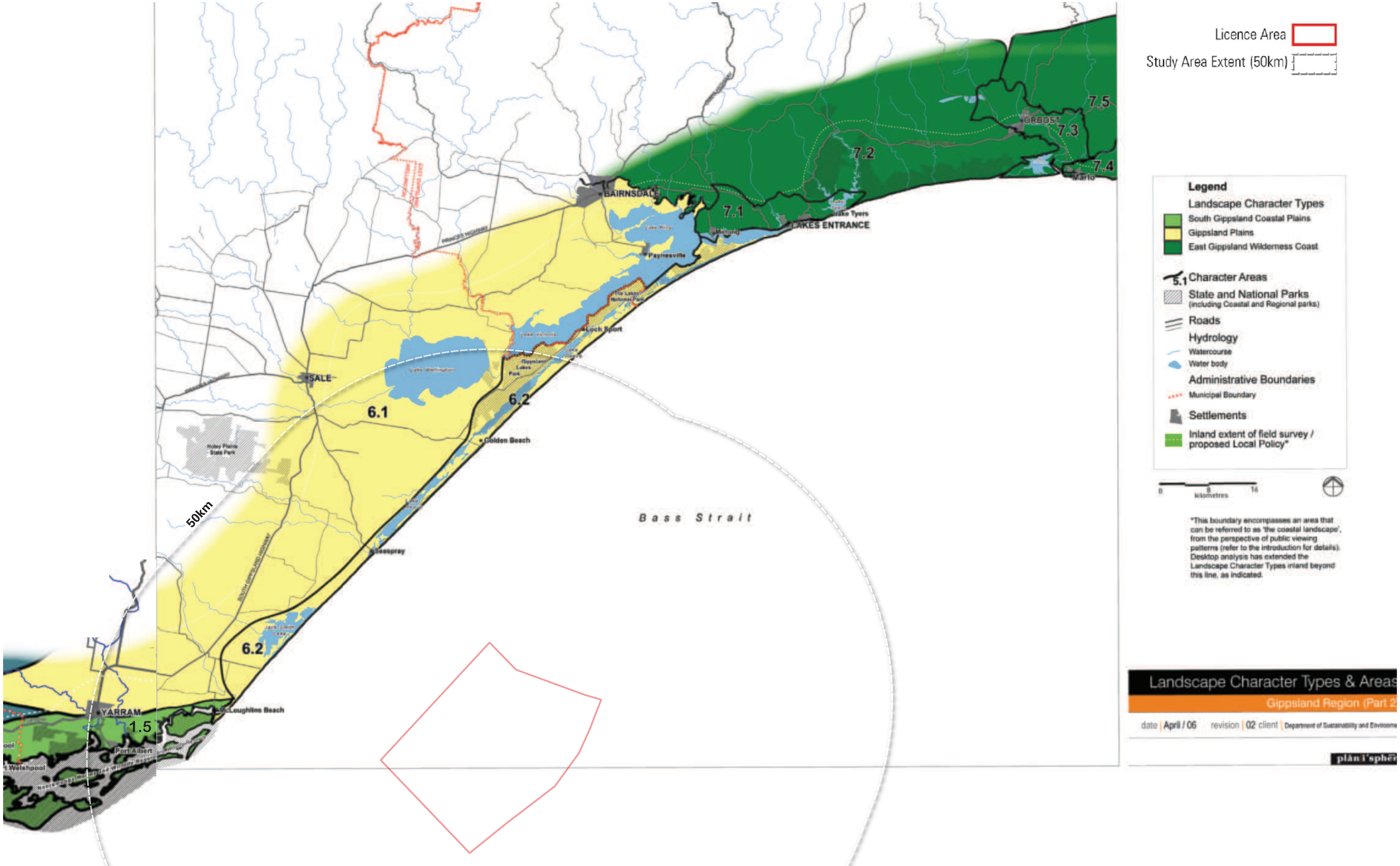

Figure 8 Landscape Character Types and Areas: Gippsland Region (NTS)
(Source: Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study – State Overview Report, Planisphere 2006)

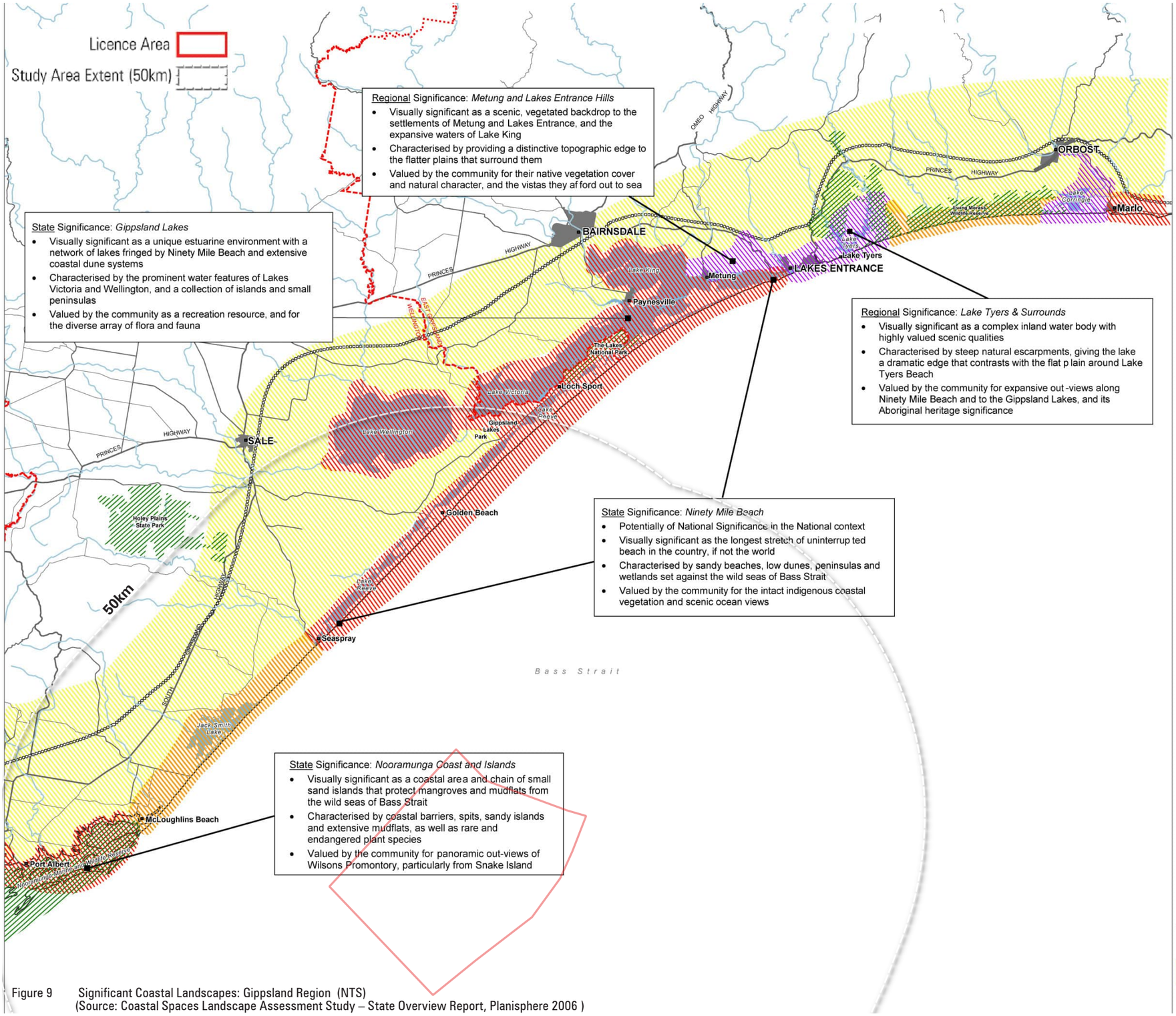

Figure 9 Significant Coastal Landscapes: Gippsland Region (NTS)
(Source: Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study – State Overview Report, Planisphere 2006)

Legend

- Study Area
- Inland extent of field survey / proposed Local Policy
  - All of the area between this line and the coast is proposed to be managed with development guidelines and policy.
- Coastal, National and State Parks
  - Other kinds of public parkland and conservation reserve have been taken into account but do not appear on this map.
- Roads
- Watercourse
- Waterbody
- Municipal Boundary
- Settlements

Landscape Significance

- Local Significance
  - It has been determined that every part of the Victorian Coast is at least locally significant.
- Regional Significance
- State Significance

The delineation of areas of significance on this map is indicative and approximate only. Due to the small scale of this map the delineation of significance continues across the urban areas of settlements, however urban areas are excluded from the scope and recommendations of this study.

The map depicts areas of visual landscape significance. Other aspects of significance, eg. environmental, cultural heritage etc. have been considered, but have not contributed to determining the levels of significance.

All areas of regional and state significance (outside National and State parks) are recommended for inclusion in the Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO). Maps showing detailed proposed SLO boundaries can be found in the relevant Municipal Implementation Toolkit.

0 4 8
kilometres

Significant Coastal Landscapes

Gippsland Region (Part 2)

date | April / 06 revision | 02 client | Department of Sustainability and Environment

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Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project

Landscape Character Map

Legend

- Licence Area
- Study Area Extent (50km)
- Theoretical Limit of Viewshed Extent (20km)
- Local Government Area Boundary (LGA)
- River
- Main Road
- Settlements

Landscape Character Legend

- Landscape Character Area 1 Waratah Bay / Corner Inlet
- Landscape Character Area 2 Gippsland Lakes Plains
- Landscape Character Area 3 Ninety Mile Coast

Source: VIC DATA/ Google Map

0 5 10 15km

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Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd
Melbourne | Byron Bay | Vietnam
Level 10, 150 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
T 61 3 9654 8844
E info@hansenpartnership.com.au
W hansenpartnership.com.au

Figure 10 Landscape character areas map

4 LANDSCAPE VALUE

4.1 Introduction

This section of the assessment aims to assess the existing relative landscape value of the project site and surrounding landscapes by adopting the assessment work from background documents, primarily the CSLAS. Consideration of relevant controls within the Wellington Shire Planning Scheme with landscapes which are recognised by a SLO within the study area, and an ESO and Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO) within the project area.

Landscape value mapping depicting the study area is included in Figure 12.

The significance (value) levels are:

Very High = national significance include landscapes and places which are included in *Australia's National Heritage List and/or Commonwealth Heritage List or designated wilderness areas*

High = state or regional significance designation in CSLAS and/or the presence of relevant SLO

Moderate = local significance designation in CSLAS

Low = other landscapes within the study area

4.2 National significance

No landscapes of national significance are present within the study area.

4.3 State significance

This section of the assessment has adopted designations of significance from the CSLAS, refer to Figure 9.

Nooramunga Coast & Islands

The *CSLAS* specifies the Nooramunga Coast and Islands as an area of state significance, as described below.

It's visually significant as a coastal area and chain of small sand islands that protect mangroves and mudflats from the wild seas of Bass Strait.

It's characterised by coastal barriers, spits, sandy islands and extensive mudflats, as well as rare and endangered plant species

It's valued by the community for panoramic out-views of Wilsons Promontory, particularly Snake Island

Ninety Mile Beach

The CSLAS specifies the Ninety Mile Beach as an area of state significance, as described below.

It's potentially of National Significance in the National context.

It's visually significant as the longest stretch of uninterrupted beach in the country, if not the world

It's characterised by sandy beaches, low dunes, peninsulas and wetlands set against the wild seas of Bass Strait

It's valued by the community for the intact indigenous coastal vegetation and scenic ocean views.

Gippsland Lakes

The CSLAS specifies the Gippsland Lakes as an area of state significance, as described below.

It's visually significant as a unique estuarine environment with a network of lakes fringed by Ninety Mile beach and extensive coastal dune systems

It's characterised by the prominent water features of Lakes Victoria and Wellington, and a collection of islands and small peninsulas

It's valued by the community for recreation resource, and for the diverse array of flora and fauna

4.4 Regional significance

The first part of this section of the assessment has adopted designations of regional significance from the CSLAS, while the second part uses designations of regional significance identified in the Planning Schemes.

4.4.1.1 CSLAS Significant Landscapes

The CSLAS does not specify any landscapes of regional significance within the study area.

4.4.1.2 Wellington Planning Scheme Significant Landscapes

42.01 Environmental Significance Overlay - Schedule 1 (ESO1): Coastal and Gippsland Lakes Environs

In relation to visual and landscape values, this schedule to the ESO recognises that the Ninety Mile Beach and Gippsland Lakes and their environs are some of the most significant environmental, landscape, and recreational areas within the State of Victoria.

The relevant objectives of the overlay are to:

- To conserve and enhance the environmental quality of the coastal area.
- To protect and enhance the natural beauty of the coastal landscape.
- To protect and enhance the visual amenity and landscape of the coastal area.

ESO1 applies to the use or development of land along the Ninety Mile Beach and the Gippsland Lakes hinterland and aims to minimise the impact of human activities on the ecological values of the coastal and lakes environments. A permit is required for vegetation removal/alteration, building construction (some limited exceptions are provided), works and subdivision.

42.01 Environmental Significance Overlay - Schedule 2 (ESO2): Wetlands

In relation to visual and Landscape values, this overlay recognises wetlands as 'particularly rich habitats supporting many rare species' and 'a valuable resource for recreational activities'.

The objectives of ESO2 are:

- To protect and enhance the ecological, habitat, aesthetic, scientific, floristic, faunal, cultural, educational, and recreation values of wetlands through the control of development.
- To implement obligations under international, national, State, or other agreements to protect and enhance plant and animal species and habitats.

42.01 Environmental Significance Overlay - Schedule 3 (ESO3): Urban and Construction Buffer

In relation to visual and Landscape values, this overlay to ESO recognises that Gippsland coalfields are an important resource of National and State importance due to their use as

the primary energy source for the electricity generating industry in Victoria.

The relevant objectives of the overlay are to:

- *To ensure that development and land management in the Gippsland Coalfields provides mutual protection of urban amenity and coal resource development and the continued social and economic productive use of land.*
- *To provide for development which is compatible within a buffer area and for services ancillary to coal open cut operations.*
- *To reduce impacts associated with coal mining such as earth subsidence, emission of noise, dust, fire hazard and visual intrusion, waste discharge, movement of earth, and dust.*

42.01 Significant Landscape Overlay – Schedule 1 (SLO1): Ninety Mile Beach

Ninety Mile Beach is protected by SLO1 on the basis of its unique combination of landscapes and the visual values. The land is protected by a series of official designations - National Park, Wildlife Reserve, and Coastal Park - that recognise its scenic values. The landscape is characterised by large swathes of indigenous vegetation including coastal heath, mangroves, and dune grasses, and there are vast ocean views along its entirety.

The relevant character objectives of this protective overlay to the proposed development are:

- To strengthen and protect indigenous coastal vegetation and ensure that it is the dominant feature of the landscape at the coastal edge.
- To ensure that development in and around existing settlements does not impact on the characteristics of the landscape, including the natural and unbuilt character along Ninety Mile Beach
- To minimise any increase in development visible above the dunes and coastal vegetation outside settlements, when viewed from the beach, foreshore or offshore.
- To avoid buildings set high on dunes or development that will be visible on the skyline.
- To minimise the visual impact of signage and infrastructure adjacent to Ninety Mile Beach or in areas of high visibility
- To protect landscape character and attributes that are consistent with the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the area.

4.5 Local significance

4.5.1.1 CSLAS Significant Landscapes

The CSLAS specifies landscape of local significance within the study area.

"It has been determined that every part of the Victorian Coast is at least locally significant'.

Within the study area this applied to the stretch of coast between Seaspray and McLoughlins Beach.

4.6 Summary of statutory controls

Large areas of land identified within the CSLAS as being of state significance fall within the proposed study area. Land affected by ESO1, ESO2, ESO3, SL01 under the Wellington Planning Scheme is also located within the study area. Other overlays shown on the following page (HO, SRO and VPO) do not influence landscape value. Refer to Figure 11.

Area between McLoughlins Beach and Seaspray is being of local significance, as determined by CSLAS. Refer to Figure 9.

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Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project

Planning Scheme Overlay Map

Legend

- Licence Area
- Study Area Extent (50km)
- Theoretical Limit of Viewshed Extent (20km)
- Local Government Area Boundary (LGA)
- River
- Main Road
- Settlements

Overlay Legend

- Environment Significance Overlay (ESO)
- Heritage Overlay (HO)
- Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO)
- State Resource Overlay (SRO)
- Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO)

Source: VIC DATA/ Google Map

0 5 10 15km

Project Ref:	23.0725
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Scale	1:400,000
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Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd
Melbourne | Byron Bay | Vietnam
Level 10, 150 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
T 61 3 9654 8844
E info@hansenpartnership.com.au
W hansenpartnership.com.au

Figure 11 Planning scheme overlays map

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Landscape Value Map

Legend

- Licence Area
- Study Area Extent (50km)
- Theoretical Limit of Viewshed Extent (20km)
- Local Government Area Boundary (LGA)
- River
- Main Road
- Settlements

Landscape Value Legend

- High
- Moderate
- Low

Source: VIC DATA/ Google Map

0 5 10 15km

Project Ref:	23.0725
Dwg No.:	LVIA-7
Scale	1:400,000
Date:	08/09/2025
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Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd
Melbourne | Byron Bay | Vietnam
Level 10, 150 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
T 61 3 9654 8844
E info@hansenpartnership.com.au
W hansenpartnership.com.au

Figure 12 Landscape value map

5 PRELIMINARY LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT APPRAISAL

5.1 Introduction

The following section has been undertaken on the basis of the methodology outlined in the previous section of this report to provide a preliminary appraisal of the potential landscape and visual impact arising from the proposed Aurora Green Wind Project.

5.2 Visual exposure

Viewshed mapping - to determine the potential visual exposure of landscapes within the study area to proposed project infrastructure - has been prepared in accordance with the methodology outlined in Section 2.

The elevation map is shown in Figure 13 on the next page. The results of the potential visual exposure mapping are presented in Figure 14 on the subsequent page.

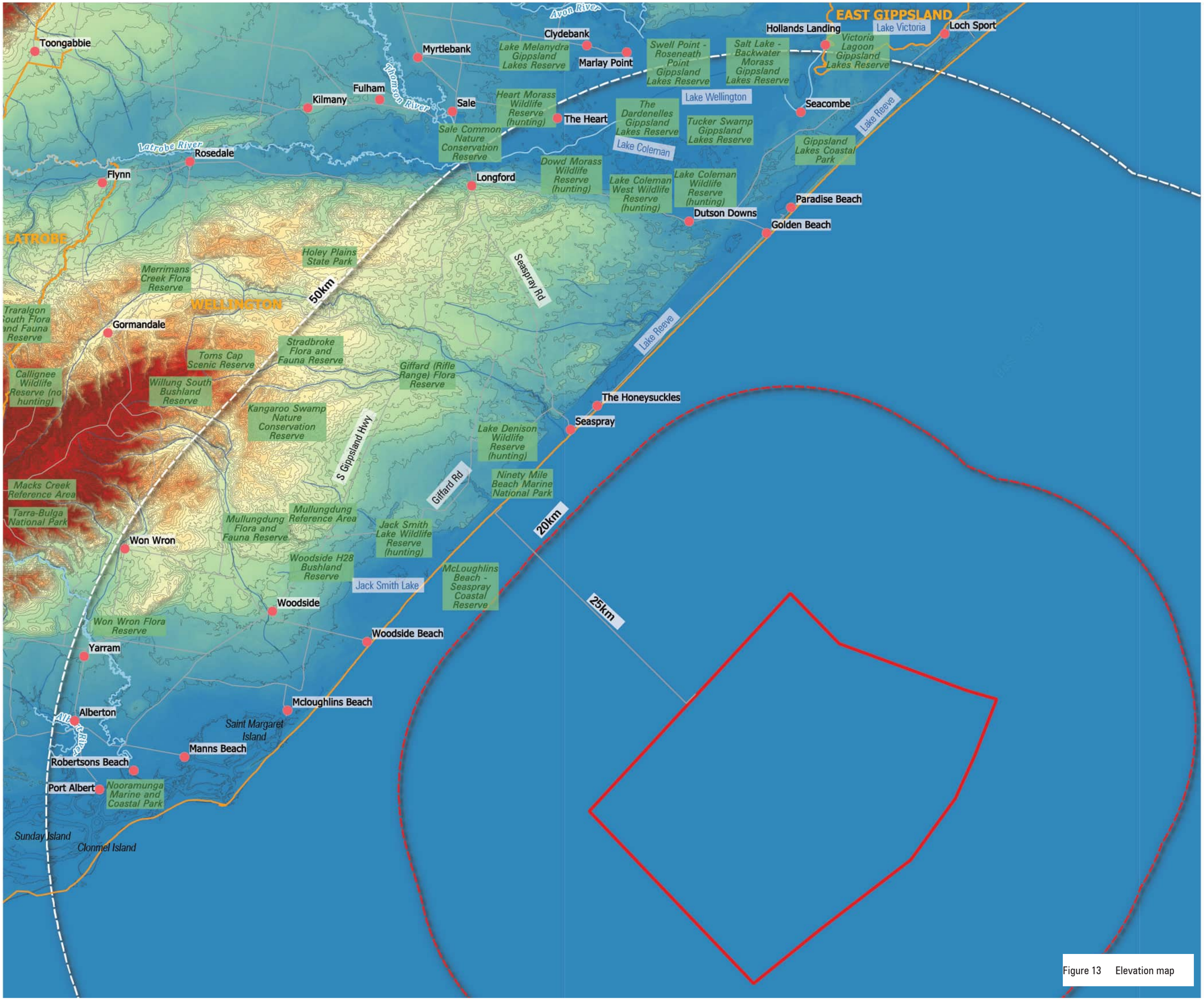

Figure 13 Elevation map

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Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project

Elevation & Hydrology Map

Legend

- Licence Area
- Study Area Extent (50km)
- Theoretical Limit of Viewshed Extent (20km)
- Local Government Area Boundary (LGA)
- River
- Main Road
- Settlements
- Existing Contours (Interval: 10m)
- Watercourse

Elevation Legend (ADH Datum)

604m

0m

Source: VIC DATA/ Google Map

0 5 10 15km

Project Ref:	23.0725
Dwg No.:	LVIA-3
Scale	1:400,000
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Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd
Melbourne | Byron Bay | Vietnam
Level 10, 150 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
T 61 3 9654 8844
E info@hansenpartnership.com.au
W hansenpartnership.com.au

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Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project

Potential Visual Exposure Map
- Turbine Visibility within 50km

Legend

- Licence Area
- Study Area Extent (50km)
- Theoretical Limit of Viewshed Extent (20km)
- Local Government Area Boundary (LGA)
- River
- Main Road
- Turbine Locations / Viewshed Points
- Settlements
- Existing Contours (Interval: 10m)

Number of turbines potentially visible

- 149
- 121-148
- 91-120
- 61-90
- 31-60
- 0- 30
- 0

-Viewshed points have been placed at top of the turbine locations and at a height of 340m above existing ground level. The viewshed is determined using a digital elevation model, which does not consider any screening effects from vegetation.

Source: VIC DATA/ Google Map

0 5 10 15km

Project Ref: 23.0725
Dwg No.: LVIA-4
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Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd
Melbourne | Byron Bay | Vietnam
Level 10, 150 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
T 61 3 9654 8844
E info@hansenpartnership.com.au
W hansenpartnership.com.au

Figure 14 Visual exposure map - Turbine 340 metres tip height parameter

5.3 Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal

The Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal as determined on the basis of impacts assessed at each representative viewpoint is arrived at on the basis of 3 variables:

- Landscape value;
- Magnitude of visibility of the proposed infrastructure (as depicted within the photomontage views from representative view locations), and
- The nature, number and frequency of visual receptors.

For the purposes of the Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal, all changes to views as a result of the project are assumed to constitute negative impacts.

5.4 Limitations

Due to the preliminary nature of this report, the extent of the assessment has been limited to that required for the purposes of an EES referral and to support an EPBC referral form. Therefore, the following areas of assessment which would typically be included in a full significant landscape and visual impact assessment or landscape visual impact assessment have not formed a part of the processes in determining preliminary landscape and visual impact appraisal:

- Landscape value has been assessed in section 4 through desktop review adopted from CSLAS. Determining the Landscape value informs the extent to which a view location may be impacted upon visually by the proposed development.
- Recommendations for appropriate measures to assist in ameliorating any resultant landscape and visual impact are not provided within this preliminary appraisal.

5.5 Assumptions

Project infrastructure assessed

The assessment of potential visibility and associated landscape and visual impact has considered the following proposed project infrastructure:

- Wind turbines – providing up to 3 GW offshore wind power generating capacity, to be located within the OWF site. There would be up to 150 turbines with an indicative blade tip height above mean sea level (MSL) of 340 m.
- Wind turbine locations is indicative only and based on an indicative layout.
- No offshore substations have been included in this assessment.
- The assessment assumes clear conditions and maximum visibility.

5.6 Appraisal of landscape and visual impact from representative view locations

Three representative view locations have been selected, and 'existing view' images have been prepared for each to describe the visibility of the proposed wind farm project:

- View location 1 - located at Golden Beach
- View location 2 - located at Seaspray Beach
- View location 3 - located at Woodside Beach

The overall view locations map is provided in Figure 15 on the following page.

A detailed description of the location, existing visual features, and anticipated visibility of the proposed wind farm project within the existing view is provided for each of the above view locations over the subsequent pages.

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Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project

View Location Map

Legend

- Licence Area
- Study Area Extent (50km)
- Theoretical Limit of Viewshed Extent (20km)
- Local Government Area Boundary (LGA)
- River
- Main Road
- Settlements

View Location Legend

- View Location 1:Golden Beach (1)
- View Location 2: Seaspray Beach (2)
- View Location 3: Woodside Beach (3)

Source: VIC DATA/ Google Map

0 5 10 15km

Project Ref:	23.0725
Dwg No.:	LVIA-5
Scale	1:400,000
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Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd
Melbourne | Byron Bay | Vietnam
Level 10, 150 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
T 61 3 9654 8844
E info@hansenpartnership.com.au
W hansenpartnership.com.au

Figure 15 Overall view locations map

5.6.1 View location 01: Golden Beach Lookout

Location

View location 01 is at Golden Beach Lookout, near Golden Beach Picnic Area and BBQ. The view is oriented to the south towards the proposed project infrastructure, with the closest turbines being approximately 33 kilometres from the view location.

Visual features

The following description of the existing view is based upon the view shown in Figure 16:

View location 01: Existing View

The existing view offers an expansive ocean panorama, characterised by an uninterrupted vista of open water. Positioned at an elevated vantage point, the view extends over coastal vegetation and a sandy beach. No man-made structures are visible within the sightline.

Rationale for selection

The view location is within a landscape of high value, as it is situated within a State significant landscapes as per CSLAS report;

The view location is within the potential viewshed of the proposed project infrastructure (refer to mapping in section 5.2) and is considered representative of public realm views toward the proposed wind farm project from this vantage point.

Anticipated visibility

Proposed turbines would be visible across the horizontal field of view. Turbines would be seen in silhouette against the sky.

Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project

View location 1
Existing view

Figure 16 View location 01: Existing view

View location 1 - Golden Beach

Photomontage created by:
OZ & CZ

Images created using:
3Ds Max 2024, Vray 6, AutoCAD 2024, Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator & InDesign 2024

Method used to collect relevant data:
Photo locations obtained on site by Geocomp Consulting pty ltd on the 03/02/25

Camera:
Canon EOS 5Ds Digital SLR

Camera lens:
Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 USM

Photograph taken:
9:24am on the 03/02/25

View location 1:
e: 535081.9440
n: 5770534.7840
rl: 10.4750

Distance from viewpoint to proposed development:
33km

Camera location

Project ref: 23.0725
Dwg no.: LVIA-001
Date: 06/02/25
Revision: P

Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd
Melbourne | Byron bay | Vietnam
Level 10/150 Lonsdale St
Melbourne VIC 3000
T 61 3 9654 8844 **F** 61 3 9654 8088
E info@hansenpartnership.com.au
W hansenpartnership.com.au

View location 01 - Impact appraisal

The assessment of landscape and visual impact of the proposed project infrastructure at view location 01 is summarised in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Impact assessment - view location 01

Assessment criteria	Assessment ranking	Rationale
Landscape value	High (state significance)	The view location is within a landscape of state significance, as identified by CSLAS
Magnitude of visibility	Low	Turbines will be visible but play a minor role in the view due to great distance
Type of receptors	Resident&Visitor (high)	The view location is at the Golden Beach lookout. Visual receptors will be visitors to the recognised scenic location, therefore considered to be high sensitivity.
Number of receptors	Moderate	The view location is within the Nine Mile Beach, which experiences moderate levels of visitation for a range of recreational activities, mostly walking, and other beach related activities.
Frequency	Low	Visitors are assumed to have a low frequency of visitation.
Duration	Low	Visitors to the lookout are expected to spend a relatively short time appreciating the view.
Receptor sensitivity	Moderate	
Overall preliminary impact appraisal	MODERATE	

5.6.2 View location 02: Seaspray Beach Lookout

Location

View location 02 is at Seaspray Beach lookout. The view is oriented to the south towards the proposed project infrastructure, with the closest turbines being approximately 25 kilometres from the view location.

Visual features

The following description of the existing view is based upon the view shown in Figure 17:

View location 01: Existing View

The existing view offers an expansive ocean panorama, characterised by an uninterrupted vista of open water. Positioned at an elevated vantage point, the view extends over coastal vegetation and a sandy beach. Timber ramp with balustrade leading down to the beach is visible in the forefront of the image.

Rationale for selection

The view location is within a landscape of high value, as it is situated within a State significant landscapes as per CSLAS report.

The view location is within the potential viewshed of the proposed project infrastructure (refer to mapping in section 5.2) and is considered representative of public realm views toward the proposed wind farm project from this vantage point.

Anticipated visibility

Proposed turbines would be visible across the horizontal field of view. Turbines would be seen in silhouette against the sky.

Figure 17 View location 02: Existing view

View location 2 - Seaspray Beach

Photomontage created by:
OZ & CZ

Images created using:
3Ds Max 2024, Vray 6, AutoCAD 2024, Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator & InDesign 2024

Method used to collect relevant data:
Photo locations obtained on site by Geocomp Consulting pty ltd on the 03/02/25

Camera:
Canon EOS 5Ds Digital SLR

Camera lens:
Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 USM

Photograph taken:
10:20am on the 03/02/25

View location 2:
e: 516389.3250
n: 5752061.1550
rl: 7.9500

Distance from viewpoint to proposed development:
24.9km

Camera location

Project ref: 23.0725
Dwg no.: LVIA-004
Date: 06/02/25
Revision: P

Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd
Melbourne | Byron bay | Vietnam
Level 10/150 Lonsdale St
Melbourne VIC 3000
T 61 3 9654 8844 **F** 61 3 9654 8088
E info@hansenpartnership.com.au
W hansenpartnership.com.au

View location 02 - Impact appraisal

The assessment of landscape and visual impact of the proposed project infrastructure at view location 02 is summarised in Table 3 below.

Table 3 Impact assessment- view location 02

Assessment criteria	Assessment ranking	Rationale
Landscape value	High (sate significance)	The view location is within a landscape of state significance, as identified by CSLAS
Magnitude of visibility	Low	Turbines will be visible but play a minor role in the view due to great distance
Type of receptors	Resident&Visitor (high)	The view location is at the Seaspray Beach lookout. Visual receptors will be visitors to the recognised scenic location, therefore considered to be high sensitivity.
Number of receptors	Moderate	The view location is within the Nine Mile Beach, which experiences moderate levels of visitation for a range of recreational activities, mostly walking, and other beach related activities.
Frequency	Low	Visitors are assumed to have a low frequency of visitation.
Duration	Low	Visitors to the lookout are expected to spend a relatively short time appreciating the view.
Receptor sensitivity	Moderate	
Overall preliminary impact appraisal	MODERATE	

5.6.3 View location 03: Woodside Beach Lookout

Location

View location 03 is at Woodside Beach Lookout. The view is oriented to the south east towards the proposed project infrastructure, with the closest turbines being approximately 25 kilometres from the view location.

Visual features

The following description of the existing view is based upon the view shown in Figure 18:

View location 01: Existing View

The existing view offers an expansive ocean panorama, characterised by an uninterrupted vista of open water. Positioned at an elevated vantage point, the view extends over small section of coastal vegetation and an expansive sandy beach. No manmade structures are visible within the sightline.

Rationale for selection

The view location is within a landscape of high value, as it is situated within a locally significant landscapes as per CSLAS report; .

The view location is within the potential viewshed of the proposed project infrastructure (refer to mapping in section 5.2) and is considered representative of public realm views toward the proposed offshore wind farm from Woodside Beach lookout.

Anticipated visibility

Proposed turbines would be visible across the horizontal field of view. Turbines would be seen in silhouette against the sky.

Figure 18 View location 03: Existing view

View location 3 - Woodside Beach

Photomontage created by:
OZ & CZ

Images created using:
3Ds Max 2024, Vray 6, AutoCAD 2024, Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator & InDesign 2024

Method used to collect relevant data:
Photo locations obtained on site by Geocomp Consulting pty ltd on the 03/02/25

Camera:
Canon EOS 5Ds Digital SLR

Camera lens:
Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 USM

Photograph taken:
11:45am on the 03/02/25

View location 3:
e: 498074.2920
n: 5732955.5500
rl: 6.2460

Distance from viewpoint to proposed development:
25.4km

Camera location

Project ref:	23.0725
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Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd
Melbourne | Byron bay | Vietnam
Level 10/150 Lonsdale St
Melbourne VIC 3000
T 61 3 9654 8844 **F** 61 3 9654 8088
E info@hansenpartnership.com.au
W hansenpartnership.com.au

View location 03 - Impact appraisal

The assessment of landscape and visual impact of the proposed project infrastructure at view location 03 is summarised in Table 4 below.

Table 4 Impact assessment- view location 03

Assessment criteria	Assessment ranking	Rationale
Landscape value	Moderate (local significance)	The view location is within a landscape of local significance, as identified by CSLAS
Magnitude of visibility	Low	Turbines will be visible but play a minor role in the view due to great distance
Type of receptors	Resident&Visitor (high)	The view location is at the Woodside Beach lookout. Visual receptors will be visitors to the recognised scenic location, therefore considered to be high sensitivity.
Number of receptors	Moderate	The view location is within the Nine Mile Beach, which experiences moderate levels of visitation for a range of recreational activities, mostly walking, and other beach related activities.
Frequency	Low	Visitors are assumed to have a low frequency of visitation.
Duration	Low	Visitors to the lookout are expected to spend a relatively short time appreciating the view
Receptor sensitivity	Moderate	
Overall preliminary impact appraisal	MODERATE	

6 CONCLUSION

6.1 Preliminary landscape and visual impact appraisal summary

Three representative view locations have been assessed to determine whether or not a landscape and visual impact would occur as a result of the proposed offshore wind farm project. On the basis of a preliminary assessment of landscape and visual impact appraisal at 3 representative view locations within the project study area, the following conclusions are reached:

- View location 1 - located at Golden beach approximately 33 kilometres from the proposed project infrastructure. All turbines would be visible. The overall preliminary landscape and visual impact appraisal is moderate.
- View location 2 - located at Seaspray beach approximately 25 kilometres from the proposed project infrastructure. All turbines would be visible. The overall preliminary landscape and visual impact appraisal is moderate.
- View location 3 - located at Woodside beach approximately 25 kilometres from the proposed project infrastructure. All turbines would be visible. The overall preliminary landscape and visual impact appraisal is moderate.

This Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal concludes that moderate landscape and visual impacts would occur as a result of the Project.

6.2 Recommendations

The next stage would involve preparation of a baseline assessment report, followed by an impact assessment, which will form the basis of the full landscape and visual impact assessment report. The final report would document the assessment process, quantify the extent of seascape, landscape, and visual effects, and, where required, recommend mitigation measures or design modifications.