



A Manual for Forest Landscape Management

Chapter 7

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One of the most obvious and abrupt changes in scenic character in Tasmania occurs along the Great Western Tiers, where the northern edge of the vast high-altitude Central Plateau adjoins the plains and rolling hills of the De/oraine and Mole Creek region. In terms of visual management, the Tiers form a boundary between Landscape Character Types. The regions have been designated as the "Central Plateau" and the "NorthWest Hills and Plains" types respectively



LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES OF TASMANIA

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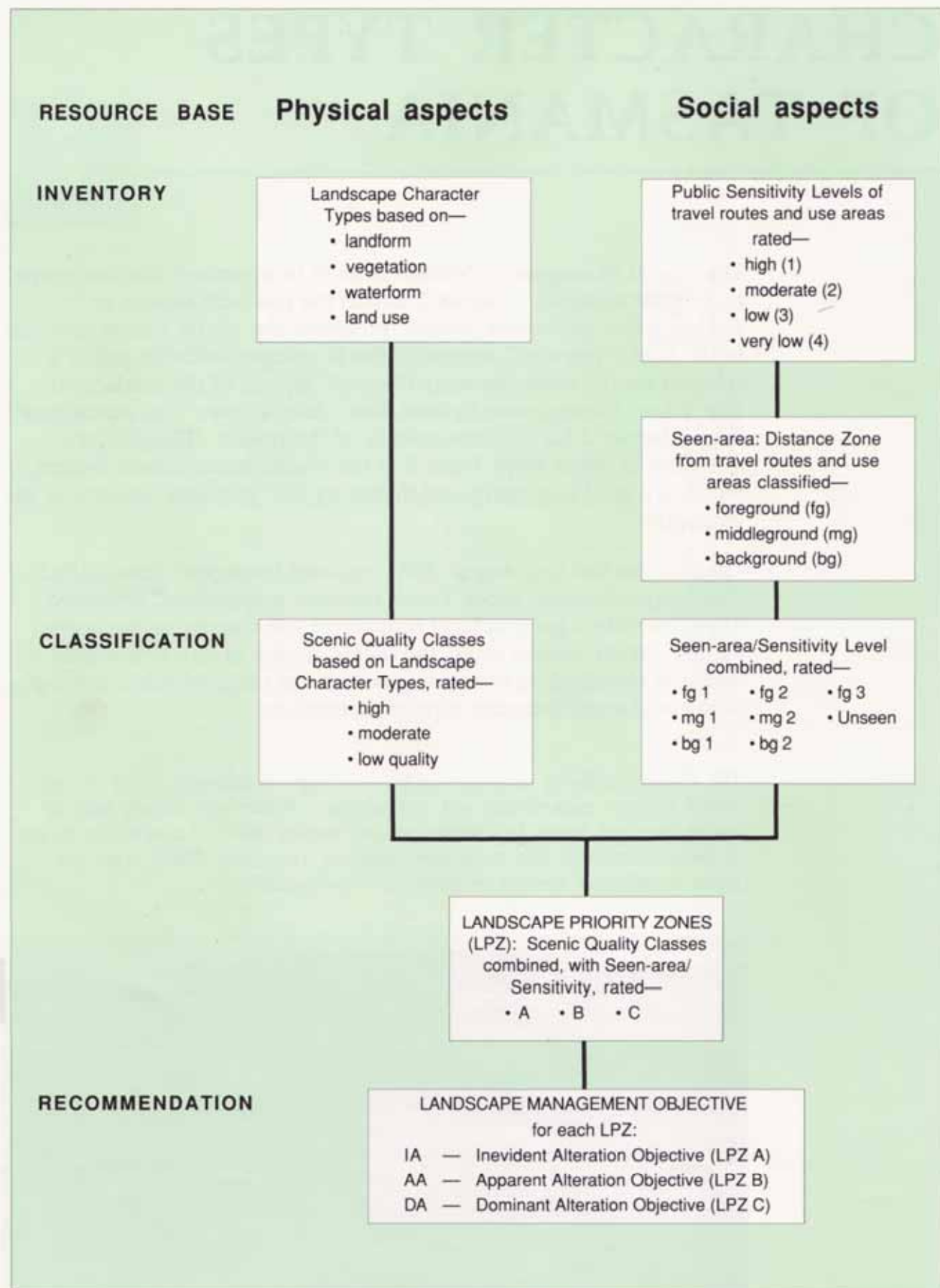
The Visual Management System is used to inventory the landscape as a visual resource. Chapter 2 details the practical aspects of applying this procedure, which integrates the visual values inherent in the land ("physical" aspects of the landscape) with the public's concern for the scenic amenity ("social" aspects of the landscape). The Visual Management System flow chart (Figure 1) is reproduced from Chapter 2 for the convenience of the reader. This chapter describes in detail steps 1 and 2 of the Visual Management System, which are used to classify and inventory the "physical" aspects of the landscape.

The exercise has two stages. First, regional landscape areas (called "landscape character types") were selected, mapped and described. These provide a geographical framework for classifying the scenic values. At the second stage, the scenic quality of any area within a region is classified by comparing it with the range of scenic attributes of the landscape character type of that region.

The scenic quality of each part of the landscape can be assessed, based on its visual variety, naturalness and uniqueness. Below, the rolling hills of native eucalypt forest lack strong visual variety and are a common aspect of the landscape in this particular region of Tasmania. Such areas are given a rating of average or moderate scenic quality.



Figure 1. Visual Management System flow diagram





Landscape Character Types

Tasmania was divided into broad physiographic regions,* each having an identifiable visual character. Each of these character types (Map 1) is an "area of land with common distinguishing visual characteristics of landform, rock formations, water forms, and vegetative patterns" (¹ p. 5). Generally they cover too large an area to be seen from the ground. Of the total of twelve character types defined for Tasmania, ten are briefly described here. The King Island and Furneaux Group landscape character types had not been described at the time of printing.

The division of the State into character types is based on the premise that an observer or traveller experiences one character type at a time, and therefore perceives scenic values within the framework of the immediate regional landscape. The scenic quality of any part of the landscape is therefore rated on the range of scenic attributes present in the character type within which it occurs. In general terms, this simply ensures that the scenery of, for example, a region of hills and plains is not measured against the scenery of a mountainous region.

The character typing therefore helps achieve the broad aim of the Visual Management System, which is to give protection to the inherent visual character of each part of the landscape across Tasmania. Summary descriptions of the Landscape Character Types of Tasmania are presented below. They establish the key visual characteristics of each type.

A further breakdown of character type into "sub-types" may be warranted where a type is too broad or diverse to provide a logical frame of reference to classify physical features¹. Sub-types should "exhibit characteristics common to the mother type, and yet [be] marked by distinctive likenesses peculiar to each sub-type". (² p. 6). In Tasmania, the strip of mountainous quartz country along the west of the High Mountains Character Type and the adjoining dolerite mountainous region to the east could be regarded as subtypes, although they are not designated so at present.

* The idea of "physiographic sections" was first developed by Fenneman³

Map 1. Landscape Character types



Map provided courtesy of the State of the Environment Report 2003

1. Far North-west Plateau and Plains: This is a sloping plateau, which rises from the coastal plains in the north and west to 600 m in the south-east. The vegetation varies from wet sclerophyll forest to rainforest growing on shallow soils in wetter and sheltered areas, and to buttongrass moor in the west and north-west, usually on sandy or peat soils. Rivers have cut deeply into the plateau, and flow through numerous gorges towards the west. There are forestry and mining operations throughout the area, and grazing is common on coastal plains in the north.



2. North-west Hills and Plains: In the north, there are extensive lush pastures on rolling coastal plains with fertile volcanic soils. Wet forests remain on isolated hills throughout. Inland, tall wet forest covers the foothills, which rise towards the mountains in the south. A small forested plateau at 700 m occurs in the south-west. The Forth River, the major water feature, drains from the highlands in the neighbouring character type further to the south and flows northward through a deeply incised valley. It has been dammed to form three elongated lakes for the production of electricity.



3. North-east Coastal Hills: *This coastal region is generally dry and infertile, with flat to undulating terrain. Coastal sclerophyll woodlands and heathlands grow on sandy soils and on the granite soils to the east, with native-grassland openings throughout the woodlands. Clearings have been made for grazing along most of the coastline, and grape growing for wine is a minor industry to the west. The many streams throughout the type flow intermittently.*



4. North-east Highlands: *This is a forested region of steep to undulating hills and mountains, some with rocky mountain peaks. The vegetation cover ranges from rainforest and mixed forest in sheltered areas, to dry forests on northern aspects. Cliff-lined mountains, some rising to 1400 m, are features in the west. Rivers and streams are numerous, but with low flow except for flood periods.*



5. Eastern Hills and Plains: *This low-rainfall region includes most of the drier parts of the State. The dry grasslands of the extensive low plains to the north-west change to dry, regularly burnt, woodlands and forests on mountain tiers and sugarloaves to the east and south. Forestry and wool growing are major industries. The broad river drainages of the Derwent and Tamar are flooded estuaries indented deeply into the coastline.*



6. South-east Coastal Hills: *This coastal region is centred on Storm Bay and the Huon and Derwent estuaries. Steep, isolated hills and foothills rise to the mountain ranges to the west. The coasts can be seen from most high points. Residential development, grazing and orcharding take place along major rivers and 'estuaries. Extensive areas of tall wet forest in the western half of the type are important for timber production.*



7. High Mountains: *This is a continuous, elongated area of rugged and remote highland landscape running north-south through the centre of the State. It is typified by highly glaciated mountain peaks and ranges, and highland lakes. The eastern half consists of cliff-lined dolerite peaks and mountains, while to the west the mountains are composed predominantly of quartz. Extensive buttongrass moorlands occur in the central-west and north-west. Tall wet forest in the central-east and south-east forms a major portion of the State's most productive forests. Rainforest occurs throughout most of the remainder. This area is important for recreation and tourism. Large hydroelectric reservoirs have been built at lower elevations. This character type encompasses a wide variety of landscape and might in the future be subdivided into two "sub-types".*



8. West Coast Hills and Plains: *Coastal hills and ranges with average heights of 600 m, and broad, open valleys and plains with sedge and heathlands are characteristic of the remote southern and central sections of this type. To the north, isolated peaks rise up to 850 m from the low coastal plains. Low vegetation allows unrestricted viewing throughout most areas, except for the river drainages, where rainforest grows. Linear quartz rock outcrops on exposed hilltops and ridges give a distinctive pattern to the land along the coast. Two major inlets form sheltered harbours in this character type, extending the coastal influence further inland.*



9. Central Plateau: *This plateau drops from 1200 m in the north through a series of steps to 800 m in the south. There are major peaks in the northwest of the plateau, and distinctive cliff-lined escarpments form the boundaries in the west, north and east. Glaciation, usually in the form of sheet ice, has exposed dolerite rock across the whole of the type to give an undulating, barren appearance. Numerous bodies of water dominate the landscape, with large hydroelectric lakes and reservoirs to the east, and hundreds of smaller lakes and tarns throughout the west and north-west. Shallow soils support montane and alpine vegetation at higher levels, wet forests in the west, and eucalypt woodlands at lower elevations to the south.*



10. Coastlines: *This is the coastal zone encircling the State. It varies considerably in width and in the range of landforms and scenery, from extensive sand beaches and dunes, rocky headlands and capes, to sandy bays and sheltered water bodies and coastal lagoons. All offshore islands occur in this type except for Bruny Island, King Island and the Furneaux Group.*



Landscape Character Type Boundaries

Tasmania is scenically very diverse, offering an impressive range of both natural and cultural landscapes. In comparison, Victoria has about the same number of landscape character types, despite having three times the land area. This diversity within a small area is one of the main reasons for Tasmania's great popularity as a tourist destination.

The whole of the State's landscape was examined to identify regional areas with common distinguishing visual characteristics. Relevant literature, maps and aerial photography were reviewed, followed by detailed discussions with officers of the Forestry Commission and other agencies with knowledge of specific areas of the State. (See chapter references for published information used in identifying the character types.)

Each character type encompasses an area of landscape with a generally similar visual appearance. The geology of the area, geomorphologic processes, past and present climatic conditions, vegetation types and communities, altitude and topography all contribute to the landscape's present appearance. The variation in visual characteristics between character types is generally due to a difference in one of these factors or to a combination of several (e.g., wet mountains/dry coastlines). As well, the boundaries of a single character type may sometimes depend on different factors. For example, the north-eastern boundary of the Central Plateau Character Type follows a change in topography, vegetation and

altitude that occurs along the Great Western Tiers, while the southern boundary defines a transition from one vegetation type to another. The boundaries are therefore not empirical (Le., they are not scientifically justifiable); however they were drawn only after close analysis of maps of vegetation, geology and topography, and of written material. The boundaries have been verified by field checking, where possible, or from the air to ensure they are visually relevant and accurate.

A summary of the landscape character types (included as Appendix A) details the range of physical attributes and features in each type. These are the basis for drawing up the scenic quality frames of reference at the second stage.

** The idea of "physiographic sections" was first developed by Fenneman³.*

Scenic Quality

The term "scenic quality" refers to the relative aesthetic importance or distinctiveness of the forest landscape, and specifically to landscapes with a natural or undisturbed appearance. The exceptions to this general principle are agricultural and plantation forest areas, which are considered as cultural landscapes, as distinct from natural landscapes. Classification of scenic quality within the Visual Management System is based on the degree of "variety, uniqueness, prominence and naturalness of the landform, vegetation and waterform *within each character type*" (⁴ p. 7).

Rural landscapes are classified on the basis of variety, uniqueness and harmony with surrounding agricultural and plantation areas.

This view in the High Mountains Character Type includes examples of all three levels of scenic quality: H - High, M - Moderate and L - Low.



The major premises* behind this classification are that higher scenic quality is associated with:

- greater relative topographical relief and ruggedness
- greater variety of landscape and diversity of vegetation
- greater naturalness and absence of man-made changes in the landscape
- unusual natural landscape features such as rock outcrops, waterforms and vegetation communities
- (in agricultural landscapes) greater vegetative diversity and mosaic pattern due to crops and openings
- (in plantation landscapes) greater vegetative pattern and edge diversity

* Based on the visual premises list compiled by Leonard and Hammond (2p. 60)

Scenic quality mapping

Scenic values are classified by segmenting areas of landscape based on their degree of diversity and uniqueness. Landscapes with features and diversity commonly found in a character type are assigned moderate scenic quality. Those with outstanding, unusual and diverse character are given the high scenic quality rating. And landscapes with little or no diversity or features, covering an extensive area, are classified as low scenic quality.

To ensure consistency in this classification and to improve efficiency, a descriptive frame of reference is developed for each character type. It sets out the full range of physical landscape features present in that character type, dividing them into three levels of scenic quality. Ten primary frames of reference covering all mainland Tasmanian character types have been drawn up, as well as supplementary frames of reference covering Agricultural Landscapes and Plantation Altered Landscapes. (See Appendix B for Scenic Quality Frames of Reference.)

The steps in mapping the scenic quality of a landscape are:

- look up the appropriate Landscape Character Type(s) covered by the study area (Appendix A)
- select the corresponding frame(s) of reference (Appendix B)
- classify the scenic quality, using stereo analysis of aerial photos and field checking
- transfer scenic quality boundaries onto base maps at the planning scale

Classification of the scenic quality of an area is done by field officers familiar with the full range of features present in a character type, so the analysis of aerial photographs is backed up by local experience. The features and attributes of the area are identified through stereo analysis of aerial photographs and compared with those described in the scenic quality frame(s) of reference. The boundaries of each scenic quality class are drawn from stereo photographs with clear acetate overlays on every second photograph. Areas of high scenic quality are selected first, followed by areas of low scenic quality. Once these are drawn, the remaining area falls into the moderate class. Note that for an area to be assessed in a higher class it need only satisfy one aspect (landform, vegetation or waterform) in the frames of reference.

The scenic quality boundaries on the aerial photos can be most easily transferred to a map if the scales are about the same. If available, use 1 :20 000 colour photos and 1 :25 000 series topographic maps. Stereo analysis of aerial photographs shows slope changes, rock features and vegetation changes, which helps in drawing the boundaries on the map.

Appendix A—Landscape Character Type tables

Character Type	1 Far North-west Plateau and Plains Area approx. 6244 km ²	2 North-west Hills and Plains Area approx. 4152 km ²	3 North-east Coastal Hills Area approx. 2475 km ²
Landform	Elevated flat to gently sloping forested land (400 m to 600 m)* and plains (10 m to 200 m) with deeply incised river drainages. Occasional isolated rounded peaks to 800 m occur in the south.	Rolling hills and plains with elevation from 0 to 500 m*; highly productive red volcanic soils. Further south are more clearly defined foothills and a plateau to 700 m in the south-west.	Flat to undulating topography of 10 m to 200 m elevation, with extensive dune systems along the northern coastlines.
Vegetation	Tall eucalypt forests in north give way to broad areas of rainforest on higher lands further south, with button-grass moorland across the wide coastal plains in the west. Rainforests in incised river drainages.	Coastal areas — heathlands, ti-tree woodland in west elsewhere agricultural grasslands, pine plantations and wet sclerophyll forest. Inland wet sclerophyll and rainforests with buttongrass areas on poorly drained soils at higher altitudes.	Coastal areas have heathland scrub, with low eucalypt woodlands in most areas. Dispersed areas of pasture have been developed along the coast.
Waterforms	Fast-flowing rivers, deeply incised into high plateau lands descend through numerous gorges, chiefly towards the west. At lower levels they deepen and flow slowly.	The Leven and Forth are deep, fast-flowing rivers, often in deeply incised valleys. Scenic reservoir lakes in the Forth River valley have been created for production of electricity.	Numerous small, meandering rivers, some with intermittent flow, throughout. Estuarine lagoons are common along the coastline.
Land Use Pattern	West and central areas are generally inaccessible by road, while northern coastal areas have been cleared for grazing. Widespread forestry operations in wet forest further south; mining and mineral exploration common in the south.	Agriculture, native and plantation forestry and grazing form a mosaic pattern in fertile coastal hinterland areas. Further south, production forestry results in dispersed changes in the natural landscape.	Grazing is common in areas of good soil. Wine making is a minor industry in the west. Surface mining for tin has left erosion and localised scarring in the east.
Significant Features	Extensive rainforest communities and numerous river gorges are highlights of the region. Norfolk Range is a distinctive feature rising from the surrounding coastal plains.	Patterns created by green fields, exposed red soils and forest areas create strong emphasis in the coastal area. Deeply incised rivers and reservoir lakes are landscape features.	Coastal scenery and warm water in summer are main attractions to local holiday makers. Mt Cameron is a distinctive granite peak in the east (550 m).

* All elevations refer to height above sea level

Character Type	4 North-east Highlands <i>Area approx. 6912 km²</i>	5 Eastern Hills and Plains <i>Area approx. 15,230 km²</i>	6 South-east Coastal Hills <i>Area approx. 3122 km²</i>
Landform	Steep to undulating foothills rising to 800 m, with significant cliff-lined mountains to 1400 m in the west (e.g. Ben Nevis, Mt Arthur, Mt Barrow).	Rounded topography ranging from gently sloping to steep. An area of extensive plains (200 m) to north-west is bounded to east and south by short ranges or tiers and rounded hills or sugarloafs (500 m to 800 m). A few peaks rise to 1000 m.	Rounded hills and ridges to 600 m descend as foothills from the mountains to the west. Some isolated hills rise to 800 m. Coast is visible from most areas. Indented bays and flooded river basins are common features.
Vegetation	Varying from small areas of rainforest to extensive wet sclerophyll forest in high eastern areas. Dry sclerophyll forests on most northerly aspects. Small pockets of flattish, fertile lands have been cleared for grazing.	Extensive low-rainfall grasslands and dry-sclerophyll forests and woodlands in most areas, with remnant wet-sclerophyll forests scattered throughout.	Major areas of tall, productive regrowth forests in the west and south, with characteristic dead over-storey from wildfires. In the drier coastal areas to the east, woodlands of eucalypt and casuarina predominate.
Waterforms	Rivers and streams are generally small and flow intermittently. The South and North Esk and the Ringarooma are major rivers.	Broad river valleys occur within or at the edge of the type. These include the Derwent, South Esk, Meander and Macquarie. Other small streams flow only intermittently during the summer.	Coastal waterways may be seen from most parts, due to the irregular and deeply indented coastline with enclosed bays and lagoons. One major river, the Huon, flows broad and deep from forest areas to the west.
Land Use Pattern	Isolated agricultural centres occur throughout. As most of the land is State forest, forestry is the major land use.	Forestry and wool growing are major industries throughout, with hops, fruit and market gardening along the main rivers. The State's main population areas and transportation corridors are in this area.	Agriculture and orcharding in many river valleys, with forestry important in the surrounding hills, mainly in the west and south. Tourism is especially important on the Tasman Peninsula, with coastal recreation prominent throughout all areas.
Significant Features	Mountain peaks are important. Many of these are seen from main highways and the Launceston residential area. (Note: The Ben Lomond plateau is included in the Central Plateau Character Type.)	Dry, open grazing lands with scattered exotic tree shelter belts. Broad, shallow river estuaries are distinctive features in the north and south.	Coastal bays, rocky headlands, beaches, islands and sand spits are visual attractions. Also important is the forest cover on hills and ridges throughout all areas.

Character Type	7 High Mountain <i>Area app. 13,310 km²</i>	8 West Coast Hills and Plains <i>Area app. 8708 km²</i>	9 Central Plateau <i>Area app. 5031 km²</i>	10 Coastlines <i>Length c 2600 km; width variable to limit of marine influence</i>
Land-form	High, cliff-lined dolerite peaks and mountains to 1600 m in the east, with quartz ranges and some isolated mountains in the west. Extensive glacial features occur throughout highland areas in the north-east and the south.	Flat to gently sloping plains and undulating terrain with elevations from 5 m to 400 m; ridges to 600 m and isolated peaks between 700 and 900 m.	A block-faulted, high-altitude plateau (1300 m, 700 m in the south) with exposed dolerite and shallow soils. Distinctive faulted scarps on the boundaries in the north and east, and occasionally in the west. (Includes Ben Nevis as an outlier.)	Wide range of landforms, including beaches, isthmuses, spits, dunes, cliffs, headlands, bars, off-shore islands, rock stacks, blowholes and caves. Elevations from 470 m at Cox Bluff to sea level.
Vegetation	A broad range, from montane vegetation to alpine woodland above 1000 m, with wet sclerophyll, rainforest and closed scrub below this altitude.	Coastal plains of mainly sedgeland and heathlands. Eucalypt forests scattered throughout, with extensive rainforest in northern river valleys. Huon and King Billy pine present in localised areas throughout.	Montane communities, often with pencil pine, dominate areas above 1000 m. Below, high-altitude eucalypt woodlands are common, with small areas of wet forest along the banks of rivers and creeks.	Wide range of vegetation includes coastal heaths, woodlands, dune grasses, aquatic communities and salt marsh.
Water-forms	Highland lakes and tarns throughout, with the man-made reservoirs of Lakes Pedder, Gordon and King William in river valleys and plains areas. Rivers are deeply incised in the north while in the south-drainage is dendritic.	Two major harbours extend far into the type. Seven major rivers cut through the area, draining from mountains to the east.	In the west are many small glaciated tarns, while in the east, lakes are fewer, larger and often enlarged by damming (e.g. Great Lake, Arthurs Lake and Lake Sorell).	Water characteristics range from surf, sheltered waters, coastal lagoons and intertidal zones to river mouths and waterfalls. Includes most offshore islands and bays (except sections enclosed by headlands or forming parts of major rivers).
Land Use Pattern	Area largely isolated, with over a third in national parks reached by walking tracks. Tourism and mining are centred on the few roads into the area. Many rivers are used to produce electricity.	Mainly undisturbed native vegetation. Mining occurs on a small scale at Bathurst Harbour. Recreation includes walking, rafting and canoeing, with tourism being economically important.	Hydroelectricity generation, recreation and tourism are important, with some seasonal grazing and forestry.	Recreation, fishing, tourism, fish farming and boat harbours are the major uses.
Significant Features	Major glaciated cirques and lakes, and dramatic peaks (Cradle Mt, Mt Ossa, Frenchman's Cap, Federation Peak etc.). Reservoir lakes including Pedder and St Clair are important features.	Rocky headlands, large harbours (Bathurst and Macquarie) and extensive beaches. Throughout most areas quartz outcrops contrasting with surrounding vegetation provide strong landscape pattern.	Many large highland lakes dominate the landscape in the east. Montane vegetation, with stands of distinctive native pine, cover extensive areas in the west.	Numerous.

Appendix B—Scenic Quality Frame of Reference

1 Far North-west Plateau and Plains Landscape Character Type

	HIGH SCENIC QUALITY	MODERATE	LOW
L A N D F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolated peaks and peaks with strong form and colour that provide focal points in the landscape. Well-defined V-shaped valleys and deep gorges incised into the plateau, providing strong spatial definition and enclosure. Rock outcrops and cliff faces of moderate size, regular shape and subdued colour contrast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rolling hills and ridges without visual distinction (15% to 40% slope). Broad to shallow open valleys with only moderate spatial definition. Minor rock outcrops and low cliffs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive flattish land with no dissections (generally less than 15% slope).
V E G E T A T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strongly defined but naturally appearing edges, patterns and textures due to a mix of vegetation communities over small areas (e.g. rainforest/wet sclerophyll and dry forest, woodland and buttongrass). Small, distinct areas of tall forest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indistinct patterns and changes in texture resulting from different vegetation communities and age classes. Large openings with indistinct edges in forest and woodland areas. Forest with coarse-textured canopy covering visually discernible areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive areas of similar vegetative and age class without discernible pattern and canopy texture.
W A T E R F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major rivers with strong flow throughout the year; all lakes. Medium-sized rivers with waterfalls and many rapids. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium to small streams (1 to 5 metres wide), lagoons and farm dams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor streams with intermittent or slight flow (less than 1 m wide).

2 North-west Hills and Plains Landscape Character Type

	HIGH SCENIC QUALITY	MODERATE	LOW
L A N D F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolated peaks and peaks with distinctive form and colour that provide focal points in the landscape. Well-defined V-shaped valleys including deep gorges. Valley systems provide dramatic spatial definition and enclosure. Extensive rock outcrops, cliff faces and scree slopes with strong colour contrast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rolling hills and ridges without visual distinction (15% to 50% slope). Landforms dissected by open valleys and shallow gorges with only moderate spatial definition. Rock outcrops and cliff faces of small size, regular shape and low colour contrast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive flattish land with no dissections (less than 15% slope).
V E G E T A T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strongly defined but naturally appearing patterns and textures due to a mix of vegetation communities over small areas (e.g., rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest, woodland and button-grass). Combinations of forest and agricultural openings forming strong mosaic patterns over small areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indistinct patterns and changes in texture resulting from different vegetation communities and age classes occurring over large areas. Large openings with indistinct forest edges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive areas of similar vegetation without discernible pattern.
W A T E R F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major rivers and streams with strong flow throughout the year; all lakes. Medium-sized streams with waterfalls and many rapids. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium to small streams (1 to 5 m wide), lagoons, and farm dams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor streams with intermittent or slight flow (less than 1 m wide).

3 North-east Coastal Hills Landscape Character Type

	HIGH SCENIC QUALITY	MODERATE	LOW
L A N D F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolated hills with steep slopes and distinct form that become focal points in the landscape. Defined valley system with moderate dissection and spatial definition. Large rock outcrops and medium-sized cliff faces and areas of boulders with strong colour contrast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low rolling hills (10% to 40% slope). Shallow drainages with subtle spatial definition. Small rock outcrops and areas of boulders with subdued colour contrast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive areas of flat land (0% to 10% slope).
V E G E T A T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strongly defined patterns and textures created by combinations of forest, sedgelands and heathlands. Forest openings of moderate sizes and varying shapes and strongly defined edges. Displays of seasonal colour over moderate-sized areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subtle patterns and textures resulting from mix of plant communities. Forest canopy varying slightly due to small openings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive areas of similar vegetation with few discernible patterns.
W A T E R F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major rivers and streams; all lakes, lagoons or ponds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small streams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No water forms.

4 North-east Highlands Landscape Character Type

	HIGH SCENIC QUALITY	MODERATE	LOW
L A N D F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountains and peaks with dramatic forms rising abruptly from surrounding lands. Sharply defined V-shaped valleys and gorges (greater than 60% slope) providing strong spatial definition; valley slopes dissected by deep lateral drainages. Long cliff lines, large rock outcrops and escarpments with strong form or colour contrast; large areas of rock scree. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rounded peaks and ridges of regular shape and form. Open valleys with moderate slopes (10% to 60%) with some spatial definition. Rock outcrops and small cliffs of a regular shape and pattern, making a subdued colour contrast with the surrounding landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive areas of flat land (less than 10% slope).
V E G E T A T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strongly defined patterns and textures created by combinations of wet and dry sclerophyll forests, rainforests and alpine communities. Forest openings of moderate size with varying shapes and strongly defined edges. Significant areas of dramatic seasonal colour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetative variety giving subtle patterns and textures. Forest canopy varying slightly due to small openings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive areas of similar vegetation with few discernible patterns.
W A T E R F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major rivers and streams; all lakes and reservoirs. Smaller but steep streams with such features as waterfalls, rapids and deep pools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small permanent streams and ponds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermittent streams and drainages.

5 Eastern Hills and Plains Landscape Character Type

	HIGH SCENIC QUALITY	MODERATE	LOW
L A N D F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive isolated hills or small peaks. • Steep, complex hill systems. • Incised valley systems creating strong spatial definition. • Cliffs and rock outcrops of moderate size and/or colour contrast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolling hills to undulating plains. • Moderate to gently dissected open valleys with subtle spatial definition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive flat plains without dissection or spatial definition (0% to 10% slope).
V E G E T A T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainforest and vigorous stands of wet sclerophyll forest that introduce distinctive patterns and textures. • In forest areas, combinations of openings of different sizes and shapes with irregular edges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetative patterns and textures, usually in dry sclerophyll forests. • Large forest opening with straight or regular edges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive areas of similar vegetation with infrequent patterns or forest openings.
W A T E R F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large streams and rivers with permanent flow. • All lakes, including small lagoons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermittent streams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No waterforms.

6 South-east Coastal Hills Landscape Character Type

	HIGH SCENIC QUALITY	MODERATE	LOW
L A N D F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive isolated hills or small peaks. • Very steep hills and ridges (greater than 50% slope). • Deep lateral valleys on slopes and deeply incised V-shaped valleys with dramatic spatial definition. • Rock outcrops and cliff faces of large to moderate size and strong colour contrast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rounded hills and ridges. • Regular slopes (10% to 50%) • Valleys with moderate spatial definition. • Rock outcrops and cliff faces of small size, regular shape and low colour contrast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive flat to undulating areas (less than 10% slope) with little dissection or spatial definition.
V E G E T A T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly defined patterns and texture due to different vegetation age classes, fire history and species type. • In forest areas, combinations of openings of different sizes and shapes with irregular edges. • Significant areas of dramatic seasonal colour (e.g. silver wattle). • Stands of unusually tall eucalypts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest canopy varying slightly in texture and with subdued pattern due to changes in age classes, distribution and species type. • Seasonal colour muted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive areas of similar vegetation without discernible pattern.
W A T E R F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major streams and rivers. All lakes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small streams and lagoons, often with slight flow in summer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No waterforms.

7 High Mountains Landscape Character Type

	HIGH SCENIC QUALITY	MODERATE	LOW
L A N D F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountains and peaks with dramatic forms that are focal points or landmarks; distinctive serrated ridgelines. Steeply incised V- and U-shaped valleys (greater than 70% slope) and/or river gorges, creating strong spatial definition; valley slopes dissected by deep lateral drainages. Massive rock outcropping; cliff lines and rock escarpments with irregular and outstanding form or with high colour contrast; large areas of rock scree. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peaks and ridgelines with rounded and regular forms. Open valleys with moderate slopes (20 to 70%) and some spatial definition; slopes dissected by medium-sized lateral drainages. Rock outcrops of regular shape and pattern, with subdued colour contrast with the surrounding landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rolling hills and valleys with slopes of less than 20%. Small rock outcrops or cliffs; no dominant shapes or patterns and offering little colour contrast with the surrounding landscape.
V E G E T A T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strongly defined pattern resulting from combinations of, or transitions between, eucalypt forest, rainforest, copses of native pine, alpine and riparian vegetation. Dramatic displays of seasonal colour (e.g. deciduous beech, myrtle, <i>Richea scoparia</i>, silver wattle). Stands of unusually tall eucalypt forest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest canopy varying slightly in texture, due to differences in age and spacing, and offering some visual diversity. The resulting vegetative patterns are evident, but do not dominate the surrounding landform. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive areas of similar vegetation with few evident patterns (i.e., species, heights and densities are uniform).
W A T E R F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large to moderate-sized lakes, tarns and reservoirs (with naturally appearing shorelines). Major streams subject to extreme floods at any time throughout the year. Large river rapids and waterfalls (often associated with river gorges). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium to small streams with slightly incised drainages; scattered small tarns (over 5 m wide). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small streams with slight or intermittent flow (less than 5 m wide).

8 West Coast Hills and Plains Landscape Character Type

	HIGH SCENIC QUALITY	MODERATE	LOW
L A N D F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolated peaks and distinctive peaks on mountain ranges that act as focal points in the landscape. Deep, well-defined V- and U-shaped valleys and river gorges creating strong spatial definition; valley slopes dissected by deep lateral drainages. Extensive rock outcropping and cliffs with irregular form and high colour contrast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rolling hills with regular form. Open valleys with moderate slopes (20% to 70%) and some spatial definition. Rock outcrops of regular form and small size. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive areas of flat to undulating land (less than 20% slope) with slight dissections.
V E G E T A T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strongly defined patterns created by tall forest stands in sedgeland areas. Forest openings of moderate size, irregular shape and strongly defined edges. Visually distinct areas of rare vegetation (e.g. Huon pine, King Billy pine). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discernible patterns and textures due to a mix of plant communities in forest and non-forest areas; and also due to changes in age and height classes in forest areas. Medium-sized sedgeland plains. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive areas of similar vegetation with little canopy variation.
W A T E R F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large rivers, streams and lakes. Steep streams and associated waterfalls and cascades. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate-sized streams (5 to 10 m width). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small streams with slight flows (less than 5 m wide).

9 Central Plateau Landscape Character Type

	HIGH SCENIC QUALITY	MODERATE	LOW
L A N D F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolated small peaks and high points with distinctive form rising abruptly from the surrounding landscape (greater than 50% slope). Large to small valleys and clearly defined and incised drainages with strong spatial definition. Very large boulder fields or scree slopes, massive rock outcrops, cliffs and distinctive escarpments, all with strong colour contrast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rolling terrain with low hills and ridges, and gently sloping sugarloaves (10% to 40%). Shallow drainages with moderate spatial definition. Medium-sized rock outcrops and rock slabs with regular shape and pattern and moderate colour contrast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive areas of flat land (0% to 10% slope).
V E G E T A T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strongly defined patterns and textures created by combinations of sedge, alpine heath, wet sclerophyll and dry sclerophyll plant communities. Moderate-sized stands of native conifers. Dramatic displays of seasonal colour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discernible patterns and textures due to interspersal of different plant communities and to changes in forest age and height classes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive areas of similar vegetation with few discernible patterns.
W A T E R F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major rivers and streams. Lakes and areas with high concentrations of small tarns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small streams less than 2 m wide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermittent streams and shallow ponds.

10 Coastlines Landscape Character Type

	HIGH SCENIC QUALITY	MODERATE	LOW
L A N D F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irregular coast edges and islands, with high, sheer cliffs. • Ridges and peaks of distinctive form, which become focal points when viewed from the sea. • Unusual rock formations such as caves, blowholes, rock stacks. • Small sandy beaches enclosed by prominent rocky headlands. • Narrow sand spits and isthmuses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular coast edges with little contrast in form and colour, including long sandy beaches. • Rounded hills, ridges and peaks that are not visually dominant and are surrounded by more landforms of similar type. • Broad coastal slopes that are steep but stable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanses of indistinctly dissected landform.
V E G E T A T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly defined patterns due to combinations of eucalypt forest, dune vegetation, ti-tree scrub and barren rock. • Distinctive displays of seasonal colour. • Windshaped, gnarled or dwarfed specimen stands of vegetation that are unusual in form, colour or texture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest, woodland or scrub cover, combined with natural openings and/or streamside vegetation in patterns that offer some visual relief. • Some contrast created by seasonal colour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive areas of similar vegetation such as ti-tree or dune grasses, and very slight variation in texture and colour.
W A T E R F O R M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unusual wave characteristics due to blowholes, sea caves and rock channels. • Freshwater features such as coastal waterfalls; small coastal lagoons and distinctive tidal entrances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common ocean shoreline character and wave characteristics. • Freshwater streams with continuous flow; broad, shallow coastal lagoons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshwater streams with only intermittent flow.

Agricultural Landscapes*

	HIGH SCENIC QUALITY	MODERATE	LOW
P A T T E R N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinctive variation in vegetative pattern created by contrasting land-uses such as woodland, pasture, orchard, plantation and cropland. Patchwork effects of colour, texture and form that are visually dominant over relatively small areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variation in vegetative pattern created by adjacent land uses, evident but not distinctive. Patchwork effects of colour, texture and form evident over medium to large areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanses of similar vegetative pattern, texture and form. Few pattern or textural changes over relatively large to extensive areas.
T R A N S I T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gradual, seemingly natural transitions between agricultural land use and adjacent forested land; edges generally inevident. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition between agricultural and adjacent land-uses has both gradual and sharp edges, but seldom appears as an unbroken straight line. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition between agricultural land and adjacent forest land appearing sharp and geometric, with long, straight, unbroken lines.
S T R U C T U R E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unique farm buildings complementing traditional rural architecture with design borrowing from the form, line and colour of the surrounding landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm buildings that partly reflect traditional architectural styles found commonly throughout the character type. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm buildings that contrast sharply with the landscape characteristics of form, line, colour and texture and are alien to traditional rural architectural styles.
R O A D S I D E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unique feature trees or tree rows become a positive focus of view due to position, colour, form or texture in contrast to those found commonly in the surrounding landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanses of roadside vegetation similar in spacing, form, colour and texture to that commonly found in the character type; they provide some visual interest but are rarely distinctive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long, straight segments of roadside with sparse vegetation of little visual interest.

* When classifying agricultural landscapes this frame of reference should supplement, not replace, the scenic quality classification criteria written for the appropriate landscape character type. These criteria were written specifically for relatively small agricultural areas and have not been fully tested in all agrarian landscapes. (Adapted from Leonard and Hammond, p. 85)

Plantation-altered Landscapes*

	HIGH SCENIC QUALITY	MODERATE	LOW
C O N T R A S T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edge contrast with surrounding native vegetation gradual, and muted by vegetative blending, landform and rockform configuration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edge contrast with surrounding vegetation frequently abrupt but resulting edge neither straight nor strongly geometric. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edge contrast with surrounding vegetation severe and abrupt, appearing as straight line.
P A T T E R N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seemingly natural patterns in the plantation created by native streamside vegetation, other areas of native vegetation, rock outcrops or differences in species, age, height and/or density. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patterns (not always having natural appearance) evident throughout plantation area; offer some visual variation in age, species and height common to surrounding natural landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few patterns evident in the plantation area.
S C A L E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced vegetation viewed as a significant but not dominant component of a large landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced vegetation viewed as the dominant, but not exclusive, component of the larger landscape. Native vegetation evident. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced vegetation dominant, with little or no native vegetation evident.
L I N E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong lines created by firebreaks, roads or planting rows generally not evident or, when evident, broken or freeform (borrowing characteristics from surrounding natural form and line). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeform and irregular lines mainly, with some straight or geometric lines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visually dominant lines generally appearing as straight, parallel or grid-patterned, in sharp contrast to the line found commonly in the surrounding landscape.

* When classifying plantation-altered landscapes, this frame of reference should supplement, not replace, the scenic quality classification criteria written for the appropriate landscape character type. Also, when plantations are adjacent to agricultural lands, refer to the Agricultural Landscapes Supplementary frame of reference as well as the Plantation Supplement. (Adapted from Leonard and Hammond, p. 86).

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