

# APPENDIX ONE - METHODOLOGY

## COASTAL CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

### A. Resource Studies

Environment Southland will provide literature and GIS maps on potential natural hazards and ecological values (derived from DOC). The available resource information will be used to distinguish key no-go areas for development. These areas will be covered in the landscape character assessment. However, no detailed guidelines for development from a landscape point of view will be developed.

### B. Landscape Analysis

#### Definition of Coastal Character Areas and Units

In landscape terms the Southland coastal environment (area boundary provided by ES) will be defined based on viewshed characteristics of areas. For the purpose of coastal landscape assessment, the study area will be defined as a series of Coastal Character Areas. We suggest the use of similar coastal landscape units as for the report "Landscape and Ecology in Southland District" (Boffa Miskell, 1993), namely:

- Catlins Coast Character Area
- Estuaries Coast Character Area
- Invercargill City Coast Character Area (potential to include this unit)
- Invercargill City – Riverton Coast Character Area
- Riverton – Orepuki Coast Character Area
- Te Wae Wae Coast Character Area

Each of these Character Areas can be further classified into three distinctive coastal zones, the Shoreline, the Coastal Platform and the Coastal Setting.

These more extensive Coastal Character Areas are regional in scale and define the major landscape character types, which make up the Southland Coast. Within those character areas, Coastal Units will be defined on the basis of their particular and distinctive characteristics. These units of broadly homogenous landscape character are mapped and described for the study area. This investigation is mainly based on existing planning documents, maps, literature and aerial photos. It includes a review of natural landscape features and existing development within the study area.

#### Description and Analysis of Landscape Character:

The descriptions of the landscape units focus on the physical resource - the topography and geomorphology. The landscape character description of the study area is based on the mapping outlined above.

**Analysis of Landscape Character Sensitivity:** Common patterns in the landscape are highlighted and distinctive visual characteristics are described in detail for each coastal unit. The analysis is based on judgements about sensitivity of aspects most likely to be affected. These characteristics can be categorised as follows:

- Physical (landform, topography)
- Visual (vegetation cover, texture and water/ drainage patterns)
- Landscape quality/condition
- Representation of typical character
- Cultural and human activities (land use pattern)
- Connections /transitions (visual links and movement)
- Aesthetic Factors (scale, enclosure, pattern, form/line)

Photographs serve as examples and will be used to refer to the physical and visual character of each unit within the study area.

### C. Landscape Assessment

The landscape will be assessed and categorised by defining the value of each landscape unit. The value assessment will be based on findings from the landscape analysis described above and findings from existing planning documents.

From a landscape point of view the following criteria will need to be taken into account for this assessment:

- Existing land use
- Patterns and scale of landscape character units
- Visual absorption capability
- Scope for mitigation
- Values placed on the landscape

Designations on both a national and local level will be considered as well as other criteria indicating value, such as tranquillity, remoteness, wilderness and conservation interests.

Units with similar characteristics will be categorised according to their value and an indicative assessment made of their suitability for future development (outstanding landscape, significant landscape and landscape suitable for development).

This will lead to an identification, in the context of Part 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991, of any locations, landscapes or natural features (by defining the physical extent of these areas on maps ) within the study area that we consider to require specific recognition and protection from inappropriate future development.

### D Coastal Study Report

A landscape report (including maps) will be produced from the findings identifying 'outstanding' and 'significant' landscapes and natural features as well as identifying specific areas where opportunities exist for appropriate development. The nature of those opportunities will be clarified

Note: The results from the factors outlined above and an assessment of natural hazards will eventually lead to a conclusion about the inherent quality and the suitability for potential future development of each landscape character unit within the study area. The collation of

findings is not included in this proposal.

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