

Table 5.4: Visual effect criteria.

Criteria	Definition
High	A substantial or obvious change to the landscape due to a total loss or change to characteristic elements or features of the landscape. Existing landscape is unable to absorb the change / development and a high degree of visual contrast is apparent. There is little, or no screening or integration with the vegetation, topography or existing urban context.
Moderate	Discernible changes to the landscape due to partial loss or change to elements or features that are characteristic of the landscape. The changes may be partly mitigated, but will leave an adverse, recognisable change to the landscape. Existing landscape is able to visually absorb some of the development, but there is some visual contrast and the development is visible.
Low	Minor loss or change to key landscape elements or features that may alter the landscape but still maintain the existing landscape character. Existing landscape or built environment is able to visually absorb the development. There is a low degree of visual contrast and effective use of screening.

5.1.3. Visual Impact Rating

Visual impact refers to the change in the appearance of the landscape because of development. This report addresses a number of factors that contribute to the visual impacts and has presented them in a measurable way.

Table 5.5 provides a matrix that combines the visual sensitivity rating with the visual effect rating to determine the visual impact rating. This rating is applied to each viewpoint as a way to measure the impacts of a development from particular locations.

Table 5.5: Visual impact rating matrix

Visual impact rating		Visual effect			
		High	Moderate	High	Low
Visual sensitivity	High	High	High	Moderate	Moderate
	Moderate	High	High	Moderate	Low
	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low

Visual Sensitivity Rating + Visual effect rating = Visual impact rating.