Manual for Forest Visual Landscape Management

Chapter 1 — Visual Landscape Awareness

This chapter defines principles of visual perception which can assist in our appreciation and analysis of the inherent visual character and values of a landscape. It further provides a basis from which to understand the landscape and begin to identify the likely effects on viewing of proposed forest management changes.

Chapter 2 — Visual Management System

Both the viewing exposure to the public and the inherent attractivity of the visual landscape affect the sensitivity of landscape where forest operations may occur. The Visual Management System takes a step by step approach to assessment of the total landscape into graded zones. This provides a mapped inventory of relative viewing sensitivity.

Chapter 4— Visual Absorption Capability

Each part of the landscape has a different inherent capability to visually withstand or absorb management activities. A range of detailed parameters of the land that determine this capability are defined in this chapter. These can be identified and measured on a systematic basis to provide an inventory of values or, they may be used on a site by site, coupe by coupe basis.

Chapter 6— Landscape Design for Native Forest Operations

Examples of visual design alternatives for operational are given. These cover a range of generic solutions to address the widely varied landscapes, forests and operational types occurring within the state and can be reviewed to determine visually successful operational designs for particular situations.

Chapter 7— Landscape Character Types of Tasmania

A regional framework of 10 “landscape character types” is described for Tasmania. The types are specific regions within which scenic quality is assessed independently to provide classes for input into mapping of Landscape Priority Zone under the Visual Management System (defined in Chapter 2).

The types particularly exemplify the scenic diversity existing across the State, within a moderate-sized area. As well, the types are a convenient starting point for definition of more detailed local-scale landscape character areas—each possessing an individual sense of place and viewing extremity.

About this 2006 republication of the Landscape Manual

The revision of 5 of the original 7 chapters the *Manual for Forest Visual Landscape Management*, 1990 includes minor changes in text and formatting where appropriate for improved comprehension.

The 1990 publication consolidated the established theme for forest visual landscape management in Tasmania. This was at a time of change and expansion of sophistication within the forest industry which was chiefly centered on harvesting and regeneration of native forest. Indeed the Manual was developed for use with native forest on public lands with some only brief comments on exotic pine forests and their place in the landscape.

Today we can judge the effects of the application of visual landscape management principles and practices over the ensuing years on native forests around the state. Also today, the effects can be seen of the past 3-5 years of ongoing diversification of the industry, especially in the expansion of large scale hardwood plantation establishment on both public and private lands.

Chapter 2 defines the Visual Management System which continues to provide a useful method for codifying scenery to indicate its viewing prominence, sensitivity and respective planning priority for visual management. This is even more pertinent today due to the conduct of forestry operations in the more visually open rural scenery where viewing by a higher proportion of the community is assured.

In the future, the above chapters are to be refined to include further ideas and evolution of existing theory and practices. New sections are being prepared to consolidate and expand visual landscape management capability for strategic through to field design. In particular these are to include: visual design theory, and visual character objectives for strategic planning, for plantation forestry; planning principles for native forest skyline management; and visual analysis procedure for individual operational areas.