

Fingerboards Critical Minerals Project Study Briefs - Landscape and Visual Assessment

Overview

The landscape and visual assessment will evaluate how the Project may affect the existing visual amenity of the surrounding area. It will identify the key viewpoints, landscape features, and sensitive receptors which may include nearby residences, public roads, and recreational areas.

Using visual simulations (photomontages) and field observations, it will assess the magnitude and significance of visual impacts during construction, operation, and closure of the Project.

The assessment will be used to inform mitigation measures such as progressive rehabilitation, vegetation screening, and design refinements to reduce potential visual impacts and maintain landscape amenity over time.

Assessment Objectives

- Characterise the existing conditions of the area to establish the existing visual amenity of the surrounding area, and identify nearby sensitive receptors
- Produce representative photomontages to illustrate potential visual impacts and support the impact assessment and decision making
- Identify and assess potential adverse impacts of the mine on visual amenity within and around the Project site
- Develop mitigation measures to avoid, minimise and manage potential visual impacts and protect local amenity and landscape character
- Support engagement with the local community to ensure that their concerns over landscape and visual impacts are addressed in the assessment process and outcome reporting
- Support informed decision-making by providing a robust and transparent assessment with practical mitigation strategies.

Preliminary Focus Areas

- **Visibility and Sensitivity** - Analysis of how visible the Project will be from various viewpoints, including local homes, public roads, and recreation sites to determine which areas are most sensitive to changes in view.
- **Visual Impact on Community** - Assessment of effects on both public and private land, including highly valued or sensitive viewpoints, and the amenity enjoyed by local communities and visitors.
- **Photomontage Visualisation** - Production of accurate photomontages from key viewpoints to help the community and stakeholders visualise proposed changes and mitigation options.
- **Landscape Character** - Mapping and description of landscape types and prominent features in the region to understand their significance and determine impact levels.
- **Mitigation and Adaptation** - Recommendations for design modifications and landscape rehabilitation to minimise lasting visual changes and maintain local character.
- **Stakeholder engagement** - Support community meetings and transparent reporting, allowing the local community to provide feedback and understand the findings, including planned mitigation measures.

Specialist Consultant

Hansen Partnership has been engaged to undertake the landscape and visual assessment. The firm is an award-winning landscape architecture, urban design, and planning consultancy based in Melbourne and Byron Bay. The team at Hansen Partnership bring extensive technical experience in visual impact assessment, landscape strategy, and stakeholder engagement to major infrastructure, resource, and renewable energy projects across Victoria and Australia. Hansen Partnership specialises in objective evidence-led recommendations, robust public consultation, and practical design advice for landscape management in complex project environments. More information can be found at <https://hansenpartnership.com.au>

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