

Part 6

NFL – Natural features and landscapes

APP36 – City backdrop

Introduction

The following sections set out the specific values and attributes of each distinct portion of the City’s backdrop.

All the following areas are identified on the Nelson Plan Maps as City backdrop overlays.

1. Barnicoat Range
<p>The Barnicoat Range forms part of the prominent mountain range backdrop and skyline viewed beyond the settled foothills and plains to the south of Nelson. The range is in public and private ownership and is used for forestry, farming, quarrying and there are areas of native bush.</p>
Visibility – very high
<p><i>Nelson Town Centre</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Barnicoat Range is not generally visible from Nelson’s CBD with the possible exception of parts of Saxton and Jenkins Hills. <p><i>Main arterial routes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The backdrop of the Barnicoat Range is highly visible from SH6 passing through Stoke to the south of Nelson. <p><i>Coastal views</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The backdrop of the Barnicoat Range is highly visible from Waimea Inlet between Tahunanui Beach to the south of the Port Hills Ridge and Richmond. <p><i>Skylines</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Barnicoat Range forms a prominent skyline observed to the south of Nelson and within Tasman Bay.
Natural and physical qualities and characteristics – high
<p><i>Landform</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The main ridge reaches between 420 and 860 masl and forms a strong south-west to north-east alignment above the Stoke Foothills.• The ridgeline remains relatively intact, with some localised tracking. <p><i>Land cover</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Areas of established and regenerating native vegetation, plantation forestry and adjoining areas of pasture.

Sensory/aesthetic values – high

Vividness

- Visually prominent skyline ridge forming memorable, unbuilt backdrop to views from Stoke and Waimea Inlet and from areas of Tasman Bay and beyond.

Naturalness

- Steep and rugged relatively unbuilt landscape covered with mixed vegetation types.

Legibility

- The larger uplifted mountain range remains clearly apparent despite a mosaic of differing land uses.

Coherence

- Established patterns of forestry with lower slopes of pasture remains consistent with a working rural landscape.
- Harvest of plantation forest and tracking causes some transient disruption of visual coherence.

Transient values

- The undulating folds along the mountain backdrop captures creates shifting light conditions and shadows during different times of the day and year.
- More limited seasonal variation is apparent across the exotic evergreen vegetation cover.

Cultural/recreational attributes – very high

- Recreation tracks extend into the Barnicoat Range and provide established recreation connections, including the Barnicoat Walkway at the head of the Marsden Valley.
- Area serves as a launch pad for hang gliders, mountain bike tracks, and Brook Sanctuary.

Evaluation

The Barnicoat Range is considered to form an area of **visual amenity landscape** in recognition of its very high visibility with high and very high amenity values as an important mountain range backdrop to the south of Nelson.

Key landscape values

- Mountain backdrop and prominent skyline visible throughout south Nelson and Tasman Bay.
- Predominantly 'green' unbuilt character which limited apparent modification.
- Very high levels of recreation use including access from Brook Sanctuary and extensive use by mountain bikers and hang gliders.

Potential landscape threats

Visual amenity landscape

Skyline

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of visible structures which reduce open backdrop character.• Permanent clearance of vegetation and changes in land use which detract from the 'green' backdrop character.• Extensive earthworks/tracking which changes the line and form of the mountain backdrop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of prominent structures which detract from areas natural skyline.
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2. Front faces between Ngawhatu and Marsden Valleys

This area of Stoke Foothills forms part of a leading spur along the toe of the larger backdrop of the Barnicoat Range. The ridgetop remains free of built developed and forms an elevated rural backdrop above residential development established along Somerset Terrace.

Visibility – high

Nelson Town Centre

- The site is not visible from Nelson’s CBD.

Arterial roads

- The front faces are highly visible along SH6 to the south of Nelson.

Coastal views

- Highly visible from parts of Waimea Inlet and the southern edge of Monaco.

Skyline

- This is not generally visible along the skyline against a larger backdrop of the Barnicoat Range.

Natural and physical qualities and characteristics – moderate

Landform

- The landform parts of the lower lying foothills that form the toe of the larger backdrop of the Barnicoat Range.

Land cover

- Much of the area is managed as pasture with tree groups.

Sensory/aesthetic values – high

Vividness

- Part of the rural foothills which form a memorable rural backdrop to settlement established at Stoke.

Naturalness

- Much of this area is managed as farmland free of built development on the periphery of urban areas.

Legibility

- The landform remains legible as the toe slopes of the larger landform backdrop.

Coherence

- Pasture with amenity planting and regenerating slopes retain a level of visual coherence

beyond residential development, transmission towers and water tanks established along the urban edge.

Transient values

- The undulating folds of the toe slopes create ever-changing shadow patterns that add interest to the landscape.

Cultural/recreational attributes – moderate

- Well used track from Songer Street.
- Future potential links with walking tracks identified in Marsden Valley Structure Plan.

Evaluation

Front faces between Ngawhatu and Marsden Valleys are considered to form an area of **visual amenity landscape** on account of its high visibility to the south of Nelson and high amenity values associated with its open backdrop character which contrasts with urban development below.

Key landscape values

- Elevated rural spur which contrasts with urban development in Stoke.
- Pasture and amenity planting retain high levels of visual coherence and low levels of built modification.

Potential landscape threats

Visual amenity landscape	Skyline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential subdivision which fragments the open rural landscape. • Prominent structures which disrupt visual coherence and dominate this natural backdrop. • Earthworks/tracking which reduce legibility and dominate the rural landscape character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable.

3. Front faces between Enner Glynn and Bishopdale

To the south of Bishopdale, the front faces between Enner Glynn and Bishopdale form part of the elevated toe slopes of the Barnicoat Range upon which rural lifestyle development has become established.

Visibility – high

Nelson Town Centre

- The western faces are highly visible from Nelson's CBD through Bishopdale Saddle.

Arterial roads

- Moderate levels of visibility along Waimea Road and SH6 to the south of Nelson.

Coastal views

- High levels of visibility from parts of Waimea Inlet and the southern edge of Monaco.

Skyline

- Visible along the skyline from parts of Waimea Road.

Natural and physical qualities and characteristics – moderate

Landform

- The landform is part of the toe slopes and foot hills of the Barnicoat Range with some levels of modification including access ways and dwellings associated with rural lifestyle development.

Land cover

- A dispersed pattern of residential dwellings has been established amongst a strong framework of vegetation and areas of pasture.

Sensory/aesthetic values – high

Vividness

- This area of landscape forms part of the wider rural lifestyle character and gateway separating Stoke and Nelson.

Naturalness

- Low density rural residential development typically retains a low profile amongst extensive areas of vegetation and reduces the level of modification apparent.

Legibility

- Landscape patterns retain large areas of unmodified landform with discreet low density rural lifestyle development.

Coherence

- Residential development is nestled within extensive areas of vegetation retaining a high level of visual coherence.

Transient values

- Encounters with wildlife are increased in areas of more extensive vegetation alongside seasonal variations in exotic leaf cover.

Cultural/recreational attributes – low

- No recreation use has been identified.

Evaluation

The front faces between Enner Glynn and Bishopdale are considered to form an area of **visual amenity landscape** in recognition of their high visibility and high amenity values associated with rural lifestyle development and memorable gateway context which separates Richmond and Nelson.

Key landscape values

- Prominent toe slopes which retain a low density rural character and unmodified landform.
- Rural setting and backdrop to Stoke.
- Extensive vegetation screens views of existing development.

Potential landscape threats

Visual amenity landscape

- Residential subdivision which fragments rural character.
- Prominent structures which disrupt visual coherence and dominate this natural backdrop.
- Earthworks/tracking which reduces legibility and detracts from the green backdrop character.

Skyline

- Prominent structures and earthworks which disrupt intact landforms along the skyline.

4. Grampians

The Grampians forms a prominent green backdrop and sequence of open conical hills to the south of Nelson City.

Visibility – very high

Nelson Town Centre

- The western face of the Grampians has very high levels of visibility from Nelson’s CBD.
- The western face of Sugarloaf has moderate levels of visibility from Nelson’s CBD.

Arterial roads

- Parts of the western face of the Grampians have very high levels of visibility from Waimea Road and over longer distances from Queen Elizabeth II Drive.
- The summit of Sugarloaf and lower unnamed summit to the south has moderate levels of visibility from Nelson’s main arterial routes.

Coastal views

- The summit of the Grampians has very high visibility from the coastal edge with much of the western face of the Grampians and adjoining summits of Sugarloaf having low and moderate levels of visibility.

Skylines

- The Grampians forms a prominent element of Nelson’s skyline visible from within the CBD as well as the main arterial routes into Nelson City and the coastal edge.

Natural and physical qualities and characteristics – high

Landform

- A large conical landform consistent with the underlying formative Brook Street Volcanic land type.

Land cover

- Mosaic of native vegetation and pine plantation, gum trees, scrub and pasture.

Sensory/aesthetic values – high

Vividness

- The ‘green’ vegetated form of the Grampians forms a striking and memorable backdrop to Nelson City.

Naturalness

- There is limited built modification retaining a vegetated green backdrop character which contrasts with surrounding urban development.

Legibility

- The conical volcanic form of the ridges and summits of the Grampians are clearly legible.

Coherence

- The green backdrop of the Grampians retain a high level of visual coherence.
- Patchwork of vegetation types on western face and cut over on Sugarloaf reduces coherence in some areas, particularly during harvesting of exotic forests.
- The summit of the Grampians includes a prominent transmission tower.

Transient values

- Recreation use in this area of regenerating native vegetation provides bird habitat and opportunities to experience wildlife in close proximity to Nelson’s town centre.

Cultural/recreational attributes – very high

- The Grampians Reserve provides recreation access throughout much of this area.
- The backdrop of the Grampians is widely regarded as the singularly most visible and recognisable landform from the city.

Evaluation

The Grampians including Sugarloaf are considered to form an area of **visual amenity landscape** in recognition of the very high levels of visibility and very high amenity values forming a prominent element and cultural and recreation attributes within the larger green backdrop to Nelson City.

Key landscape values

- Legible conical forms expressive of formative volcanic processes.
- Predominantly unmodified skyline with large transmission tower forming local land mark on top of the Grampians.
- Part of larger sequence of green backdrop observed from Nelson City.
- Extensive recreation use associated with Grampians Reserve.

Potential landscape threats

Visual amenity landscape

- Expansion of development along the lower slopes which disrupts the green backdrop character.
- Earthworks/tracking which reduces legibility and changes the line and

Skyline

- Further prominent structures which disrupt areas of natural skyline.

<p>form of the mountain backdrop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expansion of forestry/wilding species impacting on areas of native vegetation.	
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5. Sharland Hill

Sharland Hill forms part of a larger series of legible conical hill forms which extend between Brook Street and the Maitai Valley and form part of the immediate backdrop to the south-east of Nelson.

Visibility – high

Nelson Town Centre

- The western face and toe slopes of Sharland Hill have very high levels of visibility from Nelson's CBD.

Arterial roads

- Low visibility, predominantly visible from Waimea Road.

Coastal views

- The summit of Sharland Hill is highly visible from the coast, with less visibility of the western faces.

Skylines

- The summit of Sharland Hill is visible along the skyline from within the centre of Nelson City.

Natural and physical qualities and characteristics – moderate

Landform

- A large conical landform which forms part of a larger sequence of open ridges forming the immediate backdrop to the south of the city.

Land cover

- Land cover is highly modified with plantation forestry dispersed with areas of native scrub.

Sensory/aesthetic values – high

Vividness

- Part of the memorable green backdrop sequence visible from Nelson City.

Naturalness

- There is limited built modification apparent with forestry retaining a green backdrop character which contrasts with urban development in the city.

Legibility

- The conical volcanic form of the ridges and summits remain legible.

Coherence

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coherent green backdrop character with some notable disruption during forestry harvest. <p><i>Transient values</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regenerating vegetation provides opportunities to experience wildlife in close proximity to Nelson’s town centre. 	
<p>Cultural/recreational attributes – very high</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive recreation tracks connect with the Brook and the Maitai Valley along the eastern and southern edges of the landform. 	
<p>Evaluation</p>	
<p>Sharland Hill is considered to form an area of visual amenity landscape in recognition of its high visibility and high amenity values as part of the prominent green backdrop to Nelson City.</p>	
<p>Key landscape values</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to larger natural and memorable mountain backdrop sequence. • Legible conical forms expressive of formative volcanic processes. • Several recreation tracks provide access from the Maitai and Brook valleys. 	
<p>Potential landscape threats</p>	
<p>Visual amenity landscape</p>	<p>Skyline</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of urban development which disrupts the green backdrop character. • Earthworks/tracking which reduces legibility and changes the line and form of the mountain backdrop. • Expansion of forestry/wilding species which impact on areas of native vegetation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of prominent structures which disrupt areas of natural skyline.

6. Fringed Hill

This area forms part of the larger mountain range backdrop which rises to the east of the Brook and extends between the Maitai Valley and the Brook Sanctuary.

Visibility – high

Nelson Town Centre

- The western face and toe slopes of Fringed Hill have very high levels of visibility from Nelson's CBD.

Arterial roads

- The summit and upper western slopes have high levels of visibility from Nelson's main roads as part of Nelson's larger mountainous backdrop.

Coastal views

- The summit and western slopes have very high levels of visibility from Nelson's coast.

Skyline

- Fringed Hill forms part of the skyline seen from Nelson's town centre.
- The summit of Fringed Hill appears along the skyline from Nelson's arterial routes and coastal edge.

Natural and physical qualities and characteristics – moderate

Landform

- A large rising mountain slope which forms part of the larger sequence of mountain backdrop beyond the Grampians and Sharland Hill.

Land cover

- Land cover is highly modified with plantation forestry dispersed with areas of native scrub.

Sensory/aesthetic values – high

Vividness

- The vegetated form of Fringed Hill forms part of the memorable backdrop sequence to Nelson City.

Naturalness

- No significant built modification apparent with forestry retaining a green backdrop character which contrasts with urban development in the city.

Legibility

- Remains legible as part of the broader mountain range backdrop.

<p><i>Coherence</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of the broader green backdrop character with changes in forestry cover reducing visual coherence during times of harvest. <p><i>Transient values</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Productive forestry limits opportunities to experience wildlife. 	
<p>Cultural/recreational attributes – high</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several recreation tracks have been established providing access into Nelson’s wider mountain ranges including the Dun Mountain Walkway accessed near the southern end of the Brook. 	
<p>Evaluation</p>	
<p>Fringed Hill is considered to form an area of visual amenity landscape in recognition of its high visibility and high amenity values as part of the broader mountain range backdrop to Nelson City.</p>	
<p>Key landscape values</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of visible skyline with no significant or dominant built modification. Contribution to larger natural and memorable mountain backdrop sequence. Several recreation tracks provide access to wider mountains and views. 	
<p>Potential landscape threats</p>	
<p>Visual amenity landscape</p>	<p>Skyline</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prominent structures which dominate this natural backdrop. Permanent clearance of vegetation which disrupts the line and form of the larger mountain backdrop. Excessive earthworks/tracking which detract from the green backdrop character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of prominent structures which dominate an unmodified skyline.

7. Botanical Hill

Botanical Hill forms the eastern edge and prominent green backdrop to Nelson City which extend between the summit of Botanical Hill and entrance into the Maitai Valley to the south and the ridge above Walter Bluff to the north.

Visibility – very high

Nelson Town Centre

- The western face of Botanical Hill has very high levels of visibility from Nelson's CBD.

Arterial roads

- The upper slopes have a moderate level of visibility along SH6 to the north of Nelson.

Coastal views

- Botanical Hill has limited visibility from the coast with high visibility from the coast typically occurring to the north of Walters Bluff.

Skyline

- Botanical Hill forms a prominent part of Nelson's skyline to the north of the City.

Natural and physical qualities and characteristics – high

Landform

- A distinctive conical landform which connects into low rolling ridge which extends to the north of Nelson City.

Land cover

- Land cover includes areas of remnant native vegetation with amenity trees and includes areas of native scrub, gorse and pasture to the north.

Sensory/aesthetic values – high

Vividness

- The conical and vegetated form of Botanical Hill forms a highly memorable feature and backdrop to the east of Nelson City.

Naturalness

- There is limited built modification apparent with most of the landform retaining a green backdrop character which provides a high degree of contrast with urban development at its base.

Legibility

- The conical volcanic form of Botanical Hill is legible adjoining a long rolling ridgetop.

Coherence

- The green backdrop character of Botanical Hill retains a high level of visual coherence.

Transient values

- Recreation use and the lookout on Botanical Hill provide opportunities to experience wildlife in close proximity to Nelson’s town centre.

Cultural/recreational attributes – very high

- Botanical Hill is widely recognised as the centre of New Zealand given its role in founding surveying in New Zealand.

Evaluation

Botanical Hill is considered to form an area of **visual amenity landscape** in recognition of its very high visibility and very high amenity values as part of the prominent green backdrop to Nelson City.

Key landscape values

- Prominent green backdrop.
- Conical features and rolling ridgelines expressive of formative volcanic processes.
- Important recreation and cultural significance.

Potential landscape threats

Visual amenity landscape

- Residential subdivision which disrupts this memorable green backdrop character.
- Earthworks/tracking which detract from the green backdrop character.
- Expansion of forestry/wilding species which impact on areas of native vegetation.

Skyline

- Prominent structures and buildings which dominate the skyline.

8. Malvern Hills

The Malvern Hills extend along the first leading ridgeline to the north of Walters Bluff, parallel with Nelson Haven and culminates along the lower lying areas which extend to the north of Bay View Road.

Visibility – high

Nelson Town Centre

- The Malvern Hills are not visible from the town centre.

Arterial roads

- Moderate levels of visibility are available from adjoining areas of SH6 following alongside Nelson Haven.

Coastal views

- The upper faces of the Malvern Hills are highly visible from the coast including Nelson Haven.

Skyline

- The summit and upper slopes of the Malvern Hills are visible along the skyline from SH6 passing alongside Nelson Haven.
- The Malvern Hills are typically seen below the higher ridgeline of Kaka Hill to Wells Hill from the coastal edge.

Natural and physical qualities and characteristics – moderate

Landform

- The summit of the Malvern Hills forms a predominantly open rolling ridgetop which runs parallel with Nelson Haven to the north of Nelson.

Land cover

- Land cover predominantly includes areas of mown pasture forming corridors between larger sections of regenerating native scrub.

Sensory/aesthetic values – high

Vividness

- The open rounded form along the summit of the Malvern Hills is memorable as part of the immediate backdrop to Nelson Haven.

Naturalness

- Built development typically avoids the ridgetop, however much of this area is managed as part of the surrounding modified rural landscape.

Legibility

- Rolling summits and spur crests remain characteristic of weathered volcanic processes.

Coherence

- Limited development is apparent along the upper slopes and ridge crest and there is a high level of visual coherence.

Transient values

- Opportunities to experience wildlife and changing coastal views from Ridgeway Track.

Cultural/recreational attributes – moderate

- The Ridgeline Track connects between Bay View Road to the north of Brooklands and Botanical Hill.

Evaluation

The Malvern Hills are considered to form an area of **visual amenity landscape** on account of their high visibility and high amenity values associated with its open foreground character visible from the coastal edge to the north of Nelson.

Key landscape values

- Rolling ridgetop landform running parallel with Nelson Haven.
- Predominantly open skyline and rural backdrop character.

Potential landscape threats

Visual amenity landscape	Skyline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevated residential subdivision and development which dominates this natural backdrop character. • Earthworks/tracking which detract from the rolling ridgetop character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prominent structures and buildings which dominate the skyline.

9. Kaka Hill to A7CH

Kaka Hill includes part of the wider mountain backdrop to the north of Nelson City which extends beyond the Malvern Hills.

Visibility – high

Nelson Town Centre

- The western face of Kaka Hill is highly visible from Nelson's CBD.

Arterial roads

- The summits of Kaka Hill and Wells Hill have moderate levels of visibility from SH6.

Coastal views

- The ridgeline from Kaka Hill to A7CH, including Wells Hill, has high and very high visibility from the coast.

Skyline

- The ridgeline from Kaka Hill to A7CH, including wells Hill, is visible along the skyline for much of Nelson's CBD, coastal edge and parts of SH6.

Natural and physical qualities and characteristics – moderate

Landform

- A large rounded and conical landform which forms part of a larger sequence of open ridges forming a continuous backdrop beyond residential areas which extend to the north of the city.

Land cover

- Land cover is highly modified with plantation forestry dispersed with areas of native scrub.

Sensory/aesthetic values – high

Vividness

- The open vegetated form which continues south of Kaka Hill forms part of the memorable 'green' backdrop to Nelson.

Naturalness

- Some tracking is apparent whilst retaining a strong vegetated green backdrop character.

Legibility

- The conical volcanic form of the ridges and summits remain legible.

Coherence

- The larger mountain backdrop retains a high level of visual coherence, with the

<p>exception of disruption during harvesting of exotic forest.</p> <p><i>Transient values</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regenerating vegetation provides opportunities to experience wildlife. 	
<p>Cultural/recreational attributes – low</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation use occurs along the multitude of forestry tracks accessible from the Maitai Valley. 	
<p>Evaluation</p>	
<p>Kaka Hill to A7CH is considered to form an area of visual amenity landscape in recognition of its high visibility and high amenity values as part of the prominent green backdrop to Nelson.</p>	
<p>Key landscape values</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predominantly unmodified skyline and green backdrop. Legible conical and rolling ridgetop forms expressive of formative volcanic processes. Several recreation tracks to the north of Nelson. 	
<p>Potential landscape threats</p>	
<p>Visual amenity landscape</p>	<p>Skyline</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prominent structures which dominate this natural backdrop. Permanent clearance of vegetation which disrupts the line and form of the larger mountain backdrop. Excessive earthworks/tracking which detract from the green backdrop character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of prominent structures which disrupt areas of natural skyline.

10. Dodson Valley to Todds Valley

Dodson to Todds Valley extends to the north of the Malvern Hills along the eastern edge of Nelson Haven.

Visibility – high

Town Centre views

- The northern face of the Dodson Valley is potentially visible from elevated locations within Nelson's CBD.

Arterial roads

- The spur between Wells Hill and Todds Valley immediately beyond Marybank has high levels of visibility from SH6 to the north of Nelson.

Coastal views

- The western faces between Dodson and Todds Valley have very high levels of visibility from the coastal edge.
- The northern slopes of Dodson Valley have high levels of visibility from the coast, predominantly along the Boulder Bank.

Skyline

- Parts of the spur to the east of Marybank are visible along the skyline from Nelson's CBD.
- Elevated parts of the spur above Marybank is visible along the skyline from the coastal edge with the entire spur between Wells Hill and Todds Valley visible along the skyline seen from SH6.

Natural and physical qualities and characteristics – moderate

Landform

- A long rolling spur which includes a series of rounded ridgetops and a conical hill to the west of Wells Hill.

Land cover

- Land cover is highly modified with areas of amenity planting, hedging, pasture and native scrub.
- Extends through increasing areas of amenity planting and woodlots associated with rural lifestyle developed at the northern end and isolated rural dwellings which have established along the ridge.

Sensory/aesthetic values – high

Vividness

- Foreground landform forming a memorable part of the immediate backdrop to Nelson Haven.

Naturalness

- There is limited built modification apparent in elevated areas with most of the landform retaining a green backdrop character with increasing rural lifestyle dwellings established at the lower northern end.

Legibility

- The formative conical volcanic forms of the ridges and summits remain legible.

Coherence

- The unmodified green backdrop and skyline viewed from Nelson Haven retain a high level of visual coherence.

Transient values

- The changing tides within Nelson Haven are visible throughout much of this area.

Cultural/recreational attributes – low

- No recreation use has been identified through private rural land.

Evaluation

The leading ridge between Dodson and Todds Valley is considered to form an area of **visual amenity landscape** on account of high visibility and high amenity values which remain prominent along Nelson’s northern coastal edge.

Key landscape values

- Prominent foreground ridge to the north of Nelson.
- A long open rolling ridgetop form.
- Legible conical forms expressive of formative volcanic processes.

Potential landscape threats

Visual amenity landscape

- Prominent structures and buildings which dominate this natural backdrop.
- Earthworks/tracking which detract from areas of otherwise unmodified landform.
- Further changes in land use reducing visual coherence.

Skyline

- Elevated residential subdivision extending along spurs and skylines.

11. Todds Valley to Gentle Annie

The area between Todds Valley and Gentle Annie forms part of the northern toe of the Atawhai Hills and includes a series of smaller gullies and spurs which adjoin the northern entrance to Nelson along Wakapuaka Road.

Visibility – high

Town Centre views

- This area is not visible from within Nelson’s CBD.

Arterial roads

- Visibility is limited to adjoining areas along Wakapuaka Road (SH6).

Coastal views

- The northern faces of Todds Valley have very high levels of visibility from Nelson’s Coastal Edge.
- The remaining spurs and valleys generally have low levels of visibility.

Skyline

- The northern spur to Todds Valley forms part of the skyline visible from the coastal edge.
- The series of spurs which extend north of A7CH appear along the skyline observed from Wakapuaka Road when passing adjacent to this area.

Natural and physical qualities and characteristics – moderate

Landform

- A series of local ridgelines and spurs follow the northern toe of the Atawhai Hills along the edge of Wakapuaka Road.

Land cover

- Land cover accommodates a diverse matrix of amenity planting, forestry and pasture with some areas of native scrub above rural lifestyle development.

Sensory/aesthetic values – high

Vividness

- The open spurs form part of the memorable gateway context and gateway to the north of Nelson.

Naturalness

- There is limited built modification apparent with most of the landform retaining a vegetated green backdrop character.

Legibility

- The conical volcanic form of the rolling ridges and summits remain legible.
- Landform provides natural enclosure along sequence of contained valleys.

Coherence

- The sequence of open elevated spurs retain a high level of visual coherence.

Transient values

- Regenerating vegetation provides opportunities to experience wildlife.

Cultural/recreational attributes – low

- The land is managed as part of a private farm over which no recreation sue has been identified.

Evaluation

The ridgelines enclosing the Dodson Valley are considered to form areas of **visual amenity landscape** on account of their high visibility from SH6 and high amenity values associated with the northern gateway to Nelson.

Key landscape values

- Sequence of open rolling ridgeline and spurs adjoining northern approach to Nelson.
- Natural enclosure of contained gullies.

Potential landscape threats

Visual amenity landscape

- Prominent structures and buildings which dominate this natural backdrop.
- Earthworks/tracking which detract from areas of otherwise unmodified landform.

Skyline

- Elevated residential subdivision extending along spurs and skylines.

12. Gentle Annie Saddle

Gentle Annie Saddle extends between the northern edge of the Wakapuaka Foothills and the southern face of Drumduan. It forms an important gateway to the north of Nelson City which separates rural lifestyle settlement in Hira Basin from the open coastal edge of Wakapuaka Flats. It provides the first opportunity to view the coast travelling south along Whangamoa Road (SH6).

Visibility – high

Nelson Town centre

- The Saddle is not visible from Nelson's CBD.

Arterial roads

- The saddle is highly visible when travelling along SH6.

Coastal views

- The saddle is not generally visible from the coast, however the summit of Drumduan has very high visibility.

Skyline

- Gentle Annie Saddle forms the skyline along SH6 between Drumduan and the Atawhai Hills.
- The tops of Drumduan are highly visible along the skyline seen from the coastal edge and travelling north along Wakapuaka Road (SH6).

Natural and physical qualities and characteristics – moderate

Landform

- The saddle landform retains an accessible corridor between the northern toe of the Atawhai Hills and Drumduan.

Land cover

- Land cover is highly modified with pasture and plantation forestry.

Sensory/aesthetic values – high

Vividness

- The striking form of Drumduan provides an important feature to the north of Nelson.
- Gentle Annie saddle forms part of the memorable northern entrance to Nelson along SH6.

Naturalness

- The landform of Drumduan remains largely unmodified whilst accommodating pastoral and forestry use.

- Several rural dwellings and access ways are apparent along the margins of SH6.

Legibility

- Some tracking and forestry have reduced the legibility of lower areas of the larger legible landform.

Coherence

- Tracking and forestry have reduced the coherence of lower areas of the Drumduan adjoining SH6 with elevated areas remaining relatively intact.

Transient values

- The summit of Drumduan reveals changing weather patterns and cloud cover.
- There are limited opportunities to experience wildlife.

Cultural/recreational attributes – moderate

- Gentle Annie Saddle is recognised as a northern ‘gateway’ to Nelson City separating the coast from inland areas.
- This area is private ownership with no apparent recreation use.

Evaluation

Gentle Annie Saddle is considered to form an area of **visual amenity landscape** in recognition of its high visibility and high amenity values associated with its open rural form and gateway to the north of Nelson.

Key landscape values

- Part of the northern gateway experience of Nelson City.
- Rural pass separating Hira from the Wakapuaka.
- Striking summit and upper slopes of Drumduan.

Potential landscape threats

Visual amenity landscape	Skyline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceived urban sprawl connecting Hira Basin and Wakapuaka Foothills. • Prominent structures and buildings which dominate this natural backdrop. • Earthworks/tracking which detract from areas of otherwise unmodified landform. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevated residential subdivision extending along spurs and skylines.