

Landscape Peer Review

SGA NORTHWEST STRATEGIC AND LOCAL ROADS

25 November 2022 | Preliminary Comments

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Bridget Gilbert Landscape Architecture Limited (**BGLA**) has been requested by Auckland Council to provide landscape peer review advice in relation to a series of Notices of Requirement as part of the Supporting Growth Alliance programme for the Northwest (Auckland).
- 1.2 Following a meeting with the SGA Planner and Boffa Miskell staff on Friday 25 November 2022, I set out below a suggested approach for the structure of an Executive Summary in the Landscape Effects Reports, that I consider would assist a clearer understanding of the landscape effects assessment.

2 North West Strategic Landscape Report Executive Summary

- 2.1 Brief **Introduction** paragraph (as per current report).
- 2.2 Scope of Assessment: list areas and insert an **Overview Plan** of the 'corridor', labelling key roads and places. Identify S1, S2, S3, KS Kumeu Rapid Transit Station, HS Huapai Rapid Transit Station ' and S4 on the plan.
- 2.3 Briefly explain that this is a designation process and will be subject to detailed design at Outline Plan of Works stage (or something along those lines, informed by the planners). As such there is a **fundamental strategy** of using the **Urban and Landscape Design Management Plan (UDLMP)** process required in the **Proposed Conditions** as the method to manage landscape related effects. Perhaps explain that this has been accepted as an appropriate approach on other recent NoRs etc in areas that include both urban and rural zoned land (eg Drury)?
- 2.4 Insert a brief summary of the **relevant conditions** in managing landscape related effects. The detail in the conditions is really helpful in providing guidance that the 'next process' (or detailed OPW process) will be thorough.
- 2.5 Explain that the UDLMP will **draw from the findings of the Urban Design Evaluation (UDE)** and Landscape Report along with consideration of the detailed design. As such, the UDE provides a helpful overview of many of the key landscape and urban design related principles that will underpin the future corridor. Insert each of the UDE sector graphics.
- 2.6 Briefly explain the distinction between **Construction Effects** and **Operational Effects**.

Construction Effects:

- 2.7 Current paragraph is fine but it would be helpful to add a brief summary of what the relevant mitigation measures are that have been factored into the assessment.

Operation Effects:

- 2.8 Describe the **Positive Effects** – current paragraph is fine.
- 2.9 Perhaps insert something that summarises some of the common **moderating factors** eg FUZ context of sections of the corridor. Ideally add a plan (using the Overview Plan as a base) broadly showing where this moderating influence applies. Mention/roughly map any other moderating factors as relevant eg very poor-quality existing streetscape environment, industrial context etc??
- 2.10 Then something like:

Adverse operational effects are expected to be as a result of a widened or introduced road corridor resulting in changes in landform and removal of vegetation. Drawing from the findings of the detailed assessment in the main body of this report, the (approximate) key locations of landscape related effects are shown on the figures below:

- 2.11 Insert a **series of diagrams** that show spatially where the key landscape effects are, ideally using the same base plans to those in the UDE (by sector). I expect that the range of 'landscape effects types' that will need to be shown diagrammatically might include (in no order of priority and there could well be more):
- Large scale and/or protected vegetation removal.
 - Wetland modification.
 - Stream realignment.
 - Areas of large scale earthworks (cut and fill, retaining structures).
 - Sections where the corridor will be particularly prominent within a Rural zone (incl CSL zone) context.
 - Locations where the corridor will impact on reserves/open spaces.
- 2.12 Then explain by 'effect type', the key aspects of the **Urban and Landscape Design Management Plan (UDLMP)** process required in the **Proposed Conditions** and/or **UDE** that will address those types of effects. This could take the form of a **Summary Table**.
- 2.13 Explain that factoring in the mitigation contemplated by the **Urban and Landscape Design Management Plan (UDLMP)** process required in the **Proposed Conditions**, along with the **Positive Effects** and **Moderating Factors** outlined above, the adverse effects are concluded to be as follows:
- 2.14 Insert **conclusory comments on Operational Effects**. This needs to reference **visual amenity**, **natural character** and **landscape character** (incl rural and urban character) effects.
- 2.15 Insert **Summary Table of Effects**

Sector	Construction Effects	Visual Effects	Amenity	Natural Effects	Character	Landscape Effects
SECTOR X						
Without mitigation						
With Mitigation						
SECTOR Y						
Without mitigation						
With Mitigation						

Bridget Gilbert
Landscape Architect
B Hort Dip LA ALI NZILA

APPENDIX A

Bridget Gilbert: Qualifications And Experience

Bridget holds the qualifications of Bachelor of Horticulture from Massey University and a postgraduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture from Lincoln College, is an associate of the Landscape Institute (UK) and a registered member of the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects.

Bridget has practised as a Landscape Architect for over twenty-five years in both New Zealand and England. Upon her return to New Zealand, Bridget worked with Boffa Miskell Ltd in their Auckland office for seven years. She has been operating her own practice for the last sixteen years, also in Auckland.

During the course of her career, Bridget has been involved in a wide range of work in expert landscape evaluation, assessment, and advice throughout New Zealand, including:

- landscape assessment in relation to Regional and District Plan policy;
- preparation of structure plans for rural, coastal, and urban developments;
- conceptual design and landscape assessment of infrastructure, rural, coastal, and urban development; and
- detailed design and implementation supervision of infrastructure, rural, coastal, and urban projects.

Of particular relevance to Bridget's landscape peer review role within the Queenstown Lakes District, Bridget co-authored the Wakatipu Basin Land Use Planning Study in 2017. Since that time, Bridget has assisted QLDC with landscape advice in relation to PDP Chapters 3, 6, 21, 24, 41 and 46 giving her a reasonable understanding of the range of landscape issues across the District's rural landscapes.

Bridget has provided landscape advice in relation to rural living developments throughout many parts of rural New Zealand, including: Northland; Whangarei District Rodney; Waiheke, Rakino and Great Barrier Islands; Whitford; Clevedon; Franklin; Matamata; Cambridge; Coromandel Peninsula; Waitomo District; Taupo; New Plymouth; and Tasman District.

Bridget is currently a panel member of the Auckland Urban Design Panel (with a Chair endorsement).

Bridget is also an Independent Hearing Commissioner for Auckland Council.

In addition, Bridget was appointed as one of three peer reviewers of the *Te Tangi a te Manu Aotearoa* Landscape Assessment Guidelines under the direction of the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects. This work has given Bridget an up-to-date insight into landscape assessment best practice.