

## 7.0 LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

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With respect to landscape issues, the colliery has an important impact on the local area resulting in changes to the landscape. Prior to the coming of the mine, the area was predominately a mixture of undulating coastal hills and cliffs covered with native vegetation. The arrival of mining to the area meant clearing of a large amount of bushland, the construction of industrial-scale mining buildings within the landscape, the construction of jetty, the creation of a railway corridor extending well beyond the site and the establishment of an entire residential community in close proximity to the mine.

The relationship the site has to the town is an important issue. Even today, after the mines closure, Catherine Hill Bay is characterised by the presence of jetty and other related mining structures. The establishment of the Catherine Hill Bay Village is integral with the creation of the study site. It will be necessary for any future development of the site to understand this relationship and to ensure that it is maintained in some relevant manner.

The landscape itself, although not well endowed with cultural plantings, still conveys attitudes and practices of a former era. For example, the management hierarchy is reflected in the location and treatment of certain elements. This is best demonstrated with the mine Managers Residence which was well located in a position that afforded views of the mine and conveyed a sense of privilege to the workers. Notable cultural plantings include the tree large Norfolk Island Pines have been planted to the north of the Jetty Master's. These trees make an important contribution to the townscape of Catherine Hill Bay as they tend to mark the entry of the town and can be readily seen as one approaches from the south along Flowers Drive.

The landscape setting of the site, its spatial arrangements, its relationship with the village of Catherine Hill Bay and specific landscape elements contained within the site, all contribute to understanding how the mine operated.

In terms of actual landscape items, the site has an increasing number as structures are continually destroyed. In some cases plants, paths and/or fences exist where other structures have been removed (eg the washery) without which their former locations would not be readily apparent. The retention of such items, therefore, assists in providing a link to those buildings that no longer exist and helps to define a specific location and size within the site.