The visual absorption capacity of the surrounding landscape from the above viewing positions (No.s: 1, 2 and 3 as listed in **Table 4.1**) is rated as 'High' based on existing high density urban development in their immediate vicinities. The Scenic Quality of the site for potential viewers from each of these positions is rated as 'low' based absence of elevated viewing positions. The resulting Visual Impact Rating for the remediation works for these viewing locations is provided below:

Table 4.3: Visual Impact Rating of the Site during Remediation – Viewing Positions 1, 2 & 3

Visual Impact Rating		Scenic Quality Rating		
		Low	Moderate	High
Visual Absorption Capacity Rating	Low	Moderate	High	High
	Moderate	Low	Moderate	High
	High	**Low**	Low	Moderate

Based on the matrix shown the Visual Impact rating of the site during remediation from viewing positions 1, 2 and 3 is 'Low'. In the context of the proposed remediation works, this means that the scenic value of the site, and/or views afforded of items of heritage significance present within, will not be devalued from these external viewing locations for the duration.

As shown in simulated views in **Figure 12,** residents on land adjacent to the site will be exposed to significant additional visual impact for the temporary period of active remediation works. The visual absorption capacity of the surrounding landscape from the properties on the western boundary of the site (No. 4 as listed in **Table 4.1**) is rated as 'Low' based on their proximity to the remediation works. The Scenic Quality of the site from this position is rated as 'High' based on the presence of items of heritage significance and open space afforded by the site in its current condition. The resulting Visual Impact Rating for the remediation works for these viewing locations is provided below:

Table 4.4: Visual Impact Rating of the Site during Remediation – Viewing Positions 4.

Visual Impact Rating		Scenic Quality Rating		
		Low	Moderate	**High**
Visual Absorption Capacity Rating	**Low**	Moderate	High	**High**
	Moderate	Low	Moderate	High
	High	Low	Low	Moderate

Based on the matrix shown the Visual Impact rating of the site during remediation from viewing position 4 is 'High'. In the context of the proposed remediation works, this means that the scenic value of the site, and views afforded of items of heritage significance present within, will be devalued from this external viewing location for the duration. However it is noted this impact will be temporary only, and is considered unavoidable to achieve the required project objectives. Furthermore, the actual visual amenity afforded by the site in its current condition is low, and, as discussed in **Section 3.1,** the scenic value from this location following remediation, will be significantly enhanced.

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5 Mitigation Measures

The assessment of visual impact indicates that residents in properties adjacent to the site will be subject to 'High' but unavoidable visual impact for the duration of the proposed remediation works.

The following mitigation measures are proposed to limit the magnitude of impact:

- Community consultation with the potentially affected parties to inform them of the proposed staging of works and likely impacts. The consultation process should benefit from emphasising the temporary nature of the proposed works, and enhancement of the neighbourhood on completion;
- Minimise disturbance to established tree lines along the western boundary, to maintain the existing buffer and partial visual screen at ground level to the remediation works;
- Minimise disturbance to established tree lines along the northern boundary, to enhance the visual quality of the area;
- Use of mesh screening in neutral colours around the perimeter of remediation areas to act at as a partial visual screen at ground level to the remediation works.
- Maintenance of dust mitigation measures, surface runoff controls and general site housekeeping at all times to enhance the visual quality of the area;
- Completion of all earthworks tasks within the enclosures, or screened off areas wherever possible to prevent degradation of the visual quality of the area; and
- Vehicle entry gates and truck loading areas to be located away from the adjacent western properties if possible.

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6 Conclusions and Recommendations

An assessment of the visual impacts of remediation works at the former Macdonaldtown gasworks has been undertaken. A range of activities that may be undertaken with the gasworks remediation has been considered including:

- Excavation, handling and stockpiling of soils, some within an enclosure;
- Treatment of soils on-site by stabilisation / immobilisation; and
- Reinstatement of the site to the current level.

Based on the assessment, the Visual Impact rating of the site following remediation is 'Moderate'. In the context of the proposed remediation this means that while the site does contain items of heritage significance, the final landscape will neither completely conceal nor devalue the visual impact of these items.

Based on the assessment, the Visual Impact rating of the site during remediation from 3 of 4 affected external viewing positions is 'Low'. In the context of the proposed remediation works, this means that the scenic value of the site, and/or views afforded of items of heritage significance present within, will not be devalued from these external viewing locations for the duration.

Based on the assessment, the Visual Impact rating of the site during remediation from 1 of 4 affected external viewing positions is 'High', with this location being the residences adjacent to the western site boundary. In the context of the proposed remediation works, this means that the scenic value of the site, and/or views afforded of items of heritage significance present within, will be devalued from this external viewing location for the duration. However, it is noted this impact will be temporary only and is considered unavoidable to achieve the required project objectives

A number of mitigation measures have been recommended to limit the magnitude of this impact to users of properties adjacent to the western site boundary. These include:

- Community consultation with the potentially affected parties to inform them of the proposed staging of works and likely impacts. The consultation process should benefit from emphasising the temporary nature of the proposed works, and enhancement of the neighbourhood on completion;
- Use of mesh screening in neutral colours around the perimeter of remediation areas to act at as a partial visual screen at ground level to the remediation works.
- Maintenance of dust mitigation measures, surface runoff controls and general site housekeeping at all times to enhance the visual quality of the area;
- Completion of all earthworks within the enclosures, or screened off areas wherever possible to prevent degradation of the visual quality of the area;
- Vehicle entry gates and truck loading areas to be located away from the adjacent western properties if possible; and
- Where possible, the western boundary of the site should be revegetated post remediation.

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7 References

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