

**B**

Landscape Character Unit

Descriptions

## B.1 LCU01: Yarrabin / Hargrave Hills

For the purpose of this report, the Yarrabin / Hargrave Hills LCU is defined as the steep ridgelines with vegetated hill slopes to the west of Lake Burrendong, associated with Yarrabin and Hargraves. The Project Site is located within this LCU.

The LCU generally lies west of Lake Burrendong and is characterized by vegetated slopes that have been retained within their natural habitat to a large extent. Vegetation in the LCU is characterised by dry sclerophyll forests and scribbly gum communities. The hilly terrain is largely uninhabited and accessibility is limited to a small number of private farm roads.

Land use within the LCU is generally associated with nature conservation and minimal use. Most land parcels within this area are zoned as E3 - Environmental Management under the Dubbo LEP. Eastern parts of the LCU engage in light farming activities such as animal grazing and these are the areas that are zoned RU1 - Primary Production.

The vegetated hills associated with the LCU form a backdrop to Lake Burrendong from land to the west (see **Image B1**) and from surrounding grazing land (see **Image B2**). Views from within the LCU are limited to elevated, cleared positions.

*The Scenic Quality has been rated as moderate.*



**Image B1.** View towards the steep vegetated hills associated with Yarrabin / Hargrave Hills LCU. The hills form a backdrop to views from the surrounding foothills.



**Image B2.** Vegetated hills visible from Cudgeong River associated with the LCU

Application of Scenic Quality Rating Frame of Reference:							
	Landform	Waterforms	Vegetation	Human Influence	Activity	Rarity	Relationship with Adjoining Landscapes
H							
M	●		●	●	●		●
L		●				●	
<b>LCU01 Scenic Quality Rating = Moderate</b>							

**Table B1** Scenic Quality Rating - LCU01



**Image B3.** View from a cleared, elevated area within the Project Site

## B.2 LCU02: Yarrabin / Hargrave Farmlands

The Yarrabin / Hargrave Farmlands LCU is defined as the gently undulating landscapes associated with Yarrabin and Hargraves that have been cleared for grazing pastures and other agricultural activity. The landscape is generally modified with a few dwellings and farmsheds that can be accessed via Wallerwaugh Road, Black Willow Road, Bonds Road, Triamble Road and Gundowda Road which emerge from Hill End Road. The LCU sits within the gentle undulations that lie in the foothills of the ridgelines towards the western part of the Project Area.

Topography in this LCU is gently undulating with Warramungullon Creek, Pound Creek and a number of small gullies traversing the landscape.

Dry sclerophyll woodlands with shrubby understorey is the predominant vegetation character. Vegetation is generally cleared and land is utilised for sheep and cattle grazing with the exception of remnant vegetation associated with hilltops, creek lines and homesteads (refer to **Image B5**).

Homesteads are accessed via Wallawaugh Road, Highland Home Road and Black Willow Road. Most of these roads are unsealed and dwellings are typically accessed via private roads that emerge from these minor use roads.

Views from within the LCU are generally open but contained by the ridgelines that surround the LCU. Most views are inward-looking because of the visual limitations offered by the topography and in some areas, the gently undulation and vegetation filter the views.

**The Scenic Quality Rating of the LCU has been assessed as Low - Moderate.**

Application of Scenic Quality Rating Frame of Reference:							
	Landform	Waterforms	Vegetation	Human Influence	Activity	Rarity	Relationship with Adjoining Landscapes
H							
M							
L	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>LCU02 Scenic Quality Rating = Low - Moderate</b>							

**Table B2** Scenic Quality Rating - LCU02



**Image B4.** View of typical characteristic of this LCU: gentle undulations with cleared land parcels and scattered trees



**Image B5.** View from Black Willow Road that shows gentle undulations and pockets of dense vegetation



**Image B6.** Typical character as viewed from Black Willow Road.

### B.3 LCU03: Lake Burrendong

For the purpose of this report the Lake Burrendong LCU is defined as the man made reservoir created by the Burrendong Dam. The LCU is generally bounded by the extents of the Lake and includes the foreshore areas.

The Dam Wall, situated in the northern region of Lake Burrendong, serves as a vantage point for visitors who come to admire the views (refer to **Image B7**). While the primary function of the lake revolves around flood control, irrigation, water provision, and hydro-electric energy production, Lake Burrendong has also evolved into an appealing destination for inland water-based tourism and leisure activities. The lake is frequented by individuals seeking recreational pursuits such as boating, fishing, and various water sports.

The eastern shoreline is mostly inaccessible to the general public, except for those arriving by water craft. On the western side of the lake several holiday parks and recreational facilities exist within Burrendong State Park. The buildings within the holiday parks are generally orientated towards the lake to capitalise on desirable views (refer to **Image B8**).

Water levels can dramatically alter the visual appearance of the LCU. At full capacity, the dam will appear as a large body of water, reflecting the sky and surrounding landscape. As water levels drop, exposed shorelines, sediment deposits, and submerged features become visible, changing the overall aesthetics.

*The Scenic Quality of Lake Burrendong LCU has been assessed as Moderate.*

Application of Scenic Quality Rating Frame of Reference:							
	Landform	Waterforms	Vegetation	Human Influence	Activity	Rarity	Relationship with Adjoining Landscapes
H		●					
M					●		●
L	●		●	●		●	
<b>LCU03 Scenic Quality Rating = Moderate</b>							

**Table B3** Scenic Quality Rating - LCU03



**Image B7.** View across Lake Burrendong from the Burrendong Dam Wall



**Image B8.** View across Lake Burrendong from Reflections Holiday Park

## B.4 LCU04: Cudgegong River Valley

Cudgegong River Valley includes the Cudgegong River and Meroo River and associated valleys, typically to the north of Lake Burrendong. The predominant water bodies that lie north of the Project Area are the Cudgegong and Meroo Rivers. The northwestern boundary of the Project Area runs along the Cudgegong River. The river valley is characterized by gentle undulations that adjoin sloping and elevated ridges which further rise up to form the highpoints in this landscape. Topography in this LCU is gently undulating with minor creeks emerging from the two rivers.

Important roads that connect dwellings within the LCU are Yarrabin Road. Roads are mostly unsealed and winding with low frequency of use. Dwellings and recreation facilities are typically situated on the banks of the rivers to take advantage of the landscape feature.

Northern and southern parts of Cudgegong River are relatively intact with native vegetation and as the river winds northwards, its surrounds begin to change with grazing pastures on either sides. Surrounds of the Meroo River, on the other hand, are modified with large parcels of land dedicated to grazing and low density rural living. Remnant native vegetation parcels are dominated by dry sclerophyll woodlands with shrubby understorey.

Views from within the LCU are generally contained by vegetation and topography but are fairly open within the extent of the LCU. Cleared lands and river banks have open views of the low-lying valley which is dominated by the natural or modified landscape characteristics.

**The Scenic Quality Rating of Cudgegong River Valley LCU has been assessed as Moderate.**



**Image B9.** View of Cudgegong River valley from Reflections Holiday Park.



**Image B10.** Typical character of the Cudgegong River



**Image B11.** Grazing pastures looking southwards towards Meroo River and dense native vegetation that borders the water body. The elevated ridgeline in the backdrop frames most views within the LCU.

Application of Scenic Quality Rating Frame of Reference:							
	Landform	Waterforms	Vegetation	Human Influence	Activity	Rarity	Relationship with Adjoining Landscapes
H							
M		●	●	●	●		●
L	●					●	
<b>LCU04 Scenic Quality Rating = Moderate</b>							

**Table B4** Scenic Quality Rating - LCU04

## B.5 LCU05 Yarragal / Twelve Mile

For the purpose of this report, the Yarragal / Twelve Mile LCU is generally defined as the largely uninhabited hills to the north of the Project Site associated with Yarragal and Twelve Mile. Land in this area is associated within the visual catchment of the Approved Uungula Wind Farm Project.

For the purpose of this study, the Yarragal and Twelve Mile LCU has been included in this report as it is located within the visual catchment of the Project, however as the land is characterised by largely uninhabited hills, there are limited opportunities to include detailed commentary of the landscape character of the land.

*The Scenic Quality Rating of LCU has been assessed as Moderate.*



**Image B12.** View to vegetated hills associated with Yarrabin / Twelve Mile LCU

Application of Scenic Quality Rating Frame of Reference:							
	Landform	Waterforms	Vegetation	Human Influence	Activity	Rarity	Relationship with Adjoining Landscapes
H							
M	●		●	●	●		●
L		●				●	
<b>LCU05 Scenic Quality Rating = Moderate</b>							

**Table B5** Scenic Quality Rating - LCU05

## B.6 LCU06 Mumbil

For the purpose of this report, the Mumbil LCU is generally defined as the land to the west of Lake Burrendong associated with the locality of Mumbil. The LCU is characterised by the vegetated hills to the west of Lake Burrendong.

The LCU includes Burrendong State Park, which is a nature reserve Land is largely uninhabited with the exception of several holiday parks associated with Burrendong State Park. The town Mumbil is located in excess of 6 kilometres from Lake Burrendong.

The topography within the LCU is undulating, with and moderately to densely vegetated, particularly in the south. A number of holiday parks and recreation centres associated with Burrendong State Park are located on the western edge of Lake Burrendong. Views are available across the Lake from the holiday parks and recreation centres.

Access through the LCU is limited to roads providing access to the holiday pars including Fashions Mount Road, Tara Road and The Circle Road. Views from these roads are contained by vegetation. Views from the LCU are largely limited to elevated and cleared areas and land close to the lakes foreshore.

**The Scenic Quality Rating of LCU has been assessed as Low - Moderate.**



**Image B13.** View from Mt. Aquila Road towards Mookerawa



**Image B14.** Character of Mt Aquila - undulations and densely vegetated hill tops

Application of Scenic Quality Rating Frame of Reference:							
	Landform	Waterforms	Vegetation	Human Influence	Activity	Rarity	Relationship with Adjoining Landscapes
H							
M	●		●	●	●	●	●
L		●					
<b>LCU05 Scenic Quality Rating = Low - Moderate</b>							

**Table B6** Scenic Quality Rating - LCU06



**Image B15.** Views of Lake Burrendong from low density residential and recreational areas of Mumbi

## B.7 LCU07 Worlds End

For the purpose of this report, the Worlds End LCU is a small area defined by the valley associated with Worlds End Road. Land is typically characterised by a valley floor associated with the Meroo River.

The landform is flat along with valley floor with large steep rises, particularly to the west.

Worlds End Road follows the valley floor along the Meroo River. Meroo River is a tributary of Cudgegong River, and runs in a south east direction to Caper Tree Valley. Within the LCU, the Meroo River is characterised by a moderate coverage of riparian vegetation.

Vegetation in the LCU is predominately vegetated with some large areas of cleared land on the valley floor.

The LCU is inaccessible to the general public, with a locked gate preventing access. The road is unsealed and accessible by 4WD vehicles. A number of weekenders and sheds have been built in the area, generally located along the valley floor.

*The Scenic Quality Rating of LCU has been assessed as Moderate.*



Image B16. Meroo River



Image B17. Views to vegetated hills from elevated position within LCU

Application of Scenic Quality Rating Frame of Reference:							
	Landform	Waterforms	Vegetation	Human Influence	Activity	Rarity	Relationship with Adjoining Landscapes
H							
M	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
L							
<b>LCU07 Scenic Quality Rating = Moderate</b>							

Table B7 Scenic Quality Rating - LCU07



Image B18. Landscape Typical of the LCU