

3.11 Character Area 5.0: Southport



The issues associated with landscape character in the Southport area have been dealt with in detail in a Local Area Plan and in the Southport Urban Heritage and Character Strategy. These documents should be referred to for more detailed information.

Therefore it is intended that this visual diary give a general overview of vegetation and visual access issues related to the landscape character of the general Southport area.

General Character

Southport has a particular character derived from its early history as a marine village and from its more recent role as a key regional commercial and administrative centre.

The general character is cohesive and notable in the Gold Coast context. Southport's character:

- ▶ is based on a traditional pattern of development which is waterfront oriented with a main core, surrounded by residential areas
- ▶ residential areas consists of built form that is varied in age and style. This character is primarily the result of the street pattern, lot size and building type rather than architectural cohesiveness
- ▶ has a strong historic association with the Broadwater and the foreshore park reserves

Existing Vegetation Character

- ▶ Remnant *Ficus sp* (Figs) planting within the main centre, foreshore park and older residential areas (Mango trees also remain in backyard areas of the older areas) with some scattered *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor laurels)
- ▶ Residential areas – private gardens are the primary contributor to the residential streetscape. Some areas of street planting include 70s style planting of *Callistemon sp* and *Spathodea campanulata*
- ▶ Remnant *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine) planting at northern end towards Labrador
- ▶ *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor laurels), *Delonix regia* (Poinciana) and *Ficus sp* (Figs) in Short Street. Recent palm planting associated with new development
- ▶ Cable Station Area – the vegetation is the major contributor to the landscape character both on the street and within private property, consisting of remnant *Callitris sp* (Bribie Island Pines) and *Eucalypt sp* as the extensive framework vegetation cover in private gardens
- ▶ Parks – mixture of new planting and remnant planting of large shade trees and formalised garden areas





Existing Views & Vistas

- Views from Southport across the Broad Water from all streets running west to east terminating along Marine Parade, particularly along Nerang Street and Short Street, and Queen Street
- Views along Marine Parade south towards the high rise spine of Surfers Paradise
- Southport Bridge area is a timeless gateway within the City



Valuable landscape character elements to promote and enhance

- Views to and from the Broadwater - encourage a visual relationship between Southport and the Broadwater
- Historic and remnant vegetation should be conserved and reinforced in any new development. New planting should reflect the forms and growth habits of the traditional planting forms
- Strong streetscape and boulevard character planting along Scarborough and Nerang Street. Soft and leafy shade planting and associated landscaping to Short Street
- Palms and associated resort style landscape treatments should not be utilised as primary framework street planting in Southport
- Private landscape works in front setback areas in residential areas are to be encouraged to contribute to the overall streetscape character
- Park areas should reinforce the existing character with the use of large canopy shade trees, large areas of grass and pockets of garden planting to specific areas, use flower beds only in core areas
- Cable Station area - additional tree planting should supplement and reinforce the existing specimen planting and landscape. Avenues of trees are not necessarily appropriate in this area

