



Australian Government

AHCDES509 Assess landscape sites

Release: 1

AHCDES509 Assess landscape sites

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 7.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to collect and collate initial information, conduct a landscape site assessment and document a site report.

The unit applies to individuals who apply specialist skills and knowledge to assess landscape sites, take personal responsibility and exercise autonomy in undertaking complex work. They analyse and synthesise information, and analyse, design and communicate solutions to sometimes complex problems.

All work is carried out to comply with workplace procedures, health and safety in the workplace requirements, legislative and regulatory requirements, and sustainability and biosecurity practices.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Design (DES)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Collect and collate initial information	1.1 Consult with client to confirm objectives of assessment 1.2 Source and verify site plans and maps 1.3 Identify and collect resources for site assessment

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	1.4 Prepare base plan of site and relevant surrounds 1.5 Verify location, ownership and site boundaries 1.6 Identify and record protected flora and fauna, current land use and environmental threats and problems 1.7 Identify and record covenants, legislative and regulatory requirements that could affect the project, design or report 1.8 Determine climate and weather conditions from historical data
2. Undertake initial site visit	2.1 Meet site entry conditions and obtain approval where required 2.2 Identify hazards and risks associated with site visit according to workplace health and safety procedures 2.3 Undertake site orientation 2.4 Identify and record existing on-site and adjacent site features that may impact upon the project, plan or report objectives 2.5 Identify, measure, and record or confirm site dimensions, levels and gradients
3. Compile a site inventory	3.1 Sample and identify soil types, properties and relevant physical characteristics and record on-site inventory 3.2 Record and identify vegetation species, health, age and location, and impact on surrounding environment 3.3 Geolocate or triangulate the position of structural elements and confirm existing services and facilities 3.4 Record presence, location and extent of site constraints 3.5 Record offsite elements including microclimates, trees, buildings and terrain that may affect project design
4. Determine the impact of development for trees on site	4.1 Obtain consulting arborist report to assess trees on site 4.2 Determine and record tree protection zones and structural root zones 4.3 Document impact of proposed development on each tree 4.4 Identify trees exempt from approval requirements 4.5 Identify and locate on site plan trees impacted by development, according to regulations applying in the local jurisdiction 4.6 Include trees identified by consulting arborist report requiring pruning or removal in development application

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
5. Document a site assessment report	5.1 Interpret soil test results and analyse for further testing requirements 5.2 Record specific recommendations of remedial action for site problems 5.3 Formulate recommendations for appropriate risk controls of site hazards according to workplace health and safety procedures 5.4 Document site information 5.5 Incorporate all relevant data into assessment report according to client brief and local, state and federal regulatory requirements 5.6 Document and present assessment report to the client

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.

Skill	Description
Oral communication	Initiate discussions with client, using clear language to discuss and confirm assessment objectives and present assessment report
Numeracy	Survey and calculate locations of existing features using geolocation or triangulation

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCDES509 Assess landscape sites	AHCDES503 Assess landscape sites	Minor changes to application Minor changes to performance criteria Foundation skills added Assessment requirements	Equivalent

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
		updated	

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

Assessment Requirements for AHCDES509 Assess landscape sites

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Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has assessed two separate and varying landscape sites and has:

- consulted and advised clients
- collected and collated information on site features
- interpreted and produced plans
- verified existing site details
- applied relevant workplace health and safety and environmental and biosecurity legislation, regulations and workplace procedures
- identified protected flora and fauna, current land use and environmental threats and problems
- applied local, state and federal regulations relevant to assessing landscape sites
- identified site entry conditions and approval requirements where applicable
- sampled soils and growing media
- identified and recorded vegetation species, health, age and location, and impact on surrounding environment
- documented assessment and recommendations in a site plan and assessment report.

Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- principles and practices of assessing landscape sites, including:
 - current land use and environmental threats, and problems with site
 - interpretation of results from assessment and testing
 - local, state and federal regulations relevant to assessing landscape sites
 - accessing survey and regulatory information online
 - measurement and surveying techniques

- protected flora and fauna and environmental threats and problems
- vegetation species, including health and age
- impact of vegetation species on surrounding environment
- plant nutrition
- protocols of site access
- soil types, structure, texture and pH
- soil chemical and physical properties
- soil field tests and soil sampling techniques
- techniques to ameliorate soil properties
- vegetation common within the region, using botanical and regionally accepted common names, age, health and conditions of vegetation
- workplace health and safety and environmental and biosecurity legislation and regulations and workplace procedures relevant to assessing landscape sites.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - landscape sites
 - site information and data applicable to sustainable landscape design
 - arborist report
 - software and hardware for accessing survey and regulatory information
 - resources for assessing site, including soil testing tools and equipment
- specifications:
 - workplace health and safety and environmental and biosecurity legislation and regulations and workplace procedures applicable to assessing landscape sites
 - local, state and federal regulations relevant to assessing landscape sites
- relationships:
 - clients
- timeframes:
 - according to job requirements.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

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