

LOOKOUTS

Achieve good siting and location by:

- considering the sensitivity of the lookout structure to its surroundings, when seen from other surrounding vantage points
- considering climatic factors such as wind and rain when locating lookouts, to optimise the comfort of users
- considering the structural issues of building on a cliff top, over water or on steep slopes
- engaging a structural engineer early in the process to provide expert input and design details
- considering surrounding trees and planting to ensure view shafts are not compromised

Ensure access and usability by:

- providing lookouts that accommodate a wide range of abilities, ages and physical needs. Allow for wheelchair and mobility scooter use
- connecting lookouts to accessible paths
- allowing for seating and generously dimensioned timber handrails around the perimeter of lookouts for user comfort, as these structures are somewhere that people are likely to spend extended periods of time
- providing ample space for people to both stand and move around freely, as these are places where large groups congregate
- incorporating maps and interpretation signage to give a broader context of the landscape, region and view shafts
- co-locating lookouts in popular visitor destinations with supporting facilities such as information, carparks and bike racks

Ensure safety and visibility by:

- locating lookouts so that people can see and be seen through clear sightlines, to ensure the safety of users
- making an educated and informed projection of existing and intended park user numbers
- engaging a structural engineer to ensure accurate weight loadings are accounted for in the lookout structure
- ensuring fall-height hazards (greater than one metre) are mitigated by appropriate barriers and hand rails

Ensure good aesthetics and materiality by:

- using durable materials on lookouts and their approaches, as they are features that attract high numbers of visitors, e.g. use concrete access ways rather than aggregates that require more maintenance
- select materials, colours, and forms that complement the setting and function of the park as a whole
- incorporating graffiti protection, skate deterrents and standardised components into lookouts to reduce maintenance costs
- using natural materials from companies with ethical manufacturing processes where practicable, and sourcing materials from local suppliers to avoid excessive transportation

- ensuring the materials are durable and appropriate for the location of the lookout, e.g. marine grade stainless steel components in coastal environments

Ensure easy maintenance by:

- designing and constructing lookouts to have a minimum serviceable life of 50 years

Good practice examples

<p>Hunua Ranges, Auckland</p> <p><i>Consider the sensitivity of the lookout to its location.</i></p>	
<p>Coffs Harbour, Australia</p> <p><i>Clear sight lines and openness are maintained to ensure the safety and comfort of users.</i></p>	
<p>Archilles Point, Saint Heliers</p> <p><i>Generously dimensioned handrails have been designed to add comfort to prolonged visits by users.</i></p>	

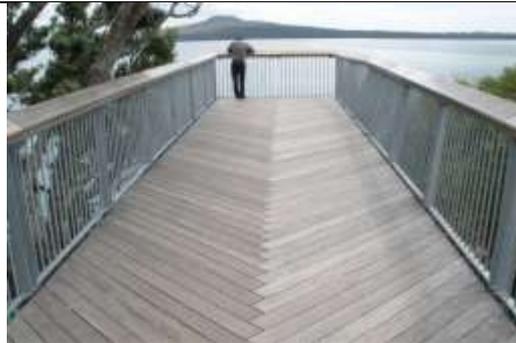
New Plymouth Coastal Walkway, New Plymouth

Durable and structurally sound materials should be used, particularly in coastal environments.



Archilles Point, Saint Heliers

Barriers have been included due to address fall height issues.



Arataki Visitors Centre, Waitakere Ranges

Large groups should be allowed for when designing lookouts.

