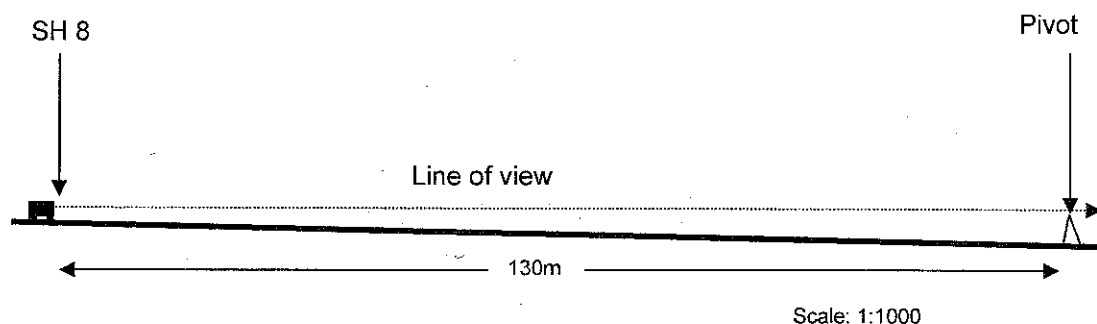


will be affected for the limited extent of the irrigators, they will not intrude the skyline or for that matter into the mountain backdrop.

- 4.7 Secondly, the area to be irrigated lies beyond the transmission lines that run parallel to the highway. These lines are around 130m in from the road boundary. At this distance, the irrigators will appear much diminished in their vast and open landscape setting (see Figure 1 below). Further, the diminishing effects of perspective will reduce their presence. And because they are essentially transparent structures, the background landscape cannot be fully occluded.
- 4.6 Finally, because of the distance from the highway of the proposed irrigation activity, the predominantly tussock foreground will remain unaffected. Further the area to be irrigated is already cultivated which is readily apparent to passers by, as is evident in the Attachment 1 Photograph 1. Essentially the current vegetation regimes will not significantly change, although the temporal extent of effects will be extended.



**Figure 1** Schematic cross section showing relationship of pivot to views from SH8.

- 4.7 So while to a relatively minor extent there will be potential visual effects arising from the introduction of pivot irrigators to the application site, these will not be particularly intrusive for the reasons outlined above. The overall impression of the basin as viewed in its entirety will not be diminished, as the proposal will have negligible effects in this regard.
- 4.4 To what extent does the proposed activity derogate from existing visual character and amenity?

It is not expected that there will be any significant derogation from existing landscape character and amenity. Irrigated land is present along this stretch of highway (see Attachment 1, Photographs 2 and 3) and thus informs peoples' expectations. The proposal will be consistent with these expectations, and to some extent the already cultivated land sets these in place. Fundamentally there will be no great change and therefore the proposal will not substantially derogate from existing landscape character and amenity for both the application site and its wider setting.