

### Appendix 3 Site Characteristics and Issues Matrix - Gourdon Bay

Terrestrial Biophysical Attributes	Extent and Condition	Level of Confidence High: from site visit /survey, good map based knowledge, Medium: inferred from other good information sets, Low: limited information.	Relative Potential for Significant Risk / Hazard and Impact of Development At This Site	Rating Relative significance of the issue
Visual Landscape Significance	Visual Landscape Significance Assessment	Level of Confidence	Potential significance of Landscape impacts from development of the site	
Landscape character of hub site and broader context	<p><b>Landscape Region:</b> The Deserts  <b>Character type:</b> Eighty Mile Plain  <b>Landscape context:</b> The Gourdon Bay node is located within a broad-scale landscape with a landform of gently undulating sand plains, dunes and estuarine mud-flats with sparse to dense vegetation cover dominated by grassland and woodland with pockets of pindan thicket. Mangrove communities occur on the coastal mudflats and the coastal interface is often dramatic and visually distinctive. Much of the sub-type has been grazed with evident signs of pastoral infrastructure – roads, fences and yards.  <b>View character of development node:</b> horizontal plain with diverse ocean fringe dominated by low rolling dunes of variable width, a prominent headland, rock outcropping, a long sandy beach strand with north orientation, smaller pocket beaches and a complex estuary inlet.  <b>Landscape character significance rating:</b> High coastal, moderate inland.  <b>Comments:</b> The coastal dunes and beaches in this node and adjacent mangrove association are of high visual significance while the inland plain is of low to moderate significance. There are landscapes of cultural significance in this node. There is excellent potential to retain a buffer reserve around a central development within the node.</p>	High	<p><i>Suitability rating:</i> Moderate  <i>Absorption Capability:</i> Low to Moderate  <i>Analysis (positive and negative):</i>  + built infrastructure and highly evident changes to landscape character  + relatively low level of visual landscape significance  + no marine tour boat routes  + landscape modifications part of public expectation  - proximity to established caravan park and bird sanctuary  - proximity to Great Northern Highway viewer positions  - low to moderate visual absorption capability  - cultural landscape sites of significance present</p>	
Degree of evident alteration or change from the ‘naturally established’ landscape character based on levels of ‘naturalness’	<p><b>Degree of evident change from naturally established character:</b> Low to moderate; roads and tracks are present, but naturally established character is largely intact.  <b>Naturalness rating:</b> Moderate</p>			
Degree and sensitivity of views and seen areas from travel routes and use areas (duration, frequency, position in landscape, number of viewers, distance)	<p><b>Viewer positions:</b> Great Northern Highway, Port Smith Road and Caravan Park, local beach access tracks used by fishers, bird watches and sight-seers.  <b>Distance zones:</b> Foreground, middleground and background from all identified travel routes and use areas.  <b>Duration of view:</b> Long duration.  <b>Viewer position:</b> Viewer ‘level’.  <b>Sensitivity Level:</b> Level 1 - highest concern for viewer sensitivity as viewed from all identified travel routes and use areas, except local tracks.  <b>Implications:</b> The established caravan park would have a dramatically altered landscape, an industrial estate, as a neighbour. Travellers on the Great Northern Highway would have background views to the development through a 6-7km buffer of roadside vegetation.</p>			
Special features and focal points within view of the hub site	Port Smith Bay, Cape Latouche Treville, Cape Du Boulay and Cape Gourdon			