

Appendix 3 Site Characteristics and Issues Matrix - Koolan Island

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>Landscape Region: The Kimberley Character Type: Yampi Peninsula Landscape context: The Koolan Island node is located within a broad-scale landscape characterised by rugged terrain features with parallel ridges and extremely eroded slopes with irregular escarpments and occasional flat topped plateaux. Land cover is a mosaic of grasslands, scattered trees, shrub-land and thickets with extraordinary patterns depending on soil, geology and terrain steepness. The coastal fringes are rugged with the occasional low-lying sand-plains or river mouth, small beaches and pockets of sheltered mangrove. Only minor watercourses are present in this sub-type. Mining is prominent on Koolan Island with localised loss of naturalness. View character of this development node: This landscape is characterised by extremely rugged rocky interior and diverse coastline with tidal flats, inlets and bays, some with mangrove communities. An open cut mine with established service and recreational infrastructure including roads, dock, pipelines, tanks, structures and an airstrip is currently active. Alterations to the established natural landscape are highly visible from some marine viewer positions. Landscape Character Rating: High Comments: The industrial infrastructure visible from the established marine travel routes, while locally dominant is relatively low in negative visual impact due to the scale and form of structures and diversity of island landform. The proposed hub would be much more dramatic in scale, vertical element and density of built form with a much greater potential impact.</p>	Moderate	<p><i>Suitability rating:</i> Moderate <i>Absorption Capability:</i> Low to Moderate <i>Analysis (+ positive and - negative):</i> + built infrastructure evident; some highly evident changes to landscape character + moderate visual absorption capability + established user patterns - high levels of visual landscape significance - proximity to marine tour boat routes</p>	
Degree of evident alteration or change from the 'naturally established' landscape character based on levels of 'naturalness'	<p>Degree of evident change from naturally established character: Moderate to High depending on viewer position. Evidence of human activity as viewed from some observation positions, is visually dominant. Naturalness rating: Moderate to High depending on position in the landscape.</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>Viewer positions: Visitors on tour and cruise boats pass close to the western flank of the Island to and from Talbot Bay feature attractions - often with a special focus on scenic assets and expert interpretation of bio-physical and landscape values and features. Distance zone: Foreground, middleground and background. Duration of view: Variable but long duration views provided by some operators while in transit around the island. Viewer position: Generally level, but can be below as one approaches the shoreline of the Island. Sensitivity Level: Level 1 – seasonally variable depending on tour operations. Implications: The established industrial complex has imposed a dramatic change in the landscape character that may be perceived as acceptable, even sculpturally desirable, by some visitors. An expansion of that altered landscape character may be possible, but this should not be supported without visitor/community perception studies and impact assessment once a development concept is prepared. Talbot Bay with a pearl farm and the Horizontal Waterfall is a feature destination. The marine travel route is located close to Koolan Island.</p>			
Special features and focal points within view of the hub site	Koolan Island, Cookatoo Island, and many nearby bays, points, canals and islands.			