

### Appendix 3 Site Characteristics and Issues Matrix - North Head

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 Kimberley</p> <p><b>Character type:</b> Dampier Tableland</p> <p><b>Landscape context:</b> The North Head node is located within a broad-scale landscape with a landform of gently undulating sand plains, closely spaced linear dunes and dramatic coastal features. Vegetation cover is characterised by open woodland with pindan thickets and hummock grass understorey common to the Dampier Peninsula. Numerous creeks dissect the peninsula and mangroves, bays, mud-flats, swamps and sandy beaches occur along the coastline. Grazing has occurred on pastoral leases with evident signs of pastoral/residential infrastructure – roads, fences, out-camps and yards. There are residential communities, localised evidence of mining and exploration and public recreation use in this sub-type.</p> <p><b>View character of this development node:</b> The landscape is characterised by dramatic coastal cliffs, high undulating dune ridges, rock outcroppings, a dramatic peninsula and diverse vegetation patterns in the coastal influence zone; inland plain horizontal character with largely uniform woodland without significant patterns.</p> <p><b>Landscape character significance rating:</b> High coastal, moderate inland.</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> The coastal zone of this node is a landscape of high significance due to a complex landform and complexity of vegetation pattern. There are landscapes of cultural significance within the node. The potential to retain a buffer reserve along the coastal dune and cliff zone within the node is excellent.</p>	High	<p><i>Suitability rating:</i> Moderate</p> <p><i>Absorption Capability:</i> Low</p> <p><i>Analysis (+ positive and - negative):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ few terrestrial travel routes or use areas</li> <li>- high level of visual landscape significance</li> <li>- proximity to marine tour boat routes</li> <li>- established user patterns and commercial camp</li> <li>- low to moderate visual absorption capability</li> </ul>	
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 on the coast, moderate inland; tracks and a campsite are the only evidence of human activity from some coastal observation positions; exploration roads on grids lines are present inland.</p> <p><b>Naturalness rating:</b> High</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> Marine based visitors on tour boats that travel close to the headland, some anchor in Tappers Inlet, visitors to Tappers Inlet camp and local access tracks.</p> <p><b>Distance zone:</b> Foreground, middle ground and background from marine positions; foreground and middleground from middle lagoon access road and visitor facility; variable distance zones from minor access tracks.</p> <p><b>Duration of view:</b> Variable but generally long duration views from both marine and terrestrial positions.</p> <p><b>Viewer position:</b> Generally 'level', but can be below from marine locations close to the shoreline.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Level:</b> level 1 - high level of concern for visual landscape in the coastal zone; Level 2 - low to moderate concern level on the inland plain zone.</p> <p><b>Implications:</b> Height and configuration of coastal dunes would provide a moderate degree of landform buffer screening of development on the inland plain from some marine viewer positions if retained in a coastal reserve. Development would be highly visible from all identified terrestrial viewer positions. Development in this landscape would become visually dominant as viewed from a number of established marine view points, but few terrestrial viewer positions. Height of coastal dune ridges and some minor variation in vegetation patterns on the terrestrial plain, could help reduce but not eliminate negative visual impacts resulting from development.</p>			
Special features and focal points within view of the hub site	Cliff Point, North Head, Tappers Inlet, Emeriau Point, Sandy Point and Head, Ledge Point, Beagle Bay			