

### Appendix 3 Site Characteristics and Issues Matrix - Packer Island

Terrestrial Biophysical Attributes	Extent and Condition	Level of Confidence <b>High:</b> from site visit /survey, good map based knowledge, <b>Medium:</b> inferred from other good information sets, <b>Low:</b> 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  <b>Character Type:</b> Dampier Tableland  <b>Landscape context:</b> The Packer Island node is located within a broad-scale landscape with a landform of gently undulating sand plains with closely spaced linear dunes and dramatic coastal features. Vegetation cover is 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.  <b>View character of this development node:</b> The landscape is characterised by dramatic coastal dune ridge with rocky outcroppings and erosion/cliffs transitioning to a narrow rocky beach strand. Vegetation cover is sparse with grasses and low shrubs dominant on the island ridge. A zone of unusual and distinctive surface features (perhaps petrified mangal) is locally significant. The diversity of water-forms, mangrove, mud flats and low-lying adjacent savannah woodland east of the Island is exceptional.  <b>Absorption capability:</b> Low to moderate, due to the diversity of visual landscape elements, height of coastal fore-dune (island) landform and complex patterns of land cover, the landscape could absorb low levels of industrial infrastructure, but would be overwhelmed by a project the size and scale of the proposed industrial hub.  <b>Landscape character significance rating:</b> High coastal, moderate inland.  <b>Comments:</b> Packer Island, adjacent wetlands, coastal dunes and part of the inland woodland are a landscape of unusual cultural significance and visual significance due to diversity of landform, vegetation and water features.</p>	High	<p><i>Suitability rating:</i> Low  <i>Absorption Capability:</i> Low to Moderate  <i>Analysis (+ positive and - negative):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- high levels of visual landscape significance</li> <li>- proximity to marine tour boat routes</li> <li>- proximity to dispersed coastal campsites</li> <li>- established user patterns</li> <li>- low visual absorption capability</li> <li>- cultural landscape of significance</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 outcamps are evidence of human activity as viewed from some observation positions, some roads are visible from the Island landform.  <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> Relatively small number of very sensitive visitors on tour and cruise boats - often with a special focus on scenic assets and expert interpretation of bio-physical and landscape values and features. A residential outcamp is located within the development node. The Cape Leveque Road and Lombadina community are approximately 6-10km to the east and northeast respectively, views are currently filtered by woodland vegetation.  <b>Distance zone:</b> Foreground, middleground and background  <b>Duration of view:</b> Variable from marine positions but long duration views provided by some operators while in transit near the shoreline.  <b>Viewer position:</b> Generally level, but can be below as one approaches the shoreline of the Island.  <b>Sensitivity Level:</b> Level 1 from Lombadina, the highway and marine routes - seasonally variable.  <b>Implications:</b> Development in this landscape would become visually dominant as viewed from a number of established marine and terrestrial view points and travel routes and alter a highly valued and significant landscape. Height of the island dune ridge would help reduce but not eliminate negative visual impacts resulting from development. Development would severely impact on the landscape of extraordinary significance due to its sense of remoteness, naturalness, ruggedness and natural diversity, most notably along the coastline. Development would be dominant as viewed by passing pleasure/tour craft, and would potentially be seen in the foreground from minor tracks servicing out-camps and small Aboriginal settlements.</p>			
Special features and focal points within view of the hub site	Packer Island, Shad Rocks and Lombardina Point, Chile Head, Cape Leveque, numerous creeks and inlets.			