

Appendix 3 Site Characteristics and Issues Matrix - Perpendicular 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>Landscape Region: The Kimberley</p> <p>Character type: Dampier Tableland</p> <p>Landscape context: The Perpendicular Head 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 small residential communities, out-camps, localised evidence of mining and exploration and public recreation use in this sub-type.</p> <p>View character of this development node: The landscape is characterised by dramatic coastal dune ridges, rock outcroppings between Perpendicular Head and Emeriau Point, a dramatic beach strand between the headland and Bell Point and diverse vegetation patterns in the coastal influence zone; inland plain horizontal character with largely uniform woodland with few patterns. Tappers Inlet is a coastal feature south of the headland with diverse water/vegetation forms, colours and textures.</p> <p>Landscape character significance rating: High coastal and moderate inland.</p> <p>Comments: There are several landscapes of cultural significance, Aboriginal settlements and established and potential recreation use areas that limit the suitability of the Perpendicular Head node.</p>	High	<p>Suitability rating: Low</p> <p>Absorption Capability: Low</p> <p>Analysis (+ positive and - negative):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - high levels of visual landscape significance - proximity to marine tour boat routes - proximity to dispersed coastal campsites - established user patterns - low visual absorption capability - cultural landscape of significance 	
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: Low on the coast, moderate inland; tracks, outcamps and coastal commercial campsites are evidence of human activity as viewed from some coastal observation positions, but none are seen from the beach strands; exploration roads on grids lines are present inland.</p> <p>Naturalness rating: 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>Viewer positions: Relatively small number of 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. Several small outcamps, some with visitor facilities are located within the development node at Bell Point, Mercedes Cove, Middle Lagoon and Neem. The Cape Leveque Road is approximately 25km to the east while a number of local tracks provide access to Tapers Cove, Middle Lagoon, Bell Point, North Head as well as Perpendicular Head. Views are generally filtered by woodland vegetation until nearing the coastline.</p> <p>Distance zone: foreground, Middleground and background depending on viewer position.</p> <p>Duration of view: Variable.</p> <p>Viewer position: Variable but generally 'level'.</p> <p>Sensitivity Level: Level 1 – high level of concern from marine viewpoints and moderate concern from low use terrestrial travel routes and minor user nodes.</p> <p>Implications: Development would severely impact on the landscape of distinctive 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 the Bell Point access track. Development in this landscape would become visually dominant as viewed from a number of established marine and terrestrial use areas and travel routes. Height of the head ridge, coastal dunes and variation in vegetation patterns on the terrestrial plain, could help reduce but not eliminate negative visual impacts resulting from development. Should North Head be recommended for development, implications on the Perpendicular Head precinct would also be of primary consideration due to geographic proximity.</p>			
Special features and focal points within view of the hub site	Tappers Inlet, Emeriau Point, Chimney Rocks, Embalgun Beach, Perpendicular Head, Pender Bay, Bell Point, Cape Borde, and Weedong Lagoon			