



Summary of the Gantheaume Point Zone

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THE DINOSAUR COAST NATIONAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025



Gantheaume Point Zone



The Gantheaume Point Zone extends 2.1 kms from the edge of the sandy beach at the southern end of Cable Beach (known as 'Gantheaume Point Beach'), right around Gantheaume Point to where the rocky headland meets the sea at the northern end of Reddell Beach.



Nigel Clarke showing theropod tracks to visitors. Image: Damian Kelly

TOPOGRAPHY AND ECOLOGY

It is predominantly rocky headland with a reef system of Broome Sandstone. It includes the rocky inlet of Gantheaume Bay and commencement of the southern end of Cable Beach.

GEOLOGICAL AND PALAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

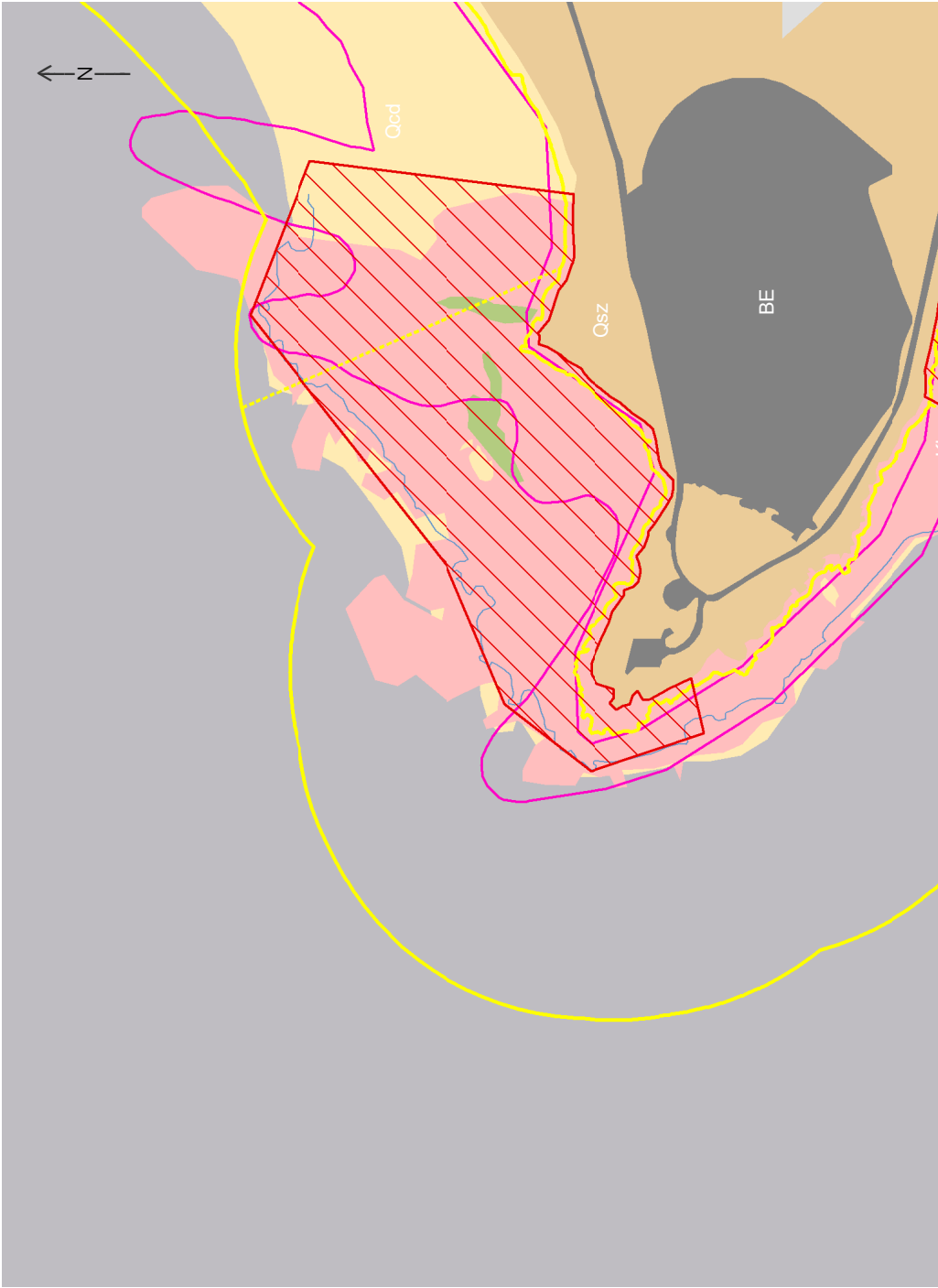
This zone has extensive exposures of Broome Sandstone that form high cliff walls at the point itself, as well as a large system of reefs farther seaward. The cliffs rise up three metres above the astronomical high tide mark to create a total vertical thickness of around 11 metres of rock. Around the base of the cliffs are massive blocks of dislocated Broome Sandstone. The more landward parts of Red Point include a thin veneer of much younger Pliocene–Quaternary gravel and boulders, and eroded chunks of black ironstone.

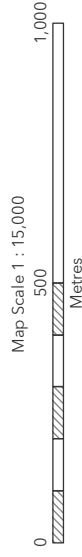
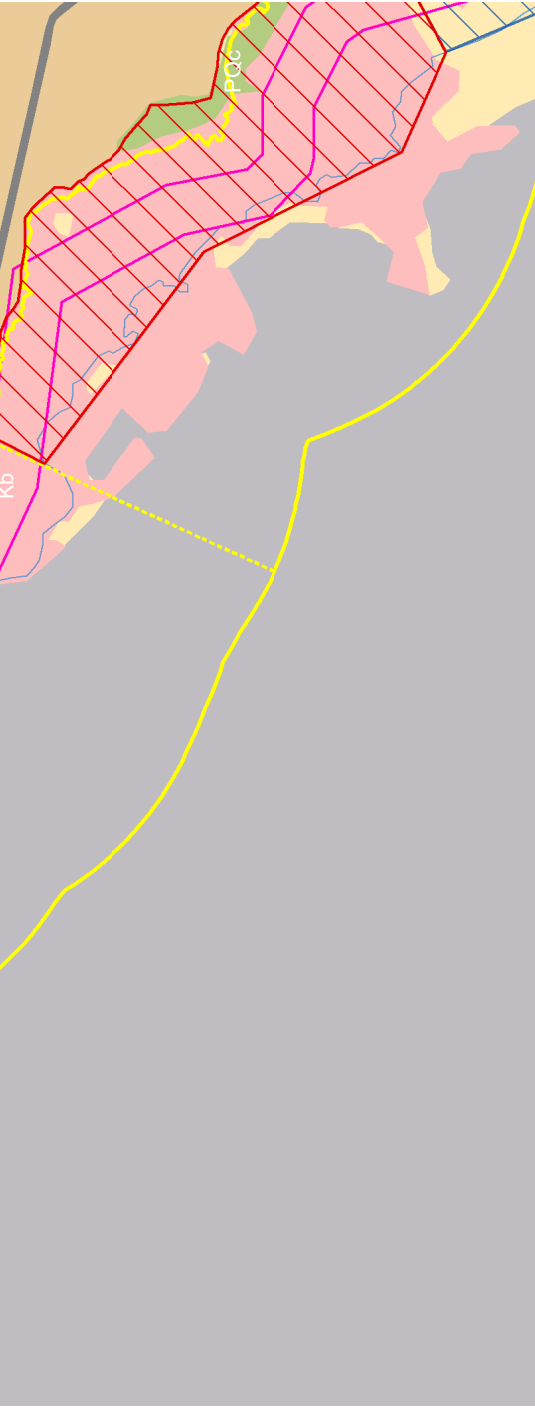
This is where the original *Megalosauropus broomensis* tracks were first noticed by Europeans in the 1930s. The platform that these tracks were preserved on was destroyed during a storm in the early 1990s. New tracks (sauropod and theropod) have since become exposed in the lower five metres of the Broome Sandstone.

Several sauropod tracks and trackways have also been recorded to the north of the zone towards Cable Beach. Most prints are natural moulds (imprints), but many are eroded and visible only as transmitted tracks, i.e. distorted underlying rock-layer caused by the animals' weight. It is also one of the locations where plant macrofossils are found in the Broome Sandstone. Because of the high concentration of tracks and their cultural, historic, and scientific significance, this area has outstanding geological and palaeontological features relevant to the West Kimberley National Heritage listing.



Gantheaume Point is one of the sites where plant macrofossils are found in the Broome Sandstone.
Image: Dianne Bennett












Geological & Palaeontological Features

-  Area with outstanding features relevant to The West Kimberley National Heritage Listing
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DCNHMP

-  Zone Boundary
 -  Project Area
- NHL Gazette**
-  The West Kimberley National Heritage Listing
 -  Low Tide (approx 0.6m)

Geological Units

-  Kb : Broome Sandstone
-  BE : Built Environment
-  Qcd : Cable Beach Sand
-  Qsz : Holocene Aeolean Dune Sand (Church Hill Sand + Shoonta Hill Sand) overlying Pleistocene Mowanjium Sand
-  PQc : Unnamed Pliocene-Quaternary Conglomerate

Gantheaume Point Zone: Geological and Palaeontological Features

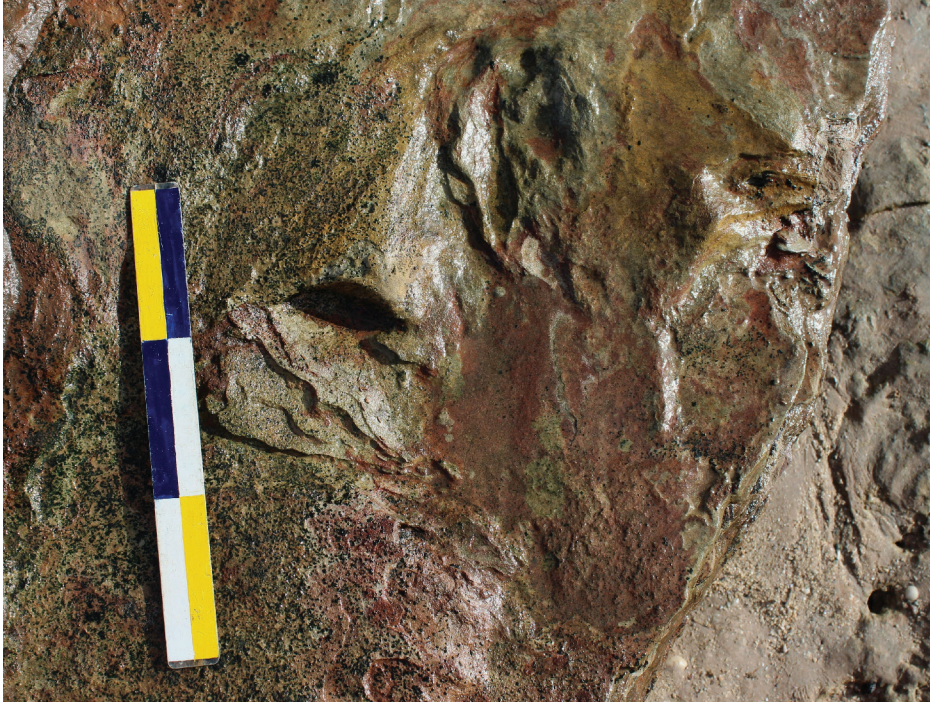
ACTIVITIES AND VULNERABILITIES

There is very high pedestrian traffic from the Gantheaume Point car park and illegal vehicle traffic from the short Gantheaume Point Beach access track. If roads are upgraded and car parking facilities expanded this will increase.

The visitor information shelter and facilities at Gantheaume Point are to be upgraded and the pending Turf Club Master Plan may include an eco-tourism facility.



Vehicles in gazetted prohibited area. Image: Sarah Taylor-Fuller



Theropod track. Image: Assoc. Prof. Steve Salisbury



Vehicle tracks over Broome Sandstone. Image: Sarah Taylor-Fuller

VISION: TO UNDERSTAND, PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE DINOSAUR COAST AND CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BROOME COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

The following 7 objectives have been identified for the DCNHMP.

Objectives:

1. To increase understanding and awareness of the Dinosaur Coast and its National Heritage Values
2. To conserve and protect the National Heritage Values of the Dinosaur Coast with best-practice adaptive management
3. To monitor and manage the impacts of coastal erosion and other environmental processes
4. To manage the impacts of the expansion of Broome and associated coastal development and infrastructure
5. To manage increasing visitor interest in the tracks and increasing numbers of visitors
6. To create opportunities for the Broome community
7. To improve the experience of visitors to the Dinosaur Coast

The Implementation Plan explains what is being done over the next 5 to 10 years and importantly who will do what.

The Dinosaur Coast Management Plan 2025 received grant funding from the Australian Government.

