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Summary of the Roebuck Bay Zone

THE DINOSAUR COAST NATIONAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025

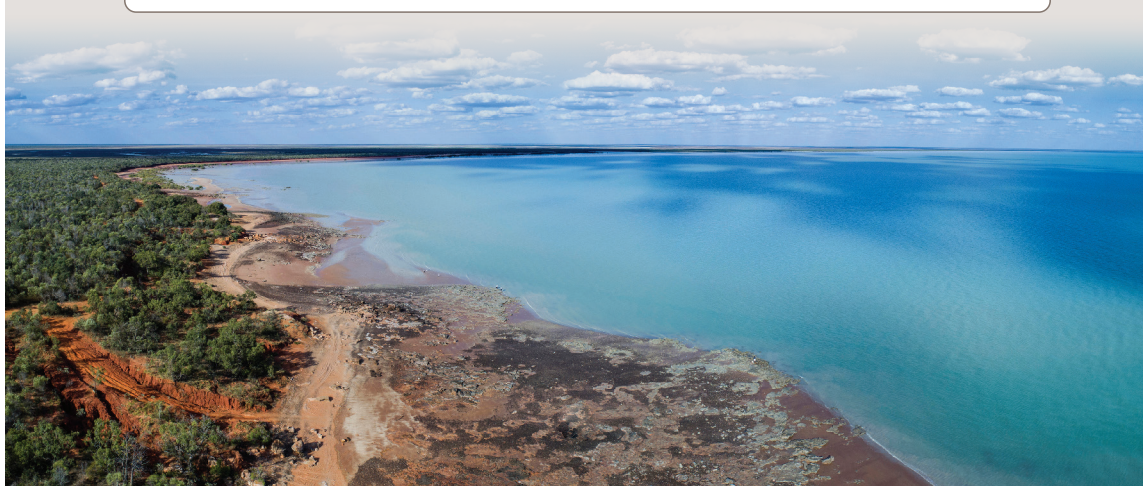


Image: Damian Kelly

Roebuck Bay Zone



The Roebuck Bay Zone extends for 8.2 kms from the eastern end of the beach adjacent to Crab Creek to approximately 500m west of the Crab Creek Road T-junction.



Crab Creek boat ramp looking east. Image: Damian Kelly

TOPOGRAPHY AND ECOLOGY

This zone has sandy beaches, small rocky points, intertidal sand and mudflats, and intermittent Broome Sandstone exposures, with occasional sparse areas of mangroves. Pleistocene low red pindan cliffs (Mowanjum Sand) border the landward edge of the intertidal zone. At the eastern end of the zone, these cliffs fade to high tidal-flat muds in the Crab Creek inlet.

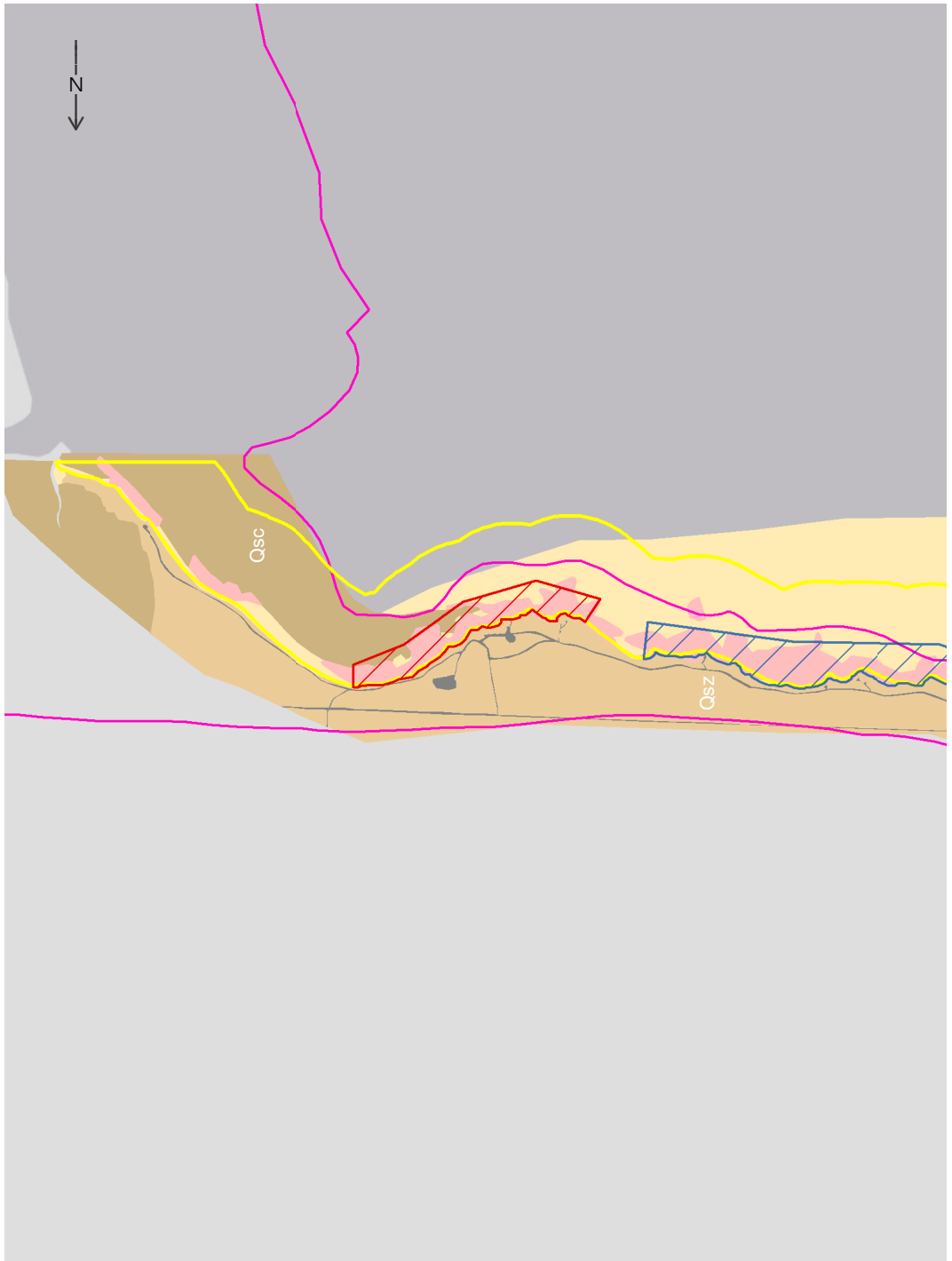
Sand and mudflats in the intertidal zone provide habitat for a high diversity of invertebrates, which in turn support a globally significant migratory bird hub. At its eastern end, the zone intersects with a Wetland of International Importance, which is recognised and managed under the Ramsar Convention. The intertidal and mudflat ecological communities are believed to be in a generally undisturbed condition, although changes to the species mix have been observed in localised areas.

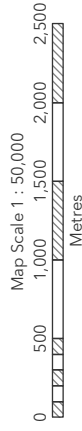
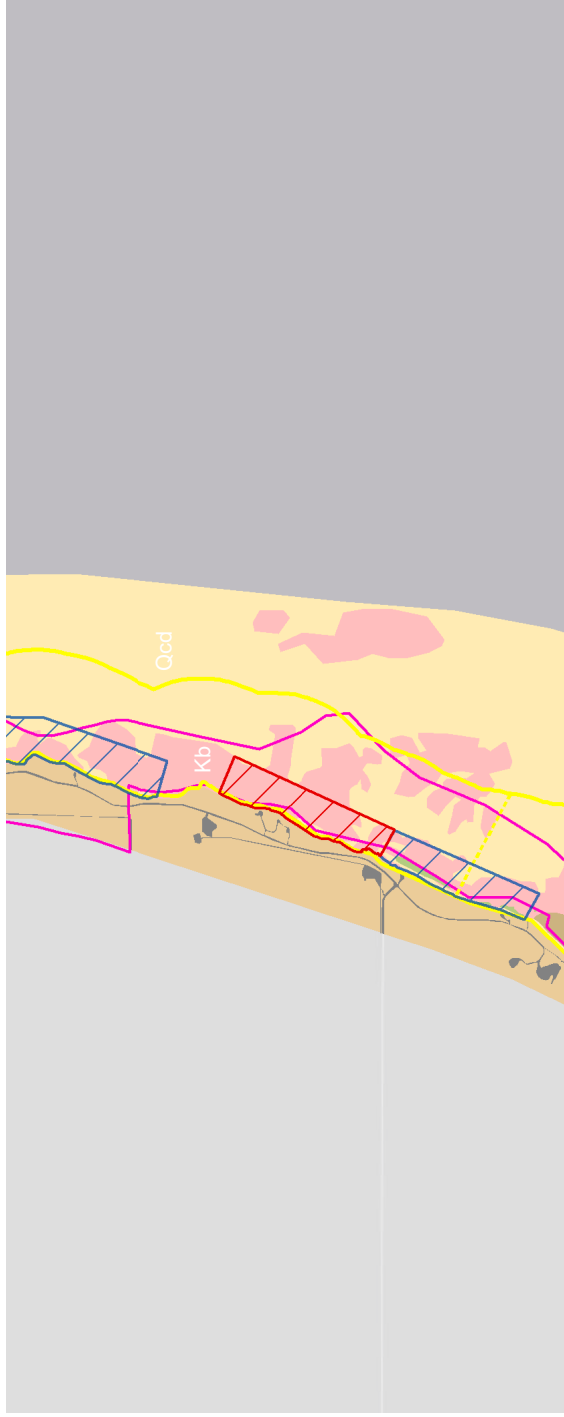


Vehicles frequently drive along the Crab Creek foreshore. Image: Damian Kelly





Remnant exposures of Broome Sandstone. Image: Damian Kelly








Geological & Palaeontological Features

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







DCNHMP

-  Zone Boundary
-  Project Area

NHL Gazette

-  The West Kimberley

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
-  Qsc : Sandfire Calcilutite
-  PQc : Unnamed Pliocene-Quaternary Conglomerate

Roebuck Bay Zone: Geological and Palaeontological Features

GEOLOGICAL AND PALAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

The long stretch of south-facing beach has considerable Broome Sandstone, mainly low in relief and exhibiting dinosaur tracks as natural moulds (indented impressions).

The majority of tracks recorded are those of sauropods, often in lengthy trackway sequences; several three-toed theropod tracks are also present. Many invertebrate fossil burrows, as well as wave ripple marks, can be found in these Broome Sandstone outcrops.

The Roebuck Bay Zone is classified as having outstanding geological and palaeontological features relevant to the West Kimberley National Heritage listing.



Broome Sandstone outcrops with sparse mangroves. Image: Damian Kelly

ACTIVITIES AND VULNERABILITIES

This is a popular fishing area so there are many boats, pedestrians, quad bikes, bicycles and vehicles with boat trailers using the length of the intertidal zone. Improvements to the boat ramp near the Broome Bird Observatory have resulted in increased vehicular beach traffic. Boulders placed to discourage people from driving on the beach are regularly removed, posing a risk of damage to the dinosaur tracks.



Well-used fishing spot. Image: Damian Kelly



Tyre tracks on Broome Sandstone. Image: Damian Kelly

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.

