



Summary of the Waterbank Zone

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THE DINOSAUR COAST NATIONAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025



Waterbank Zone



From just north of the rocks at Cable Beach, the Waterbank Zone extends north for 29.1 km, as far as the northern boundary of the Rubibi (Yawuru) Community Native Title claim at the Willie Creek estuary.



Tracks of nesting turtle. Image: Stephanie Johnston

TOPOGRAPHY AND ECOLOGY

This zone from the southernmost end consists predominantly of a sandy beach bordered by dunes; however, at Cape Latreille, where the barriers of sand and limestone have formed a linear lagoon parallel to the shore at Coconut Wells, there is a break in the dune system creating an inlet. Beyond this point to the north the beach, backed by vegetated sand ridges, is subject to continuous sand erosion. This zone includes an area of the Willie Creek estuary east of the Willie Creek mouth.

The fauna includes various crabs, bivalves and other invertebrates that live in the intertidal flats, and marine turtles (including the threatened flatback turtle and green turtle), which lay their eggs in the dunes. The beaches and lagoon are habitat for migratory bird species, while the Willie Creek wetland system of intertidal sand and mudflats, mangroves and salt flats, provides habitat for many kinds of marine and terrestrial animals.

GEOLOGICAL AND PALAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

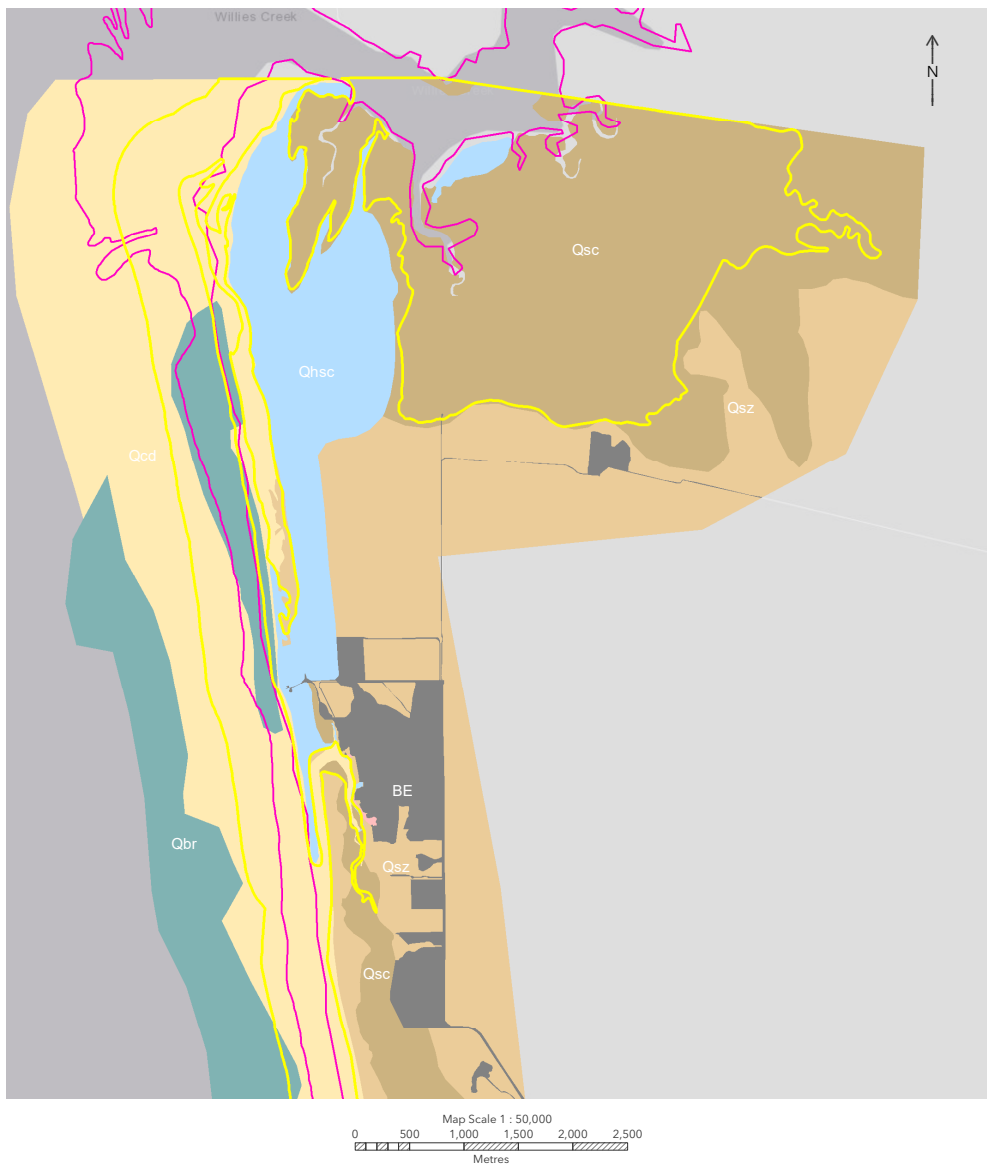
North of the boundary with the Cable Beach Foreshore Zone, exposures of Broome Sandstone begin to thin out, replaced by Quaternary coastal sediments and extensive beach sand. A large offshore reef system, formed from a pavement of Cape Boileau Calcarenite and Lombadina Conglomerate stretching almost unbroken along this stretch of coast, is exposed during low tides.

Scattered exposures of Broome Sandstone occur within and adjacent to the eastern edge of the Coconut Wells lagoon. These outcrops have Aboriginal cultural heritage value and may contain ichnofossils.

The broader site includes exposures of overlying Sandfire Calcilutite and Horsewater Soak Calcarenite, containing invertebrate traces and/or body fossils. Although not currently listed in the National Heritage values, these fossils are scientifically significant.

At Willie Creek, the tidal flats west of the estuary mouth are formed by the Port Smith Sand. Along the shores of the inner estuary, between the red Mowanjum Sand and the tidal flat of Sandfire Calcilutite is a ribbon of muddy sand. Landward exposures are dominated by Horsewater Soak Calcarenite.





DCNHMP

Project Area

NHL Gazette

The West Kimberley

Geological Units

Kb : Broome Sandstone

BE : Built Environment

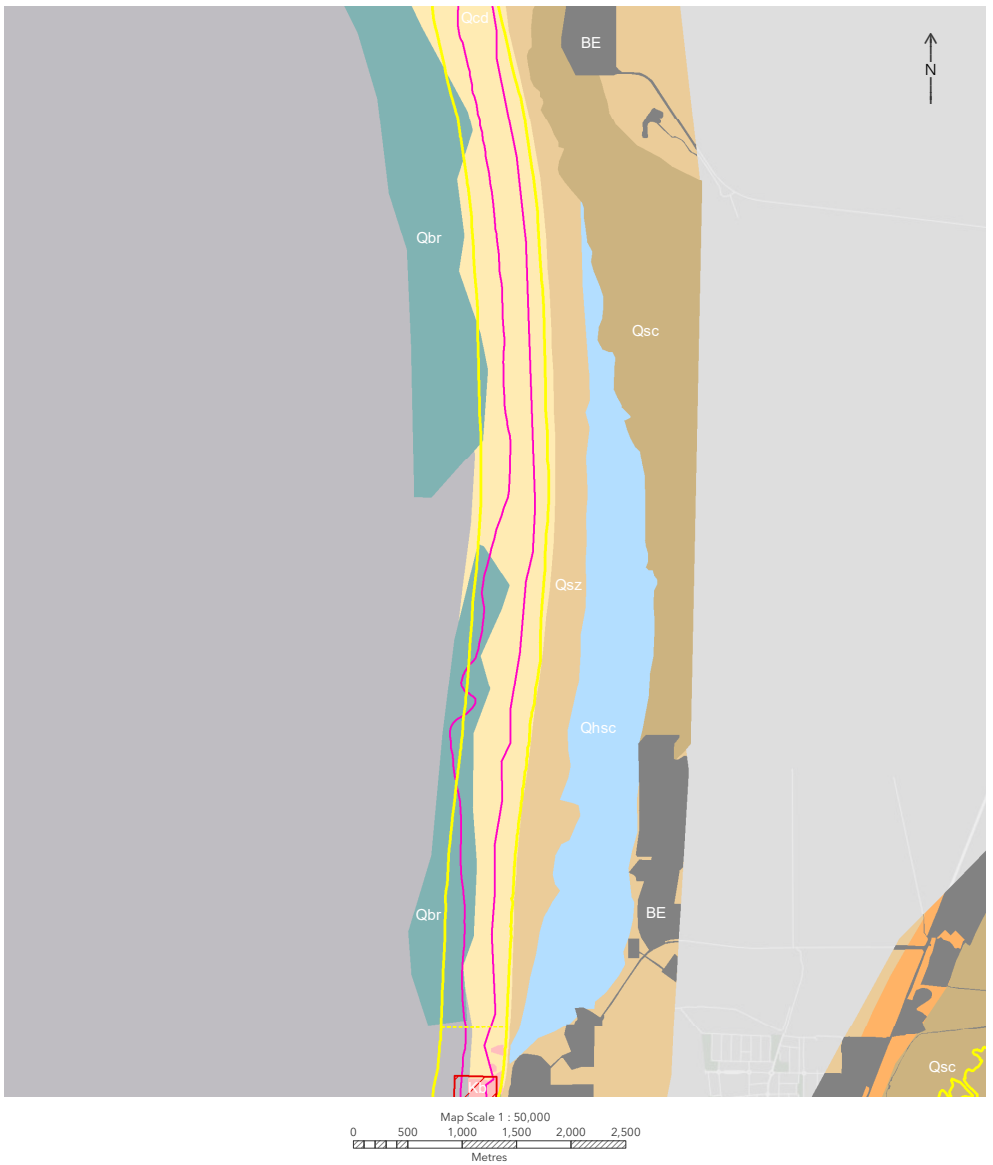
Qcd : Cable Beach Sand

Qbr : Cape Boileau Calcarenite + Lombadina Conglomerate


Qsz : Holocene Aeolean Dune Sand (Church Hill Sand + Shoonta Hill Sand) overlying Pleistocene Mowanjum Sand

Qhsc : Horsewater Soak Calcarenite

Qsc : Sandfire Calcilutite



Geological & Palaeontological Features

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


DCNHMP

-  Zone Boundary


-  Project Area


NHL Gazette

-  The West Kimberley


-  Low Tide (approx 0.6m)

Geological Units


-  Kb : Broome Sandstone


-  BE : Built Environment

-  Qcd : Cable Beach Sand


-  Qbr : Cape Boileau Calcarenite + Lombadina Conglomerate

-  Qdm : Djugun Member

-  Qsz : Holocene Aeolean Dune Sand (Church Hill Sand + Shoonta Hill Sand) overlying Pleistocene Mowanjum Sand

-  Qhsc : Horsewater Soak Calcarenite

-  Qsc : Sandfire Calcilutite

-  PQc : Unnamed Pliocene-Quaternary Conglomerate

ACTIVITIES AND VULNERABILITIES

Despite attempts to discourage vehicle access to certain areas, the Waterbank Zone is vulnerable to damage by 4WDs, quad bikes and dirt bikes. Coconut Wells is also subject to 'tidal tourism' and illegal camping. Currently there is little or no enforcement of regulations.

Attempts to stop access are often futile. Image: Sarah Taylor-Fuller



Evening camel rides north of Cable Beach rocks . Image: Istock



Reef system of Cape Boileau Calcarenrite and Lombadina Conglomerate with Horsewater Soak Calcarenrite in the foreground . Image: Sarah Taylor-Fuller



Vehicles are often within the gazetted prohibited area. 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.

