

How will the new marine park and conservation estate affect Broome?

On 25 February 2010 the Yawuru People, the WA Government, the Shire of Broome and others entered into the Yawuru Indigenous Land Use Area Agreement and the Yawuru Prescribed Body Corporate Indigenous Land Use Agreement (the Yawuru Agreements). The Agreements determined there would be three conservation estates developed within the Shire. These are known as 'townsite areas', 'out of town areas' and 'marine park areas'. Two draft management plans have now been developed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW): the *Proposed Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park indicative joint management plan 2015*; and the *Yawuru Birragun Conservation Park draft management plan 2015*.

The Shire of Broome supports the establishment of conservation and marine parks, and the ability of Yawuru people to access areas of cultural significance. The Shire would also like to ensure the community is fully informed of any potential outcomes if the draft plans are endorsed by the WA Parliament as currently proposed and drafted.

The Shire of Broome has identified the following potential concerns with the draft plans for the community's consideration:

Proposed access restrictions for the general public along the foreshore of sections of Roebuck Bay;

Possible access restrictions in the marine park within the Special Purpose Zone (cultural heritage);

Potential impacts on the operations of the Port;

Potential impacts on development proposals in the Broome townsite and other land adjoining the Conservation and/or Marine Park;

Potential impediments to coastal protection work required to protect Chinatown and Broome townsite.

The **Conservation Park** encompasses those areas from Eco Beach through to Willie Creek, with the seaward boundary extending to the high water mark. Much of the land adjacent to the Conservation Park is unallocated Crown land or pastoral lease including Roebuck Plains Station and Thangoo Station.

The **Marine Park Areas** are located immediately south of Broome, and cover an area of about 78,800ha from Minyirr (Gantheaume Point) in the north to Miriny (Cape Villaret) in the south, and includes subtidal and intertidal areas between the seaward limit of WA waters (three nautical miles from the territorial baseline) to the high water mark.

The plans have a number of potential impacts on community access and future usage of lands and waterways:

The impetus to provide growth opportunities to advance and improve the economic sustainability of the Broome Shire may be restricted if commercially available lands (specifically those lands adjacent to the conservation areas) contain approval processes that are prohibitive to development. This may be of concern for any commercial aspirations for development that abuts conservation lands.

There are concerns the draft plans may not contain sufficient guidance for development or specific initiatives to mitigate potential impacts that activities may have on the conservation parks. These demands may come from activities or developments that have the potential to cause physical damage to landforms or disturb the sedimentary and hydrological processes that maintain them.

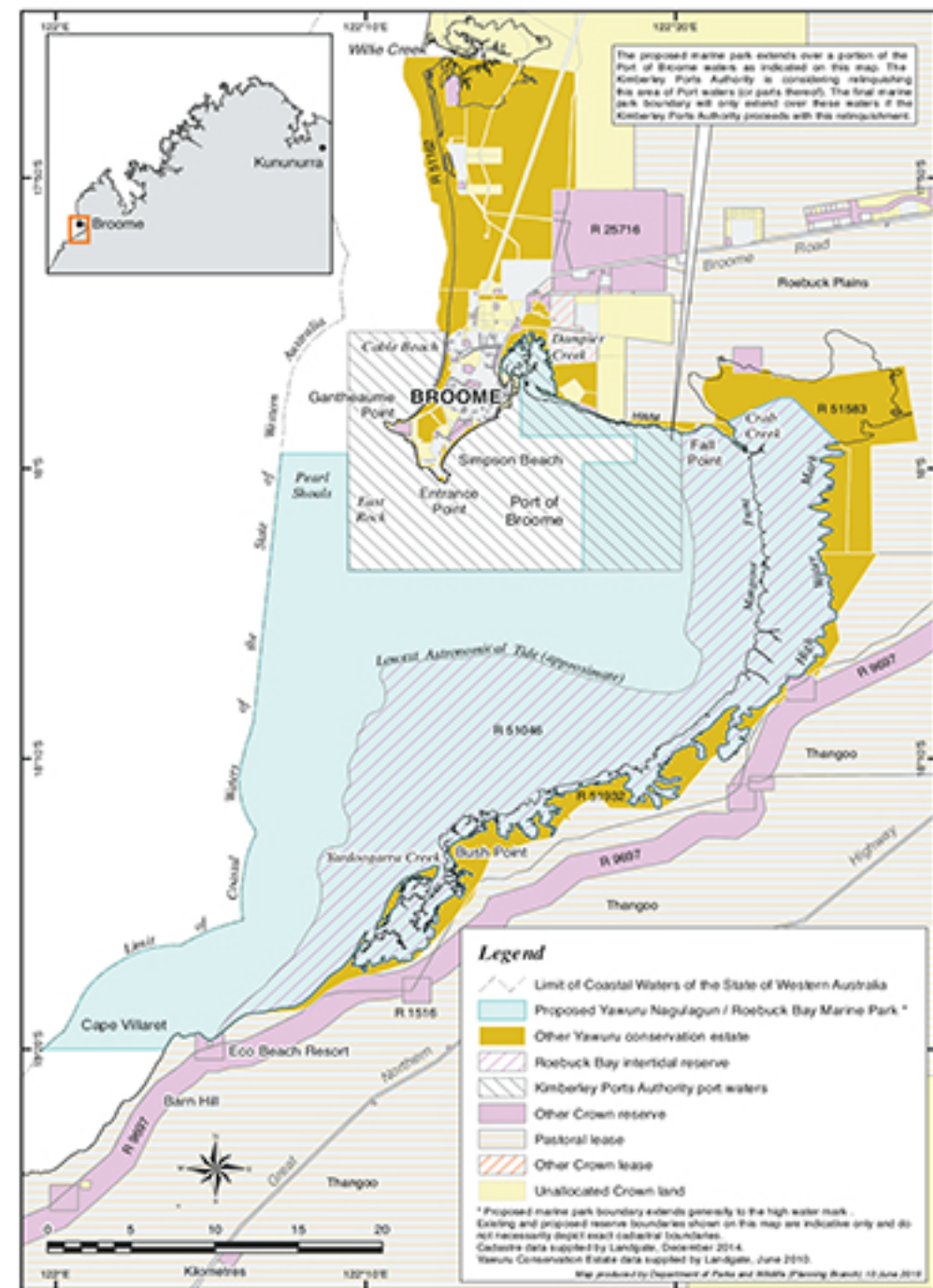
Status of tracks that are not gazetted roads – indications are that public access will be maintained but this may be on goodwill of the landowner rather than formal legal agreement:

Restriction on vehicle access to recreation nodes/beach access between Dampier Creek and Crab Creek. Boat launching will only be permitted at Sabu Rock and may be closed to boat launching if maintaining it to an acceptable standard is not feasible.

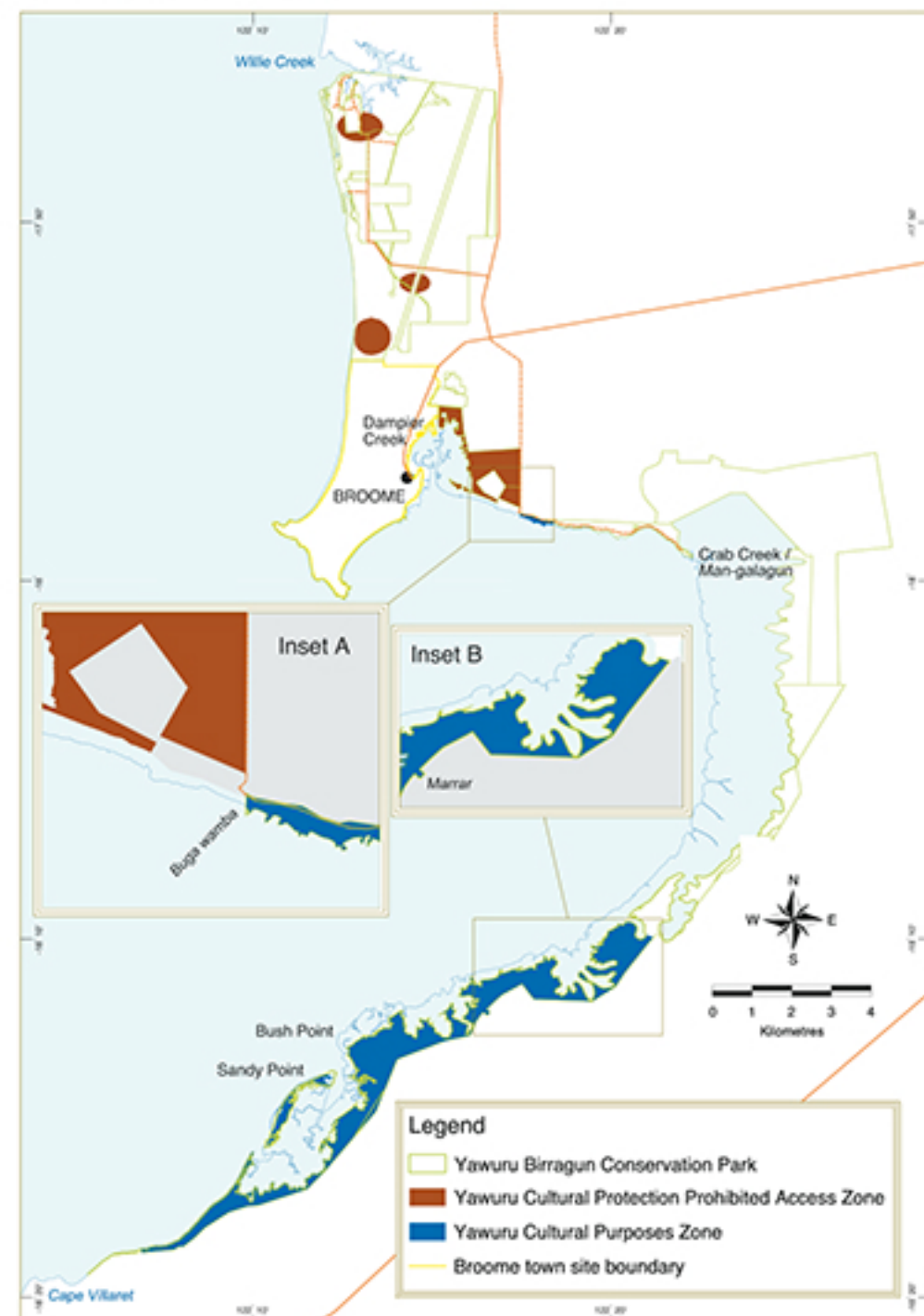
No camping areas are proposed to be designated for the Yawuru Birragun Conservation Park over the short-term. However, some opportunities for overnight camping may be explored in conjunction with cultural and ecotourism products that may be developed.

The current proposed extent of the Marine Park varies greatly from the initial 2010 ILUA. The inclusion of Dampier Creek in the Marine Park may increase the level of approval required for infrastructure such as jetties, marinas and sea walls. Infrastructure development to enhance the longevity of Broome has been considered in development proposals and is considered important to the sustainable growth of the Shire.

While the Special Purpose Zone (cultural heritage) within the Marine Park does not restrict broader community use, marine park users are asked to respect the Yawuru people's request for privacy when undertaking cultural activities, particularly in these zones. Clarity is still required in regard to potential management actions to mitigate or stop impacts including restrictions on recreational activity by the broader community in the cultural heritage special purpose zone.



Tenure within and adjacent to the proposed Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park



Special cultural access arrangements.

Interested community members can submit their feedback directly to the Department of Parks and Wildlife online at dpaw.wa.gov.au/yawuru by the submission closing date of **Friday 25 September 2015**. The Minister for the Environment (DPAW) will manage the consultation process for both conservation areas.