

# SHAPING HEDLAND'S FUTURE

## Environment



During the **Shaping Hedland's Future** project, the Town asked the community their priorities and insights regarding the natural environment in and around the Town. It is recognised that the coastline, mangrove inlets and biodiversity assets are interwoven with the identity and attraction of the town for both locals and visitors. Sustainable management of these assets and others will have an influence on future growth and opportunities for the Town's residential offering, economy and local industrial capacity.

The project team asked the following questions:

- What are the important environmental assets in Port Hedland and South Hedland?
- What other inland or coastal environmental features can we recognise?
- What environmental assets are important to you?

### What we heard from community and stakeholders

- A proportion of the land within the Athol Street Development area is described as the 'Kings Park of Port Hedland', due to its rich biodiversity.
- Protecting coastal and inland waterways is a priority, not just for amenity, but for the intrinsic environmental services these systems provide to vegetation and animals in the local area (e.g. turtles, migratory birds, whales, frogs).
- Conserve natural waterways and coastlines (e.g. mangroves), taking a considered approach for strategies to reduce risk of coastal and riverine inundation and flooding when enabling development.
- Locals expressed a desire to reduce adverse impacts to vegetation and local fauna, particularly turtles who seasonally nest and hatch on the local beaches: Port Hedland supports a unique

flat back turtle population. There was support for development to take a considered approach to protect and conserve, e.g. reduced lighting in certain areas to enable hatchlings and adults to travel to the ocean.

- There is strong support to plant more trees and other vegetation around the perimeter of the port areas and along streets. Species suggested included saltbush, moringa and boab, and also edibles.
- Promote sustainability as a value proposition for businesses, visitors and residents.
- Increase opportunity for eco-tourism to invest back into environmental management.
- Protect rivers and other waterways from chemical run off, rubbish and contaminants.
- Better management of fish habitats and recreational fishing, improved and appropriate access for locals to fishing beaches.
- Manage invasive flora and fauna.

## Response within the Local Planning Strategy

The Strategy includes the following key actions in response to known environmental issues:

- Recognises the 100 Year Coastal Erosion Line in Strategy Maps and supports the inclusion of a new Special Control Area relating to coastal hazards within Local Planning Scheme No. 7 to establish controls that ensure development provides an appropriate response to storm surge and coastal erosion hazards.
- Reserve turtle nesting beaches and mangrove environments as 'Environmental conservation'.
- Include provisions relating to light impacts and turtle management for specific sites within Port Hedland.
- Protect public drinking water source areas within a new Special Control Area within Local Planning Scheme No. 7.
- Establish a framework for considering bushfire hazard in assessing proposals for land use and development.
- Identify actions which respond to the State government Dust Taskforce Report.
- Identify appropriate land use buffers to the existing operating landfill and wastewater treatment plant.
- Acknowledge the need to protect freight corridors from encroachment of sensitive land uses i.e. residential.
- Identify a 200 metre Visual Protection Area adjacent to both sides of Great Northern Highway and North West Coastal Highway to improve the visual amenity of major approaches into Hedland.

## Where can I learn more?

To learn more about the Shaping Hedland Future project, including fact sheets and FAQ's, go to [www.porthedland.wa.gov.au/planning-building-and-environment/planning/shaping-hedlands-future.aspx](http://www.porthedland.wa.gov.au/planning-building-and-environment/planning/shaping-hedlands-future.aspx).

Alternatively, contact Senior Strategic Planner, Sandeep Shankar on 9158 9347.