Table 2. Marine biohabitat description of the potential 'Hub' locality

Sites	Benthic Communities				
	Mangroves	**Coral reefs**	**Filter-feeders**	**Seagrass/Algae** *(* Extent and abundance likely to vary seasonally)*	**Soft-sediment**
Anjo Peninsula *(Remote sensing only)*	Mangroves present in embayments and creeks. Some fringing mangroves.	Extensive fringing coral reefs evident along the northern half of the peninsula. Corals are also likely to be present on rocky substrates along the southern portion of the peninsula.	Likely to be present in subtidal environments (eg. below ~10m water depth)	Unknown. Seagrass likely in shallow relatively sheltered areas. Macroalgae likely on hard substrates.	Soft sediment communities are likely to be present in sheltered embayments and inlets as well as some deeper areas.
Cape Voltaire *(Remote sensing only)*	Extensive areas of mangroves fringing the coast.	Extensive fringing coral reefs evident along sections of the northern half of the peninsula. Corals are likely to be present on rocky substrates elsewhere on the peninsula.	Likely to be present in subtidal environments (eg. below ~10m water depth)	Unknown. Seagrass likely in shallow relatively sheltered areas. Macroalgae likely on hard substrates.	Soft sediment communities are likely to be present in sheltered embayments and inlets as well as some deeper areas.
Maret Islands	Not present.	Well-developed extensive fringing coral reefs from 100 m to up to ~ 1km wide. Preliminary assessments indicate live coral abundance and diversity is very high.	Filter feeder communities are common and occur below ~ 10m water depth on hard substratum; very species diverse and abundant in places. Spatial extent unknown.	* Seagrass on inter-tidal reef flat. Seagrass likely to occur in the subtidal zone.	Extensive soft-sediment communities exist around these islands. Diversity and abundance of major groups unknown.
Wilson Point	Fringe of scattered mangroves along rocky shores Wilson Bay and Deception Bay to south.	Well-developed extensive fringing coral reefs along the mainland coast and around the islands. Preliminary assessments indicate that live coral abundance and diversity is very high.	Extensive filter feeder communities are common and occur below about 10m water depth on hard substratum; very species diverse and abundant in places. Spatial extent unknown.	* Sparse seagrass in shallow bay on west coast.	Extensive soft-sediment communities exist around these islands. Diversity and abundance of major groups unknown.
Koolan Island	Thin strip of mangroves along the island's shorelines and adjacent mainland coast.	Well-developed extensive fringing coral reefs around the islands. Preliminary assessments of these reefs indicate that live coral abundance and diversity is high.	Extensive filter feeder communities are common below ~ 10m water depth on hard substratum; very species diverse and abundant in places. Spatial extent unknown.	* Sparse seagrass in protected bay on north side.	Soft sediment communities evident in areas sheltered from tidal currents and waves.
Packer Island	Mangroves present inside Island, not on exposed west coast.	Sparse/medium density corals on rocks and pavement to ~10 m west of barrier. No biogenic reef formation evident.	Patches of filter feeder communities are common below ~ 10m water depth on hard substratum; very species diverse and abundant in places.	* Seagrass with high cover evident in shallow areas outside the barrier island/reef formations. MPB common in shallow water.	Soft sediment communities not prominent. Some moderately fine sands offshore in areas sheltered from tidal currents and waves.
Perpendicular/North Head	Mangroves present in northern Pender Bay, Tappers Inlet and Beagle Bay. Not on exposed west coast.	Scattered corals on rocks and pavement to ~10 m. Areas of moderately high density coral inshore North Head. No biogenic reef formation evident.	Extensive filter feeder communities are common and occur below ~ 10m water depth around Perpendicular Head and offshore; very species diverse and abundant in places.	* Medium/sparse cover *Halophila* in Pender Bay. Extensive medium / dense *Halophila* below ~10m amongst filter feeder communities. Algal reefs inshore. *Halimedia* in Pender Bay.	Highly bioturbated soft sediment infaunal communities in Pender Bay sheltered from tidal currents and waves. Patches of bioturbated sediment offshore. Varies seasonally.
Coulomb Point	Not present in survey area.	Occasional corals on rocks and pavement to ~10 m. Some solitary corals in deeper water. No reef formation evident.	Dense filter feeder communities are common and occur below ~ 5m water depth; very species diverse and abundant in places.	* Extensive moderate to dense *Halophila* sp meadows from ~10m on sand amongst filter feeding communities. MPB patches in sheltered areas. Sargassum and other m/algae on extensive	Isolated patches offshore. Sediment characteristics and sand waves indicate high wave energy.

				inshore reefs	
James Price Point	Not present survey area.	Occasional corals on rocks and pavement to ~10 m. Some solitary corals in deeper water. No reef formation evident.	Filter feeder communities occur below ~ 5m water depth; very species diverse and abundant in places.	* Extensive moderate to dense *Halophila* sp meadows from ~10m on sand amongst filter feeding communities. MPB patches in sheltered areas. Sargassum and other m/algae on inshore reefs	Not evident. Sediment characteristics and sand waves indicate high wave energy.
Quondong Point	Not present in survey area.	Occasional corals on rocks and pavement to ~10 m. Some solitary corals in deeper water. No reef formation evident.	Filter feeder communities occur below ~ 5m water depth; very species diverse and abundant in places.	* Extensive moderate to dense *Halophila* sp meadows from ~10m on sand amongst filter feeding communities. MPB patches in sheltered areas. Sargassum and other m/algae on inshore reefs	Some finer bioturbated sediments offshore in deepest water. Sediment characteristics and sand waves indicate high wave energy.
Gourdon Bay	Not present in survey area.	Occasional corals on rocks and pavement to ~10 m. Limited habitat in the bay. Some solitary corals in deeper water. No reef formation evident.	Patches of filter feeder communities occur below ~ 10m water depth. Generally not in high abundance.	* Extensive sparse *Halophila* sp meadows to ~10m on sand. MPB widespread.	Isolated patches evident. Sediment characteristics and sand waves indicate generally high wave energy.