

BRONTE-COOGEE

Bronte-Coogee is an area of exposed rocky shore, headlands and beaches in the eastern suburbs of Sydney. It includes Clovelly Bay and Gordons Bay.

A large, 2028 hectare site is proposed for the area from South Bondi to the northern end of Coogee Beach and three nautical miles seaward (Figure 24). This proposed area expands on the existing Bronte-Coogee Aquatic Reserve and South Bondi IPA (Figure 23).

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

Established in 2002, the existing Bronte-Coogee Aquatic Reserve covers 36 hectares and about four kilometres of coastline from the southern extremity of Bronte Beach to the rock baths at the northern end of Coogee Beach (Figure 23). Collection of marine invertebrates, cunjevoi

and marine vegetation is prohibited, with the exception of lobsters, abalone, sea lettuce and bait weed (Table 38). Other fish species may be taken by legal methods. Recreational fishing competitions and collecting for scientific and educational purposes require a permit. A smaller fishing closure encompasses Clovelly Bay and Gordons Bay and prohibits spearfishing and the collection of blue groper by any method.

The South Bondi (Mackenzies Point) IPA is to the north of the aquatic reserve (Figure 23). In that IPA, fishing is allowed, but all taking, gathering and collecting of all invertebrates and other seashore animals is prohibited, including crabs, snails, worms, octopus, sea urchins, anemones, pipis, cockles, mussels, oysters, saltwater nippers and cunjevoi.

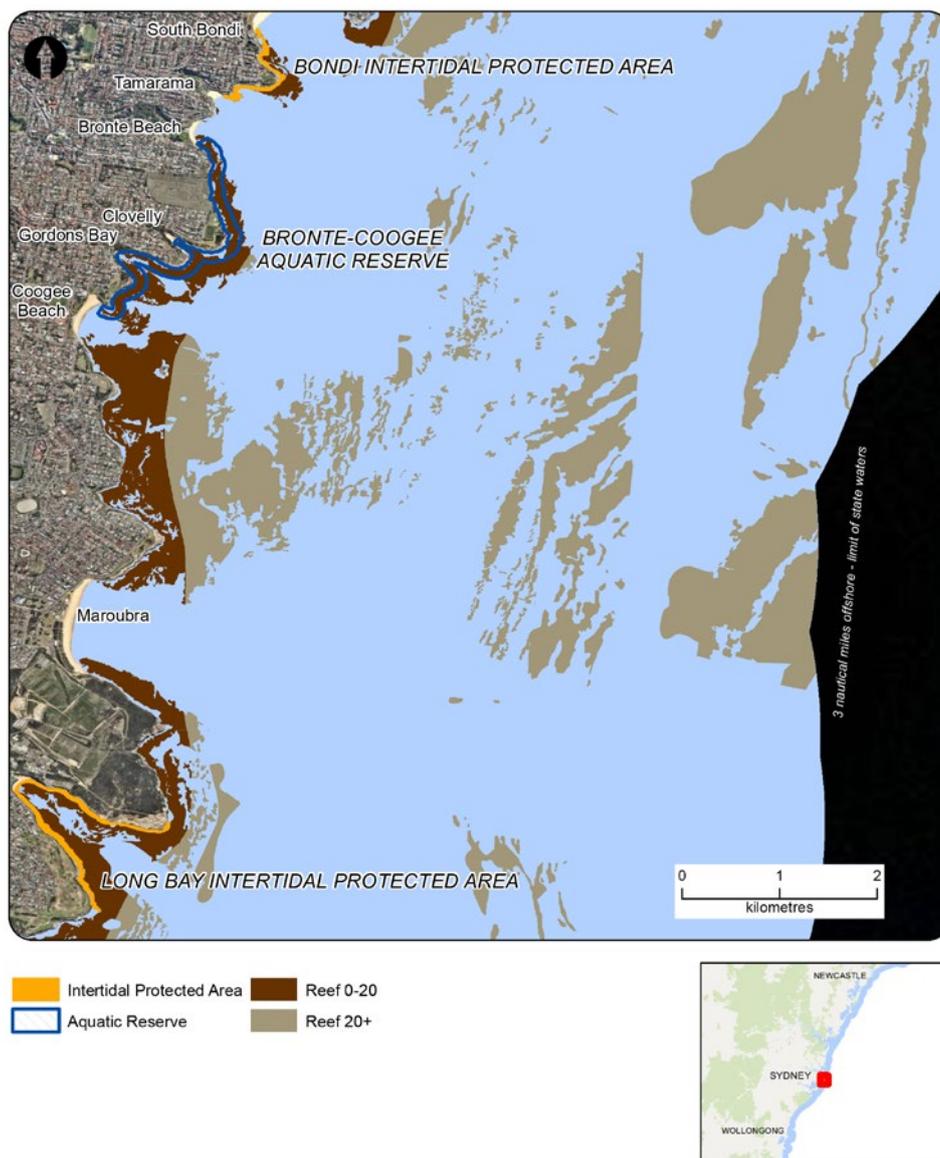


Figure 23. Current Bronte-Coogee Aquatic Reserve

SITE OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives for the proposed Bronte-Coogee site are to:

- enhance the conservation of marine biodiversity
- promote marine ecotourism in the bioregion
- continue to provide for marine economic opportunities that are consistent with ecologically sustainable development, for example, low-risk commercial fishing activities
- establish and maintain public infrastructure to support access and use of the bioregion, for example moorings, boat ramps
- enhance the intrinsic benefits derived by the community from the marine estate
- enhance bequest values for current and future generations
- reduce conflicts between users of the marine estate
- provide enhanced recreational experiences for particular user groups
- provide baseline monitoring areas (scientific reference sites)
- ensure appropriate mechanisms exist for community involvement in the management of the marine estate
- promote stewardship of the marine estate.

The secondary objectives that apply to this site are listed in Table 5.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES

The proposed site contains rocky shores, beaches, shallow and deep rocky reef, and shallow and deep soft sediment habitat. Rocky reefs have been documented to contain urchin-grazed barrens, fringe, kelp forests and sponge habitat. The assemblages associated with the intertidal and subtidal rocky reefs are consistent with those found more broadly in the region, and the area has been the focus of numerous scientific studies. The known threatened and protected species in the area includes the weedy seadragon (*Phyllopteryx taeniolatus*).

The area has a strong fishing heritage, and is used by the Gordons Bay and Coogee Bay Fishing Clubs and by recreational fishers and spearfishers. Scuba diving and snorkelling is popular, particularly in Gordons Bay and Clovelly Pool, which is well known as a place to see blue groper.

Some Ocean Trap and Line and Ocean Trawl commercial fishing takes place in the area.

PRIORITY THREATS TARGETED TO ENHANCE BENEFITS AT THIS SITE

The threats that will be addressed at this site and expected benefits to be enhanced are listed in Table 37.

Table 37. Threats and expected benefits

	Environmental				Social, cultural, economic			
Threats	 Climate change	 Commercial fishing	 Recreational fishing		 Conflict	 Habitat disturbance	 Reduction in species	 Lack of access infrastructure
Benefits	 Rocky shores	 Shallow reefs	 Deep reefs	 Fish assemblages	 Intrinsic & bequest	 Scientific reference sites	 Participation (wellbeing)	 Participation (socialising)
	 Species protected under FMA	 Species protected under BCA	 Biodiversity		 Enjoyment (biodiversity & beauty)	 Viability of business	 Individual enjoyment	 Aboriginal cultural heritage & use

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PROPOSED MANAGEMENT RULES

The proposed site consists of a 676 hectare sanctuary zone and a 1352 hectare conservation zone. It replaces the existing aquatic reserve, fishing closure and the South Bondi (Mackenzies Point) IPA.

The proposed sanctuary zone extends from the south end of Bondi Beach to the north end of Coogee Beach and seaward to the 50-metre depth contour. No fishing of any sort would be permitted in this zone except for Aboriginal cultural use.

Seaward of the 50-metre depth contour, a conservation zone would extend to the three-nautical-mile limit of state waters (Figure 24). Fishing for lobster and abalone would be permitted in the proposed conservation zone, but other types of fishing would be prohibited except for Aboriginal cultural use (Table 38).

Activities identified as minimal-low risk can continue in both zones, including recreational boating, snorkelling and scuba diving.

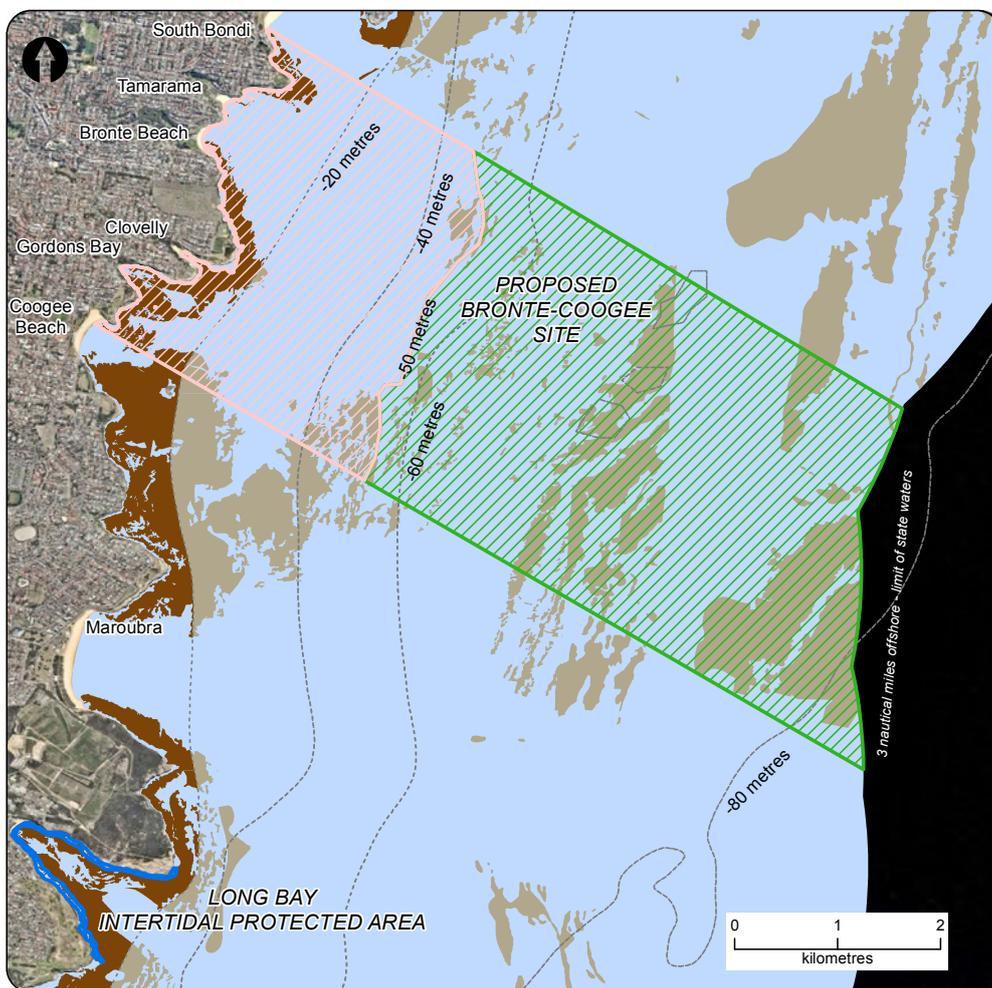


Figure 24. Proposed Bronte-Coogee site

Table 38. Current activities and suggested permissible activities in the proposed Bronte-Coogee site

Bronte-Coogee	 Boating	 Anchoring	 Line fishing	 Spear fishing	 Lobster fishing	 Abalone fishing	 Scuba diving /snorkelling	 Hand gathering	 Collecting marine vegetation	 Commercial fishing	 Aboriginal cultural heritage & use
Current aquatic reserve	✓	✓	✓ ¹	✓ ²	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓ ³	✓
Proposed conservation zone	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓
Proposed sanctuary zone	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	✓

- 1 Fishing for blue groper not permitted in part of the aquatic reserve
- 2 Spearfishing not permitted in part of the aquatic reserve
- 3 Subject to existing NSW commercial fishing rules and regulations
- 4 Except for lobster and abalone fishing

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The high environmental value of Bronte-Coogee was identified by community members, as well as by peak conservation stakeholders – the National Parks Association of NSW and Nature Conservation Council of NSW. Strengthening rules in the current aquatic reserve was proposed by local passive-use groups. Conflict between recreational fishers and passive users, and associated safety concerns, were also raised in submissions, including by Randwick City Council.

