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Survey of values, perception of threats

and attitudes to

Batemans Marine Park

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Reviewed for WCAG 2.0

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Executive Summary

The Batemans Marine Park plays an important role in the lives of those who live locally and for those who visit the area.

Responses to this quantitative research suggest there would be strong community support for activities and actions that preserve and promote the ongoing marine and environmental health of the area.

The results also suggest there would be strong support for initiatives that are sympathetic to and support the role of the park in people's physical wellbeing, mental health and social connection.

Users undertake a wide variety of activities within the Batemans Marine Park area, most commonly walking and exercising near the coast, wildlife appreciation, socialising, swimming, surfing and fishing (from shore or boat); but also camping, snorkelling and other marine-based pursuits.

Park users place greatest value on several economic, environmental and social benefits derived from the park. Almost all survey respondents value the natural environment and clean waters and want the Batemans Marine Park to be left to future generations in good condition.

In terms of the perceived threats, those most highly nominated related to environmental wellbeing. Approximately two thirds of the total sample nominated marine litter as an immediate perceived threat. The illegal taking of fish, declining environmental health and the impacts of environmental changes on economic prosperity also rated strongly. Anti-social behaviour (a threat to social benefits) was also nominated by some respondents.

These results provide a sound evidence-base in terms of community perceptions, on which to confirm and develop future park management plans. The outcomes clearly identify community priorities in terms of values to be preserved, as well as highlighting perceived threats to those values.

The results of this research can provide direction in terms of planning management objectives, actions and programs. Given the quantitative nature of this research, confidence can be taken from the broad community support for the primary purpose and relevant secondary purposes and priorities outlined in the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014*.

It is recommended that the management team also consider conducting qualitative research in the future as part of their overall planning. This would allow further understanding of the broader context as well as further exploration of motivations, perceptions, enablers and barriers among park users. This in turn could assist in ensuring actions and messages resonate well with different community groups and park users.

Key Findings

The following summarises the key findings of this research project.

1. **Batemans Marine Park is held in high esteem by the many people living in and visiting the area.**

Within the park area users enjoy a wide range of experiences.

Many locals use the park multiple times per week. Many visitors come to the area frequently and have been doing so for over 10 years.

2. **Overall and for all key user groups, the most important values and benefits identified relate to economic (bequest), environmental and social benefits.**

For most people, legacy is key. For almost 9 out of 10 respondents, the most important benefit is that the area is passed on to future generations in good condition (economic benefit). Enjoyment of the natural environment and clean water also rate very highly as key identified benefits.

The area plays an important social and cultural role in users' lives by encouraging and facilitating exercise, connecting them to other people and the natural environment, enhancing mental health and wellbeing.

While economic benefits relating to handing the park on to future generations in a healthy condition was seen as very important, other economic benefits did not rank as high in importance as environmental and social benefits.

3. **The most significant perceived threats to the park's benefits relate to environmental factors such as marine litter.**

Visitors tended to rate perceived threats more highly than local residents, particularly in relation to economic threats such as declining environmental health.

Illegal taking of fish is also perceived as an important threat, particularly in the immediate context.

The fishing community acknowledge the threats to the marine park from overfishing, and some of these community members are also concerned about restrictions and how this will impact them personally.

4. **The research captured the views of a wide range of different user groups, including across age groups, those with different interests and pastimes, and both local residents and visitors.**

There are many similarities in usage, attitudes and perceived benefits of the Batemans Marine Park area, across different user groups, including both local residents and visitors.

Background

Batemans Marine Park on the NSW south coast extends from the most northerly point of Murramarang Beach near Bawley Point to the southern side of Wallaga Lake entrance at Murunna Point.

The marine park includes approximately 850 km^2, extending from the three-nautical-mile offshore limit of NSW waters to the mean high-water mark within all rivers, estuaries, bays, lagoons, inlets, and saline and brackish coastal lakes (excluding Nargal Lake). It also includes the waters around offshore islands including Tollgate Islands and Montague Island.

The park was established in April 2006 and its zones and management rules commenced in June 2007. The primary purpose of the park is to conserve the biological diversity and maintain ecosystem integrity and ecosystem function of the bioregion in which the park occurs.

The secondary purposes of a marine park are (where consistent with the primary purpose) to manage the marine park in a manner that is consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development, to enable the marine park to be used for scientific research and education, to provide opportunities for public appreciation and enjoyment of the marine park and to support Aboriginal cultural uses of the marine park.

The management of NSW Marine Parks is governed by the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014* and its regulations.

The Batemans Marine Park is one of six marine parks established under the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014*. Day to day management of these marine parks is undertaken by Department of Primary Industries (DPI), with Batemans Marine Park the first to pilot a new management planning approach.

The Act specifically requires that the management plan articulate the environmental, economic and social values (also referred to as benefits) to be conserved by the marine park, and to identify threats to the identified values.

“NSW Government [has expressed its] commitment to maintaining the existing marine parks in NSW and improving their management within holistic management arrangements for the entire marine estate”

(https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/marine-estate-programs/marine-park-management-pilots [Sourced 08/07/19])

As part of previous preparation over recent years, the following documents provided important context: NSW Marine Estate State-wide Threat and Risk Assessment (BMT WBM, 2017), the Marine Estate Community Survey (Sweeney Research, 2014), and state-wide Threat and Risk Assessment Aboriginal Workshops Report 2017.

Those developing the management plan wish to ensure the new management plan reflects community values – environmental, social, cultural and economic. There is recognition that the values associated with the park will differ by interest group within the population, and that the desired uses – commercial, recreational and conservation – may vary.

Local input from a wide cross section of park users including local residents and visitors (particularly those from ACT and Sydney) is seen as integral to ensuring the development of the plan is a local one. The purpose of this research undertaking is therefore to better understand the community that use and appreciate the Batemans Marine Park itself.

Project objectives

1. To engage with a representative cross-section of the community (both local and visitor) who use the Batemans Marine Park for a wide range of activities, to determine the perceived values and threats to the marine environment.

2. To understand how these views align and how they differ by sociodemographic group and by core interest or user groups

3. To provide tangible results and recommendations that can provide direction for ongoing management of the Batemans Marine Park, conservation and the balancing of multiple potential secondary uses.

Research Methodology

Key requirements of this project were to achieve recruitment of a representative sociodemographic sample of people who have experienced the Batemans Marine Park, and to secure a robust enough sample size to allow thorough analysis. A key consideration in the choice of research methodology was the need to access a wide cross section of the park users in the vicinity of the Batemans Marine Park area, including the Sydney and ACT regions. For this reason the recommended methodology was an online survey, combined with an in-area, face-to-face intercept recruitment methodology.

Survey design

Survey questions were developed based on values, benefits and threats identified in previous state-wide research combined with the stated research objectives. Following input from DPI staff and members of the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel, the final survey design was completed.

The survey incorporated sociodemographic profiling questions including age, sex, primary residence and household income and was hosted on a secure online survey platform.

An initial screener was incorporated to ensure eligibility. Recruitment criteria included being aged 18 years or over and having used or experienced the marine park area within the past 12-18 months (as indicated on the supplied map).

Lists of values and threats were used in relevant questions as a prompt for survey respondents. Open ended questions were also incorporated to explore individual's personal attitudes, feelings and connections to the Batemans Marine Park.

In order to achieve a clear understanding of respondents' priorities in relation to benefits and threats, Likert rating scales were incorporated where relevant.

To remove any potential bias that may exist towards the term 'marine parks', references to both 'marine parks' and the name 'Batemans Marine Park' were not introduced until question 12.

Upon completion of the formal survey participants were given the opportunity to share their contact details with the option that they may be invited to participate in future qualitative research.

Infield interviews

Interviewers were positioned at key community locations across all major towns and populations within the Batemans Marine Park area (and associated surrounding towns). Appendix 2 outlines the locations of all intercept interviews.

Specific interview locations were chosen in conjunction with DPI staff. Criteria for interview location included estimated foot traffic and the need to ensure a geographically representative cross section of the population (including both local residents and visitors). Some changes were made to locations during the infield period, based on foot traffic and in order to ensure sample size was achieved.

Intercept interviews were conducted at a range of times throughout the day. The initial infield period occurred between 4th and 8th October 2019 (inclusive). The second infield period spanned 29th November to 1st December 2019 (inclusive).

Interviewers used an intercept approach to recruit survey respondents, asking them to complete the survey on the spot via iPad.

During the survey, a map of the Batemans Marine Park area (below) was shown to all respondents. The map displayed key towns but did not show the marine park itself.

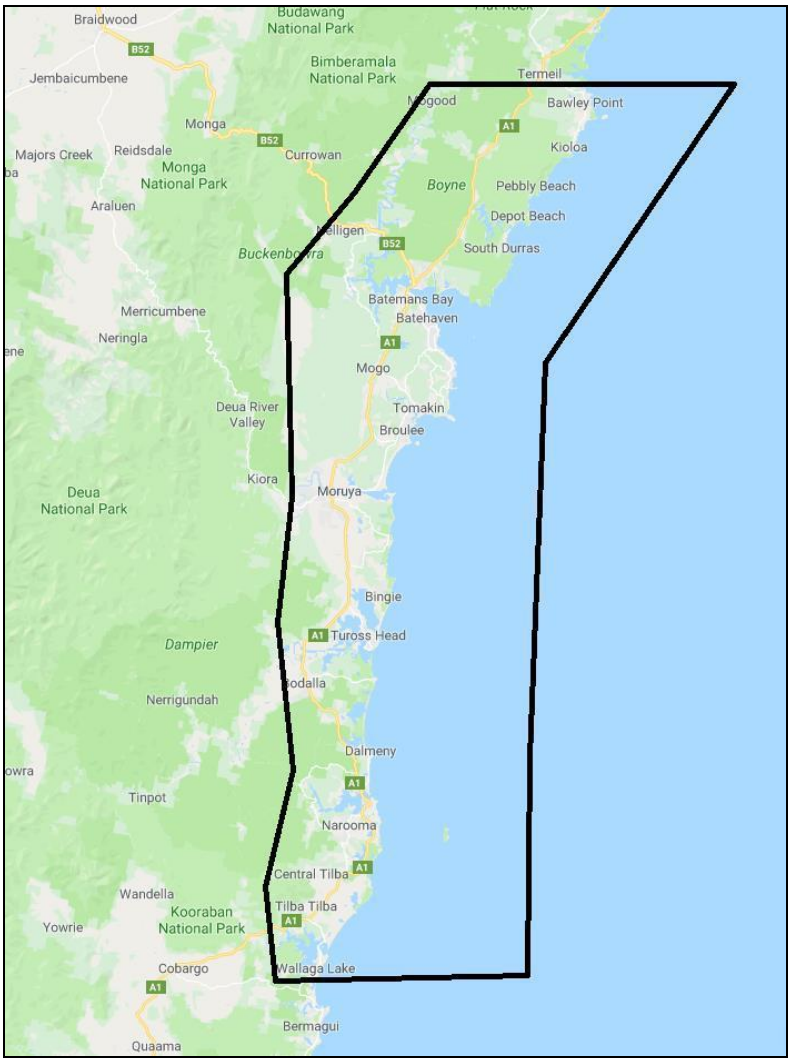


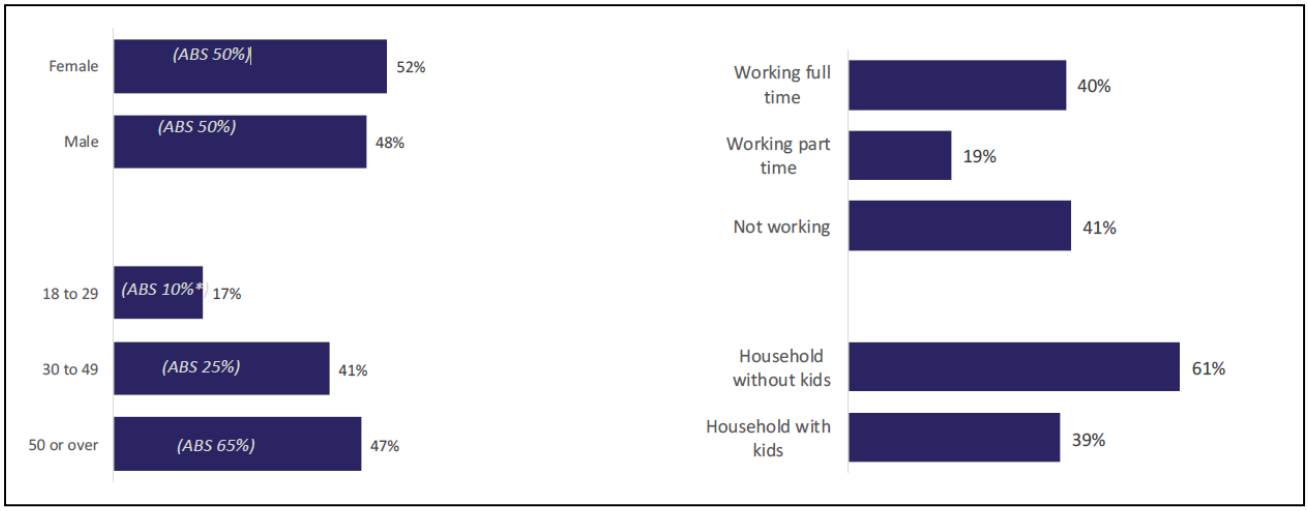
Figure 1. Map of coastal area around Batemans Marine Park.

Sample size

A sample size of 370 completed surveys was achieved. Based on the assumption that the total population of those who have experienced the Batemans Marine Park in the past 12 months would be between 250,000 and 1,000,000 visitors, this sample size achieves a confidence level of 95% with a margin of error of +/-5%.

Profile of respondents

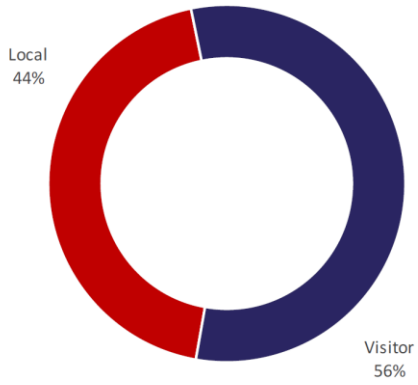
Overall the research achieved the following sociodemographic spread of respondents.



N= 370. Demographics

Figure 2. Profile of survey respondents.

Locals and visitors



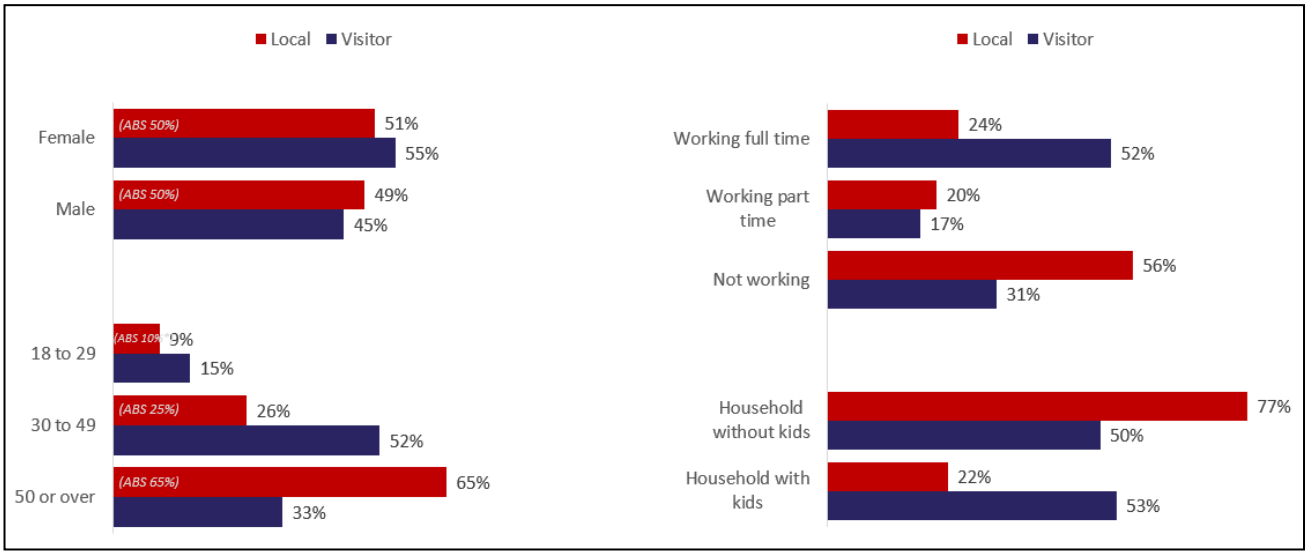
In terms of primary residence, 44% of survey respondents lived locally (N=162) within the defined Batemans Marine Park area (refer to above map of area shown to respondents). The remaining 56% of respondents were classed as visitors to the area, as they nominated

Base: N=370 Q1 What is the postcode of your primary residence where you live?

Figure 3. Proportion of local and visitor survey respondents

There are some significant differences in the demographic profiles of local respondents when compared with visitor respondents. These key demographic differences relate to age, household composition, working status and average household income. Local respondents were significantly more likely to be aged over 50 years, not working, in a household without children and a household earning under $50,000 per year. Conversely, visitors

(mostly from Sydney and Canberra) were significantly more likely to be aged 30 to 49 years, to be working full time, to be in a household with children and a household earning over $100k per year.



Base: Total sample n=370, Local residents n=162, Visitor n=208

Figure 4. Demographic comparison of local and visitor survey respondents.

This difference may be explained in part by to the proportion of people who retire to the area. As noted in the Eurobodalla community snapshot document, "when compared to similar communities, [the] population is significantly older. [The] largest population age group is people aged 65+ and [the] median age of 50 is much higher than regional and state comparisons… The main driver of [population growth in the area] is the sea and tree change that is favoured by retirees. This is evident in the number of households which are couples without children suggesting an older population of empty nesters." (Eurobodalla Shire Council, 2016).

Long term visitors and their relationship with the area

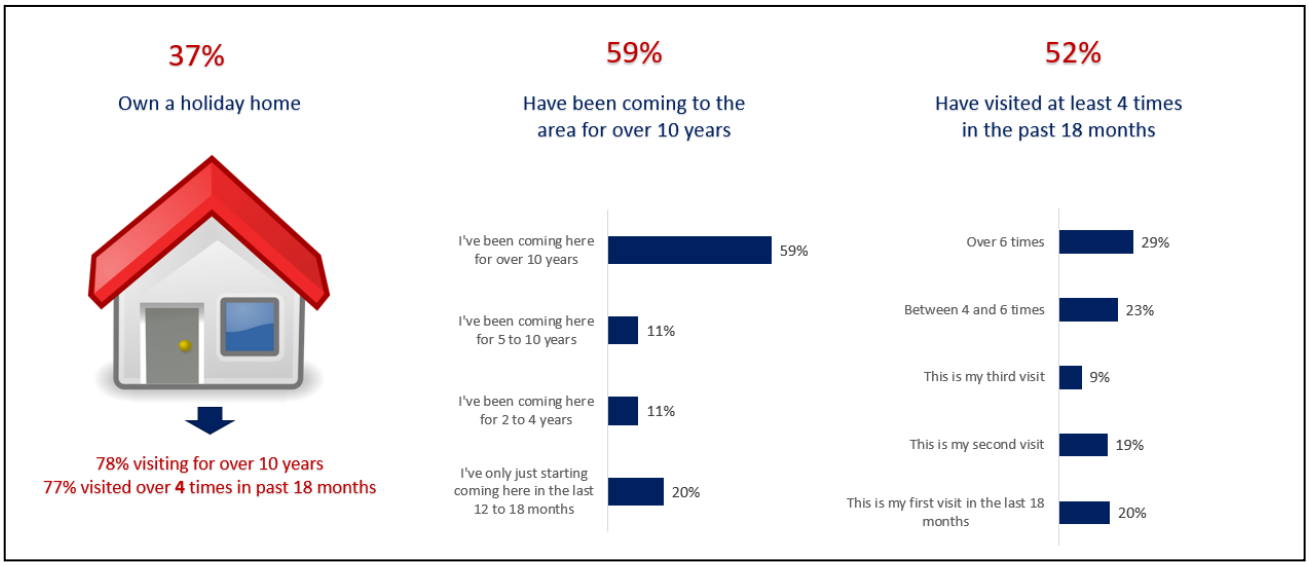


Figure 5. Profile of long-term visitors to Batemans Marine Park area.

Many visitors have a close and long-standing relationship with the area.

58% of visitors have been coming to the area for more than 10 years and nearly 50% have visited at least 4 times over past 12-18 months.

Many of these visitors are also rate payers. This survey found that 37% of visitor respondents own a holiday home in the area, a finding in line with the Eurobodalla Shire Council's data indicating that '38% of property owners [to] have their principal address outside of Eurobodalla'. The council estimates the resident population to be approximately 37,650, with peak populations in the area of approximately 100,000 presumably at key holiday times of the year. (Eurobodalla Shire Council, 2016)

Within visitors (n=208), the vast majority of respondents resided in either the ACT (n=85) or Sydney (n=35). The remainder of other visitors lived in other areas of NSW, interstate or overseas.

Location of primary residence

The following images display the locations of primary residences for all NSW and ACT respondents.

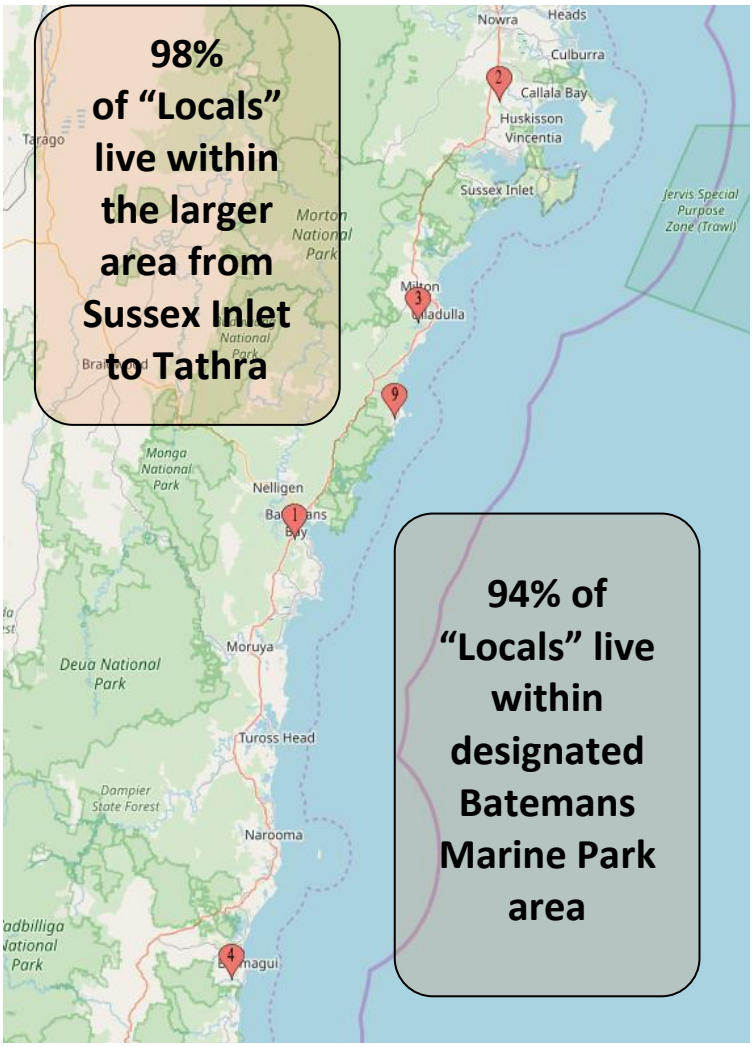


Figure 6. Plotted location by postcode of those designated as "locals".

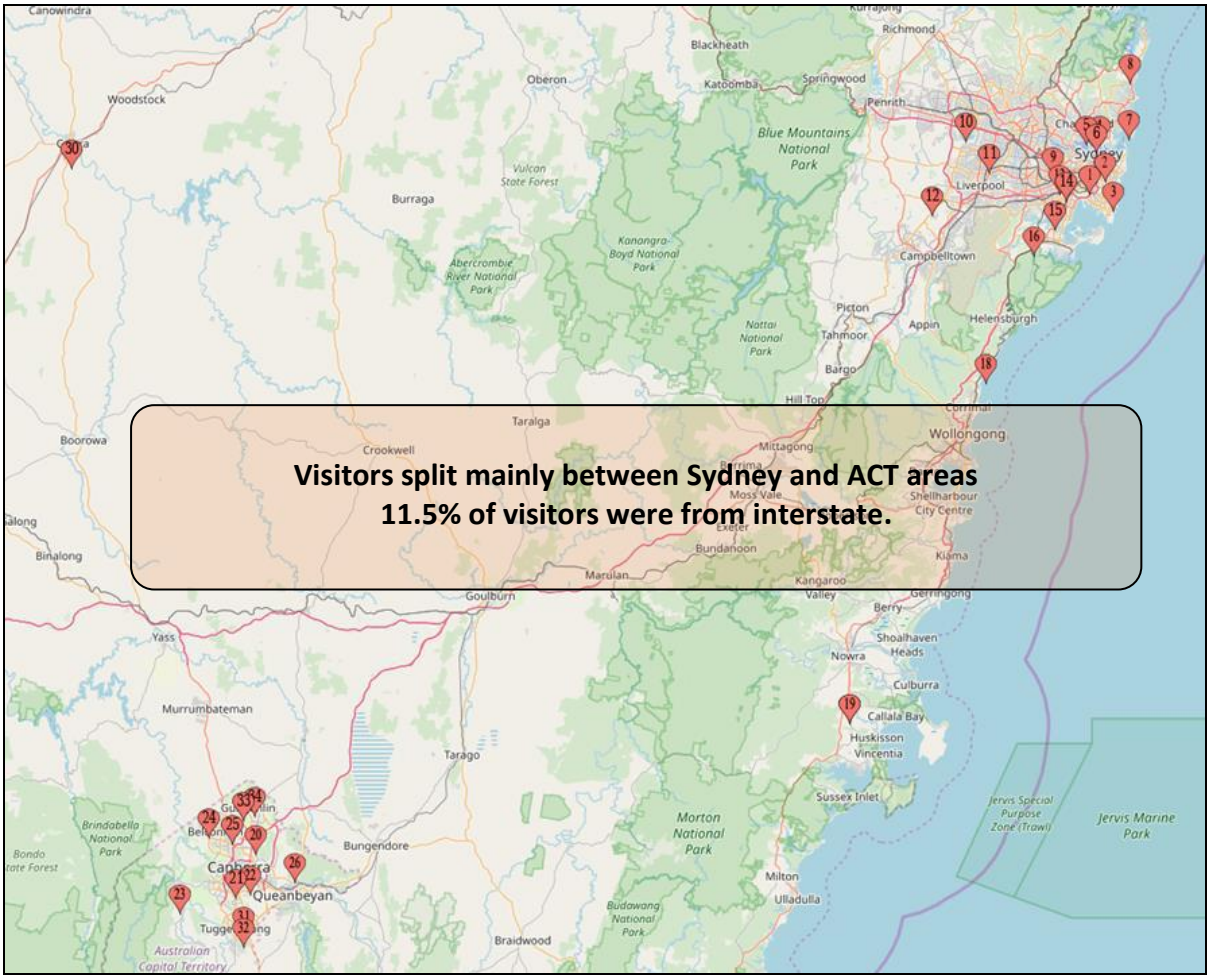


Figure 7. Plotted location by postcode of those designated as visitors.

Detailed findings

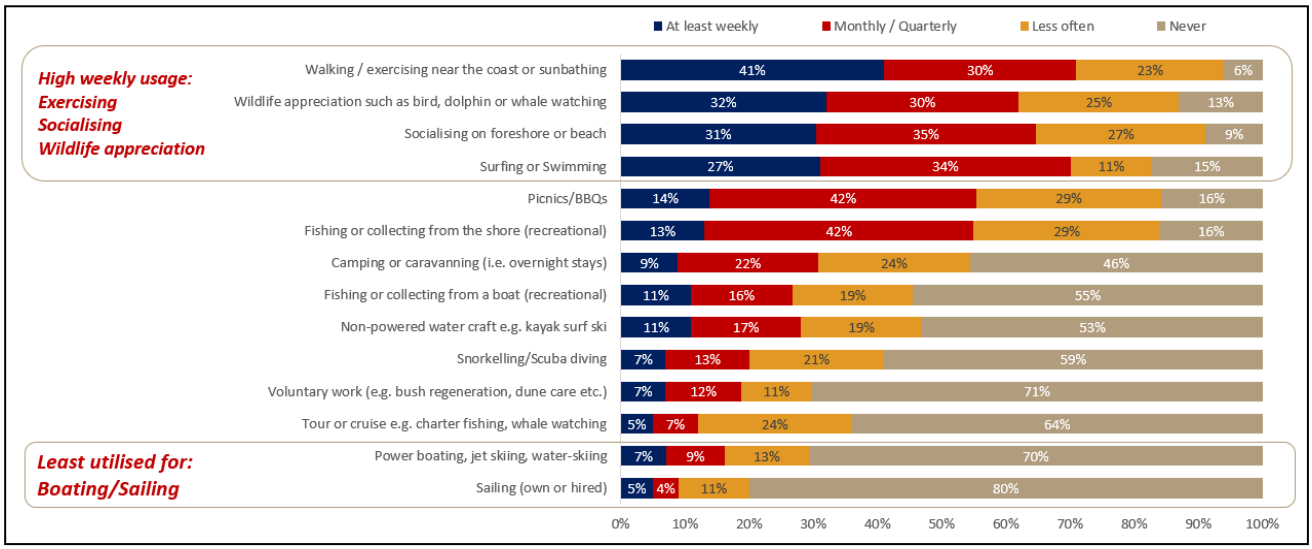
The following findings relate to park usage, benefits that the community believe they derive from their park usage, and the perceived threats both immediate and future, that respondents feel may impact their benefits.

Usage and frequency

Respondents were asked to identify how, if at all, they used the Batemans Marine Park area. They were presented with a list of likely usages, with the list derived and adapted from that used in the previous research including the state-wide threat and risk assessment (BMT WBM, 2017) and coastal (marine) park qualitative and quantitative consumer research (Sweeney Research, 2014).

Survey responses indicate that the top five most popular uses of the park are the same for both locals and visitors. The activities indicated within the survey as most commonly undertaken were:

- Walking and exercising near the coastal area
- Wildlife appreciation, such as bird watching, dolphin or whale watching
- Socialising on the foreshore or beach
- Surfing or swimming
- Picnics and BBQs.

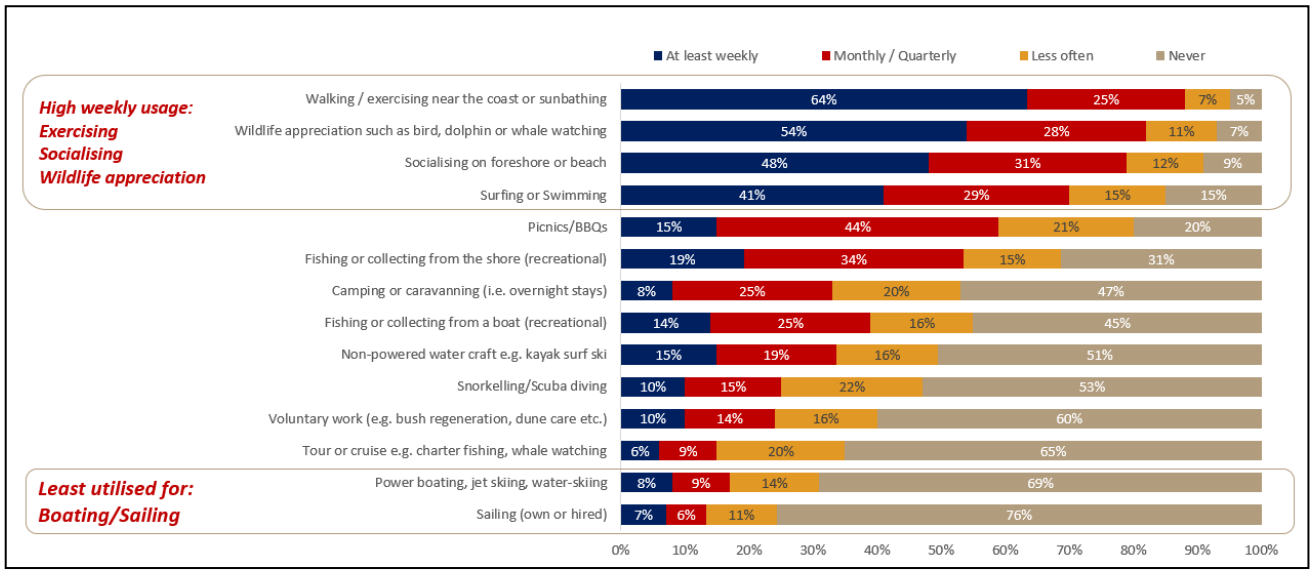


Q8 How often, if at all, do you do the following activities in this area? n=370

Figure 8. Park usage and frequency: total sample.

While the overall trends align, the reported frequency of park usage varied between local and visitor respondents, as would be expected.

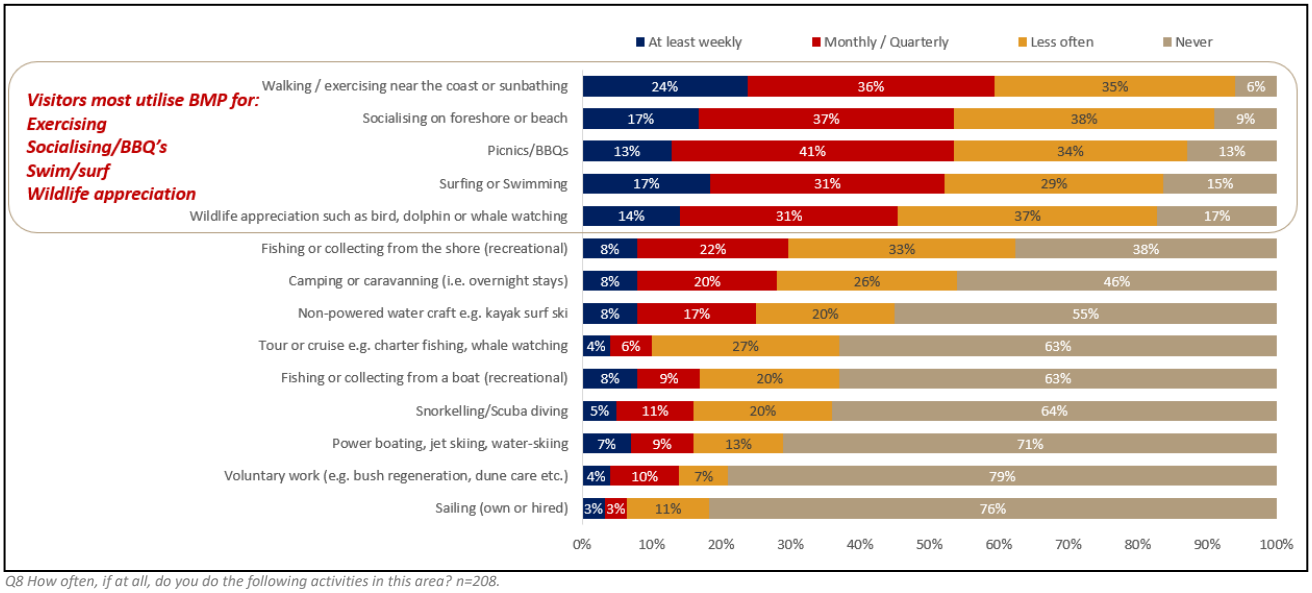
88% of locals (n=162) indicated they used the Batemans Marine Park frequently - at least weekly for recreational purposes. 57% of locals (n=93) visit or use the marine park area for recreational purposes on a daily or almost daily basis.



Q8 How often, if at all, do you do the following activities in this area? n=162

Figure 9. Park Usage – by Locals.

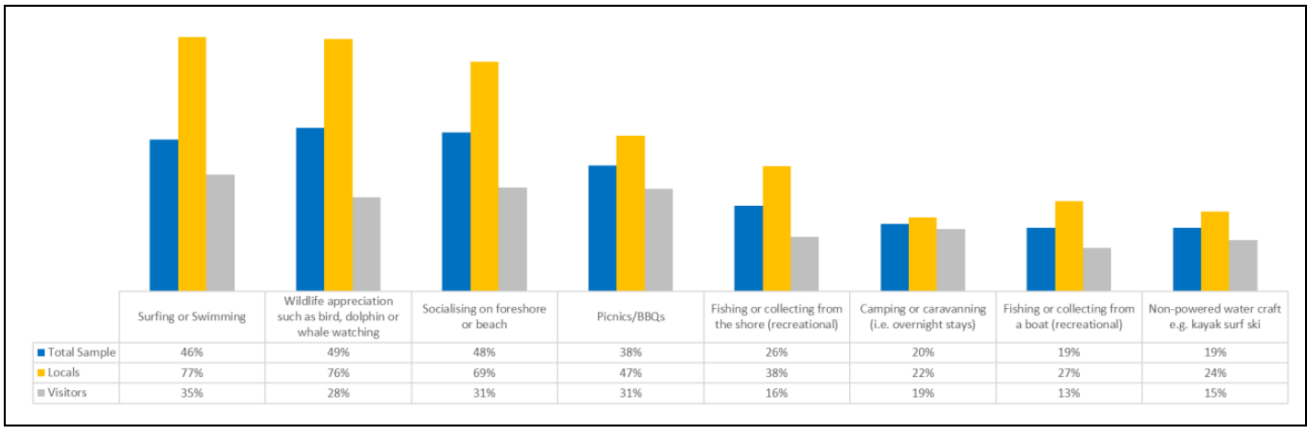
49% of visitors (n=99) reported visiting the Batemans Marine Park area at least 4 times in the past 12 to 18 months, with 27% (n=55) reporting they have visited the area more than 6 times in the past 12 -18 months.



Q8 How often, if at all, do you do the following activities in this area? n=208.

Figure 10. Park usage – by Visitors.

The general trends between locals and visitors were similar when comparing the most popular reported activities undertaken in the park area.



	Surfing or Swimming	Wildlife appreciation such as bird, dolphin or whale watching	Socialising on foreshore or beach	Picnics/BBQs	Fishing or collecting from the shore (recreational)	Camping or caravanning (i.e. overnight stays)	Fishing or collecting from a boat (recreational)	Non-powered water craft e.g. kayak surf ski
Total Sample	46%	49%	48%	38%	26%	20%	19%	19%
Locals	77%	76%	69%	47%	38%	22%	27%	24%
Visitors	35%	28%	31%	31%	16%	19%	13%	15%

Q8 How often, if at all, do you do the following activities in this area? Base: Total sample n= 370, Locals n=162, Visitors n= 208

Figure 11. Most popular recreational activities (undertaken at least monthly).

User Group Hierarchy

Additional to the local and visitor user groups, grouping together the preferences and perceptions of 'avid local park users' and 'long term visitors' were found to be helpful in the analysis of findings. The 'Long term visitor' user group is characterised as those visitors who have been coming to the area for ten years or more and the 'Avid local park users' as those locals who use the park almost daily.

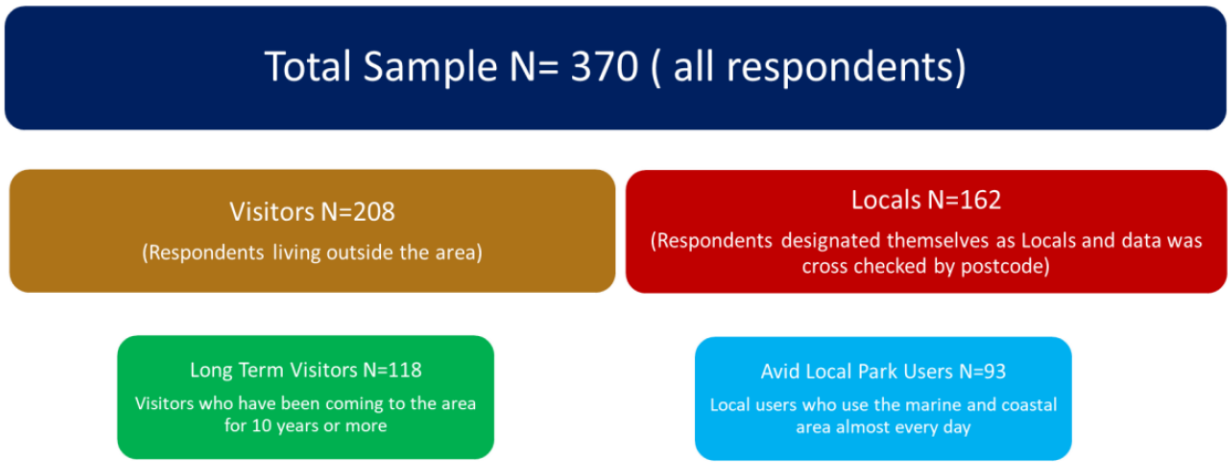


Figure 12. User Group Hierarchy.

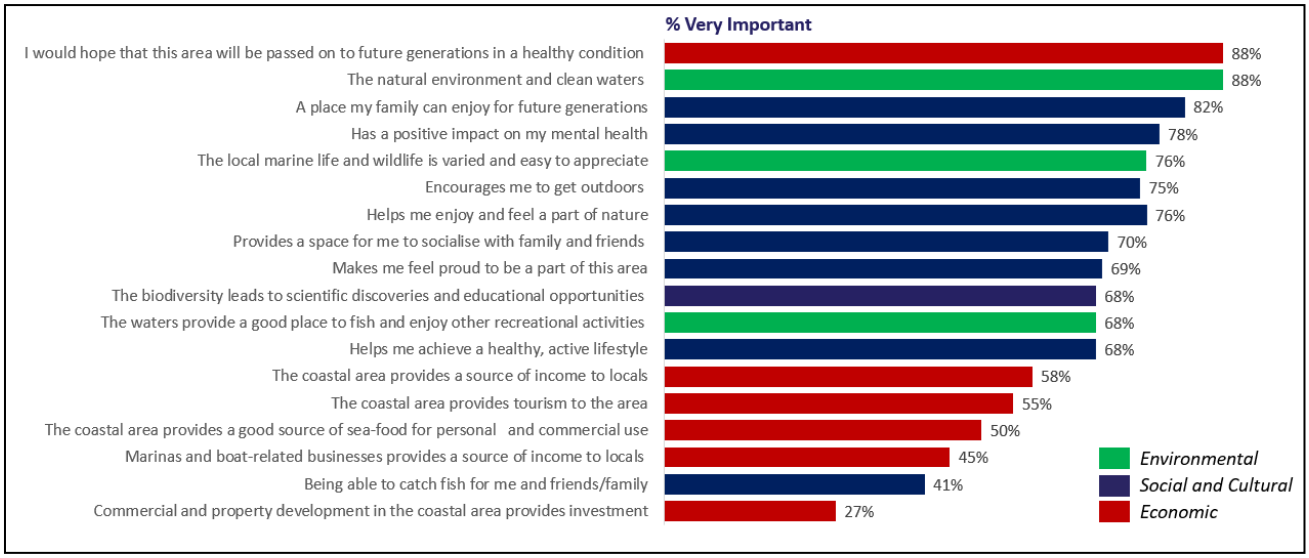
Value and benefit analysis

In the context of this project, the terms 'assets' and 'benefits' have similar meanings. (For further explanation, see Glossary of Terms.) A benefit is defined as anything that contributes to the wellbeing of the community (social, cultural, economic) such as swimming at the beach or operating a marine related business. An asset denotes an environmental aspect which involves or supports biodiversity or processes that support biodiversity.

Social and cultural benefits are seen as relating to the life and relations of people in a community. Economic benefits are defined as those derived by the community from the marine park that are of an economic or financial nature. Environmental assets, in this document's context, include those factors impacting community wellbeing as well as biodiversity.

Within the questionnaire, a series of values and benefits (environmental, social, cultural and economic) were presented to respondents in a randomised fashion, and respondents were asked to select those benefits that they personally derive from the coastal and marine area. Responses were then aggregated and ranked.

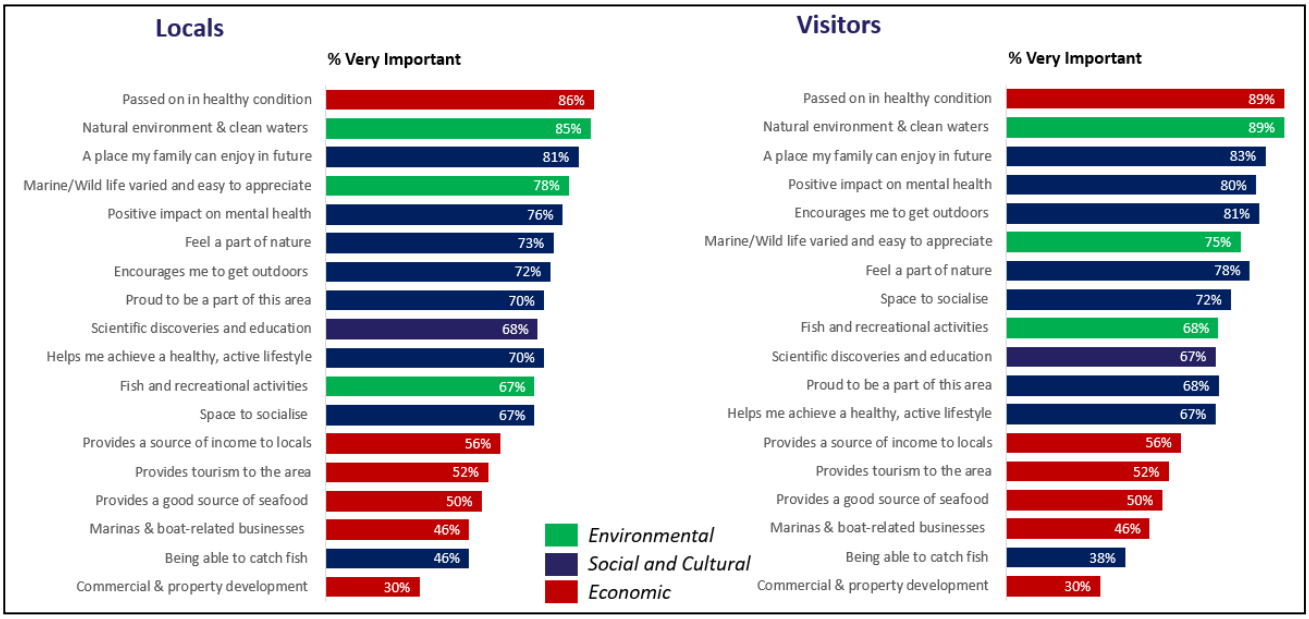
Overall and for all key user groups, the most important values and benefits identified relate to economic, environmental and social benefits. The majority of respondents nominated as most important, the values of the area is 'passed on to future generations in a healthy condition' and 'the natural environment and clean waters'. These responses span economic (bequest / intrinsic) and environmental aspects.



Q9a/Q10a/Q11a Thinking about the coastal and marine area, how important are the following benefits to you? n=370

Figure 13. Perceived Benefits ranked as very important: total sample.

When considering nominated benefits as a whole in general responses from locals and visitors aligned, although some specific differences are apparent.



Q9a/Q10a/Q11a Thinking about the coastal and marine area, how important are the following benefits to you?

Figure 14. Benefits ranked as very important – local vs visitor.

Environmental assets

The most important environmental asset identified by respondents was 'the natural environment and clean waters', with almost all park users (87% of all survey respondents) nominating the value as very important to them.

Wildlife (and marine life) appreciation such as bird, dolphin or whale watching also rated highly as an important benefit across all key user groups. A good place to fish and enjoy other recreational activities was rated somewhat below a suite of social benefits – which may indicate that most people value their personal experiences in nature above natural values, as such.

Social and cultural benefits

Social and cultural benefits also rated highly in importance across all user groups. The coastal area is seen as playing an important role in mental health and physical wellbeing across all key user groups. A majority of respondents identified almost all of the social and cultural values listed as 'very important' to them.

Respondents indicated that the coastal area plays a very important role in their feeling of belonging and connectedness. It can be inferred that many of those surveyed feel that the nature of the area, its natural beauty and its accessibility encourage people to get outdoors, to socialise, to exercise and – importantly – to enjoy the area.

37% of respondents rated the value of 'being able to catch fish for me and friends/family' as very important. Whilst still of note, this outcome suggests that a significantly smaller proportion of the population see this as a value of importance when compared to the other values listed. Locals and visitors appear reasonably closely aligned in this value (39% and 36% respectively).

Locals and visitors responded in a similar fashion in terms of the importance of the listed social and cultural benefits, with the exception of the benefit 'encourages me to get outdoors'. A significantly higher proportion of visitors placed importance on this benefit when compared with locals (81% vs 72% respectively).

Economic benefits

As noted above, the most important benefit identified in the survey was that the area will be passed on to future generations in good condition (bequest and intrinsic benefit). Almost 9 of every 10 respondents nominated this benefit as 'very important'. This ties closely with the third most prevalent benefit nominated in the survey, being 'a place my family can enjoy for future generations'. These responses suggest that, for most people, legacy is key.

Other than this aspect, the survey results suggest that economic benefits, whilst still relevant, are seen as the least important benefits for park users, when compared with environmental, social and cultural benefits.

We can hypothesise that unless one is directly involved in a coastal dependent business, there may be a tendency to minimise the importance of economic links due to a lack of personal connection.

Within the economic benefits listed, respondents indicated that the most important were providing a source of income to locals (such as providing jobs) and that the park provides tourism to the area (such as via accommodation or charter boats).

Perceived threats to assets or benefits

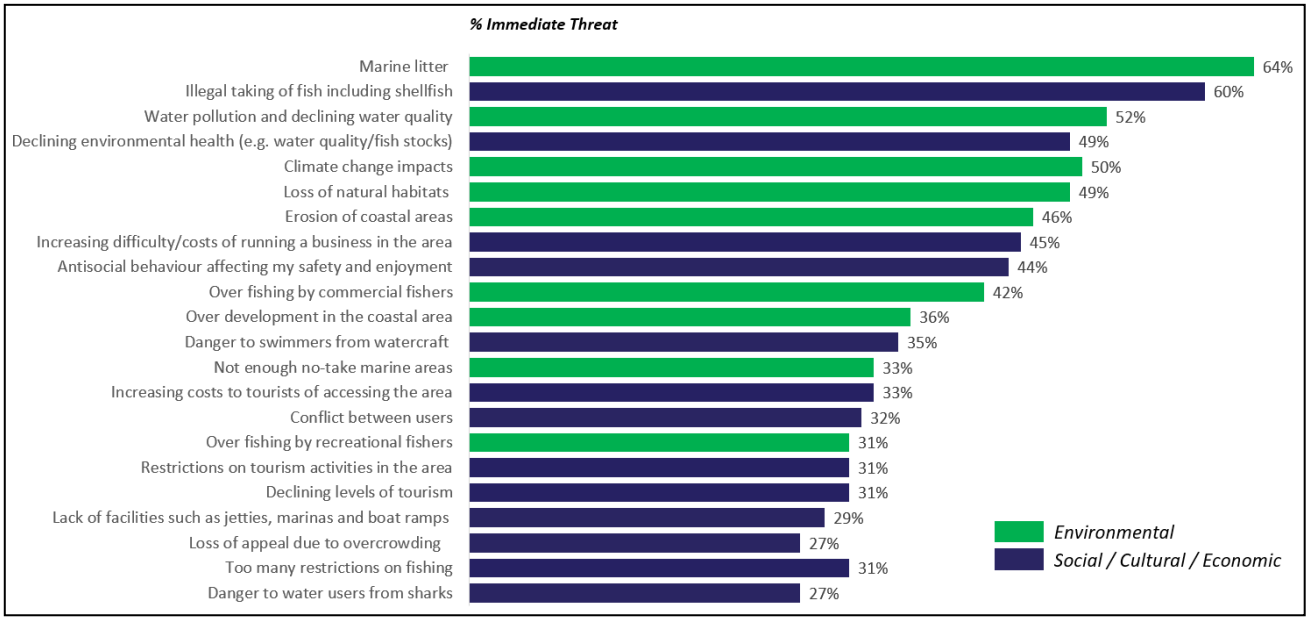
The 2017 NSW Marine Estate Threat and Risk Assessment (TARA) grouped together social, cultural and economic threats as being distinct from the environmental threats. Given the interconnectedness of those threats it make sense to consider their impact as a set and separately to environmental threats – which tend to relate more to biodiversity or ecological processes that support biodiversity.

For each nominated benefit or value in the previous section (environmental, social, cultural and/or economic), respondents were asked to identify relative perceived threats as immediate, future or no threat.

Direct and indirect threats to environmental benefits dominated the responses to this section of the survey, though more from the perspective of the individual person.

Concerns relating to the threat of marine litter rated most highly. Approximately two thirds of the total sample nominated this as an immediate threat. The illegal taking of fish, declining environmental health and the impacts of environmental changes on economic prosperity also rated strongly.

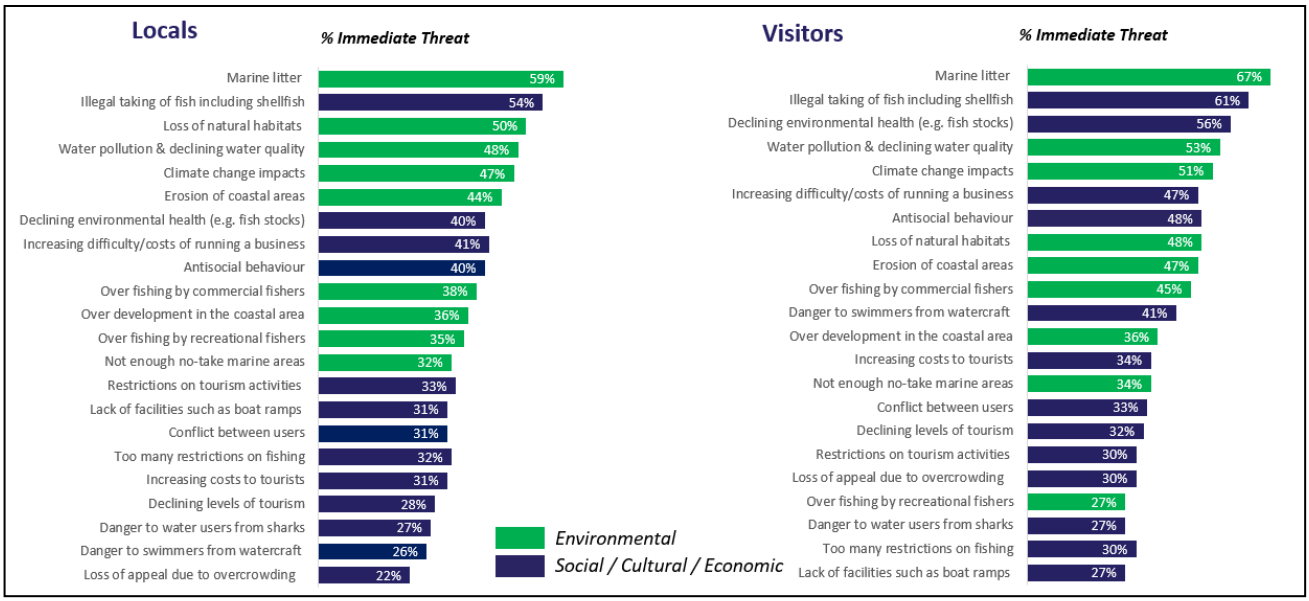
Threats (both immediate and future) to social / cultural / economic benefits were nominated less often by respondents. Antisocial behaviour was of concern to some visitors and locals, however in general, threats to personal welfare in the outdoors were not seen as of significance for many respondents.



Q9b/Q10b/Q11b Thinking about the coastal and marine area, what do you think are the main threats?

Figure 15. Threats perceived as immediate, ranked: total sample.

Responses from locals and visitors were similar. Locals identified the main threats as all being predominantly environmental. Visitors also identified the main threats as environmental yet also rated concerns relating to business viability more strongly.

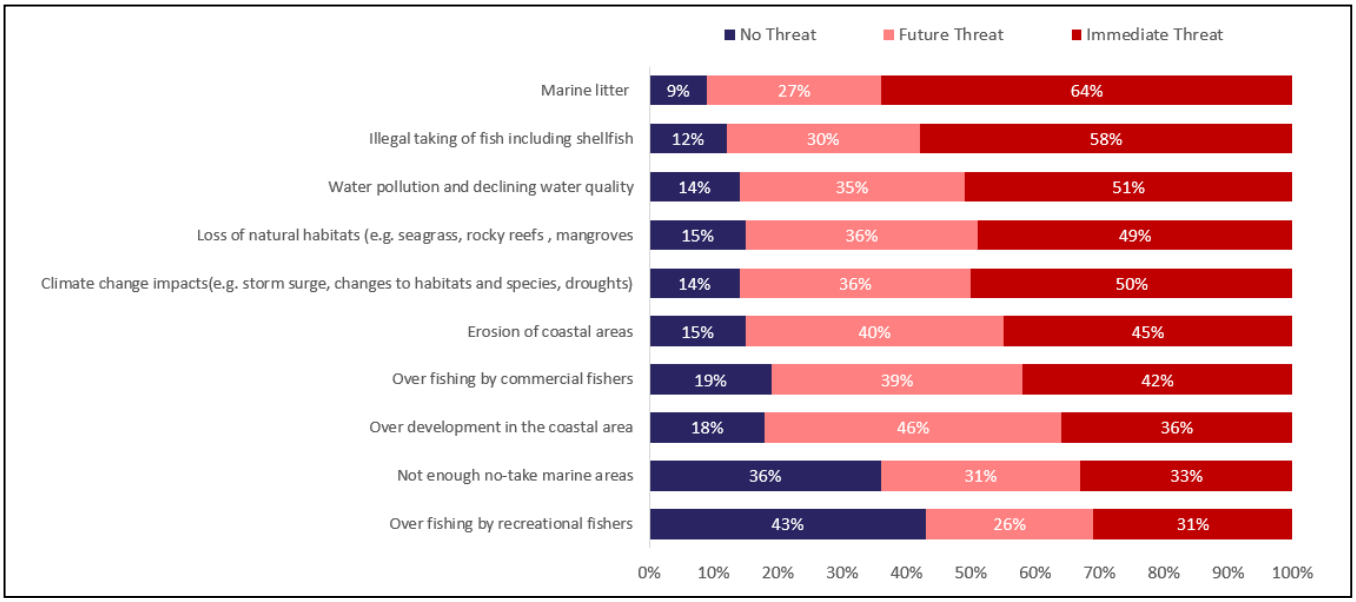


Q9b/Q10b/Q11b Thinking about the coastal and marine area, what do you think are the main threats?

Figure 16. Threats perceived as immediate, ranked: locals vs visitors.

Key Perceived Environmental threats

As noted in the summary above, marine litter was seen as the most immediate environmental threat (64% of total respondents) across the total sample.



Q9b/Q10b/Q11b Thinking about the coastal and marine area, what do you think are the main threats?

Figure 17. Perceived Environmental Threats – total sample.

Illegal harvesting was the second most commonly identified environmental threat across the total population (58%), with the group most concerned about this threat being long term visitors (64%).

Water pollution and declining water quality was also identified as a key immediate environmental threat by approximate half of all respondents (51%). Responses to these threats were consistent across all key user groups.

49% of park users rated climate change impacts (such as storm surge, changes to habitats and species, droughts) as an immediate threat, with a further 36% seeing it as a future threat. Only 14% do not see climate change as any threat at all. There were only small differences in response noted across different user groups.

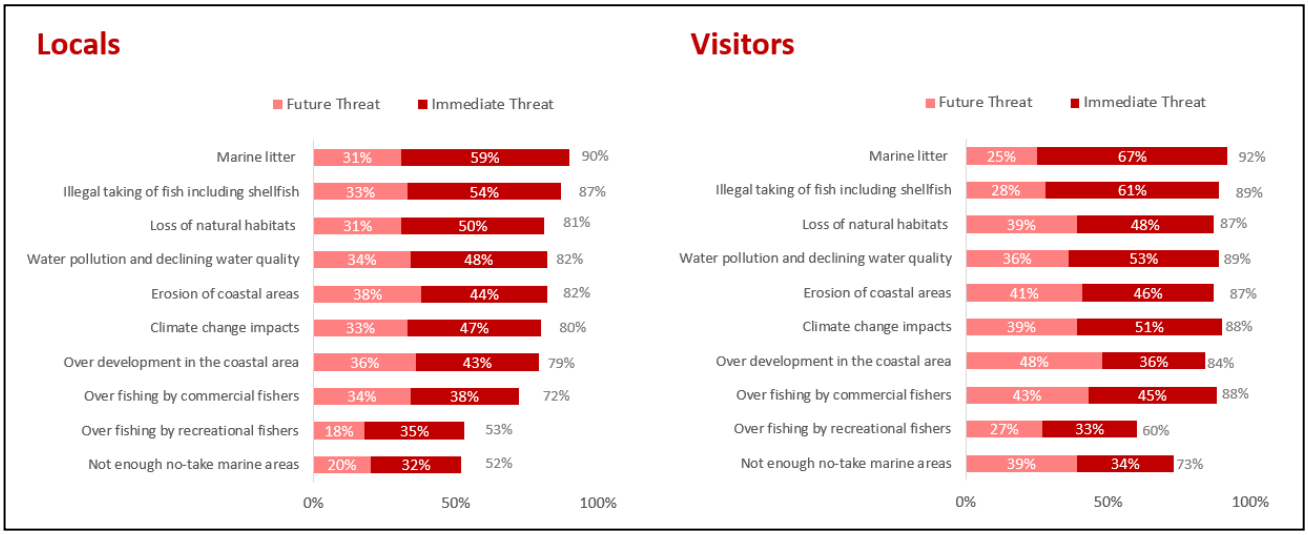
The loss of natural habitats (such as mangroves, seagrass and rocky reefs) was identified as a further key immediate threat for approximately half of park users, strongly skewed to younger users particularly those aged 18 to 29 years.

Threat Description	Percent that responded an immediate threat is perceived (18 to 29yrs)
Over-fishing by commercial fishers	49%
Over-fishing by recreational fishers	38%
Illegal taking of fish including shellfish	60%
Water pollution and declining water quality	67%
Over development in the coastal area	33%
Erosion of coastal areas	49%
Not enough no-take marine areas	49%
Loss of natural habitats (e.g. seagrass, rocky reefs, mangroves)	67%
Marine litter	67%
Climate change impacts (e.g. storm surge, changes to habitats and species, droughts)	42%

Q9b/Q10b/Q11b Thinking about the coastal and marine area, what do you think are the main threats?

Figure 18. Perceived Immediate threats to Environmental Benefits: respondents aged 18 – 29 years.

In terms of the perceived threat from marine litter, this was identified most strongly among visitors (67%) compared with locals (59%).



Q9b/Q10b/Q11b Thinking about the coastal and marine area, what do you think are the main threats?

Figure 19. Perceived environmental threats – local vs visitor.

Other identified threats to the environmental value of the park include erosion of coastal areas (nominated by 46% of respondents), overfishing by commercial fishers (42% of the total sample and of particular of concern to long term visitors, 51% of whom nominated this as an immediate threat), overdevelopment in the coast areas, insufficient no-take marine areas and overfishing by recreational fishers.

The groups differ in attitudes about “no take” zones, with visitors more likely to see this as a future threat when compared with locals (39% compared with 20%).

Long term visitors to the area tend to perceive the threats to the park differently to local people. It may be that long term visitors notice the changes more acutely as they are not in the areas on a daily basis. Or it could perhaps be construed that younger city dwelling visitors are more concerned with threats to the environment than older regional locals.

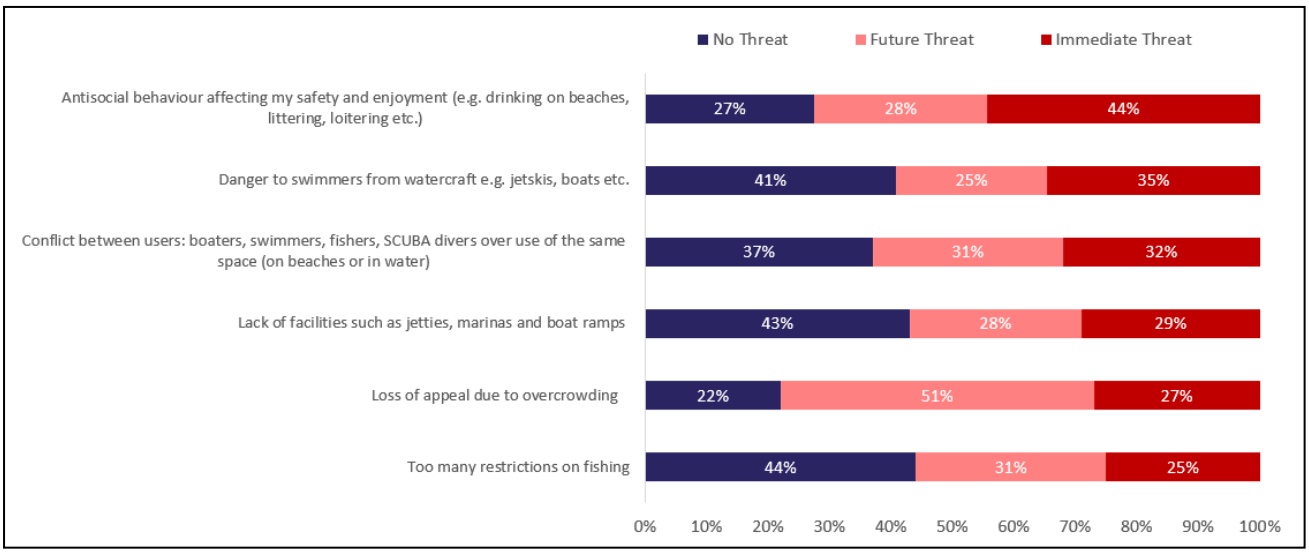
Key Perceived social / cultural / economic threats

In terms of perceived threats to the identified social, cultural or economic benefits, park users identified antisocial behaviour affecting their safety as a threat, with 44% reporting it as an immediate threat. This was particularly noted among those aged 18 to 39 years.

Approximately one third of respondents identified ‘conflict between user groups such as boaters, fishers and swimmers over the use of the same space’ as an immediate threat, with a further 31% of respondents indicating they feel this would be a future threat.

Less than one third of park users see overcrowding as an immediate threat, however this is seen as a significant future threat by all key user groups.

A bit less than half (44%) of persons thought that there was no threat to social / cultural / economic values from too many restrictions on fishing, while a quarter perceived that there was a threat from this.

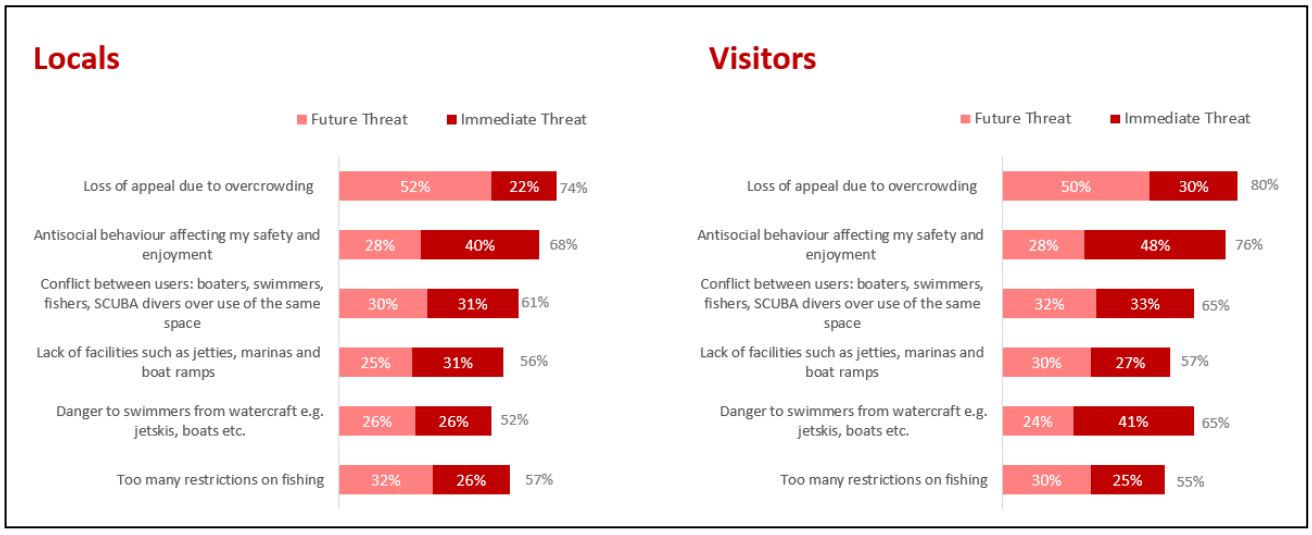


Q9b/Q10b/Q11b Thinking about the coastal and marine area, what do you think are the main threats? n=370

Figure 20. Perceived social / cultural / economic threats – total sample.

Whilst antisocial behaviour is seen as the main immediate threat to social / cultural / economic benefits (along with danger from watercraft for visitors), when immediate and future threats are considered as a whole, loss of appeal due to overcrowding became the key social threat to the area. It could be helpful to consider this response alongside the perceived threat relating to conflict over the use of the same space.

Visitors were significantly more likely to rank 'danger from watercraft' as an immediate threat compared to locals (41% of visitors compared with 26% of local residents saw this as an immediate threat).



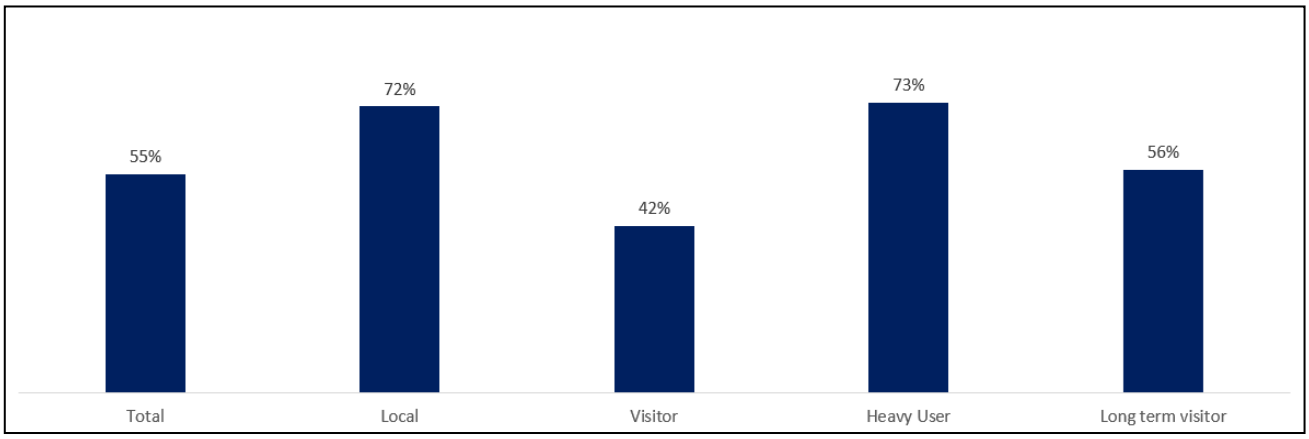
Q9b/Q10b/Q11b Thinking about the coastal and marine area, what do you think are the main threats?

Figure 21. Perceived social / cultural / economic threats – local vs visitor.

It may be useful to further explore these differences in perceived threats, should a qualitative research piece be undertaken in the future.

Awareness of and perceptions of the park

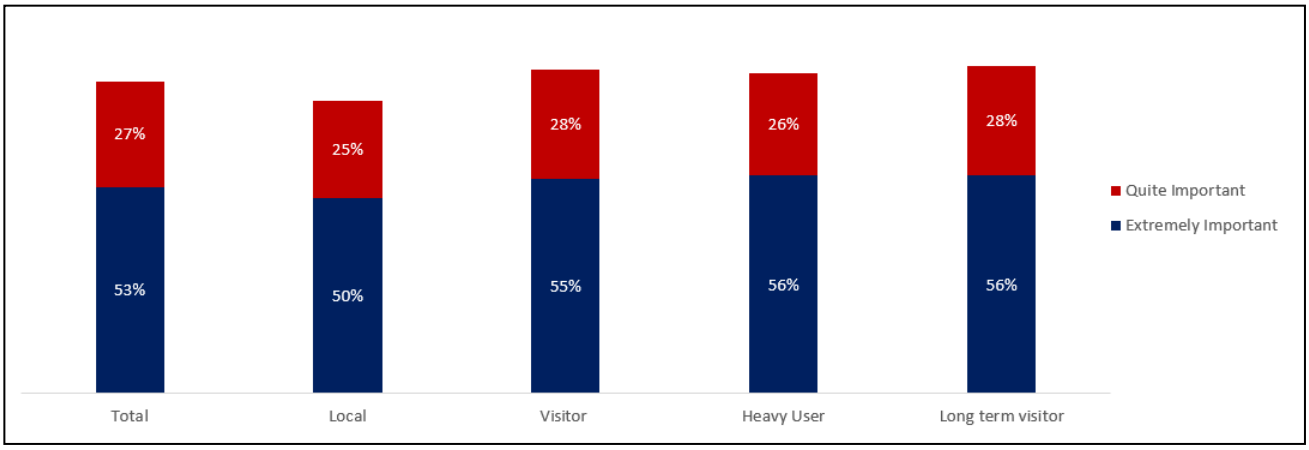
55% of all park users indicated they are aware of the area being a designated Marine Park. Locals were significantly more likely to indicate they are aware of the Batemans Marine Park when compared to visitors. 72% of locals (n=116) reported being aware of the Batemans Marine Park compared with 42% of visitors (n=88).



Q12 Were you aware that this area formed the Batemans Marine Park?

Figure 22. Awareness of area as being a Marine Park.

Across all park user groups, the vast majority of people indicate they believe it is important that the area has been designated as a Marine Park.



Q13 How important is it to you that this area has been designated a Marine Park?

Figure 23. Importance of area as designated Marine Park.

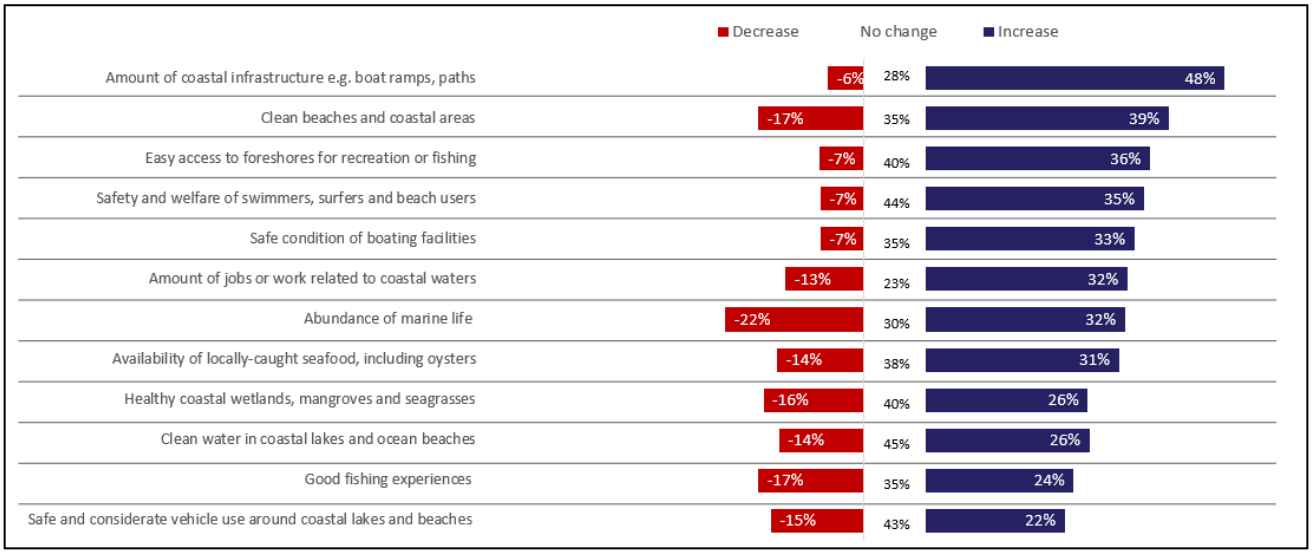
Further to exploring the awareness and importance of the marine park designation, respondents were asked to nominate any impacts, positive or negative, they had noticed since the inception of the marine park. This component of the survey was to elicit the community's perception of changes in the coastal zone in the recent past.

The main impact indicated by park users was an increase in coastal infrastructure such as boat ramps, pathways and wharves. (48% of respondents indicated they had seen either a small or a large increase.) Visitors were more likely to have noticed this than locals – particularly long-term frequent visitors (56% of this group noted an increase in coastal infrastructure).

Clean beaches and coastal areas, along with easy access to foreshore were also seen as improvements by 39% of respondents.

Importantly, safety is recognised as having been improved in recent years by both locals and visitors, with around one third reporting to have noticed an increase in safety for both swimmers and boating communities.

Clearly, most of the issues presented to the interviewees in this section are not attributable to the management of Batemans Marine Park. However, this section of the survey checks the overall mindset of the interview group. Predominantly, most interviewees thought that the matters presented were improving or static through time.



*Q14 Over the past few years have you personally noticed a change in any of the following? * Chart does not show "% Don't Know", so does not add to 100%*

Figure 24. Perceptions of changes noticed within Batemans Marine Park.

Evaluation of research technique

It was recognised that, in addition to the importance of local residents, visitors to the area are also important park users. This can be seen in the high numbers of home-owners who also have a residence in the ACT or Sydney, and the high number of research respondents who visit the area frequently and have done so for 10 or more years.

The face to face recruitment methodology was recommended in order to achieve a sample more representative of wider user groups, including both visitors and local residents. Given the chosen recruitment methodology, this aspect of the survey was an important criterion for success.

At times during the infield period, the methodology proved challenging, yet ultimately we believe it provided the best quality and most representative survey outcomes. This in turn will provide more robust and reliable information on which to more confidently plan the park's future management.

From an in-field perspective, there were several lessons learned that could assist future surveys. The ability to recruit participants was impacted by both the weather and the time of day. During bright sunny weather, the infield team found that there were more people out in public places, and recruitment was positively impacted. Conversely, on the infield days when the weather was cold and/or wet and windy, it was significantly more difficult to achieve anticipated recruitment rates.

Additionally, more people were out in public places earlier in the day, and recruitment was therefore more successful in the mornings and early afternoon.

Where this methodology is repeated in the future, it is recommended that infield activity is scheduled earlier in the days, and that wet or cold weather contingencies are agreed prior to the infield survey implementation. Given the nature of the marine park areas, it is also suggested that weather contingencies incorporate agreed approaches in the event of nearby fire or high levels of smoke haze.

The survey design itself functioned as planned. The length of time taken to undertake the survey varied, with some respondents taking over 20 minutes to complete and others less than 10 minutes. This particular survey incorporated a reasonable amount of reading (particularly the drop-down options for usage, benefits and threats); as well as the need to review and understand the area in question on a map. This level of detail goes some way to explain the range in survey completion time taken. It is recommended that in any future similar surveys, care is taken with the length of the survey, as this will impact both completion rates and the number of surveys that can be completed per day.

Limitations of the data

The breadth of questions that could be included in this research was constrained by the likely time required to complete the survey. The survey length needed to be balanced in order to maximise completion rates. Some aspects may have benefited from further exploration yet needed to be excluded for this practical reason.

A more general understanding of park users, their wider values and attitudes could add richness, context and direction in effectively undertaking actions to address identified threats.

By its nature, the chosen infield survey methodology resulted in limitations as to the depth of insights that were achievable. Additional future qualitative research would enhance and build greater understanding in relation to this quantitative research.

The survey was conducted over two infield trips of five and three days respectively, in October and November 2019. At different times of the year, responses may differ and the skew of locals to visitors may also vary.

Given the infield face to face nature of the recruitment approach chosen, recruitment was impacted by the weather. This certainly impacted the rate of responses and survey efficiencies and could also have had the potential to impact the data.

Lessons learnt and recommendations for future surveys

Market understanding and coverage

The face to face recruitment methodology was effective in enlisting a demographically representative sample, specifically park users who live locally, and those whose primary residence is ACT or Sydney.

Ensuring adequate response rates

Factors such as the weather can impact response rates. For example, wet weather can reduce the number of people out walking or at beachside locations. It is recommended that adequate allowance should be made in terms of infield planning, to ensure the sample size, demographic spread and appropriate geographic representation are achieved.

Survey length and survey design can impact response rates. Where possible, it is recommended that care is taken to ensure participants are able to quickly and easily provide their responses.

Deepening user understanding

While motivations and interests varied significantly across the sample population, in terms of intrinsic benefits, environmental factors were ranked most highly across all key demographic and key user groups. Exploring motivations, attitudes and contexts in more depth via a further qualitative research stage could provide park management with additional helpful insights and understanding.

Additional quantitative research

In future years, park management may wish to repeat this research in order to understand trends and changes in attitudes and usage over time. This would provide valuable insights, for example in areas such as users' life stage profiles and user understanding of the role of the Marine Park. Where possible we would suggest maintaining consistency across the structure and content of this survey in any repeat executions, in order to easily match data.

Conclusion

Most Batemans Marine Park users felt a strong association with the park and value highly the experiences they enjoy in relation to the area. There was a predominant view among respondents that they wish the marine park to be preserved in a good and healthy condition for future generations. All key groups highly value the unique environmental qualities of the area, although motivations vary among user groups.

For some, the benefits relate to their own use or that of their families, such as for socialising, surfing, fishing, staying active and healthy or in relation to their mental health. For others, the associated benefits relate more to the varied marine and wildlife and the economic prosperity of the area as a whole.

Many of those surveyed have a long association with the area. A significant number of local people use the marine park multiple times each week, and many visitors come to the region 6 or more times each year and have been doing so for more than ten years. These groups in particular, have strong emotional connections with the marine park area, as well as enjoying the practical benefits.

In general, users clearly perceive the threats to the ongoing wellbeing of the marine park, particularly in terms of threats to its environmental health. Marine litter, illegal taking of fish and declining environmental health were most often nominated as of concern.

The strength of responses to the perceived environmental threats suggests that park management would have wide community support for initiatives that uphold, preserve, promote and extend the environmental health of the Batemans Marine Park area.

Research outcomes also indicate that the community at large would be likely to support plans or programs that continue to facilitate social benefits derived from the park, such as physical wellbeing, mental health and social connectedness (and which address the threat from anti-social behaviour). In some instances, there may be a balance to strike between current enjoyment and longer-term management for environmental health.

A further qualitative research stage could add additional value to longer term management planning, as it would allow a greater depth of understanding of key user groups, including a further exploration of motivations, perceptions, enablers and barriers relating to identified benefits and perceived threats.

Appendix 1: Glossary of terms

Activity – something occurring in the marine estate. This may be a community benefit and/or a threat to an environmental asset or social, cultural or economic values, for example, boating, fishing, dredging or shipping.

Benefit (or Community Benefit) - anything that contributes to the wellbeing of the community.

There are three separate categories of community benefits: economic, social and environmental benefits. Many community benefits are based on what people think is important (what they value). A community benefit of the marine estate could be swimming at the beach, boating in an estuary, doing something as a hobby (e.g. fishing, kayaking, surfing, bird watching, etc.), running a business (e.g. whale watching business, charter fishing, commercial fishing, etc.), clean waters and marine biodiversity, intrinsic values i.e. valuing the environment regardless of direct benefits.

Community wellbeing – the overall aggregate of economic, social and environmental benefits.

Economic – the production, distribution, and use of income, wealth, and commodities.

Economic benefits – benefits derived by the community from the marine estate that are of an economic or financial nature.

Environmental benefit – benefits derived by the community from an environmental asset.

Social – of or relating to the life and relations of people in a community.

Social benefits – the social and relational benefits the community derives from the marine estate.

Threat - a broad activity, event or process that poses a potential level of risk to an environmental asset or social, cultural or economic benefit (e.g. stormwater). Threats often affect multiple assets and benefits. Similarly, an asset or benefit can be affected by multiple threats.

Value – the term used by the Marine Estate Management Act 2014 for 'community benefit'.

Sourced from TARA 2017 (NSW Marine Estate Management Authority)

Appendix 2: Interview locations

Location	Percent of Total Responses	Number of Responses
Batemans Bay Town	43%	160
Batemans Bay Village shopping centre	4%	13
Broulee Beach	6%	22
Broulee Surf Club	1%	4
Denhams Beach - Batemans Bay	0%	1
Malua Bay Beach - Batemans Bay	2%	9
Mogo Zoo (carpark only)	4%	15
Moruya Airport	1%	3
Moruya Heads	2%	8
Moruya Markets	5%	17
Moruya Town	7%	27
Narooma Plaza- shopping centre	0%	1
Narooma Surf beach	1%	2
Narooma Town	7%	27
Narooma Wharf- access point for Montague	2%	6
Surf Beach - Batemans Bay	4%	14
Tomakin Boat Ramp	3%	11
Tuross Head - Town	8%	29

Total sample; Unweighted; base n = 370

Appendix 3: Infield survey

Batemans Marine Park

Community Values, Attitudes Survey

Target Sample size n=400

Introduction:
Standard introduction from EKAS The Department of Planning Industry and Environment are undertaking surveys of community awareness and attitudes to natural resource management. The project is a component of the State Government's Marine Estate Management Strategy and has been developed to help the Department better understand the needs and aspirations of the community in regards to natural marine resources. On behalf of the Department, we are conducting these short surveys to capture your views on a range of topics relating to natural resource management. The survey focuses on the marine and coastal area between Bawley point and Bermagui. Would you be interested in taking part in the survey? It should take about 10-15 minutes to complete.

DISAGREE: Thank you for your time

IF AGREE EKAS TO include standard privacy statement Thank you for agreeing to take part in this important survey. Remember there are no right or wrong answers, we are interested in your opinions.

Hidden : Interview Location

Age Screener: Respondents must be aged 18 or above		
S1 May I please ask your age?		
AUTOCODE INTO AGE BREAKS	Under 18	1 TERMINATE
	18 to 24 2	
	25 to 29 3	
	30 to 39 4	
	40 to 49 5	
	50 to 59 6	
	60 to 69 7	
	70 or over 8	
	Prefer not to say 9	

Industry Screener		
S2 Do you or anyone in your family work for the NSW State Government?	Yes	1 ASK S3
	No	2 SKIP TO S4
S3 Do they work for any of these departments? ROTATE SINGLE RESPONSE	Department of Primary Industry	TERMINATE
	Office of Environment and Heritage	TERMINATE
	Transport for NSW	TERMINATE
	None of these	CONTINUE

Usage Screener: Must have used the (Bawley to Bermagui coastal strip) Batemans Marine Park in last 12 Months		
GIVE RESPONDENT MAP TO HOLD We are doing a survey on the marine and coastal area shown on the map. It includes the area from Bawley Point down to Wallaga Lake near Bermagui and includes: • Ocean three-nautical-mile offshore • All coastal rivers • Estuaries (lakes and lagoons) • Bays • Beaches, headlands and rock platforms • Inlets • Saline and brackish coastal lakes (excl Nargal Lake) • Offshore islands including Tollgate Islands and Montague Island		
IF INTERVIEW LOCATION FALLS WITHIN MARINE PARK AUTOCODE YES AND MOVE TO NEXT QUESTION **S3** Have you visited this area in the last 12 -18 months? IF CODE 1 CONTINUE TO MAIN SURVEY. CODE 2 TERMINATE	Yes CONTINUE	1
	No TERMINATE	2

MAIN SURVEY

Respondent primary residence
Q1 What is the postcode of your primary residence where you live? _____ AUTOCODE INTO LOCAL OR VISITOR

Secondary residence		
IF LOCAL SKIP TO NEXT QUESTION Q2 Do you or your family/friends own a holiday home in this area?	Yes No	1 2

Objective: Identify connection to area	
IF LOCAL AUTOCODE INTO 1 AND SKIP TO Q4 Q3 Which of the following best describes what you are doing here today?	Local (AUTOCODE) ..... 1 I work near here or am here on business but I don't live here ..... 2 I'm here on a holiday ..... 3 Other (please specify) ..... 9 [INTERVIEWER PLEASE BACK CODE "OTHER" WHERE POSSIBLE]
IF CODE 1 or 2 AT Q3 ASK Q4 Q4 Do you own or work in a business that relies on tourism or activities on or near the coast? IF NO, SKIP TO Q6L/V	Yes 1 No 2
IF YES CODE 1 AT Q4 ASK Q5 Q5 What industry is the business you own or work in? DO NOT READ OUT CODE CLOSEST WHEN POSSIBLE	Commercial fishing ..... 1 Charter fishing tourism ..... 2 Café / Restaurant ..... 3 Accommodation/Air bnb ..... 4 Eco-Tourism (whale watching, hiking, surf school etc.) ..... 5 Boating (hire, marinas, storage etc.) ..... 6 Water sports hire ..... 7 Retail store ..... 8 Coastal and marine education ..... 9 Scuba diving ..... 10 Other (please specify) 11

Objective: Frequency of coastal area usage	
IF LOCAL ASK Q6L Q6L Please take a look at the map once again. How often do you personally visit and use this marine and coastal area for recreation? Including recreation on beaches and foreshore areas on the coast.	Daily.....1 Once a week or more.....2 About once a fortnight.....3 About once a month.....4 About every three months.....5 About every 6 months.....6 Once a year or less.....7
IF VISITOR ASK Q6V and Q6VB Q6V Please take a look at the map again. Over the past 12-18 months, how often have you personally visited and used this coastal and marine area? **Q6VB** How long have you been visiting this area**?**	This is my first visit in the last 18 months.....1 This is my second visit.....2 This is my third visit.....3 Between 4 and 6 times.....4 Over 6 times.....5 I've only just starting coming here in the last 12 to 18 months.....1 I've been coming here for 2 to 4 years.....2 I've been coming here for 5 to 10 years.....3 I've been coming here for over 10 years.....4

Objective: Unprompted Values and Benefits	
Q7 Thinking about this marine and coastal area, why is it important to you personally? IF NOT IMPORTANT GO TO Q 9	OPEN ENDER

Objective: Recreational Park Usage: Frequency and Activities							
Q8 How often, if at all, do you do the following activities in this area? Including near lakes and rivers, ocean beaches and the open ocean. INTERVIEWER: PROMPT MIDWAY THROUGH TO REMIND THEM "REMEMBER WE ARE ONLY TALKING ABOUT WITHIN THIS AREA"	Daily or nearly daily	Once a week or more	About once a month or fortnight	About once every 3 months	About once every 6 months	Less often than this	Never
ROTATE STATEMENTS							
Surfing or Swimming	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6	◯ 7
Socialising on foreshore or beach	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6	◯ 7
Camping or caravanning (i.e. overnight stays)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6	◯ 7
Fishing or collecting from the shore (recreational)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6	◯ 7
Fishing or collecting from a boat (recreational)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6	◯ 7
Walking, / exercising near the coast or sunbathing	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6	◯ 7
Non-powered water craft e.g. kayak surf ski	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6	◯ 7
Snorkelling/Scuba diving	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6	◯ 7
Power boating, jet skiing, water-skiing	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6	◯ 7
Tour or cruise e.g. charter fishing, whale watching	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6	◯ 7
Sailing (own or hired)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6	◯ 7
Picnics/BBQs	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6	◯ 7
Wildlife appreciation such as bird, dolphin or whale watching	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6	◯ 7
Voluntary work (e.g. bush regeneration, dune care etc.)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6	◯ 7

The following questions relate to how you use the coast and marine environment personally and the benefits you derive from the coast and marine environment.
ROTATE ORDER OF Q9, Q10, Q11 [ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL]

Objective: Prompted Value and Benefits – Economic Scale and Ranking to measure immutable v flexible benefits				
Q9a Thinking about the coastal and marine area, how important are the following economic benefits to you?				
ROTATE BENEFITS	Not important	Less Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
The coastal area provides a source of income to locals e.g. jobs in tourism, seafood, tackle sales.	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4
The coastal area provides tourism to the area e.g. Accommodation, charter boats and eco-tours	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4
The coastal area provides a good source of sea-food for personal and commercial use	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4
Marinas and boat-related businesses provides a source of income to locals e.g. Boat repairs, boat storage and maintenance	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4
Commercial and property development in the coastal area provides investment	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4

Objective: Threats and Challenges to Economic Benefits				
Q9b What do you think are the main **threats** to the **economic** benefits just described - either currently or in the future?				
ROTATE		No threat	Immediate Threat	Future Threat
ECONOMIC	Too many restrictions on fishing (ie. the restrictions might be damaging the local economy)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Restrictions on tourism activities in the area (e.g. too many rules or too little infrastructure)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Declining levels of tourism in the area (maybe for unknown reasons)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Increasing difficulty or costs of running a business in the marine and coastal area	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Declining environmental health (e.g. water quality, loss of abundance of wildlife and fish)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Increasing costs to tourists of accessing the area e.g. paid beach parking, cost of visiting, accommodation costs etc.	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Any other threats to economic activity in the marine environment? i.e. That impact business prosperity.	Open response		

Objective: Objective: Prompted Value and Benefits – Social and Cultural Benefits				
Q10a Thinking about the coastal and marine area, how important are the following social and cultural benefits to you?				
ROTATE BENEFITS	Not important	Less Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
Helps me achieve a healthy, active lifestyle	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4
Provides a space for me to socialise with family and friends	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4
Helps me enjoy and feel a part of nature	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4
Encourages me to get outdoors	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4
Has a positive impact on my mental health	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4
A place my family can enjoy for future generations	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4
Makes me feel proud to be a part of this area	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4
Being able to catch fish for me and friends/family	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4

Objective: Threats and Challenges Social and Cultural Benefits				
Q10b What do you think are the main threats to the **social and cultural** benefits just described, either currently or in the future?				
ROTATE		No threat	Immediate Threat	Future Threat
SOCIAL/CULTURAL	Loss of appeal due to overcrowding	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Conflict between users: boaters, swimmers, fishers, SCUBA divers over use of the same space (on beaches or in water)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Antisocial behaviour affecting my safety and enjoyment (e.g. drinking on beaches, littering, loitering etc.)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Danger to swimmers from watercraft e.g. jetskis, boats etc.	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Lack of facilities such as jetties, marinas and boat ramps	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Danger to water users from sharks	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Is there another threat from things in the marine environment that could decrease your enjoyment of the marine environment?	No		Yes: Specify

Objective: Prompted Value and Benefits – Environmental				
Q11a Thinking about the coastal and marine area, how important are the following environmental benefits to you?				
ROTATE BENEFITS	Not important	Less Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
The local marine life and wildlife is varied and easy to appreciate (e.g. birdwatching /whale and dolphin watching, snorkelling)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4
The natural environment and clean waters	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4
The waters provide a good place to fish and enjoy other recreational activities	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4
The biodiversity leads to scientific discoveries and educational opportunities	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4
I would hope that this area will be passed on to future generations in a healthy condition	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4

Objective: Threats and Challenges to Environmental Benefits				
Q11b What do you think are the main threats to the **environmental** benefits just described, either currently or in the future?				
ROTATE		No threat	Immediate Threat	Future Threat
ENVIRONMENTAL	Over fishing by commercial fishers	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Over fishing by recreational fishers	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Illegal taking of fish including shellfish	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Water pollution and declining water quality	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Over development in the coastal area	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Erosion of coastal areas	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Not enough no-take marine areas	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Loss of natural habitats (e.g. seagrass, rocky reefs, mangroves)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Marine litter	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Climate change impacts (e.g. storm surge, changes to habitats and species, droughts)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3
	Are there other things that threaten the local marine environment that are significant to you?	No		Yes Specify

Objective: Awareness of Batemans Marine Park	
The area marked on the map between Bawley point and Wallaga Lake near Bermagui forms the Batemans Marine Park. The park was formed in 2007 by the NSW Government	
Q12Were you aware that this area formed the Batemans Marine Park?	Yes 1 No 2

Objective: Impressions of the Batemans Marine Park	
Q13 How important is it to you that this area has been designated Marine Park?	Extremely Important 5 Quite Important 4 Somewhat Important 3 Not Important 2 Unsure 1

Objective: Perceptions of Coastal Area threat level change							
ASK Q14 OF ALL LOCALS PLUS VISITORS WHO CODE 2,3,4 AT Q6VB Q14 **Over the past few years have you personally noticed a change in any of the following things?**							
	ROTATE BENEFITS.	Noticed a large decrease	Noticed a small decrease	No change	Noticed a small increase	Noticed a large increase	Don't Know
Environmental Threats	1. Clean water in coastal lakes and ocean beaches e.g. free of sewage, stormwater, run off, litter, oil, et c	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6
	2. Abundance of marine life e.g. fish, whales, dolphins, seals, seabirds etc	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6
	3. Safe and considerate vehicle use around coastal lakes and beaches (4WD, motorcycle, quadbike)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6
	4. Healthy coastal wetlands, mangroves and seagrasses	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6
Social / Cultural threats	5. Good fishing experiences (ease of catching and good quality of fish being caught)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6
	6. Clean beaches and coastal areas (from litter, dumping)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6
	7. Easy access to foreshores for recreation or fishing e.g. open and accessible beaches, lake fronts, mudflats	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6
	8. Safety and welfare of swimmers, surfers and beach users. (e.g. from conflict with other visitors or boaters)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6
Economic threats	9. Amount of coastal infrastructure e.g. boat ramps, wharves, coastal paths	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6
	10. Amount of jobs or work related to coastal waters - marine tourism, fishing, and boating industry.	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6
	11. Safe condition of boating facilities e.g. boat ramps, wharves	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6
	12. Availability of locally-caught seafood, including oysters.	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5	◯ 6

Q15 Would you like to register to be kept informed about the marine park? Collect details (email address)	YES: COLLECT EMAIL NO

Demographics	
D1 Gender (interviewer to code)	Female 1 Male 2
D2 Which of the following best describes you?	Full time student 1 Working part time 2 Working full time 3 Not currently in paid work 4 Retired 5 Other (please specify) 6 [Interviewer backcode where possible]
D3 And which best describes your household?	I live alone 1 Couple with no dependent children at home 2 Adult household 3 Household with young children (e.g. mainly primary school aged or less) 4 Household with older children (e.g. mainly high school aged) 5
D4 Which of the following best describes your annual household income?	Under $20,000 1 Between $20,000 and $49,999 2 Between $50,000 and $99,999 3 Over $100,000 4 Prefer not to say / Unsure 5
D5 Finally, which country were you born in? IF CODE 1 AT D5 ASK D6 D6 Do you identify yourself as an Aboriginal person?	Australia 1 Other please specify Yes 1 No 2

This concludes the survey. Thank you for your time today in helping us with this important piece of research.
OPT IN FOR FUTURE FOCUS GROUPS: There may be further research conducted about the Batemans Marine Park. Would you be interested in participating in focus groups in the future? They would be conducted locally and in Sydney and Canberra
Collect contact details

SATISFACTION WITH SURVEY PROCESS	
Can I just ask you how satisfied you were with the research survey process that you participated in today? IF DISSATISFIED (CODE 3) ASK: Would you like someone to contact you to discuss the survey? Take details if required.	Satisfied 1 Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied 2 Dissatisfied 3

Appendix 4: Participant satisfaction with the survey

On completion of the survey, all participants were asked to comment on their level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the survey approach taken. Of those who responded to this question (n= 159), the vast majority (97.5%) were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Four respondents were satisfied. No respondents were dissatisfied.

List of references

BMT WBM. (2017). *New South Wales Marine Estate Threat and Risk Assessment Report.* Broadmeadow: NSW Marine Estate Management Authority.

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Sweeney Research. (2014). Marine Estate Community Survey Final Report.