

# NARRABEEN HEAD

The site is located at North Narrabeen Headland on Sydney’s northern beaches.

It is proposed to establish a special purpose zone to replace the existing aquatic reserve. No changes to management rules are proposed.

## CURRENT MANAGEMENT

Narrabeen Head Aquatic Reserve was established in March 2002. It covers seven hectares and extends from the southern end of Turimetta Beach, to the western extremity of the rock baths at Narrabeen Head, covering the area from the mean high water mark to a distance of 100 metres offshore of the mean low water mark. Collection of cunjevoi, marine invertebrates and seaweed is prohibited in the reserve, with the exception of lobster, abalone, sea lettuce and bait weed. Recreational fishing competitions and collecting for scientific and educational purposes require a permit.

## SITE OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives for the proposed Narrabeen Head site are to:

- enhance opportunities for scientific research, education and learning including Aboriginal culture
- 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 site primarily consists of rocky shore, shallow rocky reef, beach and shallow soft sediments. It contains a diverse array of marine algae, invertebrates and fishes. Birds such as oystercatchers, cormorants, sea gulls and sea eagles also forage in the area.

Narrabeen Head Aquatic Reserve was declared primarily to facilitate educational activities on the rocky shore. As such, it is highly valued for education and regularly used as a marine field study site by school groups. The Coastal Environment Centre at Narrabeen, run by Pittwater Council, conducts environmental education activities in the local area as do private education companies Eco-treasures and AUSECO.

The reserve is currently used for a wide variety of recreational activities, including snorkelling, scuba diving, swimming, sunbathing, picnics, recreational boating, line and spear fishing, walking and dog walking.

The site is located adjacent to the North Narrabeen National Surfing Reserve.

## 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 23.



## PROPOSED MANAGEMENT RULES

The proposed seven hectare special purpose zone (Figure 13) would maintain the existing boundaries and current fishing rules, with continued access to the reserve as an educational area and for Aboriginal cultural use. The assessment found that there were limited opportunities for further threat reduction at the site as it has limited subtidal environmental assets. There is also little opportunity for further enhancing social and cultural benefits.

## FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The high environmental value of Narrabeen Head was identified by peak conservation stakeholders – the National Parks Association of NSW and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

Table 23. Threats and expected benefits

|          | Environmental   | Social, cultural, economic  |  |
|----------|---|---|--|
| Threats  | <br>Recreational fishing | <br>Lack of awareness          | <br>Reductions in species |
| Benefits | <br>Rocky shores         | <br>Scientific reference sites | <br>Education & learning  |

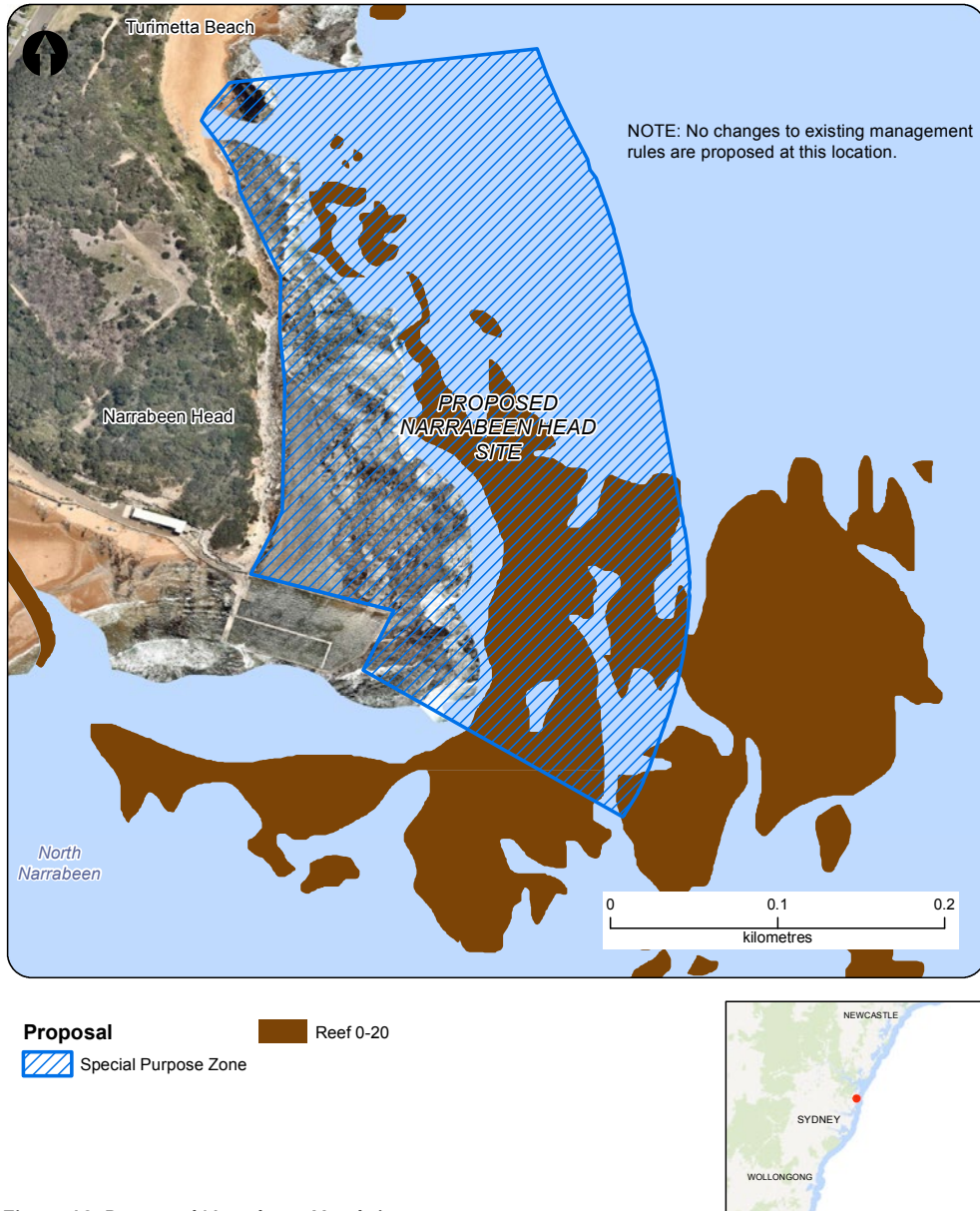













Figure 13. Proposed Narrabeen Head site

Table 24. Current activities and suggested permissible activities in the proposed Narrabeen Head site

| Narrabeen Head                |  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       | ✓   | ✓   | ✓  | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓  | ×  | × <sup>1</sup>   | ✓ <sup>2</sup>   | ✓  |
| Proposed special purpose zone | ✓   | ✓   | ✓  | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓  | ×  | × <sup>1</sup>   | ✓ <sup>2</sup>   | ✓  |

1 Except for sea lettuce and bait weed

2 Subject to existing NSW commercial fishing rules and regulations