

CABBAGE TREE CREEK

Cabbage Tree Creek is near Maianbar on the southern side of Port Hacking, adjacent to the Royal National Park.

A 23 hectare sanctuary zone is proposed, incorporating all of Cabbage Tree Creek and The Basin (Figure 31).

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

There are no current spatial management restrictions for this area.

SITE OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives for the proposed Cabbage Tree Creek site are to:

- enhance the conservation of marine biodiversity
- reduce risks to identified threatened and protected species of the bioregion
- 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)
- 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

Cabbage Tree Creek is a small tidal creek on the southern side of Port Hacking. It is surrounded by the Royal National Park. The area contains extensive estuarine habitats including saltmarsh, seagrass and mangroves. The creek is popular with tourists and locals, and is used for swimming, snorkelling, kayaking, paddleboarding and fishing.

Boating access to the creek is limited due to the shallow water at the entrance to the creek, and a low footbridge over the creek. Upstream of the bridge, the creek opens into a deep basin with *Posidonia australis* seagrass around the margins.























The only commercial fishing that occurs in the area is hand gathering for saltwater nippers.

The area has significance to the local Aboriginal communities. Spiritual sites and evidence of past cultural use have been recorded including shell middens and grinding grooves.

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 47.

Table 47. Threats and expected benefits

	Environmental				Social, cultural, economic			
Threats	 Boating	 Climate change	 Recreational fishing		 Habitat disturbance	 Wildlife disturbance	 Reduction in species	 Conflict
Benefits	 Saltmarsh	 Seagrass	 Beaches & mudflats	 Mangroves	 Participation (wellbeing)	 Participation (socialising)	 Enjoyment (biodiversity & beauty)	 Scientific reference sites
	 Shallow soft sediments	 Fish assemblages	 Species protected under FMA	 Biodiversity	 Aboriginal cultural heritage & use	 Intrinsic & bequest	 Individual enjoyment	

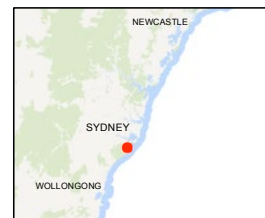
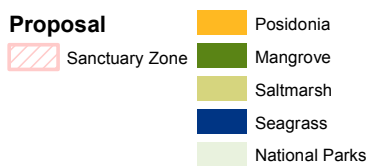
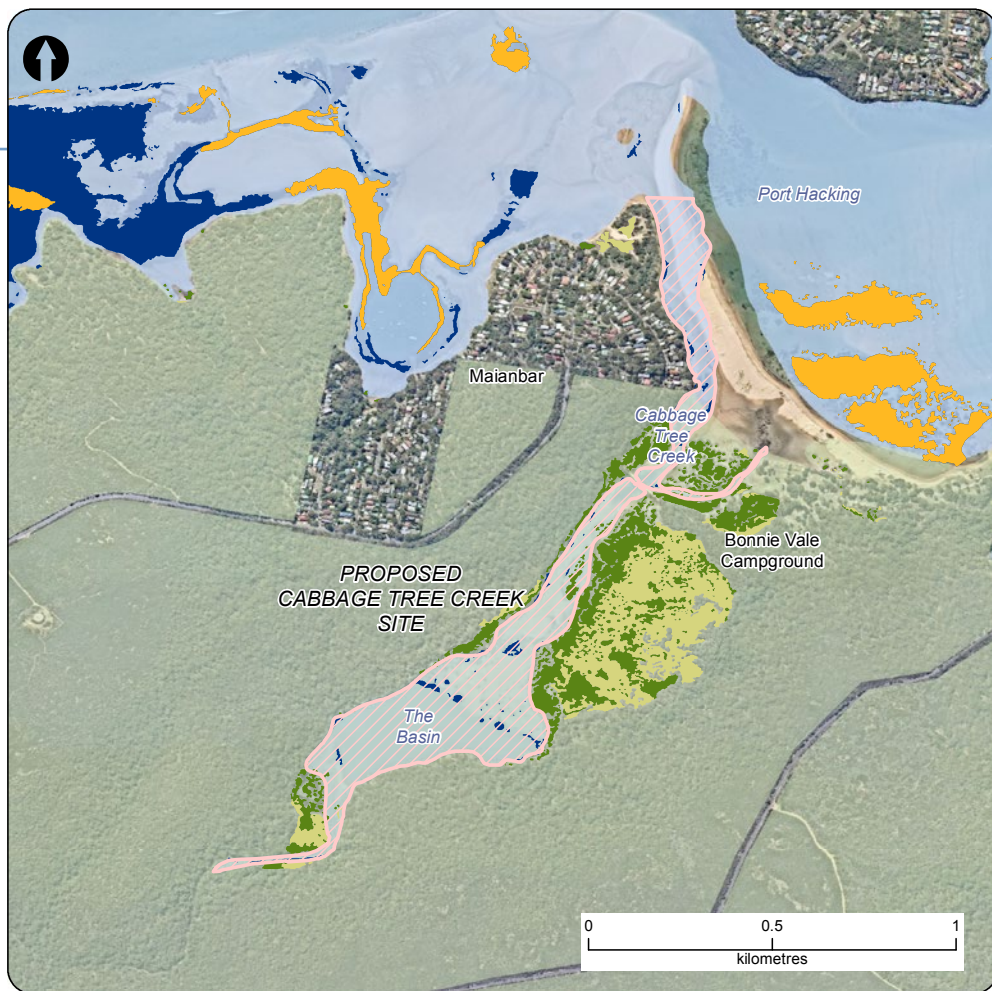


Figure 31. Proposed Cabbage Tree Creek site

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT RULES

In this zone, removal or harm of marine biodiversity is prohibited, including fishing by any method, anchoring in seagrass areas, harm to marine animals or plants, or collecting marine organisms whether dead or alive (Table 48).

Permissible activities would include those that are minimal-low risk, such as recreational boating, swimming, snorkelling, scuba diving and Aboriginal cultural use.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Cabbage Tree Creek was identified as a site with high environmental values by peak conservation stakeholders – the National Parks Association of NSW and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW. Sutherland Shire Council supported additional protection at this site.

Table 48. Current activities and suggested permissible activities in the proposed Cabbage Tree Creek site

Cabbage Tree Creek											
Current	✓ ¹	✓ ²	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓
Proposed sanctuary zone	✓ ¹	✓ ²	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	✓

1 Access is restricted by shallow waters and low clearance footbridge

2 Not in seagrass areas

3 Commercial fishing for saltwater nippers is currently permitted in Port Hacking