

NORAH HEAD

Norah Head is a prominent headland on the Central Coast, just north of The Entrance.

A 20 hectare sanctuary zone is proposed on the northern side of Norah Head, immediately east of the boat ramp (Figure 3). The area includes intertidal rocky shores, beaches and shallow subtidal reef.

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

No specific spatial management arrangements are in place at this site, beyond existing regulations that generally apply to activities in the marine estate, such as NSW fishing rules and restrictions.

SITE OBJECTIVES

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

- enhance the conservation of marine biodiversity
- 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

The site includes shallow rocky reef as well, beaches and intertidal rocky shores. The site is popular as a swimming and snorkelling area and includes a partially man-made pool.

The area has significance to the local Aboriginal communities. Spiritual sites and evidence of past cultural use, including as a camp and fishing trap site, have been recorded in the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS).

Recreational line fishing, spearfishing, collecting and 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 9.

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT RULES

The removal or harm of marine biodiversity and habitats would be prohibited in this sanctuary zone, including fishing of any kind, and hand gathering or collecting (Table 10). Spearfishing and charter fishing would also be prohibited to provide comprehensive protection for fish assemblages and threatened and protected marine species and to maintain the value of the area as a scientific reference site.

Activities that can continue in this zone are those identified as presenting a minimal–low risk to fish assemblages and to threatened and protected marine species. Examples of these activities include swimming, snorkelling, scuba diving, recreational boating and Aboriginal cultural use.

Table 9. Threats and expected benefits

	Environmental					Social, cultural, economic					
Threats	 Commercial fishing	 Recreational fishing	 Climate change			 Conflict	 Habitat disturbance	 Reduction in species			
Benefits	 Beaches & mudflats	 Rocky shores	 Shallow reefs	 Fish assemblages	 Biodiversity	 Intrinsic & bequest	 Scientific reference sites	 Participation (wellbeing)	 Participation (socialising)	 Enjoyment (biodiversity & beauty)	 Aboriginal cultural heritage & use

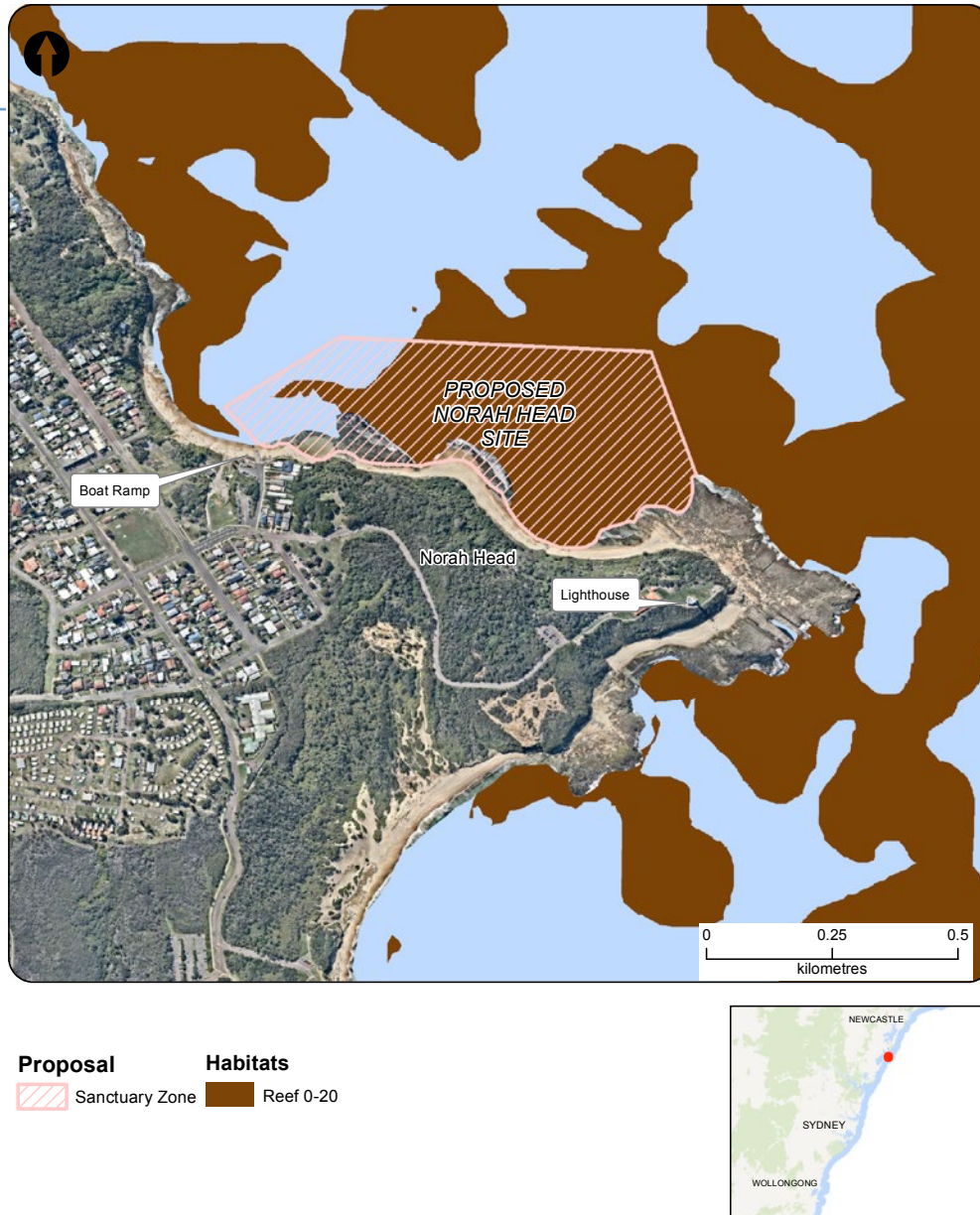


Figure 3. Proposed Norah Head site

Table 10. Current activities and suggested permissible activities in the proposed Norah Head site

Norah Head											
Current	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ¹	✓
Proposed sanctuary zone	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓

1 Subject to existing NSW commercial fishing rules and regulations

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The conservation value of Norah Head was identified during community engagement, as was the popularity of the area for recreational activities such as fishing.