

CAMP COVE

Camp Cove is in Sydney Harbour, just inside South Head.

An 11 hectare site is proposed at Camp Cove, including Camp Cove Beach and Laings Point (Figure 21).

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

The shoreline of the proposed area is already in the Sydney Harbour IPA, which covers the area from the mean high water mark to 10 metres seaward from the mean low water mark. Fishing is allowed. 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.

SITE OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives for the proposed Camp Cove 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
- 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

This area includes shallow estuarine rocky reef and a small area of seagrass. Fishing is popular around Laings Point. Camp Cove has a four-knot speed zone, and most of the beach is off limits to powered craft to reduce risks to swimmers and scuba divers.





















The beach and cove are very popular with swimmers, tourists, snorkellers and scuba divers.

The area has significance to the local Aboriginal communities. Spiritual sites and evidence of past cultural use, including art, have been recorded in the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System.

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 33.

Table 33. Threats and expected benefits

	Environmental			Social, cultural, economic			
Threats	 Boating	 Climate change	 Recreational fishing	 Conflict	 Habitat disturbance	 Reductions in species	
Benefits	 Seagrass	 Rocky shores	 Shallow reefs	 Intrinsic & bequest	 Scientific references sites	 Enjoyment (biodiversity & beauty)	 Participation (wellbeing)
	 Fish assemblages	 Species protected under FMA	 Biodiversity	 Participation (socialising)	 Viability of businesses	 Individual enjoyment	 Aboriginal cultural heritage & use

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT RULES

In the proposed sanctuary zone, the removal or harm of marine biodiversity would be 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 34).

Permissible activities would include those that are minimal–low risk, such as recreational boating, swimming, snorkelling, scuba diving and Aboriginal cultural use. Courtesy moorings would be considered to manage boating access in areas away from seagrass and scuba divers.

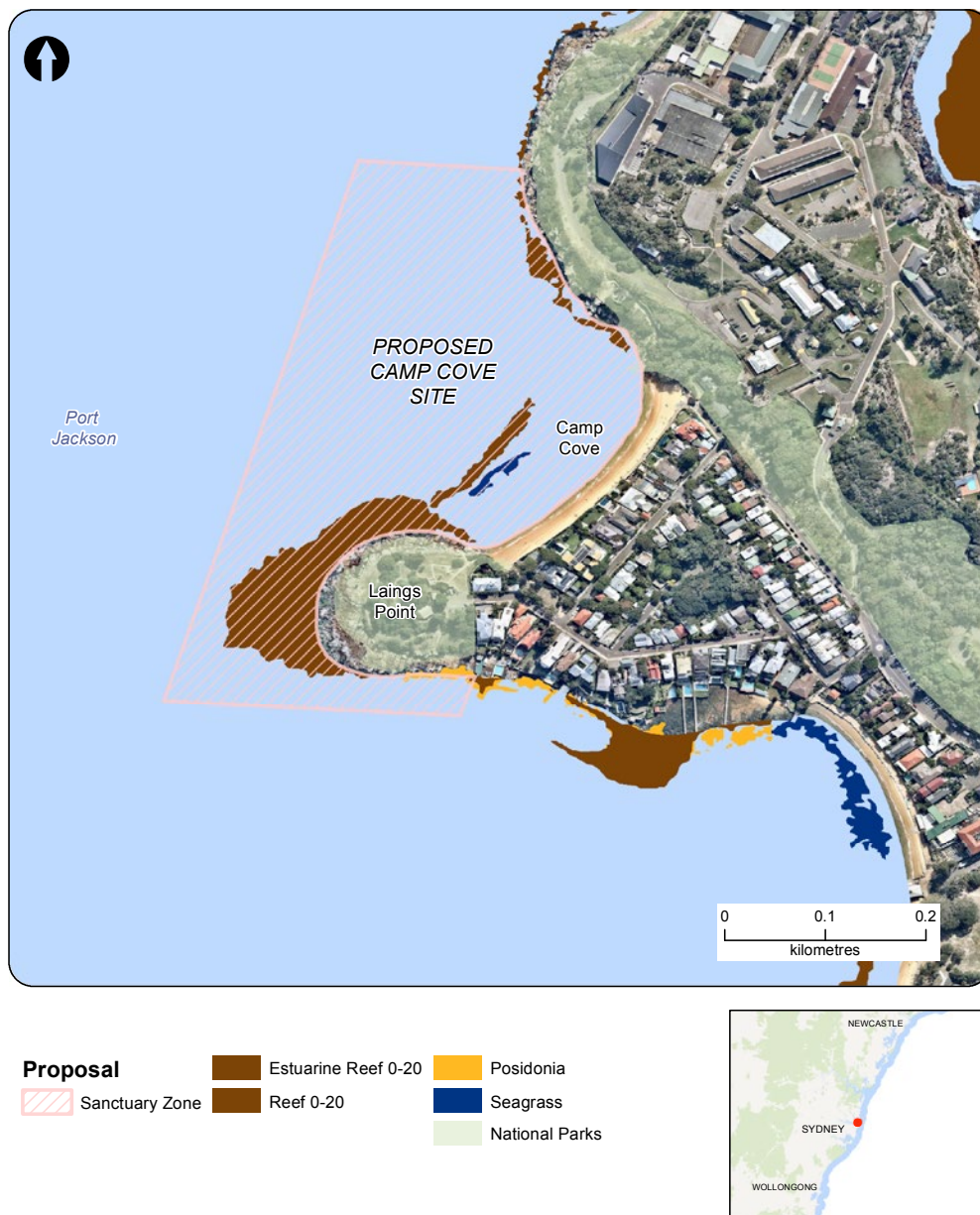













Figure 21. Proposed Camp Cove site

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Table 34. Current activities and suggested permissible activities in the proposed Camp Cove site

Camp Cove	 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	✓ ¹	✓ ²	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	× ³	✓	×	✓
Proposed sanctuary zone	✓ ¹	✓ ²	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	✓

- 1 Small exclusion area applies along Camp Cove Beach
- 2 Not in seagrass areas
- 3 Intertidal area currently protected as part of Sydney Harbour IPA

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The high environmental value of Camp Cove was identified by community members as well as peak conservation stakeholders – the National Parks Association of NSW and Nature Conservation Council of NSW. Local dive groups described Camp Cove as a popular and safe site for tourist learning to dive.

Comments supported a no-take area in Sydney Harbour (including for a Sydney Marine Park). Other submissions (including from the Recreational Fishing Alliance) proposed that Sydney Harbour be declared a recreational fishing haven.

