

SHIPROCK

The site is located in Port Hacking, at the entrance to Burraneer Bay.

It is proposed to establish a sanctuary zone to replace the existing aquatic reserve. No changes to management rules are proposed. (Figure 30).

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

The two hectare Shiprock Aquatic Reserve was established in 1982 off Turriel Point in Port Hacking. All fishing is prohibited in the Reserve.

SITE OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives for the proposed Shiprock site are to:

- enhance the conservation of marine biodiversity
- promote marine ecotourism in 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

A combination of strong currents, complex rocky reef and a sheltered estuarine position support a diverse environment inhabited by a wide variety of marine vegetation, invertebrates and fish. More than 130 species of fish have been recorded here, along with dense sponge communities. Accordingly, Shiprock is one of the best known sheltered diving sites in the Sydney area.

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

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 45.

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT RULES

Current management rules would be continued to help address threats and realise benefits at this site (Table 46).

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The high environmental value of Shiprock was identified by peak conservation stakeholders – the National Parks Association of NSW and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW. Submissions generally identified this site as an important dive site, including for its easy land access for divers. Sutherland Shire Council supported additional protection at this site.

Table 45. Threats and expected benefits

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

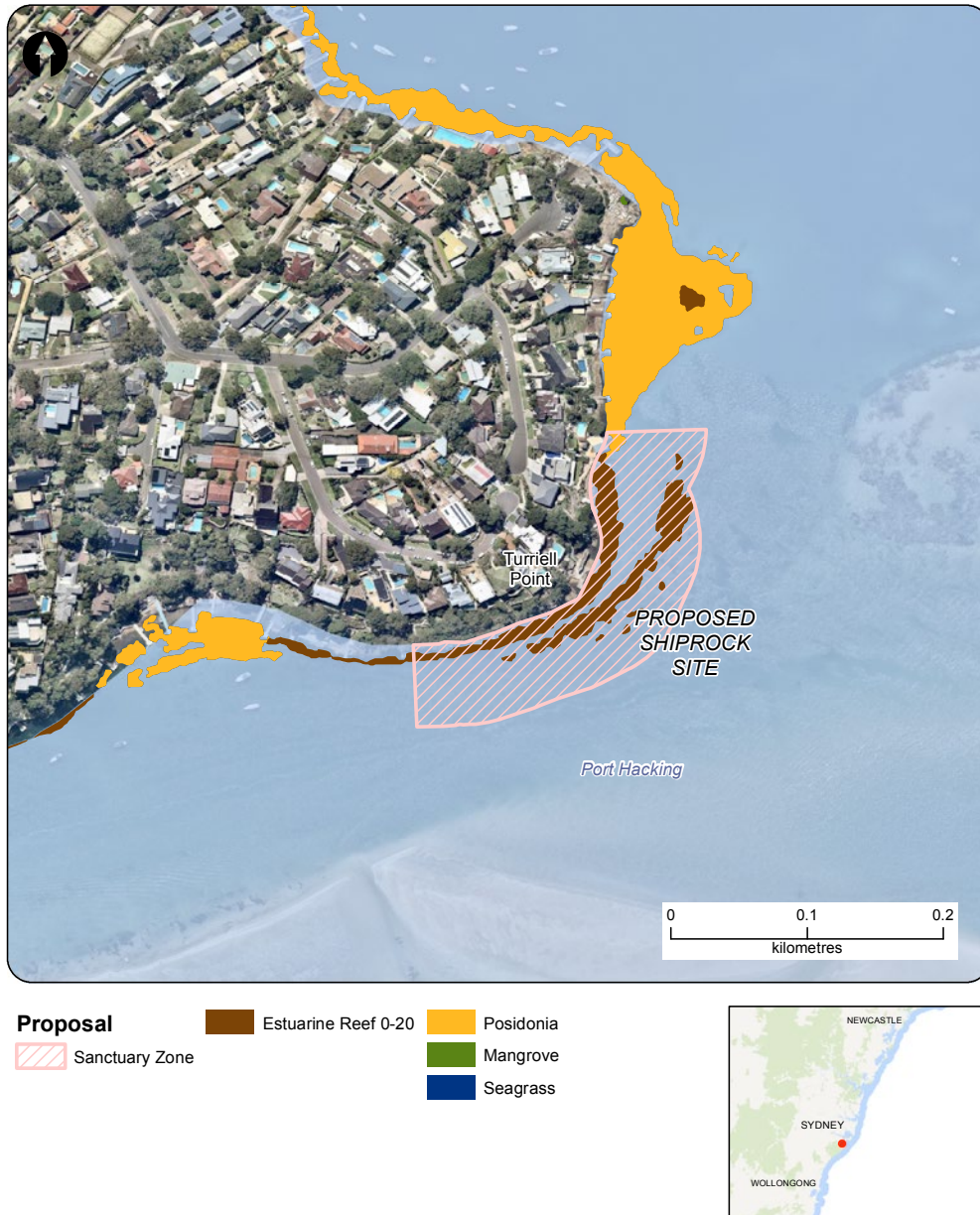


Table 46. Current activities and suggested permissible activities in the proposed Shiprock site

Shiprock	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	✓	✓ ¹	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	✓
Proposed sanctuary zone	✓	✓ ¹	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	✓

1 Not in seagrass areas