

# TUGGERAH BAY

Tuggerah Bay is a large bay on the western side of Tuggerah Lake, between Wyong River and Ourimbah Creek.

A 461 hectare sanctuary zone is proposed along the shoreline of Tuggerah Bay (Figure 4) to better conserve the dense seagrass beds in the shallow waters.

## CURRENT MANAGEMENT

No specific spatial management arrangements are in place at this site, other than 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 Tuggerah Bay 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
- provide baseline monitoring areas (scientific reference sites).

The secondary objectives that apply to this site are listed in Table 5.

## ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES

Tuggerah Bay contains extensive seagrass beds (mostly *Zostera* spp.), which cover almost half of the bay. The bay is a significant threatened and protected shorebird habitat. The proposed reserve would enhance the protection of the adjacent national parks estate (Tuggerah Nature Reserve and the Tuggerah State Conservation Area).

Tuggerah Lake is an important and economically productive commercial fishing area under the Estuary General endorsement.

The site has potential value as a scientific reference site to monitor threat reduction in an estuarine context.

## 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 11.
















## PROPOSED MANAGEMENT RULES

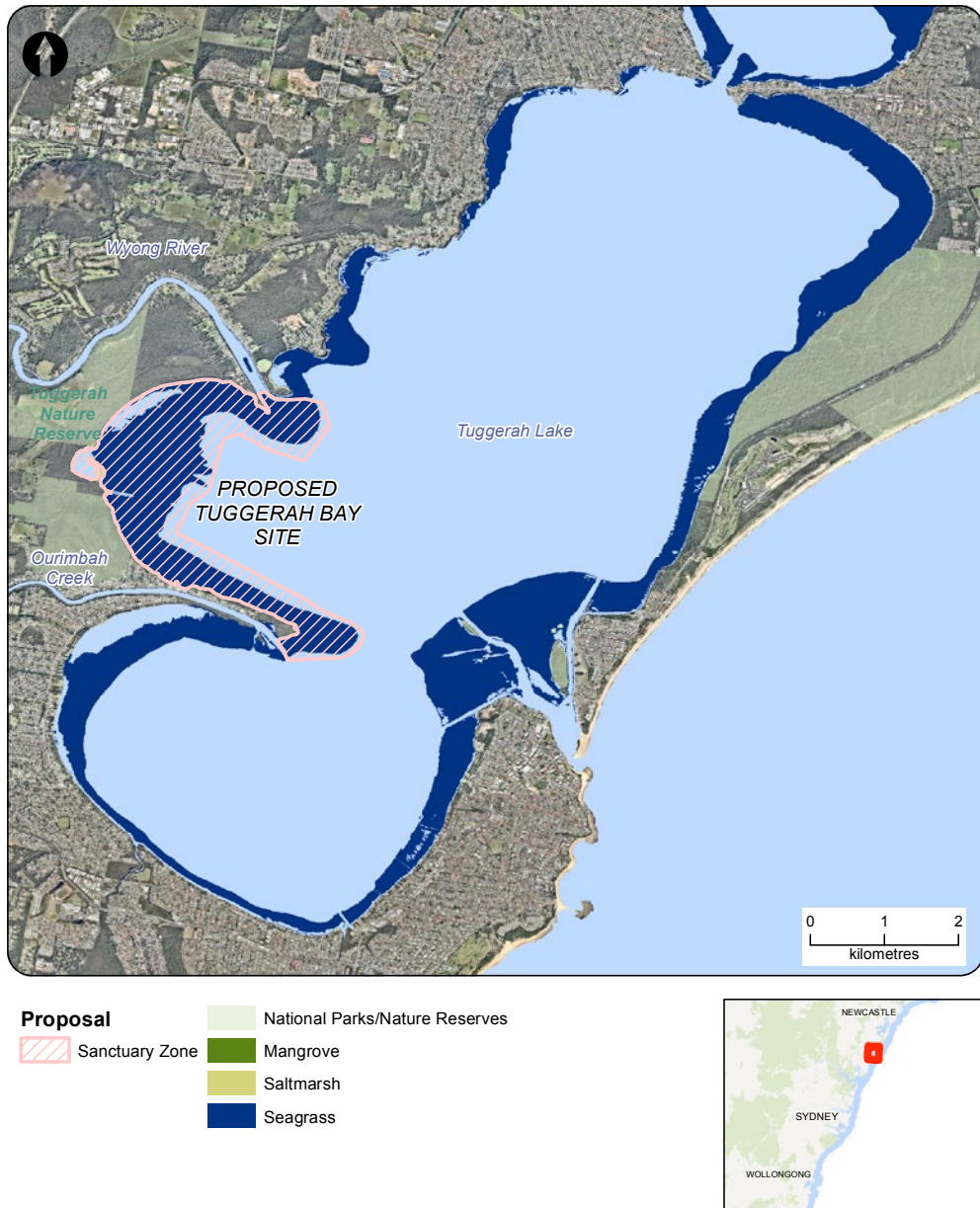
Moderate–high risk activities, such as fishing, hand gathering and collecting, would be prohibited (Table 12). Some activities identified as minimal–low risk would continue, such as swimming, snorkelling, scuba diving, Aboriginal cultural use and recreational boating (noting that anchoring in seagrass is not permitted).

## FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT










Community engagement indicated that Tuggerah Lake has a high conservation value. This view was put forward by community members as well as the National Parks Association of NSW, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, and the Australian Museum.

Table 11. Threats and expected benefits

	Environmental						Social, cultural, economic		
Threats	 Commercial fishing	 Recreational fishing	 Boating	 Climate change			 Reduction in species	 Habitat disturbance	
Benefits	 Saltmarsh	 Seagrass	 Beaches & mudflats	 Fish assemblages	 Species protected under BCA	 Biodiversity	 Intrinsic & bequest	 Scientific reference sites	 Aboriginal cultural heritage & use



**Table 12. Current activities and suggested permissible activities in the proposed Tuggerah Bay site**

Tuggerah Bay									
Current	✓	✓ <sup>1</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>2</sup>	✓
Proposed Sanctuary Zone	✓	✓ <sup>1</sup>	×	×	✓	×	×	×	✓

1 Not in seagrass areas

2 Subject to existing NSW commercial fishing rules and regulations