

CAPE BANKS

Cape Banks is on the northern side of the entrance to Botany Bay.

The proposed site expands the existing aquatic reserve (Figure 25) seaward so it incorporates adjacent shallow and deep reef areas to cover a total of 69 hectares (Figure 26).

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

Cape Banks Aquatic Reserve was established in 2002. It covers 18 hectares from the foreshore at the bridge at Cape Banks to the Endeavour Light at Henry Head (Figure 25). Collecting marine invertebrates, cunjevoi and marine vegetation is prohibited, with the exception of lobster, abalone, sea lettuce and bait weed. Other fish species may be taken by legal methods. Recreational fishing competitions and collecting for scientific and educational purposes require a permit.

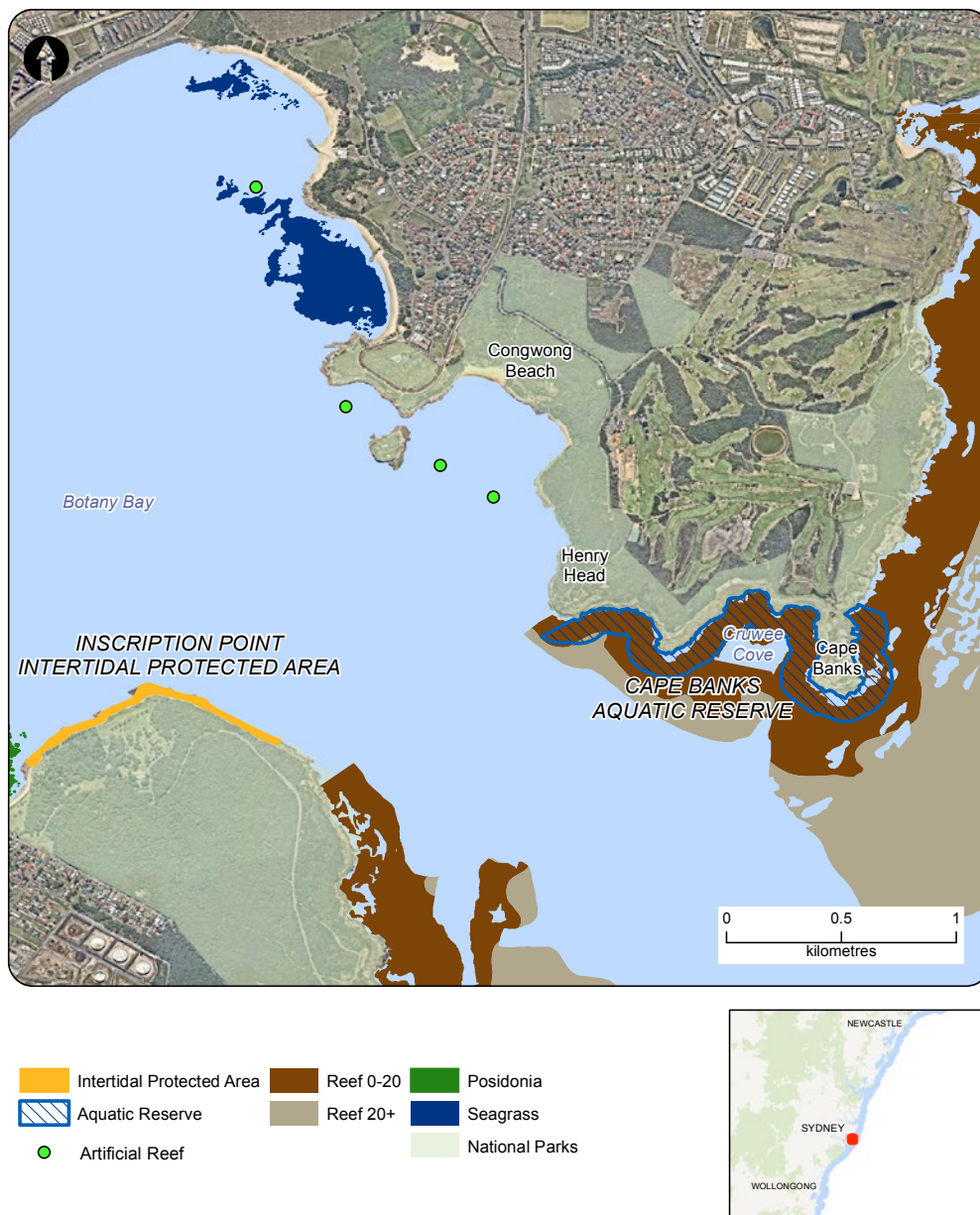


Figure 25. Current Cape Banks Aquatic Reserve

SITE OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives for the proposed Cape Banks site are to:

- enhance the conservation of marine biodiversity
- maintain and support Aboriginal cultural use of the marine estate
- enhance the intrinsic benefits derived by the community from the marine estate
- enhance bequest values for current and future generations
- enhance opportunities for scientific research, education and learning including Aboriginal culture
- 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

Cape Banks is adjacent to the Botany Bay National Park. It is a site of significant Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage. Spiritual sites and evidence of past cultural use, including art, have been recorded in the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System.

















It has been the site of extensive scientific research since the mid-1970s.

Some Ocean Trap and Line and Sea Urchin and Turban Shell 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 39.

Table 39. Threats and expected benefits

	Environmental				Social, cultural, economic		
Threats	 Climate change	 Commercial fishing	 Recreational fishing		 Habitat disturbance	 Reduction in species	 Lack of awareness
Benefits	 Rocky shores	 Shallow reefs	 Deep reefs	 Fish assemblages	 Aboriginal cultural heritage & use	 Intrinsic & bequest	 Scientific reference sites
	 Species protected under FMA	 Species protected under BCA	 Biodiversity				

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT RULES

The proposed sanctuary zone (Figure 26) covers 69 hectares and would replace the existing Cape Banks Aquatic Reserve. All fishing would be prohibited in this zone (Table 40) except collection for scientific research purposes by permit and Aboriginal cultural use. Some activities identified as presenting a minimal–low risk to fish assemblages and threatened and protected marine species would continue in this zone. This includes snorkelling and scuba diving, and recreational boating.

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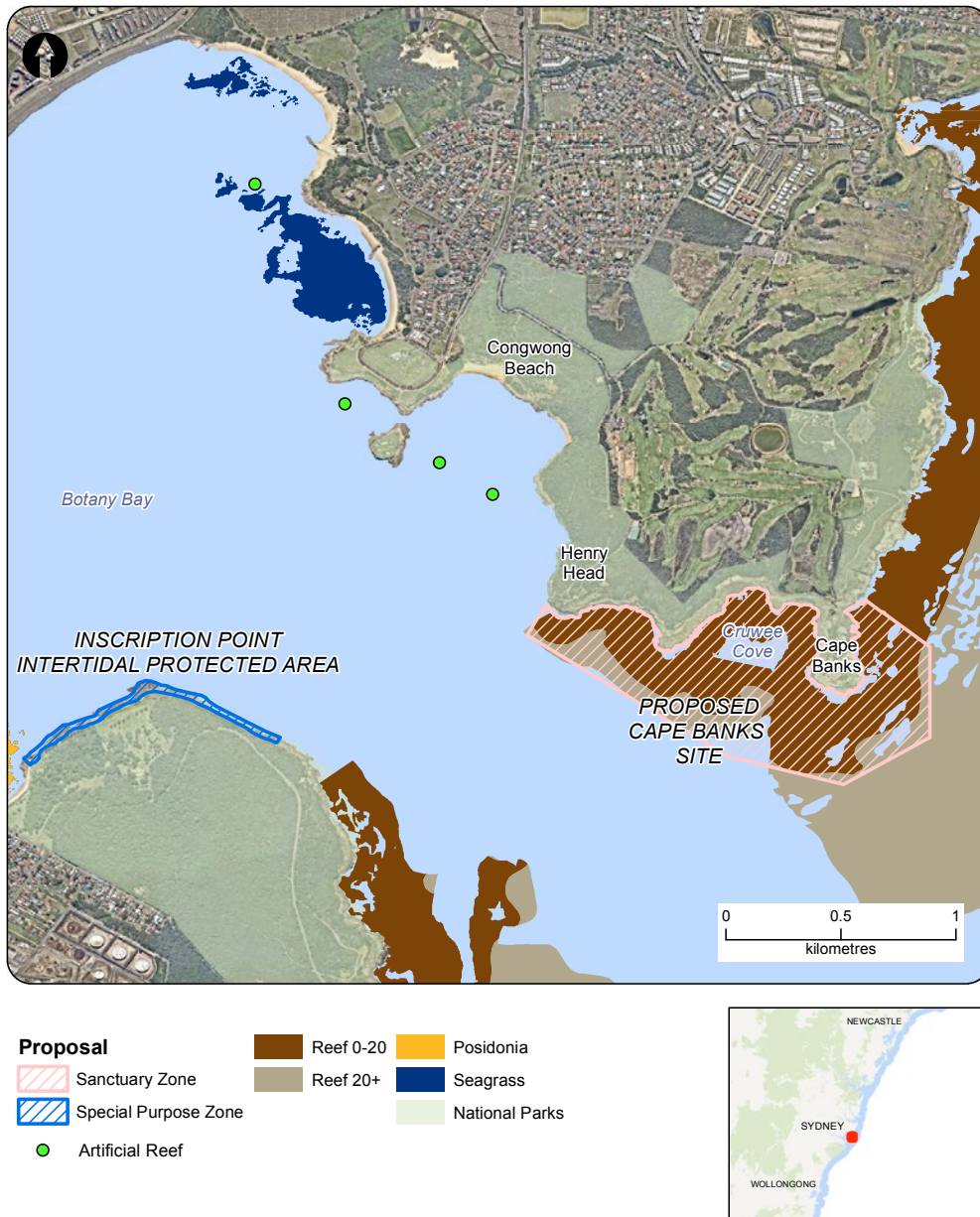













Figure 26. Proposed Cape Banks site

Table 40. Current activities and suggested permissible activities in the proposed Cape Banks site

Cape Banks	 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	✗ ¹	✓ ²	✓
Proposed sanctuary zone	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓

1 Except for lobster, abalone, sea lettuce and bait weed

2 Subject to existing NSW commercial fishing rules and regulations

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The high environmental values of Cape Banks, and Botany Bay more broadly, were identified by peak conservation stakeholders – the National Parks Association of NSW and Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

Submissions from recreational fishers, including the Recreational Fishing Alliance and Shooters and Fishers Party, do not support any additional restrictions to fishing in Botany Bay, as fishing is already restricted in the existing Towra Point Aquatic Reserve, at the Botany

Bay breakwall, and in port and airport exclusion zones. Additionally, their view is that, as there is no commercial fishing in the bay, there is no need for a marine park: therefore, declaration of an additional protected area in Botany Bay would be in direct conflict with the current recreational fishing haven.

