

BARRENJOEY HEAD

Barrenjoey Head is located at the northern end of the Palm Beach isthmus. The iconic Headland is part of a national park, has an historic lighthouse and is the southern head of Broken Bay, at the entrance to Pittwater.

The proposed special purpose zone would extend the current Barrenjoey Head Aquatic Reserve (Figure 10) to cover a total area of 133 hectares and include the adjacent seagrass, including the endangered population of *Posidonia australis* (Figure 11).

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

The existing Barrenjoey Head Aquatic Reserve was established in March 2002. The reserve covers 28 hectares, extending around the headland and including the area between the mean high water mark and out to 100 metres offshore from the mean low water mark. Collecting cunjevoi, invertebrates and marine vegetation is prohibited, with the exception of rock lobsters, abalone, sea lettuce and bait weed. Recreational fishing competitions and collecting for scientific and educational purposes require a permit.

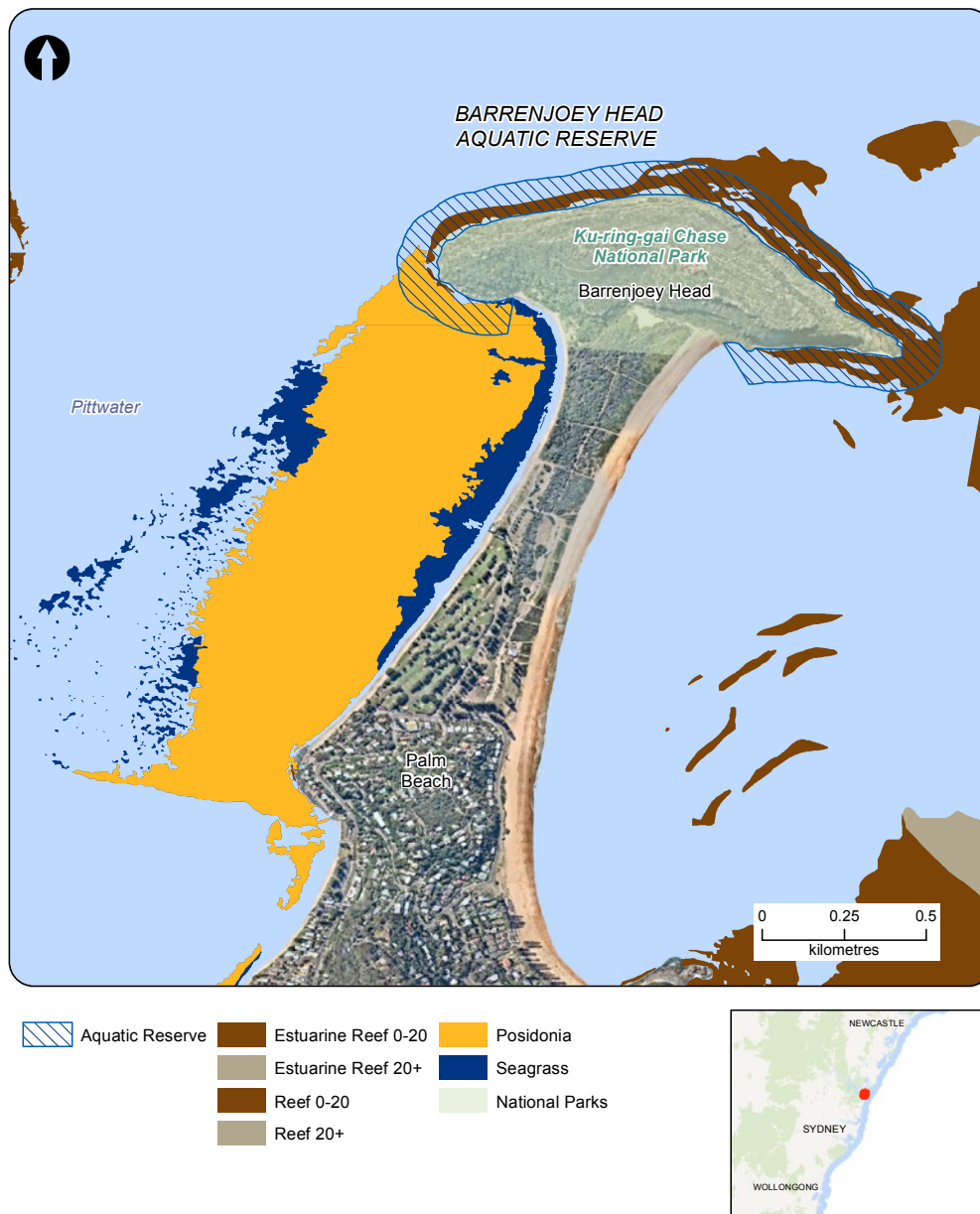


Figure 10. Current Barrenjoey Head Aquatic Reserve and marine habitats

A fishing closure under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* prohibits netting by recreational and commercial fishers from Barrenjoey Head to Stokes Point; the aim is to limit the potential spread of marine algae, *Caulerpa taxifolia*.

SITE OBJECTIVES

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

- reduce risks to identified threatened and protected species of the bioregion
- reduce risks to identified habitats of the bioregion
- continue to provide for marine economic opportunities that are consistent with ecologically sustainable development, for example low-risk commercial fishing activities
- establish and maintain public infrastructure to support access and use of the bioregion, for example moorings, boat ramps.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES

The existing aquatic reserve contains a variety of habitats. The combination of estuarine and oceanic influences supports the wide variety of marine life found here. The northern facing shoreline contains a relatively steep intertidal area dominated by large boulders, and a narrow strip of subtidal reef dominated by turf algae and some kelp. There are extensive seagrass beds located adjacent to the western side of the isthmus, including a large area of an endangered population of seagrass, *Posidonia australis*, which is listed under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*. Significant damage to seagrass from anchoring, propellers, and swing moorings is evident from aerial imagery (Figure 11).

Table 21. Threats and expected benefits














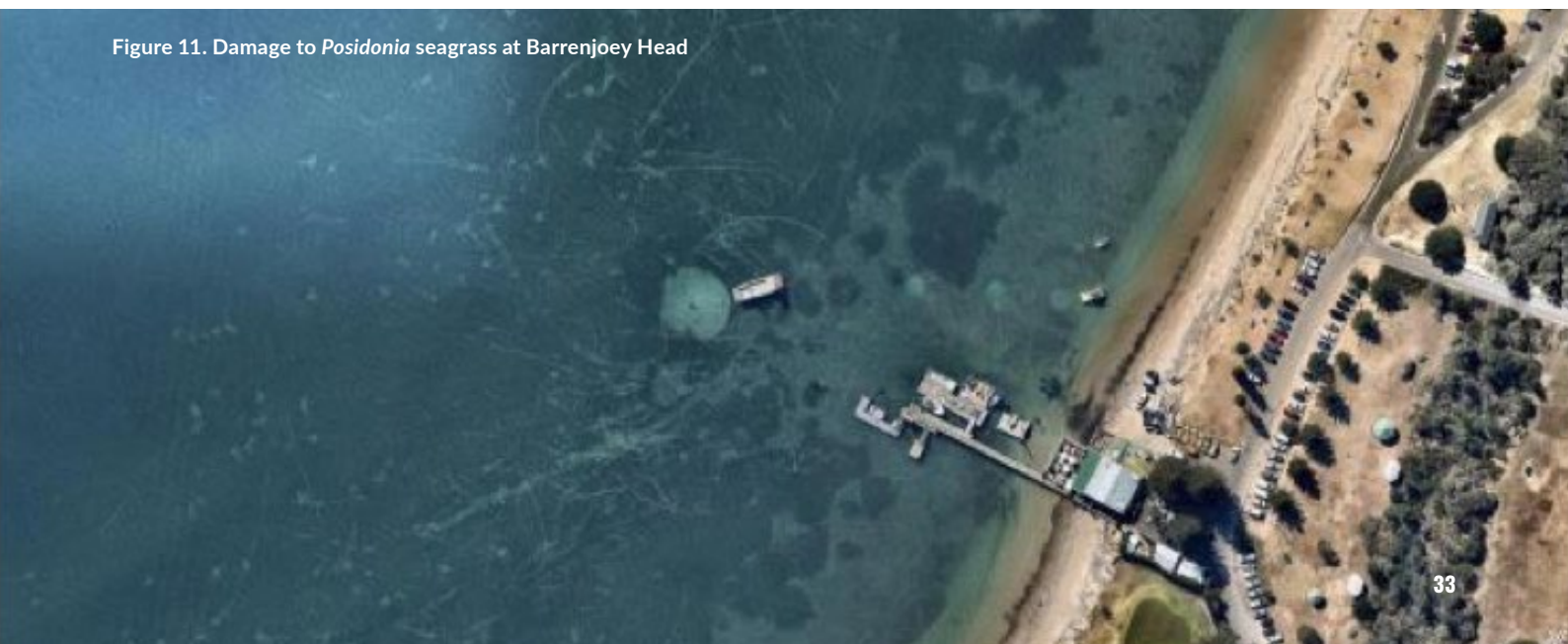
	Environmental				Social, cultural, economic			
Threats	 Boating	 Recreational fishing			 Habitat disturbance	 Lack of access infrastructure	 Wildlife disturbance	
Benefits	 Seagrass	 Rocky shores	 Species protected under FMA	 Biodiversity	 Enjoyment (biodiversity and beauty)	 Viability of business	 Individual enjoyment	 Enjoyment (consumptive use)

Figure 11. Damage to *Posidonia* seagrass at Barrenjoey Head



BARRENJOEY

Barrenjoey Headland and its surrounding waters are frequented by many user groups. Passive recreation (walking, swimming, kayaking, paddle boarding) is popular here. Boats frequently shelter in the Pittwater side of the headland. Surfing is popular on the ocean side at the northern end of Palm Beach. Barrenjoey Headland is also used by recreational line fishers and spearfishers.

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

Some Ocean Trap and Line 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 21.

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT RULES

Fishing rules that apply to the existing aquatic reserve would be adopted in the proposed special purpose zone (Table 22).












Boating and moorings at the site would be reviewed and restrictions developed with boating stakeholders to reduce damage to seagrass from propellers and moorings. Anchoring in seagrass would not be permitted.

Aboriginal cultural use and recreational activities, such as swimming, snorkelling and scuba diving, would continue to be permitted.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The conservation value of Barrenjoey Head was identified by community members and peak conservation stakeholders – the National Parks Association of NSW and Nature Conservation Council of NSW. Concerns regarding the establishment of a no-take area at this site were raised by recreational fishers and spearfishers as it is reported to be a safe area to spearfish and fish from small vessels.

Table 22. Current activities and suggested permissible activities in the proposed Barrenjoey Head site

Barrenjoey Head	 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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	× ²	✓ ³	✓
Proposed special purpose zone	✓ ⁴	✓ ¹	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	× ²	✓ ³	✓

1 Not in seagrass areas

2 Except for sea lettuce and bait weed

3 Subject to existing NSW commercial fishing rules and regulations

4 Boating and moorings at the site would be reviewed and restrictions developed with boating stakeholders to reduce damage to seagrass from propellers and moorings

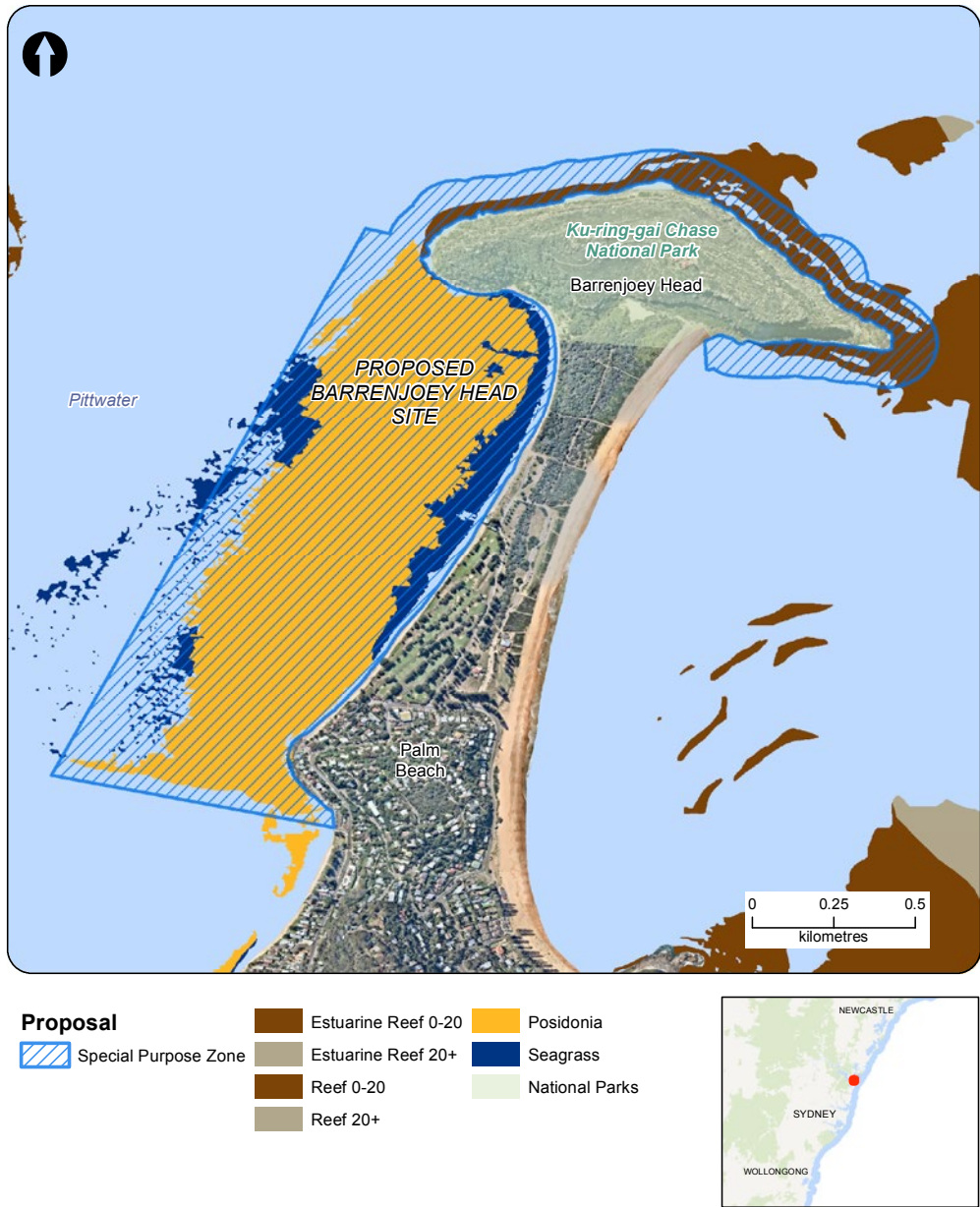


Figure 12. Proposed Barrenjoey Head site

