

# BIRD ISLAND

Bird Island is offshore of Birdie Beach, south of Wybung Head, on the Central Coast.

A 674 hectare sanctuary zone is proposed around Bird Island, incorporating significant areas of shallow reef (0–20 metres) and deep reef (more than 20 metres) (Figure 2).

## CURRENT MANAGEMENT

No specific spatial management arrangements are in place at this site, beyond 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 Bird Island site are to:

- enhance the conservation of marine biodiversity
- reduce risks to identified threatened and protected species of the bioregion
- reduce risks to identified habitats of the bioregion
- 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

The reef surrounding the island includes complex shallow and deep reef habitat that supports a diverse range of fish species. Bird Island itself is a nature reserve that provides habitat for more than 20 species of birds, including some threatened species listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

Some recreational and 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 7.

## PROPOSED MANAGEMENT RULES

It is proposed to prohibit the removal of or harm to marine biodiversity from moderate-high risk activities to habitats, fish assemblages and threatened and protected species (Table 8). This includes fishing of any kind (commercial and recreational), hand gathering and collecting. Spearfishing and charter fishing, although assessed as low risk, would also be prohibited to provide comprehensive protection for fish assemblages and threatened and protected marine species and to maintain the value of the site as a scientific reference site.

Some activities would continue because they present a minimal–low risk to fish assemblages and threatened and protected marine species. The activities include swimming, snorkelling, scuba diving, recreational boating and Aboriginal cultural use.

Table 7. Threats and expected benefits

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

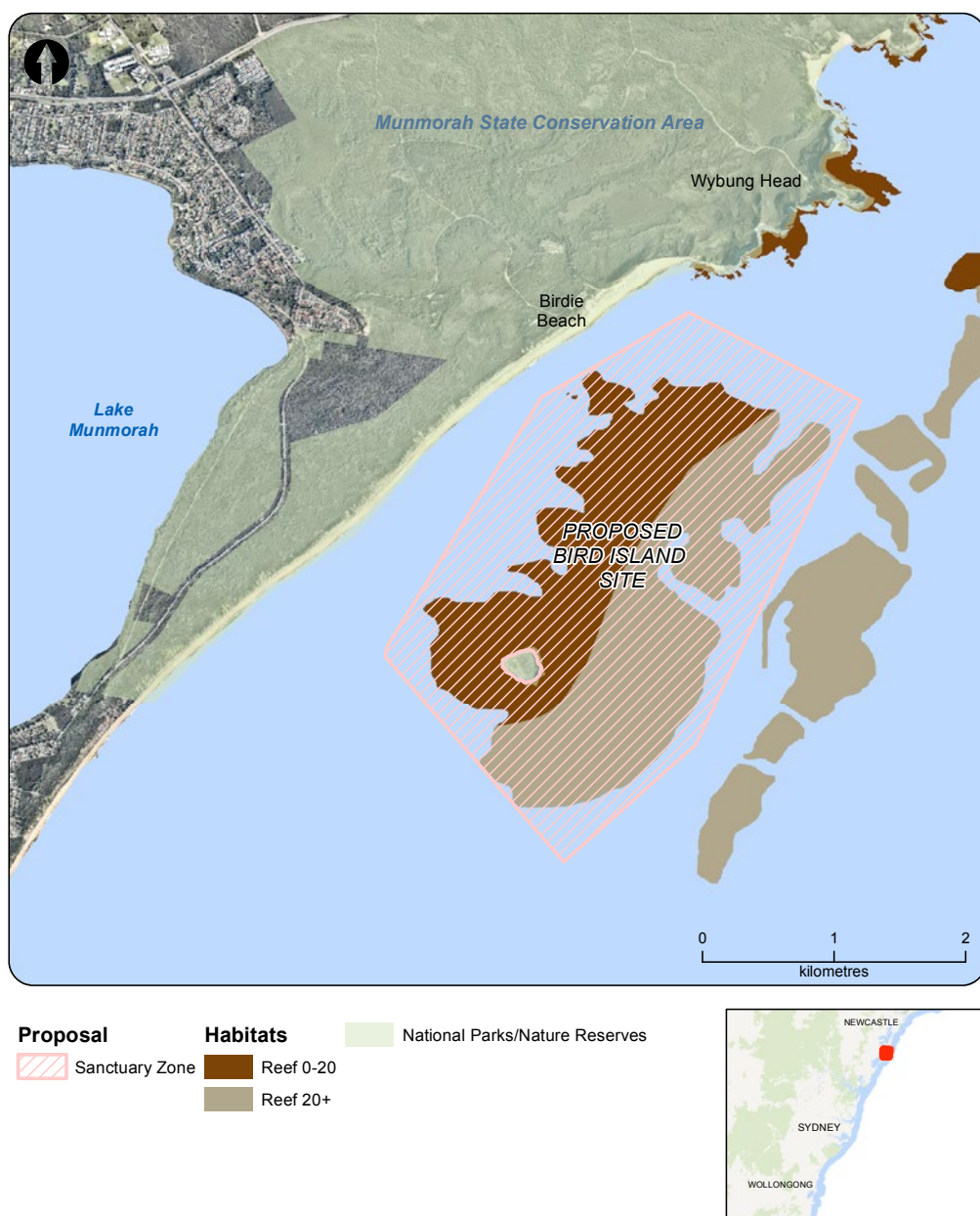


Figure 2. Proposed Bird Island site

Table 8. Current activities and suggested permissible activities in the proposed Bird Island site

Bird Island	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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>1</sup>	✓
Proposed sanctuary zone	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓

<sup>1</sup> Subject to existing NSW commercial fishing rules and regulations

## FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This site has not been identified for further protection.