

BOAT HARBOUR

Boat Harbour is at the eastern end of Greenhills Beach, northeast of Cronulla.

It is proposed to establish a special purpose zone at the existing aquatic reserve. No changes to management rules are proposed (Figure 29).

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

Boat Harbour Aquatic Reserve was established in 2002 and covers 65 hectares. It starts at the eastern end of Greenhills Beach, extends 100 metres perpendicularly to the reef at Merries Reef and Pimweli Rocks, and then extends east to three green ‘Sydney Water’ vents at Potter Point.

It is prohibited to collect cunjevoi or any other marine invertebrates, except for abalone, lobster, sea lettuce and bait weed. Line fishing and spearfishing are allowed, subject to other NSW fishing rules and regulations.

SITE OBJECTIVES

The primary objective for the proposed Boat Harbour site is to:

- enhance the conservation of marine biodiversity.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES

Boat Harbour is a relatively isolated location in the context of the Sydney region. The current reserve encompasses Pimweli Rocks and part of Merries Reef. It contains a beach and sandstone shoreline and other important marine habitats including boulder and subtidal reefs and soft sediments. The rocky shore provides a feeding ground for shorebirds, including threatened shorebird species such as sooty oystercatcher (*Haematopus fuliginosus*) and migratory waders.

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

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 43.

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT RULES

The proposed site maintains the existing boundaries and management arrangements of the current reserve with these rules applied to a 65 hectare special purpose zone (Figure 29).

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Boat Harbour was identified as a site with high environmental values, in particular by peak conservation stakeholders – the National Parks Association of NSW and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW. The Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society made note of the significance of Boat Harbour as a nesting, roosting and feeding site for migratory shorebirds.

The Recreational Fishing Alliance and others listed Boat Harbour as an important site for spearfishers because it provides easy access and protection from north-east winds.

Table 43. Threats and expected benefits


















	Environmental		Social, cultural, economic
Threats	 Recreational fishing		 Reduction in species
Benefits	 Rocky shores	 Species protected under BCA	 Biodiversity
			 Enjoyment (biodiversity & beauty)

Table 44. Current activities and suggested permissible activities in the proposed Boat Harbour site

Boat Harbour											
Current aquatic reserve	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓
Proposed special purpose zone	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓

- 1 Except for sea lettuce and bait weed
- 2 Subject to existing NSW commercial fishing rules and regulations

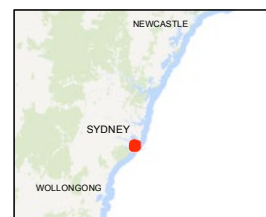
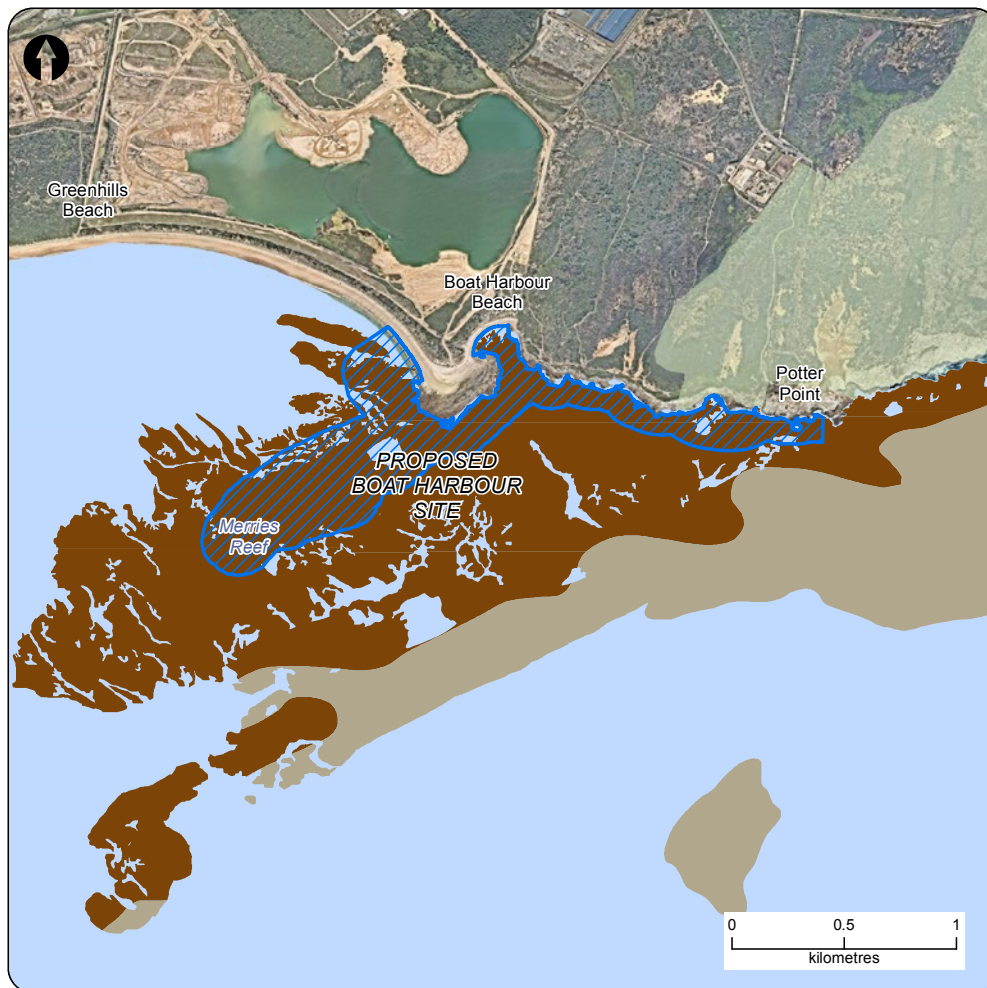


Figure 29. Proposed Boat Harbour site