



NSW NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Bouddi National Park

Plan of Management



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How to use this plan

This plan of management directs the management of Bouddi National Park (including the Bouddi Marine Extension). This plan includes a scheme of operations consistent with section 72AA of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Once the plan is adopted, no management operations can be undertaken that are not consistent with the plan and its scheme of operations. This plan will also apply to any future additions to Bouddi National Park.

Sections 1 to 6 of the plan summarise the park's key values, management principles and management considerations. These matters are outlined thoroughly in the [Bouddi National Park Planning Considerations](#).

It is recommended that readers of the plan refer to the planning considerations document for detailed explanations of the park's values and management considerations.

The scheme of operations, in Section 7, is the core part of this plan. It describes the desired outcomes for the park's values and actions that National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) proposes to undertake to achieve these outcomes.

The park use regulations tables set out the recreational and commercial activities that are permitted in the park and any requirements to undertake these activities, including whether consent must be sought from the National Parks and Wildlife Service to undertake them.

Acknowledgments

National Parks and Wildlife Service acknowledges that Bouddi National Park is in the traditional Country of the Darkinjung People.

This plan of management was prepared by staff of NPWS, part of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, in consultation with the Central Coast Hunter Regional Advisory Committee.

Contact us

For more information or any inquiries about this document or Bouddi National Park, contact the NPWS Gosford Area Office, Girrakool or by telephone on (02) 4320 4200.

Welcome to Country

Aboriginal people have a long connection with the area now known as Bouddi National Park. The park and the surrounding sea and land is the traditional Country of the Darkinjung Aboriginal People. Despite the impacts of colonisation and dispossession, this connection has endured, with Aboriginal people maintaining a vibrant and active association with the park. Cultural knowledge about this place is held and safeguarded by Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal communities have an association with and connection to the land. Aboriginal communities associate the land and its natural resources with the use and enjoyment of foods and medicines, caring for Country, passing on cultural knowledge, kinship systems and strengthening social bonds. Aboriginal heritage and connection to the natural environment are inseparable from each other and need to be managed in a holistic manner across the landscape.

Connections to Country and the significance of Bouddi National Park to Aboriginal peoples, past, present and future, are acknowledged and respected.

The role of Aboriginal people in identifying traditional connections and custodians for this place is acknowledged and supported.



Photo 1 Grinding grooves, Daleys Point. DPIE

Bouddi National Park Plan of Management

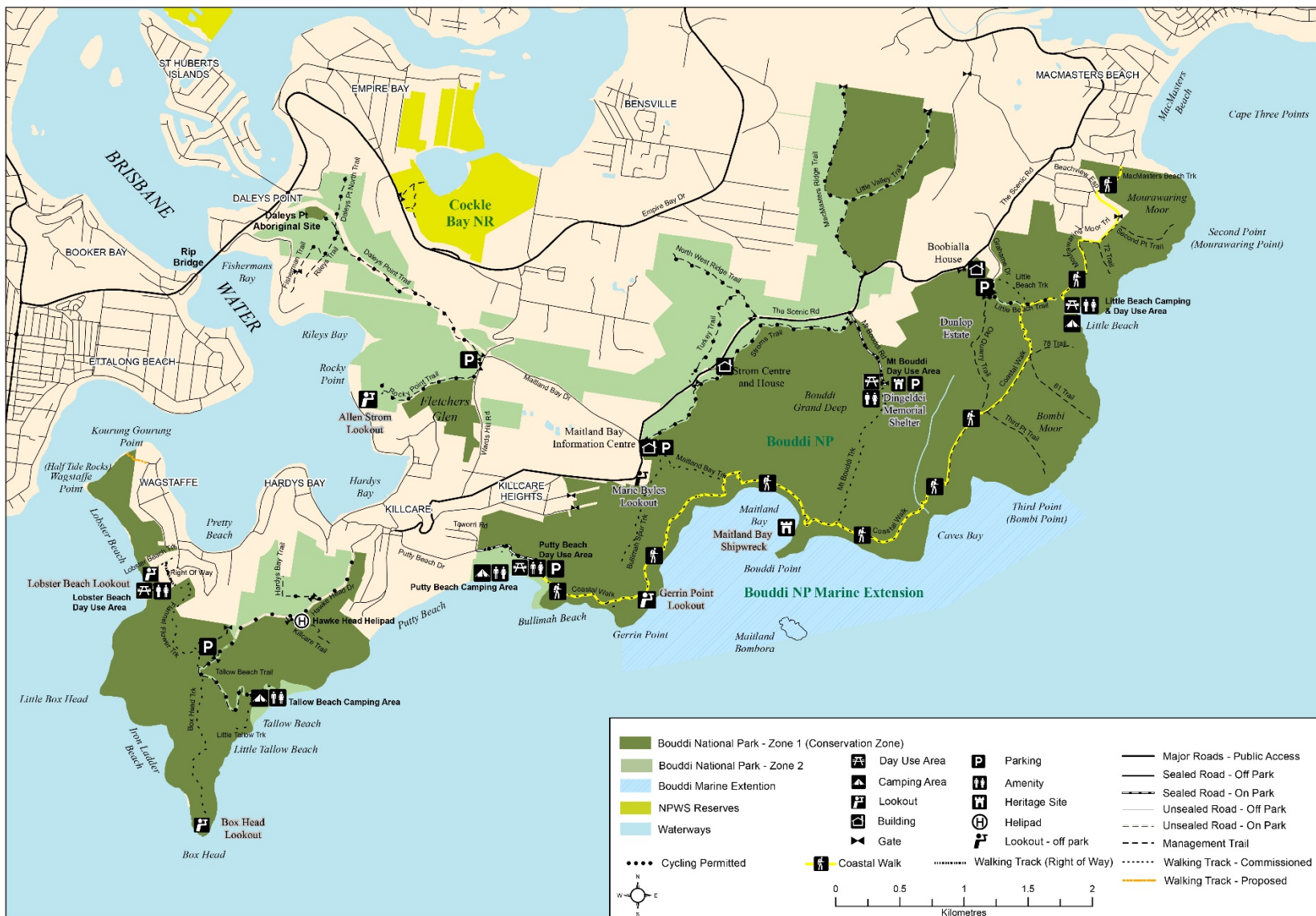


Figure 1 Map of Bouddi National Park

1. Bouddi National Park

The park is located on the NSW Central Coast, 20 kilometres south-east of Gosford (see Figure 1). It covers a large portion of the Bouddi Peninsula from Wagstaffe in the west to MacMasters Beach in the north-east.

1.1 Why this park is important

Scenic coastal landforms and features

Bouddi National Park forms the northern scenic gateway to Broken Bay, with visual links to other national parks along the Hawkesbury River and locally significant landscape features, including Box Head, Maitland Bay, Bombi Point and Mourawaring Point. It includes diverse landscapes and vegetation, including beaches and steep cliffs, rainforest and heathland. The coastline in Bouddi National Park has spectacular headlands, rock platforms, bays, beaches, barrier dunes and lagoons. The relatively natural catchments at Maitland Bay, Rileys Bay and Tallow Beach are rare in the Sydney and Central Coast regions.

Unique marine area

Bouddi National Park contains representative examples of marine ecosystems and habitats of the NSW Central Coast protected in the Bouddi Marine Extension. Bouddi is the only national park in New South Wales that includes marine ocean environments.

Diverse and significant plants and animals

The park has a high diversity of vegetation communities and native species, currently including eight threatened ecological communities, five threatened plant species and 34 threatened animal species.

Important Aboriginal cultural landscapes

The Central Coast is the traditional Country of the Darkinjung Aboriginal People. More than 70 Aboriginal sites containing more than 200 objects have been recorded in the park and nearby areas. Bouddi is the local Aboriginal name for the eastern headland of Maitland Bay.

Significant shared history and features

The park contains locally significant heritage sites associated with early settlement and land use, including the community's involvement in the park's formation. The remains of the *Maitland*, a paddle steamer wrecked in 1898, the Bombi Point World War II radar emplacement and the Maitland Bay Store (known as Maitland Bay Information Centre) are located in the park. The *Maitland* is listed on the *Australasian Underwater Cultural Heritage Database*. Bouddi Marine Extension is one of the oldest marine protected areas in Australia.

Significant interest to the local community

Volunteers from the local community make a valuable contribution towards the management of Bouddi National Park, undertaking bushland regeneration, staffing the information centre and sharing local information and knowledge.

Significant nature-based attractions and educational values

There are significant nature-based tourism and recreational opportunities in Bouddi National Park including camping, fishing, beach activities, bushwalking, mountain bike riding, birdwatching, photography and nature study. There are excellent bushwalking opportunities, including the iconic Bouddi Coastal Walk. There are about 1.1 million visits to the park each year. Due to the park's proximity to Sydney it is likely this number will continue to grow.

The Strom Centre and Maitland Bay Information Centre provide research, educational and interpretive opportunities. The diversity of natural and cultural values in the park provide opportunities for field-based research, outdoor learning experiences and community education, including marine research and education opportunities provided by the Bouddi Marine Extension, the intertidal zone and estuarine wetlands.

1.2 Management principles

Development of the objectives, actions and regulations in this plan has been directed by the management principles outlined in the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The National Parks and Wildlife Act requires that a national park be managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem function, protect geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value
- protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations
- promote public appreciation and understanding of the national park's natural and cultural values
- provide for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with the conservation of the national park's natural and cultural values
- having regard to the conservation of the national park's natural and cultural values:
 - provide for the sustainable use (including adaptive re-use) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas
 - provide for the carrying out of development in any part of a special area (within the meaning of the *Hunter Water Act 1991*) in the national park that is permitted under section 185A
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

Table 1 The park and its regional setting

Features	Description
Location	The park is located on the NSW Central Coast, 20 kilometres south-east of Gosford (see Figure 1). It covers a large portion of the Bouddi Peninsula from Wagstaffe in the west to MacMasters Beach in the north-east.
Adjacent residential areas	The park is adjacent to low-density residential developments and small semi-rural holdings in the MacMasters Beach, Empire Bay, Bensville, Killcare Heights, Killcare, Hardys Bay, Pretty Beach, Wagstaffe and Daleys Point areas.
Area	The park is 1532 hectares.
Description	<p>The park includes 18.5 kilometres of coastline and estuarine foreshore, including the intertidal zone down to mean low water mark.</p> <p>It also includes 287 hectares of ocean floor and overlying offshore waters between Gerrin Point and Third (Bombi) Point, including the Maitland Bombora. This area is known as the 'Bouddi Marine Extension'.</p> <p>The park contains several locally significant topographic points including Maitland Bay, Box Head, Second (Mourawaring) Point and Third (Bombi) Point. Together with First (Copacabana) Point (which is to the north-east of the park), Second and Third points are collectively called Cape Three Points.</p>
Reservation dates	<p>There have been over 40 additions to the park since its first gazettal as a national park in 1967, ranging from less than 1 hectare to just over 300 hectares, with the most recent addition being made in 2006. Major additions in different years include:</p> <p>1935 263 hectares gazetted as Bouddi Natural Park under the <i>Crown Lands Consolidation Act 1913</i></p> <p>1967 Bouddi Natural Park and additions became Bouddi State Park under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1967</i></p> <p>1971 addition of the Bouddi Marine Extension</p> <p>1975 renamed to Bouddi National Park under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i></p> <p>2002 addition of the intertidal zone</p> <p>2003 additions including land from Central Coast Council's Coastal Open Space System.</p>
Biogeographic region	<p>The terrestrial portion of the park is in the Sydney Basin Bioregion on the coastal fall of the Hornsby Plateau. The Bouddi Marine Extension lies in the Hawkesbury Shelf Bioregion.</p> <p>The park is part of a system of sandstone reserves protecting a representative sample of coastal landscapes including steep coastal cliffs interspersed with small sandy beaches, barrier dune systems and rock platforms. The coastal fall is characterised by rolling to steep hills and sandstone plateau outliers.</p>
Previous tenure	Prior to the various reservations the park was a combination of freehold and Crown land.
Other authorities	<p>Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council, Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Central Coast Council.</p> <p>NPWS management of the marine areas in the park is shared with relevant regulatory authorities — at the time of publication these were the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries and NSW Maritime (a division of the NSW Roads and Maritime Services).</p>

2. Protecting the natural environment

Bouddi National Park is located within the north-east part of the Sydney Basin Bioregion, on the coastal fall of the Hornsby Plateau. The coastal fall is characterised by rolling to steep hills and sandstone plateau outliers. The park contains several locally significant topographic points including Maitland Bay, Box Head, Second (Mourawaring) Point and Third (Bombi) Point. Together with First (Copacabana) Point (to the east of the park), Second and Third points are called Cape Three Points.

Two main sedimentary rock units dominate the surface geology of the park: the Triassic Narrabeen Group and the Middle Triassic Hawkesbury Sandstone. Shale lenses in sandstone found in the Terrigal formation contain fossils of plants, fish and amphibians. The park's landscape is also characterised by interesting coastal landform features, including the stratigraphy of Killcare Headland, tessellated or tile-like pavements, honeycomb weathering and circular mineral patterns (known as Liesegang rings). Examples of these features can be found along the Bouddi Coastal Walk.

Bouddi National Park protects several small catchments each with intermittent watercourses, and two semi-permanent coastal lagoons at Putty Beach and Maitland Bay. The seabed adjoining the oceanic coastline of Bouddi National Park is dominated by a rocky reef system, which is shallow and continuous to the shore and extends at least one kilometre offshore. This reef includes the Maitland Bombora (also known as Eastern Reef).

The vegetation of the park includes a variety of structural forms including saltmarsh, grassland, heath, woodland, shrubland, rainforest and open and closed forest communities. Of the vegetation communities found in the park, eight have been identified as threatened ecological communities under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. A further two communities are regionally significant. Five threatened plants have been recorded in the park, including the tranquility mint-bush, which has a key management site in the park under the *Saving our Species* program.



Photo 2 Wallum banksia. DPIE

The dominant vegetation communities are Narrabeen Coastal Blackbutt Forest and Coastal Narrabeen Moist Forest. There are also relatively large areas of Coastal Headland Shrubland, Coastal Sand Wallum – Heath and Coastal Headland Low Forest. Small patches of estuarine vegetation are found on alluvial mudflats, including mangroves, saltmarsh, rushland and swamp oak forest. The larger beaches are backed by simple sand dune systems with spinifex, prostrate wattle and honeysuckle banksia.

Bouddi National Park protects important coastal habitats for native animals on the NSW Central Coast. The diversity of habitats in the park supports populations of over 200 native vertebrate species including over 100 bird species and nearly 50 mammal species. Thirty-four species listed as threatened under the Biodiversity Conservation Act occur in the park.

The Bouddi Marine Extension protects a diversity of ecosystems and habitats, including algae-dominated fringe habitats, rocky reefs of urchin-grazed sand barrens, sponge-dominated reefs and kelp forests. It supports a diversity of marine plants and animals including whales, seals and turtles, threatened birds and migratory waders and a wide diversity of reef fish species.

Although a wide variety of weeds are found throughout the park, the main weed infestations are asparagus ferns, bitou bush, lantana, bridal creeper, camphor laurel, cassia, privets, blackberry, crofton weed, morning glory and honeysuckle.

An emerging weed for the park is sea spurge, which has been found at Maitland Bay and Putty Beach in small numbers and is a priority weed under the *Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan*. Other significant environmental weeds within the park include ochna, turkey rhubarb and black-eyed susan.

Myrtle rust is a plant disease caused by the fungus *Austropuccinia psidii* which is now widely distributed within the Central Coast Local Government Area and considered a threat to biological values in the park. Scrub turpentine is the only Myrtaceae species currently affected in the park and observations indicate that myrtle rust is killing the majority of known stands.

Available data suggests the red fox is a significant pest animal in the park. Several other vertebrate pest species also occur. These include deer, cats, goats, rabbits, black rats, house mice, common mynas, mallards, spotted turtle-doves, pigeons and common starlings. Pest species and priority programs for the park are identified in relevant pest management strategies.

Fires, particularly extensive wildfires, are a particular risk for the park. Several gullies within the park (Bouddi Grand Deep, Fletchers Glen, Iron Ladder catchment, and eastern aspects along MacMasters Ridge) support significant areas of Lowland Rainforest Endangered Ecological Community. Fire management is directed by the park fire management strategy.

The projected increases in temperature, number of hot days and severe fire weather days as a consequence of climate change are likely to influence bushfire frequency and intensity across the Hunter Central Coast. Coastal erosion and hazards are also likely to increase. Potential consequences within the park include damage to infrastructure in low-lying areas at Putty Beach and Little Beach and erosion and slumping at Lobster Beach. Species most at risk are those unable to migrate or adapt, particularly those with small population sizes or with slow growth rates. Low-lying coastal ecosystems and fragmented ecosystems are at highest risk. Programs to reduce the pressures arising from other threats, such as habitat fragmentation, invasive species, bushfires and pollution, will help reduce the severity of the effects of climate change.

The diversity of the natural and cultural values of the park provides excellent opportunities for field-based research. The majority of past studies have focussed on the ecology, status and distribution of plant and animal species and communities, Aboriginal sites and water quality. More recently, studies have concentrated on biodiversity and the impact of

threatening processes (such as fire, weeds and pest animals), with greater emphasis on management responses.



Photo 3 Overlooking Tallow Beach, with Putty Beach in the distance

3. Looking after our culture and heritage

The Central Coast is the traditional Country of the Darkinjung Aboriginal People.

Bouddi is the Aboriginal name for the eastern headland of Maitland Bay and has become synonymous with the park and surrounding area. The origin of the word is uncertain and has multiple possible meanings including ‘nose’, ‘the heart’ and ‘water breaking over rocks’. Other Aboriginal place names used in the area include Bombi Trig, Bullimah, Gerrin Point, Kourung Gourung Point and Mourawaring Head (a variant name for Second Point).

Over 70 Aboriginal sites containing more than 200 objects have been recorded in the park and nearby areas, and other sites are certain to exist. Aboriginal occupation is evident in the form of open middens and camp sites, rock engravings, grinding grooves, rock shelters with art (charcoal and pigment drawings, stencils and paintings) and other archaeological deposits. Figures commonly depicted in the art include humans, marine animals, kangaroos and wallabies.

The Hardys Bay, Pretty Beach, Rileys Bay and Fishermans Bay catchments, which face Brisbane Water, have the highest concentration of Aboriginal sites in the park. Evidence of Aboriginal use of estuarine and open coastal environments is reflected in the different species of shellfish found in middens. The Aboriginal site at Daleys Point is particularly important as it provides concentrated evidence of long-term Aboriginal occupation. Vandalism of Aboriginal sites has occurred in the park. Sites are also subject to natural erosion and the unintentional impacts of human activity. Site maintenance and protection measures, including interpretation, education, and access barriers have been implemented.

NPWS maintains close liaison with the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council regarding the ongoing management and interpretation of Aboriginal values of the park.

The establishment of Bouddi National Park resulted from efforts of local bushwalkers, environmentalists and community conservation groups. Several features of the park reference this community conservation involvement, including Allen Strom Lookout and Strom's property (bequeathed to NPWS by Beryl Strom), Dingeldei Memorial Shelter (built by local bushwalkers) and Marie Byles Lookout (just outside the park's boundary).

There are more than 10 historic sites or elements within the park, of which three have been assessed as being locally significant because they demonstrate a strong connection to early settlement and land-use practices of the area. Others are likely to have potential heritage significance. Historic sites in the park include a World War II site, a number of houses, the remains of fishing shacks, sawmills and other items associated with sand mining.

The Broken Bay area has historically witnessed more than 70 shipwrecks. The park contains the remains of the paddle steamer *Maitland* and may also contain other relics and shipwreck remains, including those of the *Argument*, *Heath* and *Narooma*. The *Maitland* foundered off Bouddi Point in 1898, resulting in the loss of 26 lives. Nine of the victims were buried locally in the shipwreck cemetery at Booker Bay, west of the park. Remnants of the ship lie on the seabed, while sections of iron plating lie on the exposed rock platform at Bouddi Point. The ship's bell was recovered and is exhibited in the Henry Kendall Cottage Museum at West Gosford. A replica of the bell is on display outside the Maitland Bay Information Centre.

4. Providing for visitor use and enjoyment

The park use regulations tables in Section 7 set out the recreational and commercial activities that are permitted in the park and any requirements to undertake these activities.

The diverse natural and cultural values of the park provide excellent opportunities for community education and interpretation. Visitor information and interpretation facilities are provided at the NPWS Central Coast Area Office at Girrakool and at the Maitland Bay Information Centre in the park. Interpretative displays are located throughout the park at popular day use areas, camping areas, track heads and other key destinations. Guided walks, talks and outdoor activities are provided through the NPWS Discovery program and licensed operators. The park and the Maitland Bay Information Centre are also used for school activities.

Bouddi National Park plays an important role in the provision of nature-based tourism and recreational opportunities at a local and regional level. A diverse range of recreational activities are undertaken throughout the park including camping, picnicking, sightseeing, bushwalking, birdwatching, bike riding, land-based whale watching and fishing. Recreational fishing is permitted in some parts of the park, however, no recreational fishing is allowed within the Marine Extension. The Bouddi Marine Extension offers visitors the opportunity to go swimming, surfing, diving and snorkelling. Visitor facilities in the park include the Maitland Bay Information Centre, three camping areas, four-day use areas, walking tracks and lookouts (see Figure 1).

There are a number of walking tracks in the park of varying lengths and difficulties, from short walks to secluded beaches and lookouts to the eight-kilometre Bouddi Coastal Walk offering spectacular scenery along the coast from Putty Beach to MacMasters Beach. There are four designated day use areas with facilities such as picnic tables, toilets and barbecues. Other sites in the park, such as Maitland Bay, are popular day destinations but have no facilities. Many vantage points in the park offer views along the coast and there are a number of formal lookouts in the park. There are three designated camping areas that provide basic facilities.



Photo 4 Bouddi Coastal Walk. John Yurasek

Cycling is a popular recreational activity in the area. The park offers routes suitable for beginners and intermediate riders on several trails, including Rocky Point and Stroms trails. Cycling is also permitted on MacMasters Ridge Trail. Mountain biking is growing in popularity and the construction of a network of illegal mountain bike tracks over recent years is an emerging issue for the park. It is proposed that mountain biking opportunities in the park will be assessed in Zone 2 (see Figure 1) and, if appropriate, developed through a separate mountain bike plan. NPWS will engage with the mountain biking community to develop sustainable mountain biking opportunities. The development of mountain bike tracks will be subject to environmental impact assessment (under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*), compliance with NPWS policies and public consultation. Mountain biking opportunities will not be considered within Zone 1 (Conservation Zone) shown in Figure 1. The Conservation Zone encompasses areas important for the protection of fragile vegetation communities, soils and cultural values in the park.

Rock climbing and abseiling will be allowed, with NPWS consent required for groups greater than eight people. Impacts of rock climbing will be monitored in fragile areas and climbing will be managed by a recognised code of conduct. NPWS may also impose other restrictions, exclusions or closures to manage environmental, visitor experience and safety issues. It is not appropriate for NPWS to install or certify rock bolts. Participants in these activities will need to ensure the safety of fixed anchor points prior to use. NPWS will ensure there is not a proliferation of bolts in the park and, in consultation with climbing representative groups, may remove those that have an unacceptable impact or are no longer required.

There are a number of organised group activities that occur in the park including those that are subject to consents or licensing. Family and social gatherings and school tours occur in the park. Commercial recreation activities currently include guided nature tours, wildlife watching, filming and photographic expeditions and sporting events (e.g. running events). Wedding ceremonies are held in the park, as are public events such as fun runs and non-commercial organised (e.g. club-based) events.

Volunteers make a valuable contribution towards the management of Bouddi National Park. The Mourawaring Moor, Lobster Beach and Wagstaffe bush regeneration groups and the Bouddi Bushcare group meet regularly at sites throughout the park, including Maitland Bay, Rileys Bay and Tallow Beach.

The Maitland Bay Information Centre is staffed solely by volunteers with the centre being open to the public on weekends and public holidays.

5. Park infrastructure and services

Supporting infrastructure within the park includes a small works depot, the Maitland Bay Information Centre, the Strom Centre, Strom's House and Boobiella House, a helipad and a manual weather station. Park management is also supported through park boundary and regulatory signage. The boundaries of the Bouddi Marine Extension are not identified in situ with boundary markers or buoys.

A network of management trails provides management access across the terrestrial part of the park. In accordance with NPWS policy, vehicle use of these trails is only available for purposes authorised by NPWS. A reserve access strategy has been prepared to inform strategic and operational planning and decisions about access to the park. A right of way is in place to provide vehicle access to the Flannel Flower Walking Track for track maintenance works. Arrangements for the maintenance of a number of public access roads jointly managed with Central Coast Council need to be formalised.

NPWS management of the marine areas in the park (i.e. the Bouddi Marine Extension and the intertidal zone) is shared with relevant regulatory authorities — DPI Fisheries and NSW Maritime (a division of the NSW Roads and Maritime Services). The management of fishing in these waters (and the enforcement of the prohibition on fishing in the Bouddi Marine Extension) is the responsibility of DPI Fisheries, while recreational boating is the responsibility of NSW Maritime.

6. Non-park infrastructure and services

Many NSW national parks contain infrastructure and other assets owned and operated by other organisations or individuals that are not essential for park management. This includes public utility infrastructure (e.g. pipelines and transmission lines) and a range of other uses. NPWS maintains a public register of leases, easements and rights of way. In Bouddi National Park there are a number of sewer main easements maintained by Central Coast Council, powerlines managed by Ausgrid and three trigonometric stations managed by NSW Spatial Services.

Commercial beach-hauling occurs along Putty Beach, including within the park. Commercial beach-hauling is an activity regulated under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* and managed by DPI. An NPWS commercial fishing vehicle access permit is required for all commercial fishers accessing Putty Beach by vehicle.

7. Scheme of operations

The **implementation** of actions set out below may be subject to environmental assessments and approvals as required by NSW and Commonwealth legislation. Further community consultation on the proposed actions may be undertaken as part of these processes.

A **priority** has been assigned to each action to guide the allocation of resources and timely delivery, and to aid in measuring performance. Some actions require ongoing effort. The indicative timeframes for achievement are:

- Priority 1 – within 3 years
- Priority 2 – within 5 years
- Priority 3 – within 10 years
- Ongoing.

NPWS' performance in meeting the **outcomes** in the scheme of operations will be measured through the periodic assessments undertaken in the NSW State of the Parks program. Performance in delivering the **actions** in the scheme of operations will be measured through regular audits of plans of management.

The scheme of operations sets strategic goals that may include the development and delivery of subsidiary plans. Subsidiary plans enable adaptive responses to new information or changed circumstances, such as for pests, weeds, fire and recreational activities, as required by NPWS policy. Assessments of performance and review will be used to inform adaptive management in these subsidiary plans as well as any required adjustments and improvements to future plans of management for the park.

The implementation of actions set out below may be subject to statutory responsibilities under the National Parks and Wildlife Act and other relevant state and Commonwealth legislation, including environmental impact assessments and approvals. Further community consultation on the proposed actions may be undertaken as part of these processes.

Information on popular recreational or commercial activities that are permitted in the park is provided in the park use regulations tables below. More detailed information on other activities is available on the [NPWS website](#).

Objectives	Actions	Priority
Landscape setting		
The landscape and scenic values of the park are protected, and the park is recognised as a locally significant coastal landscape feature. The negative impacts of isolation and fragmentation are reduced.	1. Maintain cooperative arrangements with nearby landholders regarding access, fire and pest species management.	Ongoing
	2. Encourage protection and enhancement of native vegetation on public and private lands in the vicinity of the park, through off-park initiatives such as conservation agreements and Central Coast Council's Coastal Open Space System.	Ongoing
Protecting the natural environment – Geology and landforms		
The negative impacts of disturbance are stable or diminishing.	3. Monitor areas of past disturbance and rehabilitate as required.	Ongoing
	4. Utilise best practice techniques for the construction and maintenance of roads, trails and tracks to minimise soil erosion and siltation of watercourses.	Ongoing
The scenic values of the park are protected, and the environmental condition of park waterways is maintained or improved.	5. Liaise with other authorities and the community to minimise the impacts of adjacent land use and developments on the scenic values and water quality of the park.	Ongoing
	6. Monitor existing toilet facilities and upgrade with environmentally acceptable sewage systems as required.	Ongoing

Objectives	Actions	Priority
Protecting the natural environment – Plants and animals		
The structural and habitat diversity of vegetation communities is maintained and negative impacts on threatened and significant species and communities are stable or diminishing.	7. Implement measures to minimise the impacts of trampling on fragile open clay heath communities. This may include formalising walking tracks and/or installing protective fencing in headland areas.	Ongoing
	8. Relevant strategies in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Program, Saving our Species</i> program and recovery plans for threatened species and ecological communities are implemented in the park.	2
	9. Develop, implement and review the protection measures in place for threatened species and their habitat for all maintenance programs, fire management and other management operations in the park to ensure effective protection.	Ongoing
	10. Investigate whether the Coastal Sand Wallum – Heath and Killcare Hawkesbury Woodland in the park are part of declared threatened ecological communities.	2
	11. Maintain the existing fishing closure in the Bouddi Marine Extension with the relevant regulatory authority.	1
	12. Seek to more effectively manage the coastal areas of the park, including the Bouddi Marine Extension and the issues of illegal fishing and recreational boating activities in consultation with relevant regulatory authorities.	Ongoing
Negative impacts of pest plants and animals on park values are minimised. Pest plants and animals are controlled and where possible eliminated. Dieback caused by myrtle rust is minimised.	13. Manage pest species and pathogens in accordance with the relevant pest management strategies.	Ongoing
	14. When reviewing NPWS weed and pest strategies, priority will be given to continuing long-term programs targeting bitou bush, lantana, asparagus fern and foxes. Site-specific management plans will be prepared and implemented as required.	1
	15. Seek the cooperation of neighbours, Central Coast Council and Greater Sydney Local Land Services in implementing weed and pest control programs.	Ongoing
	16. Continue to manage and support volunteer bush regeneration groups working in the park through supervision, coordination, training, promotion and provision of equipment.	Ongoing
	17. Report sightings of the marine alga <i>Caulerpa taxifolia</i> to the NSW Department of Primary Industries.	Ongoing
	18. Monitor the effectiveness of pest control and occurrences of priority and significant	2

Objectives	Actions	Priority
	environmental weeds and their impacts in accordance with program requirements.	
<p>Negative impacts of fire on life, property and the environment and the potential for spread of bushfires on, from or into the park are minimised.</p> <p>Fire regimes are appropriate for conservation of native plant and animal communities.</p>	19. Implement the Bouddi National Park and Cockle Bay Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy and update as required.	Ongoing
	20. Rehabilitate areas disturbed by fire suppression operations as soon as practical after the fire.	Ongoing
	21. Continue participation on the Central Coast Bush Fire Management Committee including development of bush fire risk management plans.	Ongoing
	22. Maintain cooperative arrangements with local Rural Fire Service brigades, other fire authorities and surrounding landowners regarding fuel management and fire suppression.	Ongoing
<p>The effects of climate change on natural systems are reduced.</p>	23. Continue existing fire, pest and weed management programs and adapt where required to minimise climate change-induced threats.	Ongoing
	24. Monitor low-lying areas, natural and historic values and infrastructure for impacts from erosion and inundation due to sea level rise, and implement measures to minimise impacts where needed.	3
<p>Research informs management of the natural and cultural values of the park, including in the Bouddi Marine Extension, and visitor use.</p> <p>Fire management is informed by research.</p>	25. Encourage and support research into the distribution, ecology and impact of threatening processes on native species and communities, with priority given to threatened species.	Ongoing
	26. Encourage research and monitoring to provide baseline information on the marine environment, to monitor changes and inform management strategies.	Ongoing
	27. Support research into local history, including maritime history.	Ongoing
	28. Encourage research into appropriate indicators to monitor the effects of climate change in the park, including the Bouddi Marine Extension.	Ongoing
	29. Encourage monitoring and research into the effects of fire on the natural and cultural values of the park and review regimes where necessary.	Ongoing
	30. Encourage research into visitor use patterns, requirements and expectations.	Ongoing
<p>Looking after our culture and heritage – Aboriginal culture and heritage</p>		
<p>Protect and celebrate our Aboriginal and shared histories and ensure ongoing connections to Country for Aboriginal people.</p> <p>Aboriginal people are involved in management of the Aboriginal cultural values of the park, caring for Country and in building connections to Country.</p>	31. Consult and involve the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council and other relevant Aboriginal community organisations in the management of Aboriginal sites and values.	Ongoing
	32. The local Aboriginal community is supported to access Country to maintain, renew or develop cultural connections and practices. NPWS	Ongoing

Objectives	Actions	Priority
	supports non-commercial cultural use of wild resources, such as medicinal plants and bush tucker, subject to NPWS policies and licensing.	
Aboriginal sites and values are identified and protected.	33. Implement the monitoring and maintenance program for key sites.	Ongoing
	34. Undertake the cultural assessments required by law and policy prior to allowing activities in the park with the potential to impact Aboriginal sites and places.	Ongoing
Aboriginal heritage information is obtained, stored, accessed and used in culturally appropriate ways.	35. Update and record information on known Aboriginal cultural landscapes, sites and objects, including new sites, in collaboration with representatives of the Aboriginal community.	Ongoing
Aboriginal people are involved in interpretation and presentation of Aboriginal cultural values in the park. Interpretation of Aboriginal sites and values promotes cultural awareness and assists in protection of sites.	36. Interpret and present Aboriginal sites in consultation with the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council.	Ongoing
	37. Maintain interpretation material to promote understanding, appreciation, cultural awareness and appropriate use of the park (in particular, use of Daleys Point Aboriginal Site).	Ongoing
	38. Prepare and implement a conservation plan for Daleys Point Aboriginal Site and other high visitation sites to enhance visitor experience and protect the site.	1
Looking after our culture and heritage – Shared cultural heritage		
Significant historic features are appropriately conserved, managed and recorded.	39. Undertake an archaeological survey and cultural assessment before undertaking any works with the potential to impact historic sites and places.	Ongoing
	40. Undertake heritage assessments and record and update information on historic places and objects. Should an item be found to be of significance, prepare and implement a conservation management plan or heritage action statement to guide future management, including monitoring and maintenance.	2
	41. Implement the heritage guidelines for Strom's property and Maitland Bay Store (the information centre).	3
	42. If required prior to the heritage value being assessed, undertake emergency conservation works in accordance with DPIE heritage policies and procedures.	Ongoing
Cultural and historical values of introduced plants in the park are identified and managed.	43. Retain non-invasive plants linked to early settlement at Maitland Bay Store (the information centre), Strom's House and Lobster Beach where appropriate.	3
Providing for visitor use and enjoyment		
Visitor use is appropriate and ecologically sustainable, and	44. Provide a range of recreational opportunities at appropriate locations in the park as identified in	Ongoing

Objectives	Actions	Priority
visitors enjoy the park experience.	Table 2. Visitors must comply with park use regulations, relevant codes of practice and NPWS policies; and compliance will be undertaken as required.	
	45. Monitor visitor behaviour and implement night closures at Putty Beach and Mount Bouddi day use areas as required to reduce anti-social behaviour.	3
	46. Continue to liaise with relevant regulatory authorities as required to address issues of visitor safety and amenity regarding use of jet skis at Tallow and Lobster beaches and other coastal areas of the park.	Ongoing
	47. Allow rock climbing and abseiling in the park, managed according to a recognised climbing code of practice and monitor impacts and enforce closures in areas where it is impacting park values.	1
Park facilities, including park roads, management trails and walking tracks, are adequately maintained and meet visitor expectations.	48. Maintain park roads for public vehicle access as shown on Figure 1. Roads in the park may be closed where necessary (e.g. after extended wet weather) to ensure public safety and to protect park values.	Ongoing
	49. Continue to liaise with Central Coast Council concerning the maintenance of public roads that access the park and are under their management. Install directional signage as required.	Ongoing
	50. Maintain all walking tracks (including the proposed track to Half Tide Rocks) as shown on Figure 1 to a Grade 3 standard ¹ . Upgrade sections of walking track to ensure consistent grading of tracks in the park.	2
	51. Manage the section of Flannel Flower Walking Track across the Pretty Beach right of way in cooperation with property owners.	2
	52. Manage and maintain designated camping areas identified in Table 2 and shown on Figure 1.	Ongoing
	53. Manage and maintain designated day use areas at Putty Beach, Mount Bouddi (Dingeldei), Little Beach and Lobster Beach as shown on Figure 1.	Ongoing
	54. Retain the wood fireplaces at Dingeldei Memorial Shelter and Mount Bouddi Day Use Area for their historic heritage values. Not to be operated as fireplaces.	3
	55. Continue to provide cycling opportunities on the park roads and management trails shown on Figure 1 as 'cycling permitted'.	Ongoing
	56. Investigate options for the provision of sustainable mountain biking opportunities in Zone 2 of the park (see Figure 1). The assessment of proposed tracks will consider ecological	1

Objectives	Actions	Priority
	sustainability, appropriateness of the location, competing visitor demands, visitor safety, and the availability of resources to provide and maintain the experience. Mountain biking opportunities will only be considered outside of the Conservation Zone shown on Figure 1.	
	57. Subject to the investigation (action 56), develop and implement a mountain biking plan in consultation with the community. The mountain bike plan will be subject to public consultation before implementation and any works will be subject to environmental impact assessment and approvals in accordance with relevant laws, policies and guidelines.	2
	58. Close trails to cycling on a temporary or permanent basis if unacceptable impacts are occurring.	2
Volunteers feel supported and are adequately resourced, trained and managed.	59. Support volunteers providing visitor information at Maitland Bay Information Centre. Provide training, supervision and resources to support the effective engagement of volunteers.	Ongoing
Visitors understand and appreciate the park's values including geological values, native plants and animals, cultural heritage and marine diversity.	60. Encourage, develop and deliver guided tours in the park through Discovery programs or licensed commercial operators.	Ongoing
	61. Allow commercial tour operators to have access to the park, subject to consent and licensing by NPWS. Where required by NPWS, evidence of prior consultation and engagement with local Aboriginal people must be submitted for proposals intending to present detailed information about Aboriginal cultural heritage in the park.	Ongoing
	62. Interpret the geological values of the park through interpretative material and Discovery program activities.	2
	63. Ensure park information is up-to-date, readily accessible to visitors and outlines restrictions on use.	Ongoing
	64. Provide and maintain interpretative displays at strategic sites throughout the park.	Ongoing
	65. Promote native plant values and minimum impact recreation protocols through interpretation material and the Discovery program.	3
	66. Include information regarding the location, values and appropriate recreational uses of Bouddi Marine Extension, and boating and fishing educational material, in the terrestrial part of the park.	3
NPWS infrastructure and services		
Management facilities adequately service management	67. Maintain a system of management trails for authorised management purposes, as shown on	Ongoing

Objectives	Actions	Priority
needs and have minimal environmental impacts on park values.	Figure 1. Install and maintain signs and gates as required to prevent unauthorised vehicle use.	
	68. Implement actions identified in the reserve access strategy, including negotiating access agreements if necessary, to ensure secure practical access to the park.	3
	69. Negotiate maintenance agreements with Central Coast Council for the management of Hawke Head Drive and Daleys Point Trail.	1
	70. Maintain and ensure appropriate use of Maitland Bay Information Centre, Strom Centre and staff accommodation houses in accordance with the heritage assessment and guidelines and NPWS policies.	Ongoing
Day-to-day management and ongoing protection of marine biodiversity in the Marine Extension is improved through closer working relationships between NPWS and relevant authorities).	71. Work with relevant regulatory authorities regarding provision and maintenance of notices, signs and boundary markers for the Bouddi Marine Extension.	3
	72. Work with the relevant regulatory authority to ensure the temporary fishing closure remains in place.	Ongoing
	73. Work with relevant regulatory authorities to more effectively manage the coastal areas of the park and Bouddi Marine Extension, in particular, illegal fishing and recreational boating activities.	Ongoing
Non-NPWS infrastructure and services		
Non-NPWS uses and activities have minimal impact on park values and are appropriately licensed where required.	74. Formalise or update licence agreements for all non-NPWS uses in accordance with the National Parks and Wildlife Act and maintain a register of these uses. Any new non-park infrastructure must be for purposes consistent with or permitted under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.	3
	75. Continue to authorise access for use and maintenance of the trigonometric station/s in accordance with existing or future formal agreements between NPWS and NSW Spatial Services.	Ongoing
	76. Work cooperatively with the relevant regulatory authority to ensure that activities licensed under the Fisheries Management Act have minimal impact on park values.	Ongoing
	77. Ensure commercial fishers accessing Putty Beach have a current NPWS commercial fishing vehicle access permit.	Ongoing
<p>¹The Australian Walking Track Grading System has been used as the basis for track classification system. For further information on these grades and their relationship to the Australian Standard please refer to the <i>Users Guide to the Australian Walking Track Grading System</i> (DSE no date; see <i>Bouddi National Park Planning Considerations</i>).</p>		

8. Park use regulations

8.1 Notes on authorised uses





Activities that may be authorised to occur in the park are subject to relevant policies and legislation. Conditions may be applied to ensure the activity is undertaken safely and to minimise environmental risks.










Activities may be subject to operating conditions or limits from time to time. For example, access to parts of the park may be closed during periods of bushfire risk or during maintenance or improvement works.



Some non-commercial activities will require consent as noted in Table 2. Consent may be refused after consideration of the proposed activity and likely environmental and park management impacts. For activities that require consent, information on how to make a booking or obtain approval is available on the [NSW national parks visitor web site](#) or by contacting the relevant NPWS office (contact details at the front of this plan).

Activities not shown in Table 2 may also be regulated by signage within the park or by consent.

Table 2 Park use regulations – Recreational activities (non-commercial)

Type of activity	Allowed	Notes/Exceptions
Authorised		
 Walking	Yes	Walking tracks are shown on Figure 1.
 Public vehicle access	Yes	Public vehicle access is allowed on the public vehicle access roads shown on Figure 1. Vehicles must be registered and drivers appropriately licensed. Unregistered trail bikes are not permitted in the park. Public vehicle access is not permitted on beaches except for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial fishers may access Putty Beach by vehicle provided they have an NPWS commercial fishing vehicle access permit. Beach access for emergency service vehicles.
 Camping	Yes	At the designated camping areas listed below and shown on Figure 1, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Putty Beach Camping Area Little Beach Camping Area Tallow Beach Camping Area Remote or bush camping outside these designated camping areas is not permitted in the park.
 Cycling (including mountain biking)	Yes	Roads and management trails shown as 'cycling permitted' on Figure 1 and, if approved, tracks in accordance with the mountain bike

Type of activity	Allowed	Notes/Exceptions	
		<p>plan and <i>NPWS Sustainable Mountain Biking Strategy</i>.</p> <p>Signage to identify where cycling is or is not permitted will be in accordance with the mountain bike plan and <i>NPWS Sustainable Mountain Biking Strategy</i>.</p> <p>No cycling is permitted within the Conservation Zones (Zone 1 on Figure 1).</p> <p>No cycling is permitted on walking tracks or off-trail.</p>	
 	Water-based recreation (e.g. swimming, surfing, boating, diving and snorkelling)	Yes	None of the beaches in the park are patrolled and visitors need to use caution at all beaches.
	Recreational fishing	Yes – except within the Marine Extension	<p>Recreational fishing is not allowed between Gerrin Point and Third (Bombi) Point in the Bouddi Marine Extension in accordance with the fishing closure.</p> <p>Recreational fishing elsewhere in the park is subject to requirements under the Fisheries Management Act (e.g. requirements to pay a licence fee and comply with other rules and regulations) and the <i>Rock Fishing Safety Act 2016</i>.</p>
	Geocaching and virtual geocaching	Yes – with consent	Consent must be obtained from NPWS to place a physical cache in the park.
	Drones	Yes – with consent	<p>Compliance with NPWS policy and consent conditions.</p> <p>Follow the guidelines from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority for recreational drone use.</p>
	Rock climbing/Abseiling	Yes – consent required for groups of more than eight persons	Consent must be obtained from NPWS for groups of eight or more people and the activity must occur in accordance with a recognised climbing code of practice.
 	Group gatherings – non-commercial (e.g. family or social gatherings, school tours)	Yes – consent required for groups of more than 40 persons	<p>Consent is required for groups of more than 40 persons, consistent with the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009.</p> <p>Consent is required for large groups to ensure visitor sites can be sustainably managed, particularly during peak visitor periods.</p>
Not allowed			
	Dog walking	No	<p>Not permitted in national parks in New South Wales.</p> <p>These regulations relate to dogs that are not assistance animals. Assistance animals are</p>

Type of activity	Allowed	Notes/Exceptions
		allowed in all sections of the park provided they are always kept under effective control with a leash or harness.
 Horse riding	No	Following an assessment to identify horse riding opportunities in the region, no trails were considered suitable for horse riding in this park.
 Wood fires	No	<p>Currently, there are two enclosed wood fireplaces in the Dingeldei Memorial Shelter at Mount Bouddi Day Use Area. They are not operational but retained for historic heritage values.</p> <p>Firewood is not provided and the collection of firewood within the park is not permitted.</p> <p>Wood fires are prohibited in the park due to the potential fire hazard.</p>

8.2 Events, function and commercial activities

The following table lists some common events, functions and commercial activities that may be permitted in the park with consent from NPWS or under a licence or lease. It is not a definitive or exhaustive list of permitted commercial or other activities. Information on relevant policies, required approvals and fees is available on the [NPWS website](#).

Approval to use supporting equipment, such as marquees, amplified sound or drones, will be determined on a case-by-case basis subject to an assessment of potential impacts on park values and other park users. Use of any supporting equipment will be subject to consent conditions.

Under NPWS policy, commercial operators may be required to support understanding of cultural heritage conservation and management and promote respect for Aboriginal culture and sites. This may include requirements to consult with Aboriginal communities to develop appropriate material and information for participants.

Table 3 Park use regulation – Events, functions and commercial activities

Type of activity	Type of approval required	Group size
Public events (e.g. fun runs)	Consent	All groups, irrespective of size
Wedding ceremonies	Consent	All groups, irrespective of size
All other private functions involving groups of more than 40 people	Consent	All groups of more than 40 people
Non-commercial, organised, club-based activity (e.g. fun runs)	Consent	All groups, irrespective of size
Commercial activities	Subject to NPWS consent and relevant policies and legislation.	All groups, irrespective of size