

Conservation Action Plan

Gould's petrel (*Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera*)

This plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of s.78C of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 (Reg.) in relation to an Asset of Intergenerational Significance (AIS) as declared under s.153G of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Site details

AIS site	AIS-E0-067, AIS-E0-068, AIS-E0-069, AIS-E0-070
Site location	An area of 126 hectares in Myall Lakes National Park (Broughton Island) An area of 21 hectares in Little Broughton Island Nature Reserve An area of 31 hectares in John Gould Nature Reserve (Cabbage Tree Island) An area of 17 hectares in Boondelbah Nature Reserve
NPWS contact	Project Officer, Threatened Species, Hunter Central Coast Branch

Environmental values

This table sets out the environmental values for which the land was listed as an AIS (Reg. 78C(3)(a)).

Identified value(s)	Value description
Important habitat for Gould's petrel	Gould's petrel is a vulnerable bird with habitat on national park estate supporting the most important population for this species. They have a body length of 30 centimetres and wingspan of 75 centimetres with a distinctive "M" wing pattern. The Gould's petrel nest in clumped groups on steep habitat and build their nests among rock crevices and fallen hollow trunks. This land contains breeding sites crucial to the conservation of the species and, along with Montague Island off Narooma on the south coast of NSW, are the only breeding sites in the world for this species.

Key risks to environmental values

This table sets out the key risks to the environmental values of the land (Reg. 78C(3)(b)).

Key risk(s)	Description
Inappropriate fire regimes	Inappropriate fire frequency and intensity that alters vegetation composition and structure and results in a reduction in suitable habitat or mortality of individuals may affect the persistence of Gould's petrels at the sites.
Feral predators	Predation of Gould's petrels by black rats, cats and foxes.
Weeds	Habitat degradation and competition through invasion, establishment, intensification and spread of weeds (e.g. bitou bush, morning glory) to the extent that the availability of suitable nesting habitat is reduced may lead to a decline in the Gould's Petrel population at the site.
Feral herbivores	Competition and degradation of Gould's petrel habitat, including protective vegetation for nesting areas, by introduced herbivores, such as rabbits, through grazing.
Interactions with native species	Predation by avian predators such as pied currawongs and Australian ravens, and entanglement of individuals in sticky fruits of bird lime trees, may affect the persistence of Gould's petrels at the site.
Anthropogenic climate change	Changes in weather patterns and climatic conditions as a result of anthropogenic climate change that increases the risk of severe storm events and fire, causing mortality of individuals and changes to habitat structure, composition and resource availability, may exceed the species adaptive capacity and reduce survivorship of Gould's petrels at the sites.
Disturbance	Visitor use that leads to damage and degradation of nesting habitat including artificial nesting boxes, and disruption of natural breeding and nesting behaviours. Soil creep and other natural processes (e.g. tree fall, storm erosion) may damage artificial nest boxes or limit access to nest boxes established for the Gould's petrel.

Conservation activities

This table sets out the conservation activities required to:

1. Control, abate or mitigate the key risks and
2. maintain, restore and remediate the environmental values of the land (Reg. 78C(3)(c)).

Key risk(s)	Impacted site(s)	Conservation activities
Inappropriate fire regimes	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop guidance on the appropriate fire management for the habitat of Gould's petrel within 12 months of the adoption of this plan and update as required. This guidance must provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintenance of an appropriate fire regime by developing and implementing a site-specific burn plan for the declared areas implementation of any required fire protection and response measures in the declared areas integration of site-specific requirements into NPWS and NSW Government bushfire planning, risk management and operational response arrangements. Implement fire management consistent with the guidance. If required, implement supplementary nest cover at known nest sites after fire.
Feral predators / Feral herbivores	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement appropriate island biosecurity measures, including an emergency response plan to address an incursion of feral predators or herbivores, within 12 months of adoption of this plan.
Weeds	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove weed species to the extent required to ensure weeds do not have a negative impact on the Gould's petrel, by targeted application of physical and chemical weed control.
Interactions with native species	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If required, undertake targeted control to reduce predation from currawongs and ravens by shooting or other appropriate methods. Remove bird lime trees that negatively impact on Gould's petrel nesting habitat, by targeted application of physical and chemical weed control, as required.
Anthropogenic climate change	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following severe weather events, assess impacts on the Gould's petrel and its habitat. If impacts are observed, implement supplementary habitat or other response measures as required.
Disturbance	AIS-E0-067 AIS-E0-069 AIS-E0-070	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and service artificial nest boxes on Cabbage Tree Island, Boondelbah Island and Broughton Island. If required, install more artificial nest boxes.
	AIS-E0-067	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement by 31 December 2024, a visitor management strategy specific to Broughton to protect Gould's petrel habitat and nesting colonies from authorised visitor use.

Other land management activities

Within the declared land there are existing assets and infrastructure of NPWS and other external service providers, including public utilities.

Maintenance operations (including inspection, emergency works and routine and standard maintenance) that are exempt development in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, and which are performed on and around existing assets and infrastructure, are authorised under this conservation action plan (CAP) provided such operations are taken in a manner that aims to minimise the risk to the declared environmental values of the land and with any other required consents or approvals.

All maintenance operations on the declared land are to be undertaken in accordance with this CAP.

Measuring and reporting

This table sets out the requirements for measuring and reporting on health and condition (Reg. 78C(3)(d)).

Attribute	Metric	Method
Health and condition of the Gould's petrel population	Population estimate	Design, and implement annually, monitoring to generate an estimate of the number of adults in the Gould's petrel population at all sites.
	Area of occupancy	Design and implement annually monitoring to quantify changes in the size and location of Gould's petrel colonies on Broughton, Little Broughton and Boondelbah Islands.
	Reproductive success / recruitment	Design and implement annually, monitoring to quantify reproductive success and number of adults of the Gould's petrel on Cabbage Tree Island.

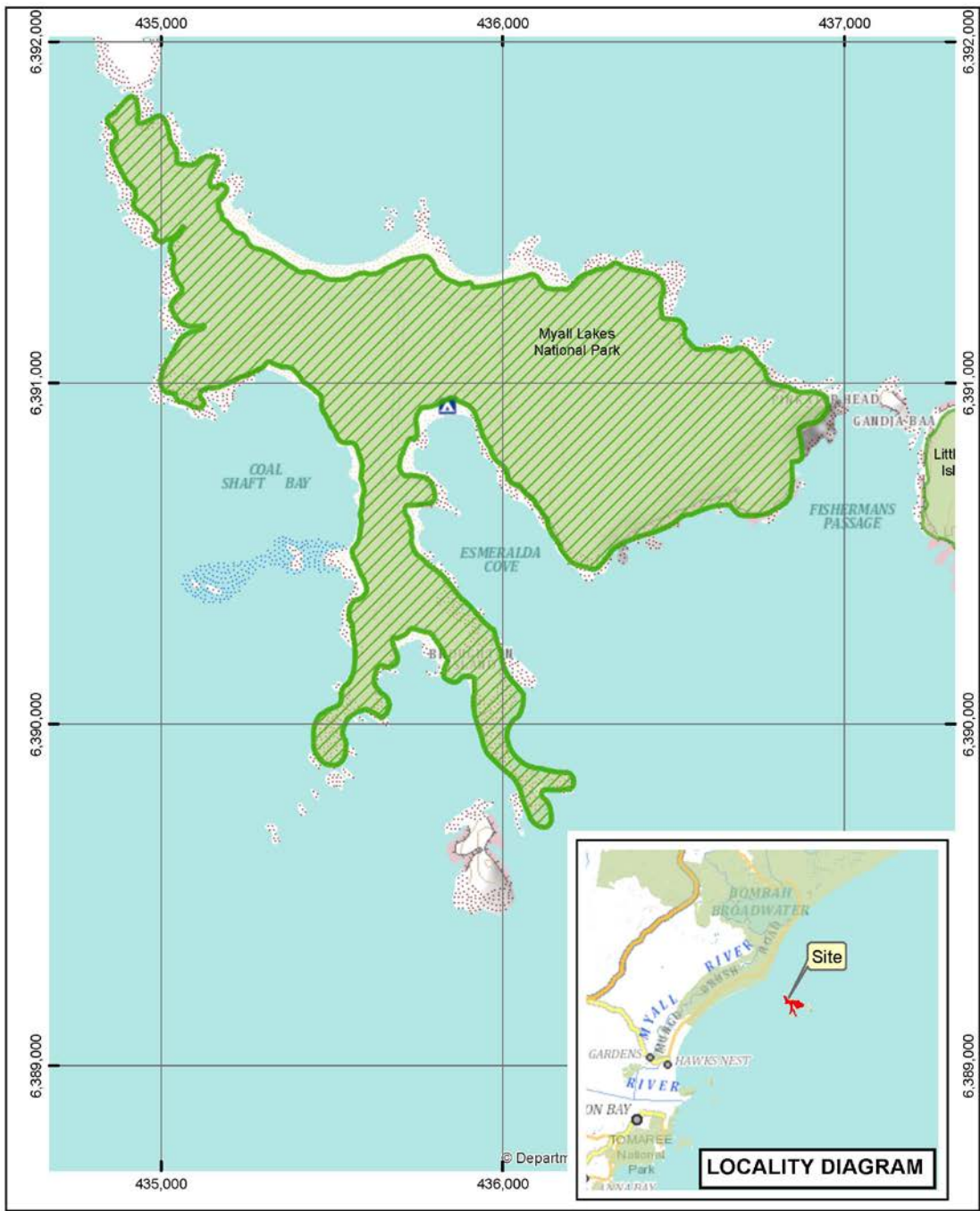
A report on the health and condition of the value for which this AIS was declared will be prepared and published on the Department of Planning and Environment website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au. The report will summarise the baseline and current health and condition of the values of the declared land and its overall trajectory.





Evaluation of conservation action plans

This CAP will be amended or replaced as new information becomes available that helps improve our management of the identified assets (Reg. 78H).

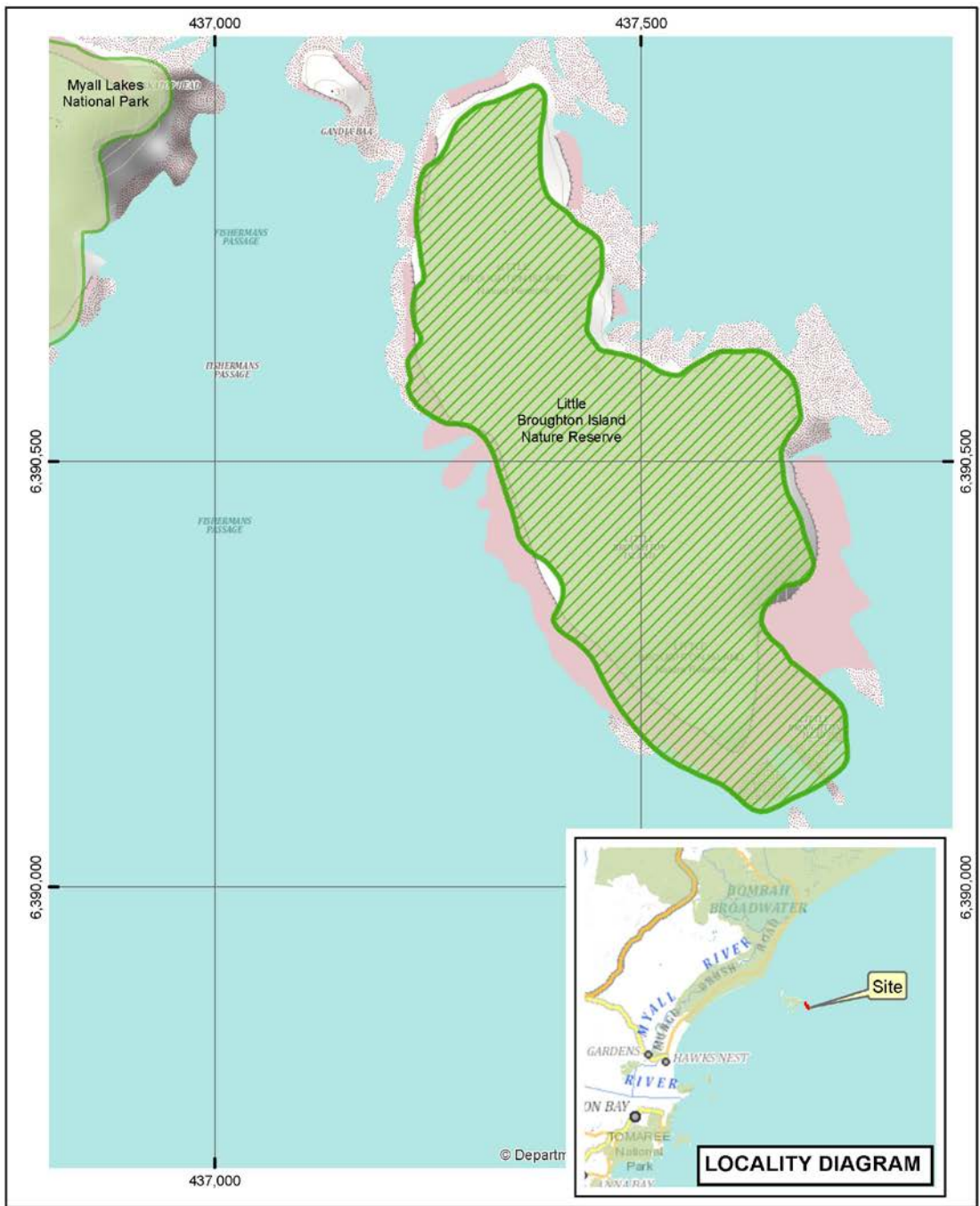
The Secretary must appoint a scientist, or a panel of scientists, to conduct a review, as soon as possible after the period of five years from the first approval of a CAP, to examine whether CAPs have been effectively implemented (Reg. 78J(1)).

Gould's petrel (*Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera*)
Conservation Action Plan





<p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Declared Land  NPWS Estate 	<p>AIS-E0-067 Asset of Intergenerational Significance Gould's petrel <i>(Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera)</i> Myall Lakes National Park</p> <p><small>Copyright of Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. This map is not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. The Department and its employees disclaim liability for any use over the information in this map and any consequences of such use or omissions.</small></p>	<p>N</p> <p>0 0.15 0.3 0.45 km</p>  
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Gould's petrel (*Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera*)
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Legend



-  Declared Land
-  NPWS Estate

AIS-E0-068
Asset of Intergenerational Significance
Gould's petrel
(*Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera*)
Little Broughton Island Nature Reserve

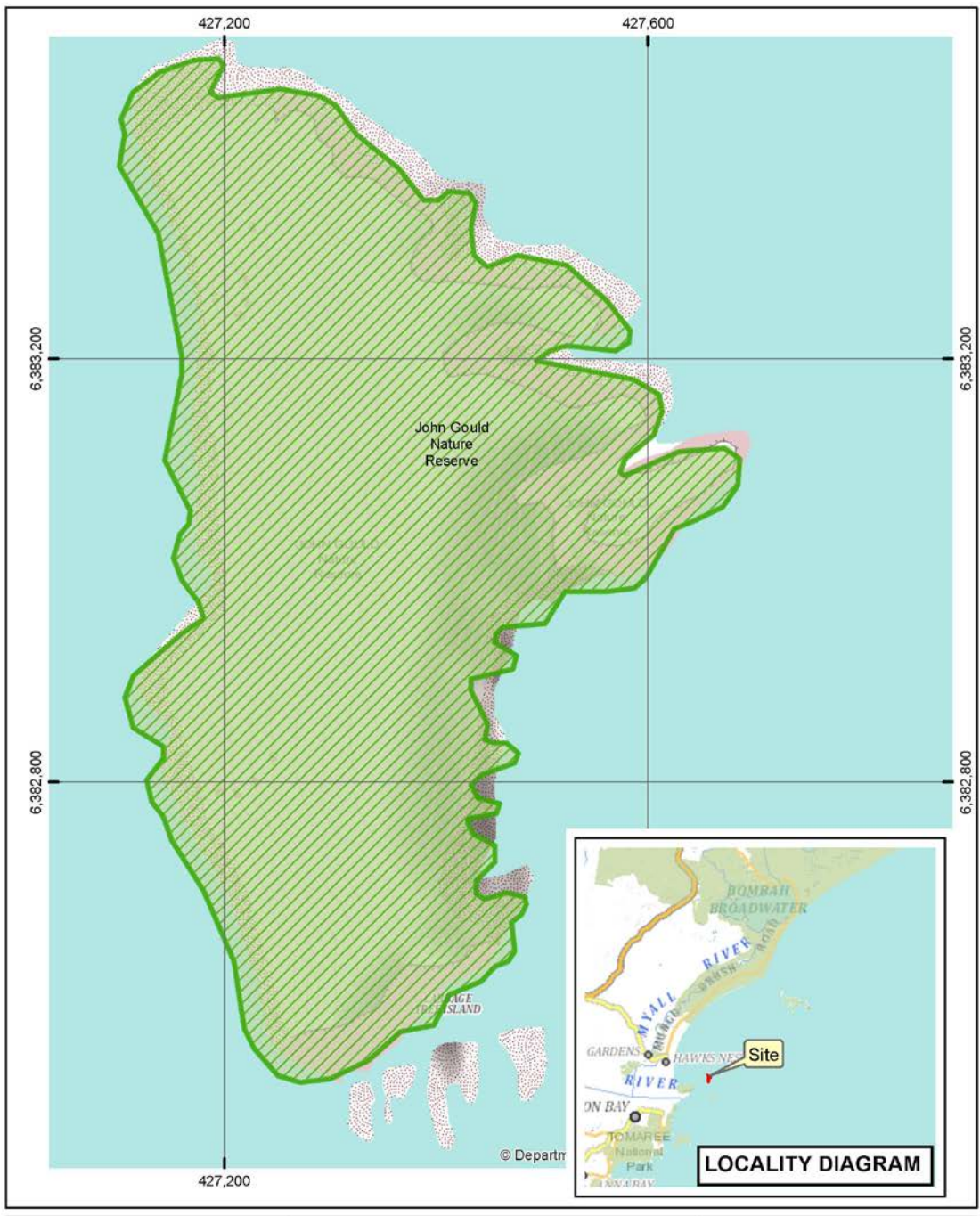
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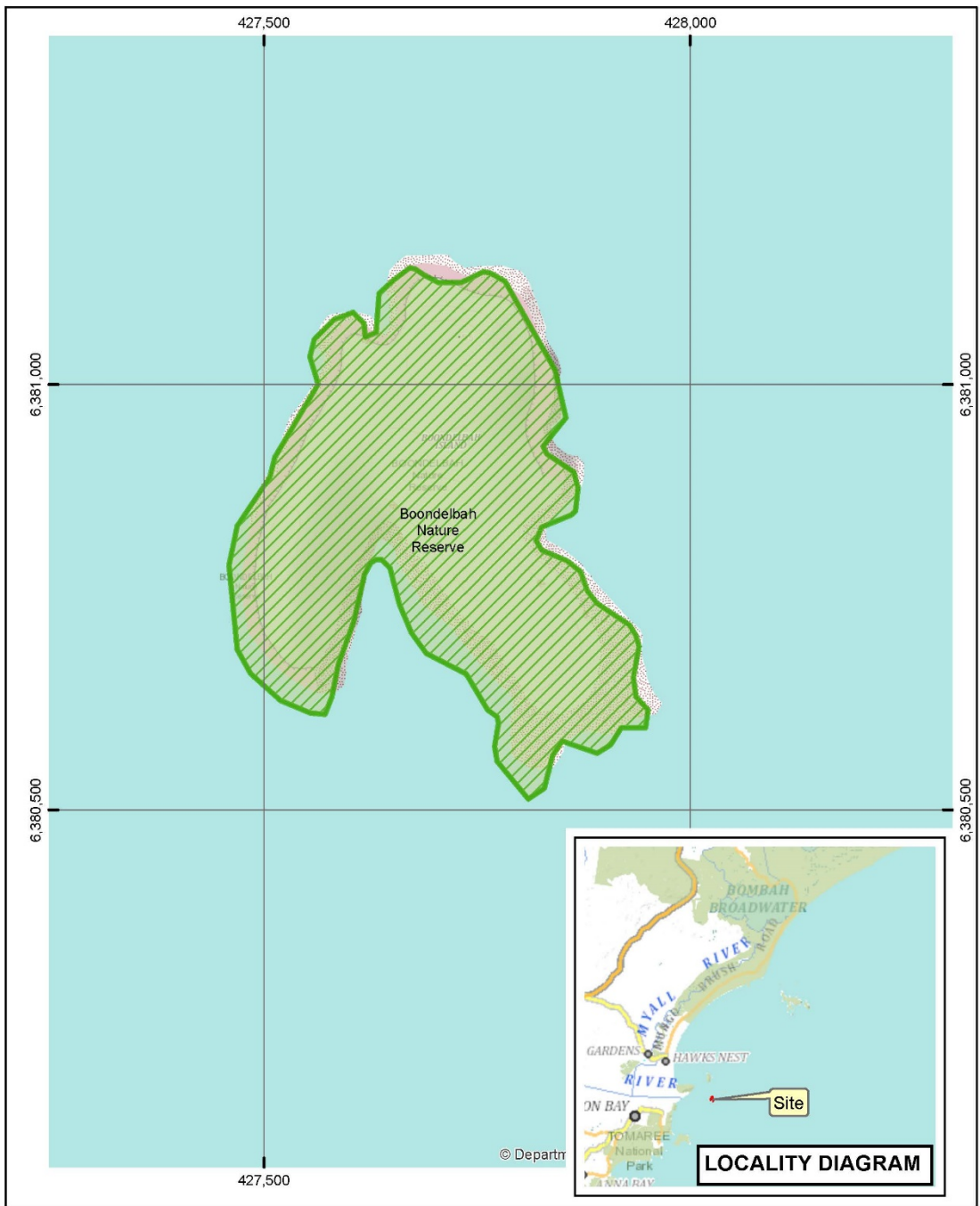



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<p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Declared Land  NPWS Estate 	<p style="text-align: center;">AIS-E0-069 Asset of Intergenerational Significance Gould's petrel (<i>Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera</i>) John Gould Nature Reserve</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Copyright of Department of Planning Industry and Environment. This map is not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. The Department and its employees disclaim liability for any use over on the information in this map and any consequences of such acts or omissions.</small></p>	<p>N</p> <p>0 0.05 0.1 0.15 km</p>  
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Gould's petrel (*Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera*)
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Legend


-  Declared Land
-  NPWS Estate

AIS-E0-070
Asset of Intergenerational Significance
Gould's petrel
(Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera)
Boondelbah Nature Reserve

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Conservation Action Plan

Date prepared	July 2022
Date approved	25 July 2022
Approved by	Atticus Fleming, Acting Coordinator General, Environment and Heritage
Due for review	July 2027

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