



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island nature reserves

Plan of management



Acknowledgement of Country

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

This resource may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs or historical content.

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Cover photo: Aerial view of the Basin picnic area and campground. Clare Manson Photography

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ISBN 978 1 923132 79 5
EH 2024/0045
February 2024



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Summary

This plan of management was adopted by the Minister for the Environment on 29 January 2024.

The Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island nature reserves are reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and are managed to achieve the objects of this Act. These objects are centred on conserving the natural and cultural values of the parks, as well as fostering public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of these values. The parks must also be managed in accordance with the relevant management principles defined in the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* for national parks and nature reserves.

This plan is consistent with the objects of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and the relevant management principles and has been prepared after consideration of the matters listed under section 72AA of that Act. The final plan has been informed by all submissions received on the draft plan, and the advice provided by the Greater Sydney Regional Advisory Committee.

No management operations in the parks can be undertaken that are not consistent with this plan and its scheme of operations. This plan will also apply to any future additions to these parks.

Sections 1 to 5 of the plan summarise the parks' key values, management principles and management considerations. The scheme of operations (section 6) is the core part of this plan. It describes the desired outcomes for the parks' values and actions that NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) proposes to undertake to achieve these outcomes.

Tables 5 and 6 (park use regulations) set out the recreational and commercial activities that are permitted in the parks and any requirements to undertake these activities, including whether consent must be sought from NPWS to undertake them.

Acknowledgements

NPWS acknowledges that Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island nature reserves are the Country of Aboriginal custodians who continue to maintain a connection and care for the lands in the national park and nature reserves.

This plan of management was prepared by staff of NPWS.

Contact us

For more information about this plan of management or Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island nature reserves, contact:

- NPWS Sydney North Area at npws.sydneynorth@environment.nsw.gov.au, 82–84 Ferguson Street, Forestville, or by telephone on 02 9451 3479, or
- NPWS Sydney North West Area at npws.northwesternsydney@environment.nsw.gov.au, Lane Cove National Park, 2 Max Allen Road, Lindfield, or by telephone on 02 8448 0400.

Connection to Country

What is 'Country'

Country refers to all parts of the natural environment and these parts cannot be separated. This means the land, water, animals and plants are viewed as one, and form Aboriginal peoples' cultural and spiritual identity.

Aboriginal people develop intimate knowledge and connections with places, animals, plants and landscapes that create an interdependence with nature which is based on respect. Aboriginal people care for Country through ceremony, cultural activities, sharing stories of songlines and maintaining connections with the world around them.

Country is a place of birth, a place of tribal or clan connections, a place where you belong to.

The parks covered in this plan are part of an ancient landscape that includes the Aboriginal people. Aboriginal people have a deep spiritual and cultural connection to this Country. Their ancestors have lived here for thousands of years and form part of this living landscape.

Connections to Country and the significance of these parks 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.

Our vision for the parks

Our vision for Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Lion Island Nature Reserve, Long Island Nature Reserve and Spectacle Island Nature Reserve is to:

- maintain and enhance the parks' natural environments, ensuring important biodiversity, habitat, geological and geomorphological features, and vegetation communities are conserved
- protect the parks' rich Aboriginal heritage and provide support for Aboriginal communities to participate in the management of Country
- provide diverse recreation opportunities that don't adversely affect the natural and cultural values or other park users
- ensure historic heritage is protected and, if appropriate, use historic heritage buildings
- provide facilities and services that encourage and support people of all ages, cultures and abilities to access, enjoy and appreciate the natural and cultural heritage values of the parks
- continue supporting research, education and interpretation of the parks' natural and cultural values
- build our understanding of the current and future impacts of climate change to improve our management responses
- maintain the national park's critical role in providing wildlife corridors by remaining connected to other significant conservation lands and waterways.

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island nature reserves plan of management



Figure 1 Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Lion Island Nature Reserve, Long Island Nature Reserve and Spectacle Island Nature Reserve

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, and Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island nature reserves

Why these parks are important

The national park and island nature reserves (referred to collectively as 'the parks' in this plan) are valued by the community for their beautiful and varied scenery, important conservation and cultural heritage values, nature-based visitor experiences and for the spiritual and cultural connections the traditional Aboriginal custodians have with the landscape.

- The parks are recognised nationally as an exceptional representation of Sydney region biota and a site of high species richness and diversity associated with Hawkesbury Sandstone landforms. The parks are important for their diverse and complex range of vegetation communities. This varies from coastal, estuarine and freshwater habitats to forested areas, all of which support rare and threatened species.
- The parks provide a significant record of the geological history of the Sydney Basin. They contain unusual geological features such as volcanic dykes and diatremes, shale lenses and ironstone outcrops.
- The Aboriginal community has an enduring relationship with this landscape and retain traditional obligations to care for their Country. More than 800 sites of Aboriginal cultural significance have been recorded in the parks, including middens, burial sites, engravings, rock art, occupation sites, ceremonial and other sacred sites.
- The early history of these lands provides an important record and commentary on the establishment and expansion of the colony of New South Wales and represents the formative stages of Australia's post-colonial history. Of importance are early records of contact between the Aboriginal community and the colonial community, and the establishment of industries and coastal navigation systems along the Hawkesbury River.
- The establishment and post-colonial management of Ku-ring-gai Chase as a national park provides an important insight into the evolution of national park management in New South Wales.
- The national park provides significant opportunities for recreation and makes an important contribution to the local economy. Access to natural bushland and waterways supports the health and wellbeing of people in a largely urbanised environment.
- The national park provides opportunities for the local community as well as domestic and international visitors to experience and learn about the significant natural and cultural heritage values of New South Wales and the Sydney Basin.

Table 1 The parks and their regional setting

Features	Description
Area	<p>Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park – 14,976 hectares (including the beds of most of Cowan Creek, Coal and Candle Creek, Smiths Creek and The Basin lagoon).</p> <p>Lion Island Nature Reserve – 9 hectares.</p> <p>Long Island Nature Reserve – 73 hectares.</p> <p>Spectacle Island Nature Reserve – 36 hectares.</p>
Reservation date	<p>On 14 December 1894, 13,500 hectares was gazetted as Ku-ring-gai Chase. Since then, a further 1,476 hectares has been added to the park including: 17 hectares at The Basin in 1917 and 88 hectares at West Head in 1951. In 1967 the park was transferred to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).</p> <p>Lion Island Fauna Reserve was established in 1956 and became a nature reserve in 1967.</p> <p>Long Island and Spectacle Island nature reserves were gazetted in 1972.</p>
Previous tenure	<p>Before the dedication of the national park, small areas had been used for timber-getting and soda and lime production. Lands previously granted at West Head, Cottage Point and The Basin were added to the park after the original declaration of Ku-ring-gai Chase.</p>
Biogeographic region	<p>The parks are within the Pittwater subregion of the Sydney Basin Bioregion and are part of a large network of protected lands. Together these parks and reserves make a significant contribution to the protection of biodiversity in the Sydney Basin Bioregion.</p>

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 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 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 reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The National Parks and Wildlife Act requires that a nature reserve be managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem function, protect geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena
- conserve places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value
- promote public appreciation, enjoyment and understanding of the nature reserve's natural and cultural values
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The primary purpose of nature reserves is to conserve ecosystems, species and communities or natural phenomena. Unlike national parks, the management objectives for nature reserves do not specifically include providing for sustainable visitor use.

Lion Island Nature Reserve, Long Island Nature Reserve and Spectacle Island Nature Reserve are managed for conservation of their natural and cultural heritage values. Access is only allowed for park management purposes, however appropriate research may be permitted by consent.

Several parcels of land adjoining the national park near Elvina Bay and Lovett Bay have been acquired under Part 11 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act for future reservation. These 'Part 11 lands' are subject to this plan and managed in accordance with the objectives of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, including to:

- conserve nature, including habitats, ecosystems, biodiversity, landforms, landscapes, wilderness and wild rivers
- conserve objects, places or features of cultural value
- foster public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of natural and cultural heritage and conservation
- apply the principles of ecologically sustainable development.



Photo 1 Views of Ku-ring-gai Chase from Barrenjoey Head.
Jacqueline Hindmarsh/DCCEEW

1. Protecting the natural environment

The parks maintain a record and help to conserve the geological history of the Sydney Basin. The landscapes of the parks are part of an ancient river valley. Over millennia the land has been uplifted, flooded, submerged and subjected to erosive forces which have formed deeply incised plateaus, islands, estuaries, bays and headlands.

The waterways in and adjoining the national park and island nature reserves are spectacular in their natural beauty and recreational value and support important fisheries and aquatic biodiversity and habitats.

The parks are part of a larger, and strategically important network of marine environments, native bushlands and other protected areas, including the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

The parks are recognised nationally as an exceptional representation of Sydney region biota and for their high species richness and diversity. These values lead to the inclusion of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park on Australia's National Heritage List. The parks are also important for conserving vegetation types that are significant in a local and regional context. These vegetation types tend to have limited distributions and are associated with unusual or remnant geological and topographical features. Eight threatened ecological communities are found in the parks.

The diverse and complex range of vegetative communities in the parks and surrounding waterways provides habitat for many rare and threatened plants and animals. Over 1,000 species of plants and 300 animal species have been recorded in the parks. More than 30 animals and 23 plants found in the national park and nature reserves are listed as threatened under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

The NPWS threatened species (zero extinctions) framework outlines a series of actions designed to secure and restore threatened species populations, specifically to prevent extinctions on the national park estate. Actions that will be taken under the framework include identification of assets of intergenerational significance.

Populations of the critically endangered Caley's grevillea (*Grevillea caleyi*) and endangered *Haloragodendron lucasii* occur in the national park and have been declared assets of intergenerational significance under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. Conservation action plans outlining the management and monitoring requirements have been prepared for these species and may be prepared for other threatened species if declared as an asset of intergenerational significance, consistent with the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019.

Threats to the natural environment include inappropriate fire regimes, weed invasion, feral animals and diseases, unauthorised trail construction and pollutant runoff from surrounding areas. Some of these impacts may be further exacerbated by a changing climate.

Fire, weed and feral animal management programs will be implemented to protect the parks. The protection of threatened species and communities, and research to improve our understanding and management of park values and key threatening processes will be a priority. Cooperation with the local community and other land and waterway managers will also be a priority.

2. Looking after our culture and heritage

2.1 Aboriginal cultural heritage

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island nature reserves are in the Country of traditional Aboriginal custodians. The parks and surrounding landscapes and waterways have deep spiritual significance for Aboriginal people. Aboriginal people continue to visit and live in the area and have maintained their connection to Country, traditional knowledge and obligations to care for Country.

More than 800 Aboriginal sites have been recorded across the parks, including more than 170 rock engraving sites which are part of the largest collections of Aboriginal art in the Sydney region. These sites are significant to local Aboriginal people as a tangible link to their culture and ancestors, and for the education of their children.

Some Aboriginal sites are accessible to and have been interpreted for visitors. These provide an important resource for sharing knowledge and fostering appreciation and understanding of Country and Aboriginal culture within the wider community.

Threats to Aboriginal sites include inappropriate access, vandalism, natural weathering, weed invasion, feral animal activity and fire. Changing sea levels also has potential to impact on foreshore sites.

NPWS will continue to work cooperatively with the Aboriginal community to manage sites, improve knowledge of cultural heritage and support Aboriginal custodians to connect to Country, continue cultural practices and share knowledge with their communities and visitors including through tourism or other businesses. Management and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage values will also be prioritised in feral animal, weed and fire management programs, including cultural burning where appropriate.



Photo 1 The national park and nature reserves are significant cultural heritage landscapes.
Michele Cooper/DCCEEW

2.2 Historic heritage

Established in 1894, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is the second oldest national park in New South Wales. The national park and nature reserves retain important sites and historical associations with expanding colonial settlement, coastal navigation, transport routes, military and defence activities and the social history of the Broken Bay, Pittwater and lower Hawkesbury River area.

The Barrenjoey Lighthouse complex and the site of the Customs House at Barrenjoey Head are listed on the State Heritage Register. This site is managed in accordance with the provisions of the *Heritage Act 1977* and in accordance with a conservation management plan.

Fifty-six historic heritage sites of local significance, many of which are associated with early land use, development and management of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, have also been recorded in the park.

Many of the heritage buildings in the national park continue to be used (see Table 2). Some buildings at Bobbin Head have been retained as reminders of the park's establishment and have been adapted for use by visitors. Other historic heritage buildings are used to provide facilities for visitors (e.g. Bobbin Inn and Beechwood Cottage) and staff accommodation (e.g. Boatman's Cottage at Barrenjoey Head). Heritage buildings at Barrenjoey Head will not be used for short stay accommodation.

Adaptive reuse of historic heritage buildings can help preserve heritage values and provide greater levels of public appreciation. NPWS will continue to identify opportunities for adaptive reuse of historic heritage buildings where this supports their ongoing conservation and is consistent with relevant legislation and conservation management plans. Any potential reuse will be subject to heritage, environmental and sustainability assessments. Potential new or additional uses are detailed in Table 2. Where appropriate NPWS will consult with the community as part of visitor precinct planning and when adaptive re-use of heritage buildings is proposed.



Photo 3 Barrenjoey Lighthouse heritage buildings. Michele Cooper/DCCEEW

Table 2 Existing and potential uses of heritage-listed buildings in the national park

Building	Existing use	Potential new or additional use
Barrenjoey Head		
Barrenjoey Lighthouse	Guided tours	
Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage	Unoccupied	Park management and/or community use, including visitor tours
Assistant Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage	Unoccupied	Park management and/or community use, excluding short stay accommodation.
Boatman's Cottage	Staff accommodation	Site management staff or caretaker accommodation
Fishers' cottages	Unoccupied	Due to their state of disrepair and the presence of hazardous material these buildings may be removed
Red Shed	Unoccupied	Removal, park management or adaptation for interpretive purposes
The Basin		
Beechwood Cottage	Group function venue	Park management and/or community use or café/kiosk
Mount Colah and Turramurra national park entrances		
Turramurra Lodge	Unoccupied	Staff or visitor accommodation
Mount Colah Lodge	Staff accommodation	Staff or visitor accommodation
Bobbin Head		
Bobbin Inn	Visitor information and cafe	Additional community or commercial use e.g. function room or restaurant
The Pavilion picnic shelter	Bookable picnic shelter	
Coach House/The Station	Bookable picnic shelter	
Small sandstone kiosk adjacent to the wharf carpark	Group activities	Community use or visitor services
Sandstone shelter adjacent to the wharf carpark	Shelter	
Small sandstone amenities	Public facilities	
Heritage picnic shelters	Picnic shelters	
NPWS Ku-ring-gai Chase office	NPWS office	
Superintendent's house	Unoccupied	Removal – subject to the outcome of a heritage assessment
Morning Bay		
Grosvenor's house	Unoccupied	Removal – subject to the outcome of a heritage assessment

The following actions are proposed to inform future decisions about the adaptive reuse and maintenance of heritage buildings and sites:

- reviewing the Bobbin Head and Apple Tree Bay Masterplan, including options to deal with future climate change impacts, and preparing new precinct plans for these sites/locations consistent with this plan of management.
- investigating new uses of historic heritage buildings at Barrenjoey Head consistent with this plan of management
- investigating the most appropriate use of Beechwood Cottage as part of precinct planning for The Basin and consistent with this plan of management
- supporting ongoing research, assessment and documentation of historic heritage assets, their values and significance to inform planning and maintenance requirements.

A collection of items associated with the management history of the parks is housed and displayed in the Kalkari Discovery Centre. Identifying, conserving, displaying and sharing the rich historic heritage of the parks will be a priority.

The significance and condition of many historic heritage items in the parks have not been formally assessed. Conservation management plans, heritage assessments and statements of heritage impact are prepared where works are proposed, including proposals for adaptive reuse and precinct planning. A statement of heritage impact needs to be completed prior to the commencement of any works.

Threats to heritage sites include vandalism, inappropriate conservation and maintenance actions, feral animal activities, weeds and fire. The heritage values of the parks will be managed by maintaining records and documenting historic heritage, preserving sites consistent with heritage legislation, conservation management plans and relevant policy and procedures. Subject to heritage and environmental impact assessment, and the provisions of the Heritage Act, buildings that are not able to be adaptively reused or are not feasible to maintain may be removed.



Photo 4 The Basin picnic area is a popular place for family and group picnics.
David Finnegin/DCCEEW

3. Providing for visitor use and enjoyment

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park provides opportunities for a diverse range of exceptional cultural, natural and historic experiences and is one of the most popular national parks in New South Wales. It currently attracts over 4 million visits each year and its popularity is continuing to grow.

The management of Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island nature reserves is focused on the conservation of natural and cultural heritage values. These reserves are not suitable for visitor use and therefore access is restricted to approved research and park management activities.

Ku-ring-gai Chase has been a popular recreational destination since it was first set aside in 1894 for public recreation and managed by trustees. Today Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park contains a range of visitor services and facilities that provide opportunities for a wide range of recreational activities. The park use regulations tables in Section 7 of this plan provide a summary of the recreational activities that are permitted in the national park, including any exceptions or conditions consistent with the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation.

Visitor precincts are located at Bobbin Head, Apple Tree Bay, Kalkari, West Head, The Basin, Illawong, Akuna Bay and Barrenjoey Head. Smaller visitor nodes, include Duckholes Creek Picnic Area, Salvation Creek Picnic Area, the Sphinx Memorial and Brooklyn Dam. Visitor precincts and nodes are shown in Figure 2.

Over recent years, the demand for facilities at popular visitor precincts and visitor nodes has often exceeded capacity. This plan includes strategies to manage increasing visitation. This may include:

- improving the design of visitor precincts and nodes to cater for larger visitor numbers
- introducing timed parking or 'park and ride' services to reduce congestion in car parks during peak use
- improving pre-visit information to alert visitors of congestion before they arrive and encouraging visitors to access quieter sites or visit outside of peak periods.

Precinct planning is required to address site capacity, facility design and traffic management options. An anticipated increase in the frequency of tidal inundation events arising from sea level rise will be considered in planning for several visitor precincts. Precinct plans may be developed to guide the detailed design and location of visitor facilities within the visitor nodes and precincts shown in Figure 2.

NPWS plans to build new toilet facilities on the headland to cater for the growing number of visitors consistent with conservation management plan. Opportunities to provide a walking track and viewing area on the western side of the headland to allow safe viewing of the seal resting area may also be investigated.

Other than 2 courtesy moorings, NPWS provides no other visitor facilities at Cottage Point. Visitor services including kiosk, boat hire and club moorings are provided by the Ku-ring-gai Motor Yacht Club. There may be opportunities to work with the local council to improve access and develop parking to better support visitor activities at Cottage Point. NPWS may consider development of new visitor facilities at Cottage Point consistent with a precinct plan.

The park provides opportunities for interpretation and environmental education, which are delivered through on-site signs, visitor information centres at Kalkari and Bobbin Inn and through education programs and guided activities such as the Chase Alive Discovery program. Interpretation and education programs are also delivered by licensed commercial tour operators. Other visitor information is increasingly being delivered online through

webpages or mobile apps providing new opportunities to engage with visitors to encourage safe and sustainable visitor use.

Some visitor services are provided by commercial operators that lease park buildings and/or have been licensed to operate in the national park, including the marinas, cafes, kiosks and restaurants, boat hire services and tour activities. Licensed tour operators also provide tours and educational activities in the national park. Section 7.2 of this plan details the type of commercial activities that will be supported in the national park.

Providing a range of visitor experiences and maintaining visitor facilities that are accessible for all abilities and meet the needs of an increasing number of visitors is challenging. The upgrade and development of a range of facilities in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park will be a priority. Precinct plans, consistent with this plan of management will guide these developments.

NPWS will continue to improve the existing walking track and management trail network through the track and trail improvement program. New trails and facilities will be investigated as part of this program (see 'Potential multi-use trail' and 'Track and trail assessment areas' shown in Figure 3). New tracks may be preferred use (e.g. primary use cycling but other uses allowed) or multi-use trails (i.e. trails used for management vehicles, walkers, horse riders and cyclists).

Horse riding will continue to be permitted on the management trails shown in Figure 3. New trail links will be assessed, as shown in Figure 3, consistent with the horse-riding working plan and subject to funding and cross-tenure negotiations. These links include the Chiltern to Duckholes Trail link, Terry Hills Golf Course to Ryland Trail link, and the Showground to Cooyong/Neverfail Trail link.

Development of any new tracks and trails will be subject to the outcomes of environmental, heritage and sustainability assessment processes. New walking tracks and multi-use trails may be established to limit environmental and cultural impacts, improve management access (e.g. fire trails), and/or address visitor safety and access issues. Tracks that have been constructed without authorisation will be closed and rehabilitated to protect threatened vegetation communities, waterways, native plants and animals or cultural heritage values.

Rock climbing and abseiling will continue to be allowed at a designated site in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park at Barrenjoey Head. Applications for the authorisation of these activities at other suitable sites within Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park may be considered where safety, visitor access, environmental, and cultural heritage assessments have demonstrated that the activity can be sustainably managed and will not impact significantly on park values.

The following conditions will apply to rock climbing and abseiling at Barrenjoey Head:

- participants must minimise environmental impacts to the cliffs and surrounding vegetation and comply with any relevant code of practice
- consent is required for groups of 10 or more, or for all commercial rock climbing and abseiling activities
- the safety of participants continues to be the responsibility of participants and their companions
- new or replacement bolts may only be installed with NPWS consent (NPWS will not install, assess or guarantee bolts or other fixed protection points).

The design of facilities and services that support visitor activities and help manage increasing visitor use will be informed by visitor use data. NPWS will work cooperatively with relevant stakeholders and other land and waterway managers in managing recreational activities in the parks, including rock climbing and abseiling, horse riding, cycling, walking and water-based recreation such as boating and fishing. Where possible, NPWS will also

support the education of boat users about minimising potential impacts to the marine environment, such as safe approach distances for marine mammals.

NPWS will also work cooperatively with stakeholders and other management agencies in maintaining visitor safety on access roads in the national park.

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island nature reserves plan of management

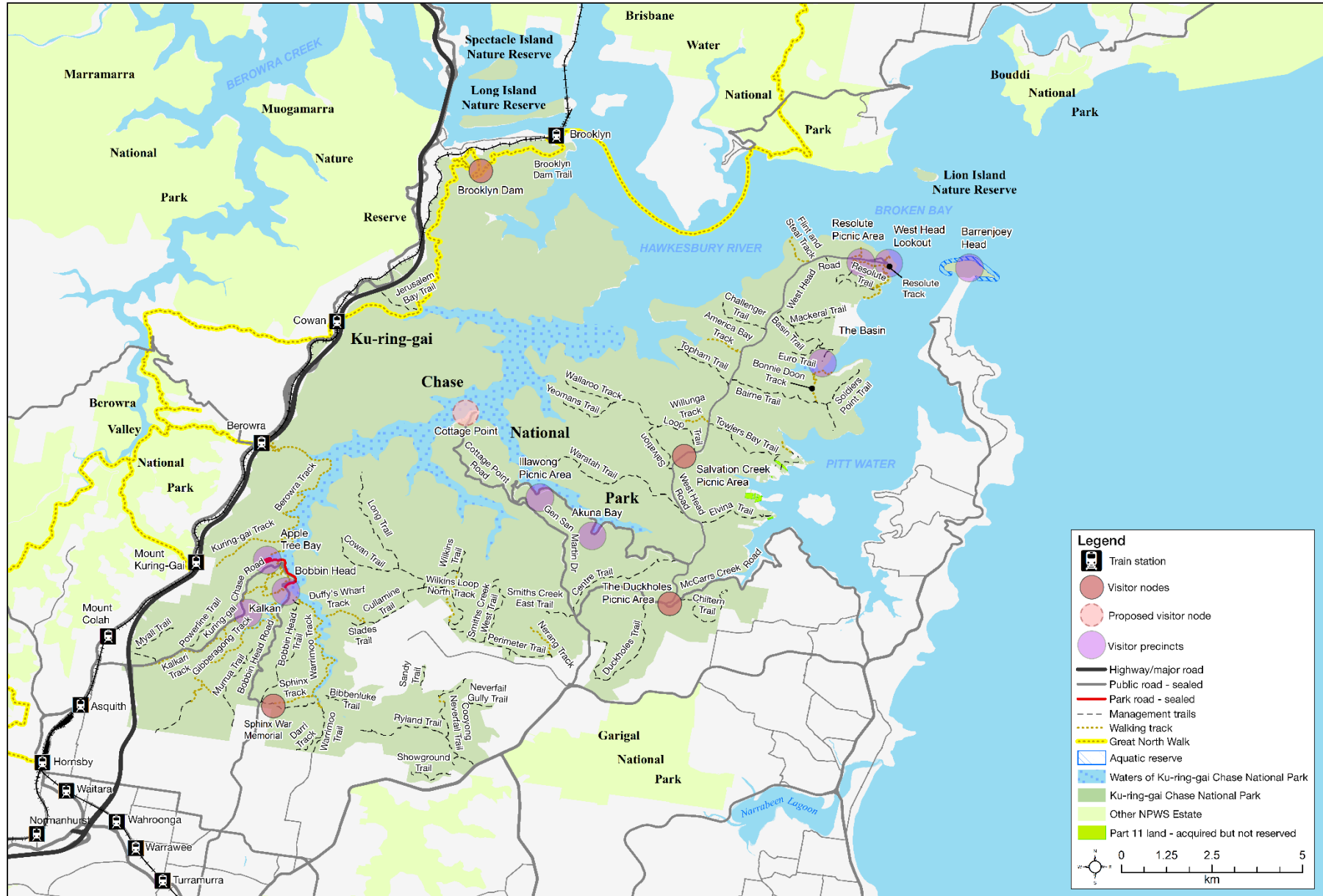


Figure 2 Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park visitor precincts and nodes, and tracks and trails

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island nature reserves plan of management

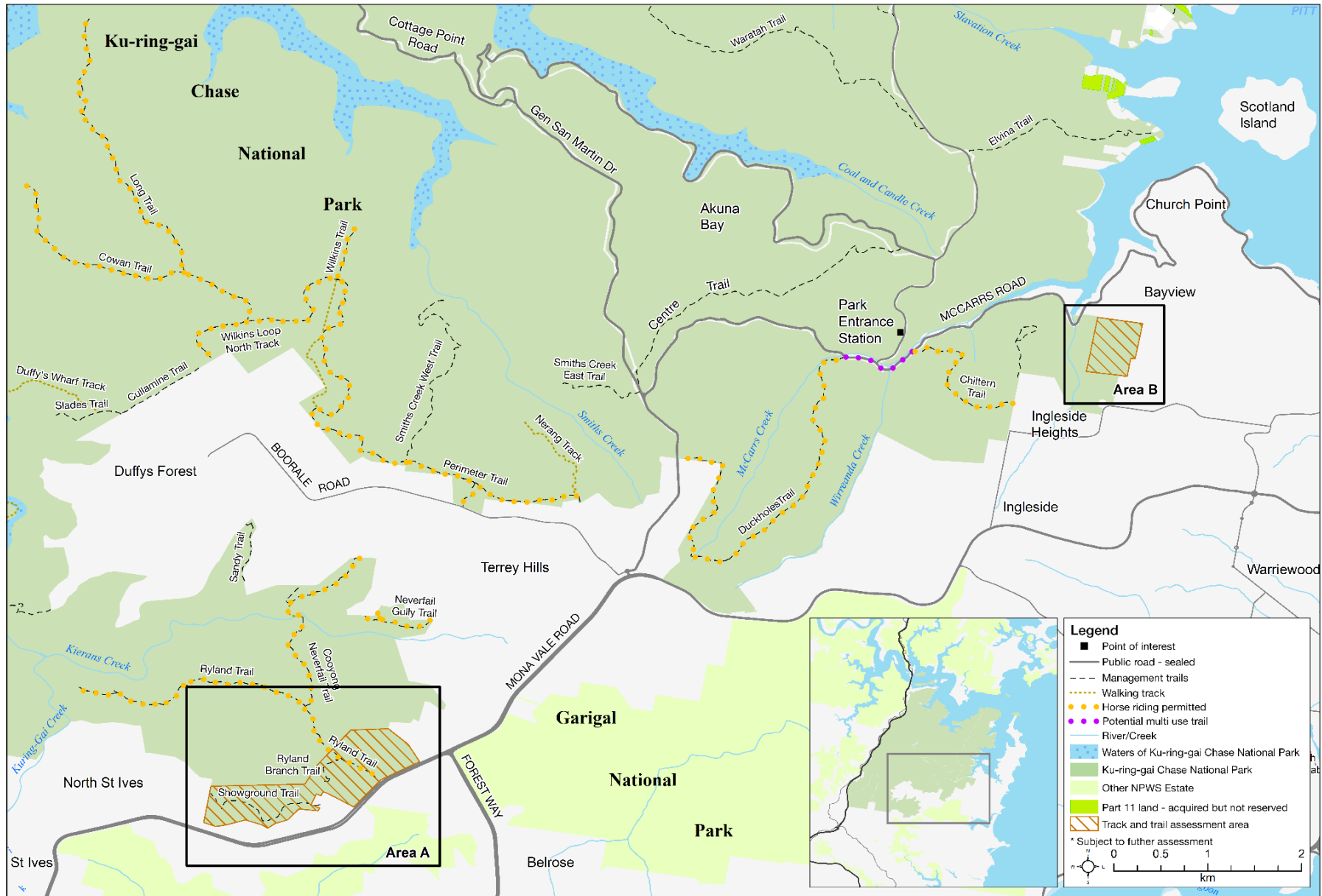


Figure 3 Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park existing and potential track and trail recreational experiences

4. National park infrastructure and services

NPWS manages and maintains a range of visitor and management facilities in the national park, including gates, fencing, housing, office and depot buildings, historic heritage buildings, power and water supply infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities, management trails, roads, seawalls, wharves, moorings and a range of visitor facilities. Park infrastructure and facilities are managed and maintained through the NPWS asset management system, which supports safe and sustainable visitor use and park management operations and enhances heritage conservation.

NPWS depot and offices in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park support a range of park operations across a much broader area than the national park and island nature reserves. NPWS may expand or relocate office and depot facilities inside the national park to better service its operations in other parks in the area.

NPWS owns and maintains 2 overhead powerlines servicing Bobbin Head and Apple Tree Bay. NPWS will investigate decommissioning the North Turramurra to Bobbin Head powerline and replacing it with an underground service linked to the Mount Colah to Apple Tree Bay line. Sections of the Mount Colah to Apple Tree Bay line may also be placed underground. This work will require an appropriate level of heritage and environmental assessment. NPWS will also consider transferring ownership of these powerlines to an appropriate service provider.

NPWS also owns and maintains water supply pipelines, sewer lines and site-based sewage and wastewater treatment facilities. Where appropriate, NPWS will consider connecting precincts to sewer and water mains.

Some management trails and park access roads extend across adjacent lands owned and managed by other authorities or private individuals. A reserve access strategy will be prepared and implemented to secure park access for public use and management purposes. Existing management trails and park roads may be subject to temporary or partial closures and realignments for visitor safety reasons or to protect park values.

Many of the management trails in the national park are identified as strategic or tactical fire trails. Under the *Rural Fires Act 1997* the relevant bush fire management committees' fire access and fire trail plans identify access requirements for fire suppression and management purposes across all land tenures. When implementing works to maintain trails at the prescribed fire trail standards, NPWS will ensure these works are carried out in a manner that minimises impacts on the parks' natural and cultural heritage values. The construction of any new trails identified in these plans will require an appropriate level of heritage and environmental assessment and will be subject to the requirements of the National Parks and Wildlife Act and Heritage Act.

Management trails no longer required for park management purposes, including fire management trails, may be reduced in width and designated for recreation (e.g. walking, mountain biking or horse riding), or may be closed and rehabilitated. Other assets, including buildings no longer necessary for park management or visitor use, may be decommissioned or removed, and sites rehabilitated after relevant heritage and environmental impact assessments and approvals.

NPWS currently maintains 54 courtesy moorings across 17 locations in the park waterways. These courtesy moorings support visitor use of the waterways and help to protect sensitive coastal wetland and estuarine habitats.

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park has significant infrastructure and assets that are at risk from foreshore erosion and sea level rise associated with climate change, including wharves, walking tracks and visitor precincts. The risk of foreshore erosion and sea level rise is assessed and considered when planning new facilities and as part of the repair and maintenance programs.

The adaptive reuse of heritage buildings in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park will be consistent with conservation management plans and the provisions of the Heritage Act and will be subject to environmental and sustainability assessment.

Several structures in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park are currently leased under the National Parks and Wildlife Act to commercial operators who provide a range of services to visitors. Some buildings are used by volunteers who deliver visitor programs. Additional buildings may be lease in the future, consistent with Table 3 below and the purposes for which a lease may be granted as listed under section 151A of the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

Table 3 Existing and potential commercial leases, licences or community use in the national park

Building/location	Existing use	Potential future use
Akuna Bay Marina	Marina operations, boat hire, cafe and function centre	Adaptation of existing buildings for visitor accommodation operated under a lease
Bobbin Head Marina	Marina operations, cafe/restaurant, and boat hire	
Paddleboat hire in Cowan Creek at Bobbin Head	Paddleboat hire and mooring	
Bobbin Inn	Visitor information, café with outdoor seating	Park management, community use or visitor services such as function room or restaurant operated under a lease
Sandstone 'kiosk' (adjacent to the wharf carpark at Bobbin Head)	Unoccupied	Park management, community use, volunteer use or visitor services such as kiosk operated under a lease
Turrumurra and Mt Colah lodges	Unoccupied	Staff or NPWS managed visitor accommodation
Gibberagong Environmental Education Centre	Environmental education facility	
Apple Tree Bay Kiosk and boatshed	Kiosk	Visitor services such as small retail outlet operated under a lease
Kalkari Discovery Centre	Visitor information and volunteer-led visitor programs	Park management, community use or visitor services such as café, kiosk or function centre under a lease
Watercraft hire at The Basin	Hire and storage of non-motorised watercraft	
Beechwood Cottage	Group function venue	Park management, community use or other visitor services such as café or kiosk operated under a lease

Building/location	Existing use	Potential future use
The Basin Camping Area	Basic camping facilities	Group camping and/or serviced camping
The Basin House	Staff office, functions and tour operator use	Park management, caretaker accommodation or visitor accommodation operated under a lease
Barrenjoey Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage	Unoccupied	Park management, community use or guided tours
Barrenjoey Assistant Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage	Unoccupied	Park management or community use, excluding short stay accommodation
Boatman's Cottage (Barrenjoey Head)	Staff accommodation	Staff or caretaker accommodation
Mobile food and beverage operators		Licensed mobile food and beverage services at various locations to cater for visitors not accessing existing hospitality venues
Mobile recreation equipment hire operators	Equipment hire at The Basin	Licensed mobile equipment hire at various locations where equipment hire is not currently provided

5. Non-park infrastructure and services

The parks contain infrastructure and services owned or managed by other authorities or individuals, including public utilities (e.g. electricity transmission infrastructure, water and sewage infrastructure), trigonometric stations, moorings and Rural Fire Service facilities.

The maintenance and operation of these services and facilities is guided by relevant legislation, protocols and agreements where established. In some circumstances formal easements have been granted. Some works carried out by these agencies and organisations (e.g. Telstra) are subject to NPWS consent and environmental impact assessment. Where formal agreements don't exist, NPWS will work with the relevant authorities to establish protocols for inspection, maintenance and emergency works (e.g. Transport for New South Wales).

The establishment of a new Rural Fire Service multi-agency training facility within, or near the national park is currently being investigated. The development of this facility outside the park is preferred. However, this development is expected to complement park fire management and emergency response objectives and may be appropriate within the park if it is located on a previously disturbed area and heritage, environment and sustainability assessments show that it is compatible with the protection of park values.

Easements, leases and licences ensure the operation and maintenance of non-NPWS infrastructure and use by third parties minimises impacts on the environment and park management operations. NPWS will seek to negotiate formal agreements for all authorised non-NPWS infrastructure and uses.

Public vehicle access to the national park is along public roads managed by Transport for New South Wales. Non-vehicle access for visitors is along management trails and walking tracks managed by NPWS. There are also public wharves that enable visitors to access the national park. NPWS will work cooperatively with the relevant management authorities to maintain safe access to the national park. Where practicable and consistent with the National Parks and Wildlife Act, the park boundary along road corridors may be adjusted where existing public roads encroach into the national park.

There are several privately owned structures in the national park including wharves, pontoons, boatsheds, water pipes, and residential and commercial buildings. Most of these structures are located at Cottage Point. These structures were permitted by agreement with the Trust before NPWS assumed responsibility for management of the national park in 1967. Permissive occupancies and other licences have been issued for these structures and uses where existing use rights have been established. These pre-existing uses require a significant management effort and have little or no environmental or community benefit. NPWS will continue to explore other options for managing these existing uses which may include considering park boundary changes.

The provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act do not allow private use of park lands where existing use rights have not been established and where there is no benefit to the public or park management. Unauthorised encroachments will continue to be removed.

Several moorings licensed to individuals and clubs have also been established in Cowan Creek estuary at Cottage Point and Apple Tree Bay to allow boat access for visitors and residents. These moorings are managed consistent with the conditions set out in the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation. New licensed moorings will be considered subject to these regulations and NPWS policy and procedures. The number, type and location of moorings is also subject to agreement with Transport for New South Wales and Department of Primary Industries Fisheries.

A range of conditions apply to mooring licences, including but not limited to:

- Mooring licences are non-transferable, and if surrendered or terminated may be reallocated by NPWS.
- Licensees must not hold more than one mooring licence within the park.
- Licensees and approved hirers or consenters must be the registered owner of any vessel at the licensed mooring. No other boats are permitted to be on these moorings without NPWS approval in writing.
- Moorings must be located only within approved mooring areas at Cottage Point (east and west) and Apple Tree Bay.
- Licensees must comply with any conditions issued by NPWS from time to time in relation to inspections and reports; licence fee; boat type and length; wastewater and sewage treatment systems; insurance and indemnities; mooring condition, markings, placement and maintenance; and multiple ownership.



Photo 6 Moorings at Cottage Point. Clare Manson Photography

6. Scheme of operations

The scheme of operations in Table 4 is consistent with section 72AA of the National Parks and Wildlife Act. It details the desired outcomes for the parks' values and the actions that NPWS proposes to undertake to achieve these outcomes.

A management priority has been assigned to each action to guide the allocation of resources. These priorities are based on an assessment of the risks posed by threats to the park's values, the feasibility of mitigating the impacts of these threats or opportunities to improve the condition of park values.

NPWS's performance in meeting the outcomes in the scheme of operations will be measured through periodic assessment. Performance in delivering the actions in the scheme of operations will be measured through audits of plans of management.

Subsidiary plans may be developed to support delivery of the outcomes, actions and priorities set out in the scheme of operations. These subsidiary plans will provide more detailed directions and enable NPWS to adapt management approaches in response to new information or policy directions and changed circumstances over the life of this plan of management. Activities detailed in subsidiary plans may be subject to separate monitoring and evaluation processes aimed at measuring and improving management effectiveness and promoting adaptive management.

Conservation action plans will be prepared and implemented for declared assets of intergenerational significance consistent with the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation.

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 proposed actions may be undertaken as part of these processes.

Information on popular recreational or commercial activities that are permitted in the national park is provided in the park use regulations tables in Section 7. More detailed information on other activities is available on the NPWS website.

Table 4 Scheme of operations

Outcome	Actions	Priority
Protecting the natural environment		
1. The geological values and landform features of the parks are protected	a. Maintain and upgrade tracks and trails, including realigning tracks and trails and installing boardwalks in vulnerable environments, to reduce erosion and minimise impacts on park values.	High
2. The health of park waterways, coastal environments and aquatic ecosystems is maintained or improved	a. Manage the parks' coastal zone consistent with the objectives of the <i>Coastal Management Act 2016</i> and <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> and related plans and programs.	High
	b. Work with local councils, other land managers and water authorities to manage water quality in the parks' waterways and minimise the impacts of stormwater and urban run-off on the parks' natural values.	High

Outcome	Actions	Priority
	c. Establish a program to monitor and manage waterway use and access, including strategies to minimise the impacts of wash and shore erosion.	Medium
	d. Carry out dredging or coastal rehabilitation works as required and consistent with relevant coastal zone legislation to maintain wetland habitat, park access, and to prevent flooding of neighbouring communities in emergencies.	Medium
	e. Encourage monitoring and reporting of aquatic ecosystem health through partnerships with scientific research facilities, local councils and volunteer organisations. Incorporate findings of monitoring programs into habitat protection programs where practical.	Medium
	f. Work with regulatory authorities to ensure impacts on marine habitats are minimised including impacts of anchoring.	Medium
3. The extent and condition of priority habitats, native plant and animal species, and vegetation communities are maintained or improved	a. Manage fire consistent with relevant fire management strategies and bushfire risk management plans.	Very high
	b. Manage feral animal and weed species consistent with relevant feral animal and weed management strategies.	Very high
	c. Manage occurrences of disease and pathogens consistent with guidelines and protocols established for these threatening processes.	High
	d. Monitor and manage visitor impacts on the parks' values and implement closures or controls as required. This may include realignment, temporary or permanent closure of existing or unauthorised tracks, erosion control, fencing and signage.	High
	e. Monitor and manage the impact of threatening processes on native species and communities, with priority given to threatened and regionally significant species and communities.	High
	f. Develop and implement a compliance program targeting activities that are key threats to park values, including unauthorised use and illegal activities.	High
	g. Work with adjacent land managers to maintain green corridors by protecting vegetation extent and connections with surrounding bushland.	Medium

Outcome	Actions	Priority
	h. Support volunteer bush regeneration programs in priority habitats where these programs align with park management priorities.	Medium
	i. Support research relevant to improving our understanding and conservation of park values and assisting NPWS with park management.	Medium
	j. Consider the acquisition of land that will improve connectivity with adjoining areas of high conservation value and waterways.	Low
	k. Work with the relevant agencies to improve and maintain existing corridors of native vegetation and connections with adjacent intertidal areas to protect significant aquatic vegetation and maintain access to food, shelter and breeding habitat for native animals.	Low
4. Populations of threatened and significant species are stable, and condition of threatened ecological communities is stable or improving	a. Implement relevant actions in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Program</i> and Commonwealth recovery plans for threatened native species and populations occurring in the parks.	Very high
	b. Implement conservation action plans to conserve and monitor assets of intergenerational significance.	Very high
5. Understanding of the impacts of climate change on park values is improved and informs management of park values	a. Encourage research into the potential impacts of climate change on park values most at risk and identify management actions to minimise impacts.	Medium
	b. Incorporate research findings relevant to climate change risk and adaptation into management programs for the parks.	Medium
Looking after our culture and heritage		
6. There are increased opportunities for Aboriginal people to build connection to Country and care for Country	a. Establish an ongoing and regular process for meeting with Aboriginal land councils, custodial families and other relevant Aboriginal community organisations to discuss park management priorities and directions, and opportunities for caring for Country.	High
	b. Consult and involve the Aboriginal community in the management of cultural heritage and other park values.	High
	c. Involve the Aboriginal community in the research and development of material for interpretation of Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the national park.	High

Outcome	Actions	Priority
	d. Work with the local Aboriginal community to support on-Country visits where desired.	Medium
	e. Work in partnership with the Aboriginal community to integrate cultural burning practices in the parks where appropriate.	Medium
	f. Work with the Aboriginal community to develop protocols for the storage and display of artefacts and other cultural material, transmission of oral history and repatriation of cultural items where appropriate.	Medium
7. The condition of Aboriginal heritage sites, places and cultural values is maintained or improved	a. Prioritise protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage values in feral animal, weed and fire management programs.	Very high
	b. Undertake Aboriginal cultural heritage site surveys with Aboriginal people and in consultation with specialists, targeting sites where information is lacking. Implement management actions to protect sites as required.	Medium
	c. Review the identified Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in partnership with the Aboriginal community and develop options for protection where required.	High
8. There is increased awareness among park visitors and the community about the parks' Aboriginal culture and heritage	a. Incorporate Aboriginal language in the naming of places, signage and interpretation where appropriate and agreed with the Aboriginal community.	High
	b. Develop and communicate information about Aboriginal culture and heritage in the national park in partnership with the Aboriginal community.	Medium
9. The condition of historic heritage sites, places and cultural values is maintained	a. Prioritise protection of historic heritage values in feral animal, weed and fire management programs.	Very high
	b. Manage historic heritage sites consistent with their significance and maintain records of historic heritage in the Historic Heritage Information Management System. Where necessary prepare conservation management plans.	High
	c. Permit adaptive reuse of heritage buildings after heritage, environmental and sustainability assessments, consistent with Tables 2 and 3, relevant legislation and conservation management plans.	Medium

Outcome	Actions	Priority
10. There is increased awareness among park visitors and the community of the parks' historic heritage	a. Interpret and promote the parks' historic heritage through a range of measures including signage and use of innovative and emerging technology.	Medium
	b. Maintain records of movable heritage items and appropriately store and display items to promote understanding and appreciation of the parks' heritage values.	Low
Providing for visitor use and enjoyment		
11. Improved visitor facilities support visitor enjoyment of the national park	a. Prepare and implement precinct plans for West Head and Resolute precincts, The Basin precinct, Kalkari precinct and other visitor precincts where significant changes of use or major upgrades are proposed.	Very high
	b. If required, prepare and implement a new precinct plan for Bobbin Head and Apple Tree Bay after reviewing the Bobbin Head and Apple Tree Bay Masterplan.	Medium
	c. Establish an integrated park-wide visitor data system for the collection, storage and analysis of visitor use data to use in designing and planning visitor facilities and services.	Medium
	d. Investigate options to improve visitor access and facilities at Cottage Point. Where feasible, develop new facilities and access subject to precinct planning.	Low
12. Visitors enjoy a high quality, safe and meaningful visitor experience in the national park	a. Implement strategies to improve visitor access for all abilities and manage visitor numbers in peak periods.	Very high
	b. Prepare and implement a track and trail improvement program for walking, mountain biking and horse riding, including new tracks and trails consistent with Figure 3 and assessment of redundant fire trails.	High
	c. Work in partnership with other agencies to promote road safety in the national park for cyclists, motorists and pedestrians.	High

Outcome	Actions	Priority
	d. New walking track connections may be developed to improve linkages between walking tracks on the western Pittwater foreshores, to reopen historic walking tracks and to facilitate opportunities for longer walking routes. New tracks may use existing informal tracks where they are suitable and will be consistent with priorities identified in the track and trail improvement program.	Medium
	e. Realign and reroute walking tracks, where required, to protect natural and cultural values or provide improved safety and amenity for visitors.	High
	f. Work with relevant agencies responsible for the Great North Walk to establish an MOU and protocols for track and facility maintenance.	High
	g. Continue to provide access to the existing horse-riding trails in the national park consistent with Figure 3.	High
	h. Assess trails consistent with Figure 3 for suitability for horse riding. Develop identified trails and associated infrastructure after environmental and cultural heritage impact assessment, subject to funding and cross-tenure access agreements.	High
	i. Trails may be temporarily closed to horse riding when there is a high risk of damage to trails and/or park values (e.g. after high rainfall events).	High
	j. Assess trails consistent with Figure 3 for suitability for mountain biking. Develop identified trails subject to the outcomes of environmental and cultural heritage assessments, consistent with the NPWS cycling strategy and policy.	High
	k. Trails may be temporarily closed for mountain biking when there is a high risk of damage to trails and/or park values (e.g. after high rainfall events).	High
13. Courtesy and licensed moorings are managed to provide public access to the park's waterways and to support sustainable visitor experiences	a. Maintain courtesy moorings and licensed commercial, club and individual moorings consistent with the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation.	High
	b. Manage moorings and mooring areas in consultation with relevant regulatory agencies.	Medium

Outcome	Actions	Priority
	c. Review locations, types and use of NPWS courtesy moorings at least every 2 years, to improve environmental sustainability and maintain safe navigation and public access.	Medium
14. Education and communication programs enhance the visitor experience and help to maintain visitor safety and promote park values	a. Prepare and implement a park-wide visitor communications program to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o establish a park-wide interpretation and communication plan. o identify options for interpretation of park values through a range of media including on-site displays, guided activities, printed material, signs and digital technology. o ensure directional, safety and regulatory signs for the national park meet management and visitor needs. o review and update current interpretation plans. 	Medium
	b. Continue to support environmental education programs and activities in the national park, including programs and activities delivered by NPWS volunteers and Department of Education.	Medium
	c. Include information in the park's education and communication programs about adjacent high value aquatic biodiversity sites e.g. Barrenjoey Head Aquatic Reserve and the endangered <i>Posidonia australis</i> seagrass population.	Medium
Park infrastructure and services		
15. Facilities and services in the parks adequately service management and authorised visitor use and have minimal environmental impacts	a. Continue to identify, monitor and manage risks consistent with the NPWS risk register and NPWS policy.	Very high
	b. Consider protection of park assets in feral animal, weed and fire management programs.	Very high
	c. Manage NPWS facilities to meet applicable accessibility, safety, and sustainability standards, consistent with NPWS policy. Assets no longer suitable or safe for park operations or visitor use may be decommissioned and/or removed consistent with the relevant NPWS policy and procedures.	High

Outcome	Actions	Priority
	d. Prepare and implement a reserve access strategy to secure national park access for public use and management purposes, including access to Pittwater foreshore areas.	Medium
	e. Rationalise management of NPWS utilities and services including removal and replacement of overhead powerlines and associated infrastructure with underground services, where appropriate.	Medium
	f. Identify and seek to correct boundary errors, boundary encroachments, and any proposed boundary adjustments under section 188C of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, as required.	Low
16. Bushfire risk is managed consistent with relevant legislation	a. Implement the park fire management strategy and/or bushfire risk plans, consistent with relevant legislation.	Very high
	b. Participate in strategic fire planning through the relevant bush fire management committees and emergency management committee; and maintain cooperative arrangements with local Rural Fire Service brigades, other fire authorities and surrounding landowners.	Very high
	c. Establish and maintain the fire trail network consistent with approved fire access and fire trail (FAFT) plans and prescribed standards under the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> . Where required, establish new trails after heritage and environmental impact assessment and consistent with the approved FAFT plan.	High
17. Protect assets and infrastructure from the impacts of coastal hazards and sea level rise	a. Undertake an assessment to identify and determine appropriate management actions for those locations at risk of coastal hazards and sea level rise and other impacts associated with climate change.	Medium
Non-park infrastructure and services		
18. Non-NPWS uses and services are sustainable, have minimal impacts on park values and are appropriately authorised	a. Ensure all non-NPWS uses and occupancies of NPWS land are authorised consistent with Part 12 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, where required.	High
	b. As opportunities arise consider options to rationalise the park boundaries around Cottage Point.	Medium

Outcome	Actions	Priority
	c. Establish protocols for management and maintenance of powerlines owned by the Transport Asset Holding Entity.	Medium
	d. Monitor all authorised non-NPWS uses and occupancies and have unauthorised encroachments removed consistent with NPWS policy and procedures.	Medium
	e. Additional licensed moorings may be permitted in designated mooring areas at Cottage Point, consistent with the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation, after environmental and sustainability assessment, and by agreement with relevant regulatory authorities.	Medium

7. Park use regulations

7.1 Recreational activities

There are many recreational activities that can be undertaken in the national park without consent from NPWS. Other activities can occur if consent is provided by NPWS. All activities that occur in the national park are subject to relevant policies and legislation.

Conditions may be applied to ensure an activity is undertaken safely and to minimise environmental risks and risks to other users. Consent may be refused after consideration of the proposed activity and its likely environmental, visitor safety and park management impacts.




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









Activities not shown in Table 5 may also be regulated by signage within the national park or by consent.



Information regarding activities that require consent and obtaining consent is available on the NSW national parks visitor website or by contacting the relevant NPWS office (contact details at the front of this plan).

Lion Island Nature Reserve, Long Island Nature Reserve and Spectacle Island Nature Reserve are managed for conservation of their natural and cultural heritage values. Access to the nature reserves is only permitted for research and for park management activities relating to the protection of natural and cultural values. Visitor access is not permitted and therefore no recreational activities are permitted.

Table 5 Park use regulations – recreational activities in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

	Type of activity	Allowed	Note/exceptions
	Rock climbing Abseiling and bouldering	Yes	Allowed in a designated area at Barrenjoey Head. Commercial groups, and groups larger than 10 people require consent. Additional sites may be authorised by written consent.
	Barbecues – portable	Yes	Portable gas and liquid stoves are allowed. To reduce risks to conservation values and minimise disturbance to other park users, the use of portable heat bead or solid fuel barbecues is prohibited unless otherwise signposted. Use of portable barbecues during total fire bans is prohibited.
	Camping	Yes	Permitted at The Basin Camping Area and walk-in campsites along the Great North Walk at Brooklyn Dam. Camping outside these camping areas is prohibited.

	Type of activity	Allowed	Note/exceptions
	Cycling	Yes	On park roads, management trails (unless otherwise signposted) and on signposted single-track routes. No cycling on walking tracks or off-trail. Sporting tournament or competition events require consent, irrespective of the size of groups (see Table 6).
	Dog walking	No	Dogs and other pets are not allowed in the national park or the nature reserves. This applies to dogs and pets in vehicles. This prohibition does not apply to a person being accompanied by their trained and registered assistance animal in the park or a person transporting an animal in a vehicle to other land only accessible through the park. Refer to the NPWS <i>Pets in parks policy</i> for more information.
	Vehicles and motor bikes	yes	Registered vehicles (including 4-wheel drives) are permitted on public and sealed park roads. Vehicles are not permitted on management trails or off-road.
	Fossicking	No	Not permitted due to potential environmental impacts, particularly given the presence of high-gradient slopes. Refer to the NPWS <i>Fossicking policy</i> .
	Group gatherings – non-commercial (e.g. family or social gatherings, school groups)	Yes	Consent is required for groups of more than 20 people at West Head Lookout and for groups of more than 40 people elsewhere in the national park. Consent is required for larger groups to ensure limited available space can be managed.
	Hang-gliding	No	Not permitted due to the lack of suitable safe locations and potential risks to other park users.
	Horse riding	Yes	On designated multi-use management trails as signposted. Organised group (e.g. club) events of 40 or more persons require consent (see Table 6). Refer to the NPWS <i>Horse riding policy</i> .
	Model aeroplanes and drones	Yes	Recreational use of drones is not permitted in the parks. Consent required for commercial use consistent with the NPWS <i>Drones in parks policy</i> . Drones may be used for park management purposes.
	Walking	Yes	On walking tracks and management trails. Commercial or charity events, or group events of 40 or more people require consent.

	Type of activity	Allowed	Note/exceptions
	Water-based recreation (e.g. fishing, swimming, surfing, diving and snorkelling)	Yes	<p>This plan does not regulate or control activities below the mean high-water mark. The exceptions to this are Cowan Creek and its tributaries, and The Basin lagoon. The beds of these waterways and waterbodies are part of the national park.</p> <p>Boating and other watercraft use is permitted in Cowan Water, subject to marine safety and navigation legislation.</p> <p>Powered watercraft are not permitted upstream of the vehicle bridge at Bobbin Head and the walkway bridge at Apple Tree Bay.</p> <p>Additional regulations apply to aquatic activities, such as fish catch limits and use of certain types of recreational or safety equipment.</p>
	Wood fires	Yes	<p>Only in fireplaces provided at The Basin Camping Area. Wood fires are prohibited elsewhere in the parks.</p> <p>Wood fires at The Basin Camping Area are prohibited during total fire bans and park fire bans.</p> <p>Portable heat bead or solid fuel stoves are prohibited, unless otherwise signposted.</p>

7.2 Commercial and non-commercial activities requiring approval

Commercial and non-commercial activities within NSW national parks requiring prior approval vary and range from guided tours, commercial events, filming and photography permits to mobile food vendors.

Table 6 lists some common events, functions and commercial activities that may be permitted in the national park with approval from NPWS under a consent, licence or lease. It is not an exhaustive list of permitted commercial or other activities. Information on relevant policies, guidelines, and required approvals and fees is available on the Environment and Heritage website.

Commercial activities such as tours are licensed under the Parks Eco Pass program which is the NPWS program for licensing operators who conduct commercial tours, recreational and educational activities in NSW national parks and reserves. Information is available on the website.

Commercial filming and photography in national parks and nature reserves requires approval. If you would like to use a NSW national park or reserve for commercial filming or photography information 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.

NPWS is committed to ensuring that opportunities to experience Aboriginal culture in the parks are developed and delivered in a culturally sensitive way. These experiences must respect the authenticity and integrity of local Aboriginal people and their culture, adhere to cultural protocols, and recognise that Aboriginal culture is the intellectual property of Aboriginal people. Licensing of commercial tour operators, recreation and education

operators includes conditions on the delivery of Aboriginal cultural heritage interpretation and requirements for Aboriginal cultural awareness training.

Table 6 Park use regulations – events, functions and commercial activities

Type of activity	Group size where applicable	Type of approval required
Commercial and charity events, including walking, running and road cycling events open for public participation	All groups irrespective of size	Consent or licence
Sporting activity that is part of an organised competition or tournament	All groups irrespective of size	Consent
Commercial tours, recreational and educational activities, transport service and any other commercial services	All groups irrespective of size	Consent or licence
Commercial filming and photography	All individuals and groups irrespective of size	Consent or licence
All other non-commercial events and gatherings involving groups of more than 40 people, or 20 at West Head	All groups of more than 20 people at West Head Lookout and all groups of 40 people elsewhere in the national park	Consent
Research (scientific and educational, and related to conservation or park management)	All groups irrespective of size	Consent or licence [#]
Kiosk, cafe and restaurant	As per lease or licence conditions	Lease and licence
Commercial Marinas	As per lease conditions	Lease
Mobile food and beverage operations including catering for non-commercial group functions	As per consent, lease or licence conditions	Consent or licence
Paid service providers for commercial and non-commercial group functions (e.g. party entertainers and celebrants)	All groups irrespective of size	Consent
Visitor accommodation in park buildings (including heritage buildings), cabins and serviced camping facilities and park campgrounds	As per lease or licence conditions	Lease and/or licence
Mobile watercraft hire services (e.g. kayak, canoes, stand-up paddleboards or similar)	As per lease or licence conditions	Consent or licence
Boat and paddle craft hire shop, including paddleboards, kayak, canoes, stand-up paddleboards or similar	As per lease or licence conditions	Licence
Campground management services and campground equipment hire (serviced camping)	As per lease or licence conditions	Lease or licence

Note: # May require consent or licence from other consent authorities.

More information

- [Australian Heritage Database](#)
- [Barrenjoey Headland Conservation Management Plan](#)
- [Environment and Heritage website](#)
- [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's privacy and security webpage](#)
- [Ku-ring-gai National Park and Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island nature reserves planning considerations](#)
- [NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service website](#)
- [NPWS park policies:](#)
 - [*Pets in parks policy*](#)
 - [*Fossicking policy*](#)
 - [*Cycling policy*](#)
 - [*Horse riding policy*](#)
 - [*Visitor safety policy*](#)
 - [*Drones in parks policy*](#)
- [Zero extinctions: national parks as a stronghold for threatened species recovery – National Parks and Wildlife Service threatened species framework](#)