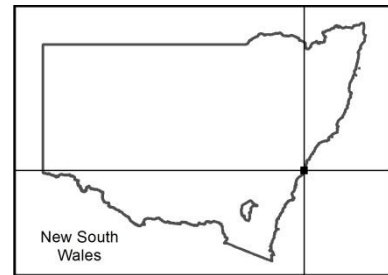


# Statement of Management Intent



## Malabar Headland National Park

### 1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Malabar Headland National Park. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the park until a plan of management has been prepared in accordance with the [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 \(NPW Act\)](#). The NPWS [Managing Parks Prior to Plan of Management Policy](#) states that parks and reserves without a plan of management are to be managed in a manner consistent with the intent of the NPW Act and the ['precautionary principle' \(see Principle 15\)](#).

### 2. Management principles

National parks are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas containing outstanding or representative ecosystems, natural or cultural features or landscapes or phenomena that provide opportunities for public appreciation, inspiration and sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment. Under the NPW Act ([section 30E](#)), national parks are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, and 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 park's natural and cultural values
- provide for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with conservation of natural and cultural values
- provide for sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to conservation of natural and cultural values
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The primary purpose of national parks is to conserve nature and cultural heritage. Opportunities are provided for appropriate visitor use in a manner that does not damage conservation values.

### 3. Context

**Reservation details:** Malabar Headland National Park was reserved on 7 December 2012.  
**Size:** 17 hectares.

Malabar Headland National Park is located in the suburb of Malabar approximately 13 kilometres south-east of the city of Sydney. It falls within the Pittwater subregion of the Sydney Basin Bioregion. It also lies within the administrative areas of Randwick City Council, Greater Sydney Local Land Services and La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council.



The greater Malabar headland encompasses 177 hectares of open space and remnant bushland at the southern end of Maroubra Beach. The park is located in the western part of the headland and is bounded by high-density private residential areas to the west and the council-managed Cromwell Park and Pioneers Park to the south-west. The headland has been used for several purposes since European settlement, including farming, recreational shooting, horse riding and as a military training facility and defensive base during World War II. The eastern edge of the headland contains important remnants of an endangered ecological community, Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub in the Sydney Basin Bioregion (see below) as well as heritage-listed World War II defence structures. This part of the headland is separated from the park by an area of open grassland currently occupied by the ANZAC Rifle Range.

In 2010, it was announced that portions of the Malabar headland would be transferred from Commonwealth to State ownership for the purpose of establishing a national park for the community. In December 2012, 17.7 hectares of land that forms the western section of the headland was established as Malabar Headland National Park. The land located to the east of the rifle range will be transferred to State ownership eventually, and reserved for its conservation value,

once remediation works are completed and the area is free of the effects of the neighbouring rifle range. The central section of the headland, where the ANZAC Rifle Range is currently located, is unlikely to be reserved as a national park due to its low conservation value.

#### 4. Values

- The broader Malabar headland is one of the few coastal areas in Sydney's southern metropolitan area to have retained its native vegetation. The headland contains the largest remaining area of original bushland between Botany Bay and South Head, and the park protects approximately 25 per cent of this remnant vegetation.
- Other coastal vegetation communities within Malabar Headland National Park include Coastal Sand Apple – Bloodwood Forest, Coastal Upland Wet Heath Swamp, Coastal Headland Cliff Line Swamp, Coastal Headland Banksia Heath and Coastal Sand Mantle Heath.
- Malabar headland contains one of the largest, continuous remnants of the endangered ecological community listed as Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub in the Sydney Basin Bioregion under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) and as Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub of the Sydney Region under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Less than 3 per cent of the original distribution of this community remains. Malabar Headland National Park, along with the eastern section of the headland, has been recommended for identification as critical habitat for this community.
- The endangered ecological community Swamp Sclerophyll Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions (listed under the TSC Act) has been recorded in the park and surrounding Malabar headland.
- Threatened species recorded in the park and surrounding Malabar headland include the eastern bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*), grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*), eastern ground parrot (*Pezoporus wallicus wallicus*), sooty oystercatcher (*Haematopus fuliginosus*) and the critically endangered orange-bellied parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*).
- La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council considers Malabar headland to be a culturally significant site. Evidence of early occupation of the headland by Aboriginal people includes grinding grooves, art engraving and shell middens.
- Malabar headland is a renowned site for viewing seabirds and marine mammals. The surrounding area attracts many bushwalkers, birdwatchers and whale watchers. Access through the national park is currently restricted to protect sensitive vegetation communities. However, providing a controlled access trail through the park is a high priority to extend the Eastern Beaches Coastal Walk and contribute to the Southern Sydney Regional Trail Network.

#### 5. Issues

- European red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral cats (*Felis catus*) and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) have been recorded within the park.
- The park has documented occurrences of invasive weeds including bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp. rotundata*), lantana (*Lantana camara*), asparagus fern (*Asparagus aethiopicus*) and coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*).
- Identified threats within Malabar Headland National Park impacting on Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub include inappropriate fire regimes, weeds, pest animals, mowing, slashing, rubbish dumping and erosion.

- The park lies in close proximity to residential urban areas; there is some evidence of unregulated access and associated anti-social activities, rubbish dumping, vandalism, arson and trail bike riding.
- Historically there have been numerous informal walking, trail bike and horse riding tracks through the park, resulting in damage to sensitive vegetation communities and erosion of friable soils. Appropriate walking access needs to be formalised through the park to protect these values, close some of the informal tracks and exclude damaging activities.

## 6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Malabar Headland National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Metropolitan North East Region.
- The long-term, volunteer-run bush regeneration program which has been carried out within the park by the local group, Friends of Malabar Headland, will be formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding and provided with ongoing support.
- Remnant vegetation will be conserved and protected.
- The park's endangered ecological communities and threatened species will be conserved as a priority in accordance with any recovery plans.
- A walking track will be constructed on the eastern edge of the park to provide controlled access for the public. This will also connect the two council parks with Maroubra Beach and extend the Southern Sydney Regional Trail network. NPWS will continue to work with Randwick City Council and the relevant Australian Government agency (currently the Department of Finance) to complete the track. These works are considered urgent and will be undertaken as soon as possible.
- Partnerships will be fostered with the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council in order to conserve Aboriginal sites and values in the park.
- Partnerships with Randwick City Council, the Australian Government and other stakeholders will continue to be maintained through the Malabar Headland Interagency Working Group to manage impacts on the park from surrounding land use and associated management issues.
- All management activities will be preceded by the preparation of an environmental assessment or heritage assessment where this is a requirement of NPWS policy or legislation.
- Environmental repair and threat management programs, such as erosion mitigation measures, pest management, and activities arising from threatened species requirements may be implemented in accordance with NPWS policies and procedures.
- Non-intrusive works may be undertaken where necessary to protect cultural heritage items from further deterioration, to ensure the safety of visitors, to protect wildlife or to prevent damage to park assets.
- A plan of management will be prepared to set out the ongoing management objectives for the park. The plan of management is a statutory document under the NPW Act which will be available for public comment. NPWS will also encourage the community to contribute to the ongoing conservation of the park by promoting and raising public awareness of its special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this park or this statement, contact the NPWS Vaucluse Office on (02) 9337 5511 or at PO Box 461, Rose Bay NSW 2029.

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**Disclaimer:** This is a statement of intent to guide the management of the park prior to the development of a plan of management. Any statements made in this publication are made in good faith and do not render the Office of Environment and Heritage liable for any loss or damage. Provisions in the final plan of management may vary from those identified in this document as a result of new information and community consultation. The maps in this statement are intended to show the park's location and basic features only, and are not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within parks.

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