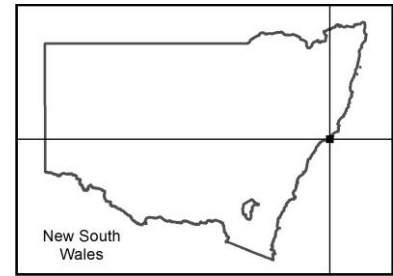


# Statement of Management Intent



## Shark Island Nature Reserve

### 1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Shark Island Nature Reserve. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the reserve 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

Nature reserves are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas containing outstanding, unique or representative ecosystems, species, communities or natural phenomena. Under the NPW Act ([Section 30J](#)), nature reserves are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, and 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 reserve’s natural and cultural values
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The primary purpose of nature reserves is to conserve nature. Nature reserves differ from national parks in that they do not have the provision of visitor use as a management purpose or principle.

### 3. Context

**Reservation details:** Shark Island Nature Reserve was reserved on 23 December 2005.

**Size:** 1.5 hectares.

Shark Island Nature Reserve is located within the Pacific Ocean, 600 metres north-east of Point Stephens Lighthouse and six kilometres south-east of Nelson Bay. It falls within the Manning Shelf (marine) Bioregion and is surrounded by the Port Stephens–Great Lakes Marine Park.

Shark Island Nature Reserve is a small rocky outcrop that lies east of Tomaree National Park. The reserve is completely surrounded by shallow and intermediate reef habitat which lies within a marine habitat protection zone. This type of reef community is characterised by the abundance of macroalgae, dominated by kelp and various species of seaweed and coralline algae. The

reservation of Shark Island Nature Reserve and other reserves that lie adjacent to marine areas assists in minimising land-based threats to marine communities.



#### 4. Values

- Shark Island Nature Reserve protects habitat for a variety of migratory shorebird species including the eastern reef egret (*Egretta sacra*) and wedge-tailed shearwater (*Ardenna pacificus*) both of which are protected under the international migratory shorebird agreement, Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA).
- The Worimi Conservation Lands and nearby islands in the Port Stephens–Great Lakes Marine Park Area, such as Boondelbah Nature Reserve and John Gould Nature Reserve provide important habitat for the endangered Gould’s petrel (*Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera*), little tern (*Sternula albifrons*) and many other protected migratory shorebird species. Shark Island Nature Reserve provides habitat opportunities for these species migrating along the coastline.

#### 5. Issues

- Bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *rotundata*) and prickly pear (*Opuntia stricta*) are distributed across island reserves within the Port Stephens–Great Lakes Marine Park area and may pose a risk for invasion within Shark Island Nature Reserve.

## 6. Key management directions

- 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 reserve. 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 reserve by promoting and raising public awareness of its special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this reserve or this statement, contact the NPWS Nelson Bay Office on 02 4984 8200 or Level 1, 12B Teramby Road, Nelson Bay NSW.

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**Disclaimer:** This is a statement of intent to guide the management of the reserve 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 reserve's location and basic features only, and are not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within parks.

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