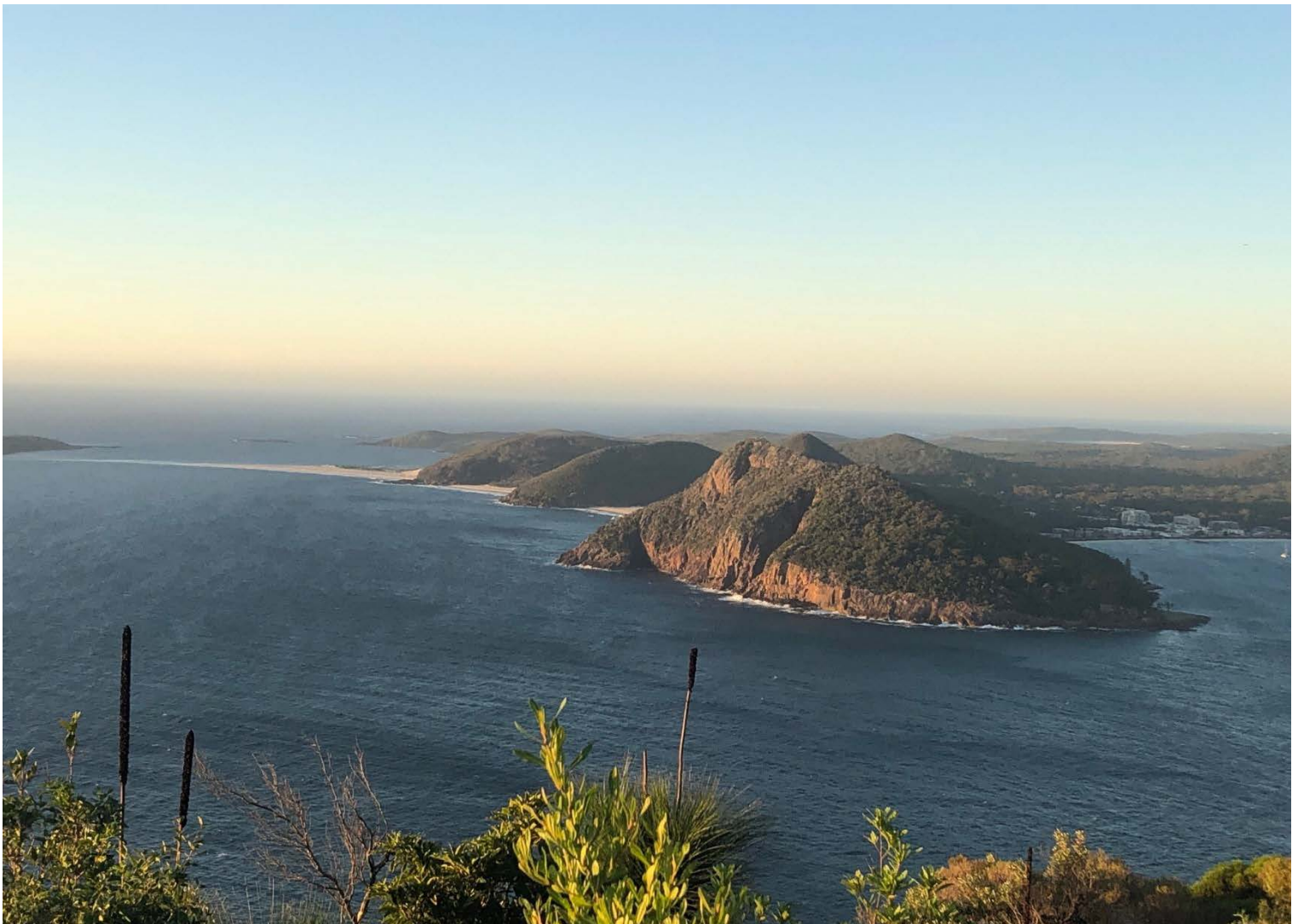




NSW NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE

# Tomaree National Park Plan of Management Draft Amendment

Coastal Walk and Visitor Experience  
Improvements



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## Have your say

You are invited to comment on this proposed amendment to the plan of management for Tomaree National Park. (see [Have your say on NSW environment and heritage](#)).

The *Tomaree National Park Plan of Management* was adopted in 2006. Section 73B of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) provides that the Minister may amend a plan of management. An amendment to the plan is proposed to allow development of the Tomaree Coastal Walk and other improvements to visitor experiences.

We want to know what you think about this proposed plan amendment. Your knowledge may help us manage the park more effectively.

To give us feedback on the proposed plan amendment you can send a written submission by:

-  using the online submission form at <https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/consult>
-  emailing it to [npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au)
-  posting it to: Manager Planning Evaluation and Assessment, PO Box 95, Parramatta NSW 2124.

Written submissions must be received by **16 September 2019**.

To help us make the best use of your feedback:

- Make sure we can tell what issue or part of the plan amendment you are talking about. One way you can do this is to include the section heading and/or page number from the amendment in your submission.
- Tell us how we can make the proposed amendment better. You may want to tell us what you know about the park or how you or other people use and value it.

We are happy to hear any ideas or comments you may have and will consider them all, but please be aware that we can't always include all information or ideas in the final revised plan.

## What happens to your feedback?

- Step 1: Your submission is part of the process of making this draft plan amendment final. At the close of the public exhibition period, we consider all submissions and prepare a submissions report. Note that multiple submissions received by the same author will be counted as a single submission.
- Step 2: We provide the relevant Advisory Committee and the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council with the draft amendment, all the submissions and the submissions report. They consider the documents, make comments on the amendment or suggest changes, and provide advice to the Minister for the Environment.
- Step 3: The Minister considers the amendment, the submissions and any advice, makes any necessary changes and decides whether to adopt the plan amendments under the NPW Act.

## Your privacy

Your submission will be provided to a number of statutory advisory bodies as outlined above. Your comments on the draft plan amendments may include 'personal information'. Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) complies with the NSW [Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998](#), which regulates the collection, storage, quality, use and disclosure of [personal information](#). For details see [our privacy page](#). Information that in some way identifies you may be gathered when you use our website or send us an email.

Should an access application under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* be received that requests access to your submission, your views about the release will be sought if you have indicated that you object to it being made public.

## Why amend the plan?

In 2018 the NSW Government announced considerable funding for investment in projects in response to the growing popularity of nature-based walks. As a result, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has commenced work on a range of projects aiming to increase nature-based tourism in New South Wales, boost regional visitor economies and improve community wellbeing. These [visitor infrastructure projects](#) will significantly enhance visitor facilities and create new iconic experiences in NSW national parks including new walking trails, accommodation and tourism partnerships.

The proposed signature coastal walk planned for Tomaree National Park will connect visitors with outstanding landscape features including beaches, forests, historic sites and scenic lookouts.

The visitor focus of the current plan is to provide for nature-based recreation with a priority for maintaining existing day-use facilities. The plan provided for walking and/or vehicular access to many of the main features in the park, including designated walking tracks on Tomaree Head. The plan's priority was to maintain existing infrastructure and to provide facilities at the most popular visitor sites. Facilities included car parking, picnic tables, shelters, lookouts and information and signage.

The plan discusses the concept of providing a walking route from Tomaree Head south to Birubi Point which has long been of interest to the general community acknowledging that due to constraints of terrain, vegetation and soil types, constructing a track of the appropriate standard will require considerable funding and support from the local community. As a first step, the plan recommended undertaking a feasibility study.

Under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, no operations can be undertaken on a park if they are inconsistent with the existing plan. The plan of management for Tomaree National Park specifically states that an amendment to the plan will be required before new tracks can be constructed.

Therefore, this proposed amendment would amend the plan to enable the delivery of an iconic 20-kilometre coastal walking experience linking Tomaree Head and the Worimi Conservation Lands at Birubi Point. It will involve the upgrade of existing tracks and construction of new track sections as well as supporting facilities.

A new map has been prepared for the plan of management and is included below. It identifies the route corridor of the Tomaree Coastal Walk, together with key infrastructure sites including whale watching platforms, car parking and visitor amenities. Design and detailed planning for the walk's final alignment and construction will be provided through a

detailed master plan. The master planning and environmental impact assessment process will include a further opportunity for public input.

Several actions and/or policies in the plan of management have been fulfilled or need updating to reflect changes in park boundaries and values. This amendment also proposes minor updates to the plan of management in response to environmental, visitation and statutory changes that have occurred since the plan's adoption in 2006 but is not intended as a comprehensive review. Key changes being introduced in this amendment include:

- acknowledgement of Birubi Point Aboriginal Place
- acknowledgement of the Worimi Conservation Lands
- inclusion of additions to Tomaree National Park since the plan was adopted in 2006
- allowing for helicopter flights to Fingal Island under licence
- allowing for a beach vehicle permit system to be introduced on Samurai Beach.

This proposed plan of management amendment enables construction of the Tomaree Coastal Walk, supporting visitor facilities and associated commercial uses. To assist in the reader's understanding of the amendment, a draft Tomaree Coastal Walk Strategy is also available.

## How to read the amendment

The proposed amendment replaces some of the existing plan's text, provides new text and a new map. These changes should be read in conjunction with the Tomaree National Park Plan of Management, as adopted in 2006. Section numbers referred to in the amendment refer to the adopted plan of management.

The draft Tomaree Coastal Walk Strategy provides more details on the coastal walk proposal and is also on exhibition.

Tomaree NP Proposed Amendment to Plan of Management: Visitor Experience Improvements, Coastal Walk



Figure 1 Locations of the proposed visitor experience improvements in Tomaree National Park to be enabled by the amendment



# Proposed amendment

The *Tomaree National Park Plan of Management* was adopted in 2006. Below are the proposed amendments to the plan. In all instances where a change is proposed to a guideline or action in the body of the plan, these will also be revised in the Implementation Table (pages 42-51).

Accompanying this amendment is the draft Tomaree Coastal Walk Strategy which provides more details on the coastal walk proposal. The strategy will continue to be refined based on detailed design, environmental studies and ongoing consultation. The strategy will guide the development of a master plan which will be publicly exhibited along with its environmental impact assessment prior to development approval. The strategy and the master plan must and will continue to meet adopted plan of management requirements.

## 1. Tomaree Coastal Walk

### 1.1 Heritage works at Tomaree Head

Tomaree Head is the starting point for the proposed Tomaree Coastal Walk. The fortifications at Tomaree Head date from World War II and are of state heritage significance. This means that any works on the headland must be consistent with the Conservation Management Plan for the site which has been endorsed by the Heritage Council of NSW established under the *Heritage Act 1977*.

The proposed amendment explains the need for maintenance works and improvements to visitor access proposed within the headland precinct as part of the proposed Tomaree Coastal Walk.

Works such as these were previously informed by the Hunter Region Cultural Heritage Management Strategy prepared by NPWS in 2003. The proposed amendment deletes reference to this document, which is now outdated, and refers to a recently completed interpretation strategy for the headland.

### Section of plan

#### Plan reference: 5.4 Cultural heritage: page 14

**Delete** the following text:

A Conservation Management Plan has been prepared (NPWS 2002) which documents extant historic structures and provides guidelines for future management of the historic heritage.

The defence complex at Tomaree Head is an important part of the history of the Port Stephens area. Priority will be given to protecting each site from vandalism and from unintentional damage from visitors to the park. To this end, appropriate sites considered representative of the military occupation of Tomaree Headland will be interpreted to the public. Walking access to these sites will be provided through the restoration of part of the system used for troop movement.

The cultural significance of the landscape is recognised in the Hunter Region Cultural Heritage Management Strategy (NPWS 2003). Birubi Point (Aboriginal), Point Stephens

Lighthouse and Tomaree Headland (non-Aboriginal) are identified as high management priorities in the strategy.

**Replace with** the following text:

The Tomaree Head fortifications on Tomaree Head are listed on the State Heritage Register and management of all sites within the listed curtilage must comply with the requirements of the Heritage Act. A Conservation Management Plan has been prepared (NPWS 2002) which documents extant historic structures and provides guidelines for future management of the historic heritage. The age of the structures and weathering over the years has resulted in structural damage and prevents safe visitor access in places. A statement of heritage impact will be prepared to inform structural repairs including stabilisation works for gun emplacement No 2 and other necessary maintenance. These works will also allow for improved visitor access and offer a more interactive experience such as guided tours.

The defence complex at Tomaree Head is an important part of the history of the Port Stephens area. Priority will be given to protecting the complex from vandalism and from unintentional damage from visitors to the park. Appropriate sites considered representative of the military occupation of Tomaree Headland have been interpreted to the public. Further enhancement of visitor experiences, including interpretation and upgrades of visitor facilities, are proposed as part of the development of the Tomaree Coastal Walk (see Section 6.2) and will be guided by the Tomaree Head Heritage Interpretation Strategy (LookEar 2018).

#### **Plan reference: Guidelines/Actions: page 14**

**Delete** the second dot point:

- Priorities for site management will be guided by the Hunter Region Cultural Heritage Management Strategy.

**Delete** the fourteenth dot point:

- Selected sites of the World War II fortifications (gun emplacements, command post and radar site) on Tomaree Head will be interpreted for visitors to the park with emphasis on demonstrating the importance of the complex for the defence of the east coast of Australia and of Port Stephens in particular.

**Replace with:**

- Selected sites of the World War II fortifications (gun emplacements, command post and radar site) on Tomaree Head will be interpreted for visitors to the park with emphasis on demonstrating the importance of the complex for the defence of the east coast of Australia and of Port Stephens in particular. Interpretation of sites at Tomaree Head may also include information about the area's natural history and Aboriginal heritage and will be guided by the Tomaree Head Heritage Interpretation Strategy.

#### **Plan reference: References: page 47**

**Insert** an additional reference:

LookEar Pty Ltd 2018, Tomaree Head Heritage Interpretation Strategy – Final report, prepared for NSW NPWS

## **1.2 Indicative route corridor and supporting facilities**

The map in the centre pages of the plan of management will be replaced by a coloured map – Figure 1, which shows the boundaries, layout and extent of the park and its key features, together with the indicative route of the Tomaree Coastal Walk and supporting facilities.

Additional detail about the walk and the indicative route is shown on the maps in the accompanying Tomaree Coastal Walk Strategy.

## Section of plan

**Plan reference: Map on centre pages**

### 1.3 Visitor opportunities and education

Since the *Tomaree National Park Plan of Management* was adopted in 2006, visitation has substantially increased. The amendment updates visitor numbers based on current visitor monitoring (State of the Parks 2018). NPWS management has been applied to keep pace with visitor growth through adaptive management, to ensure that visitor experiences are relevant to meet park user demands and comply with best practice.

Development of a coastal walk showcasing the scenery and key landscape features of the park was anticipated by the plan, and many track sections were developed. The proposed amendment builds on that work, linking up a 20-kilometre, iconic walking experience. This will utilise existing sections of track and requires new sections and may include pedestrian bridges, new lookouts and other supporting visitor facilities. The walk is designed to incorporate different grades and will cater for a range of visitor experiences from short walks to half or multi-day options. The proposed amendment explains that detailed planning and environmental impact assessment for the coastal walk will occur through a master planning process.

The proposed amendment also updates actions in the plan which relate to development and management of the Tomaree Coastal Walk, for example where park management priorities are adjusted or where erosion or other works have been completed. In some places where alternative route options are available, such as at Samurai Beach, the amendment refers to the possibility of new track sections being constructed in the future. Proposed closures of superseded track sections are also mentioned.

The proposed amendment deletes reference to the Draft Hunter Region Community Relations Strategy, which is now out of date, and refers to a new interpretation strategy completed for Tomaree Head.

As part of reviewing visitor experiences available in the park, the proposed amendment allows for visitors to be transported to Fingal Island by helicopter. This is the only approved landing site in the park for visitor use.

Abseiling is undertaken in Tomaree National Park. The adopted plan allowed for abseiling and rock climbing in some areas of the park but not on Tomaree Head due to potential conflict and safety concerns with different park users, and threats to nesting peregrine falcons. NPWS considers that some sections of the Tomaree Coastal Walk will also be unsuitable for abseiling and rock climbing, particularly as supporting facilities are progressively developed and the walk becomes more popular. The amendment requires consent for abseiling and rock climbing throughout the park, including along the Tomaree Coastal Walk. Stretches along the walk where rock climbing will not be permitted will be identified through the master planning process.

## Section of plan

**Plan reference: 3.1 Location, Gazettal and Regional Setting (page 3)**

**Insert** a new figure for visitation to Tomaree Head in the 4th paragraph:

Along with the neighbouring Worimi Conservation Lands, the park is one of the major recreational focuses for visitors and residents of the Nelson Bay area. The walking track to the top of Tomaree Head receives an annual visitation of over 200,000 people. The level of visitation is expected to continue to increase steadily over the next few years as the Nelson Bay area is now one of the most popular holiday destinations for Sydney residents. This, along with rapidly growing urban and rural residential areas surrounding the park, places significant and increasing visitor pressure on the values of the park. Also, the proposed new Fingal Bay Tourist Road between Nelson Bay Road and Government Road Shoal Bay could have significant impacts on the natural and cultural values of the park. The NPWS will continue to liaise with Port Stephens Council on these issues.

#### **Plan reference: 4.1 Key Values: page 5**

Recreation and Tourism Values

**Delete** the second dot point:

- Walking and vehicular access provided to many of the main features in the park.

**Replace with:**

- Walking and vehicular access is provided to many of the main features in the park and enhanced through development of the Tomaree Coastal Walk.

**Delete** the third dot point:

- Several remote beaches and areas of the park provide a high degree of solitude

#### **Plan reference: 4.2 Management Direction: page 5**

**Delete** the ninth dot point:

- provision of opportunities for low impact recreation by maintaining day use facilities with limited vehicle access and maintenance of the isolated setting of other areas of the coastline.

**Replace with:**

- provision of opportunities for low impact nature-based experiences by enhancing visitor facilities and creating a signature 20-kilometre walk, with limited vehicle access along the coastline.

#### **Plan reference: 5.1 Geology, Landforms, Hydrology and Soils: page 6**

**Delete** fifth paragraph:

Major erosion problems exist at several locations within the park, including:

- the Zenith to Box Beach trail
- Fingal Bay vehicle trails
- the Wreck Beach walking track
- the Boulder Bay to Big Rocky network of trails
- Morna Point vehicle trails
- Fishermans Bay vehicle trails
- Tomaree Head.

**Replace with:**

NPWS monitors erosion throughout the park, particularly on steep management trails and in areas subject to heavy visitor use such as Tomaree Head. Mitigation works are undertaken as required.

### **Plan reference: 6.1 Promotion of the Park: page 20**

**Delete** the third and fourth paragraphs:

Promotion of the park currently includes boundary and interpretative signs on Tomaree Head, but additional signage is required at key visitor destinations. Pre-visit information in the form of brochures and off-park displays is also available at NPWS offices and tourist information centres such as the Nelson Bay Tourist Information Centre. The NPWS web site also contains information on the park and other national park estate in the area.

An important priority for NPWS, as identified in the Draft Hunter Region Community Relations Strategy (2003), is the development of community education initiatives such as NPWS guided tours. A NPWS Discovery Ranger Program is regularly conducted in Tomaree National Park during school holiday periods as part of an overall regional strategy.

**Replace with:**

Promotion of the park currently includes boundary and interpretative signs on Tomaree Head and signage at key visitor destinations. Pre-visit information such as off-park displays is also available at NPWS offices and tourist information centres such as the Nelson Bay Tourist Information Centre. The NPWS web site also contains information on the park and other national park estate in the area. A new Tomaree Head Heritage Interpretation Strategy (LookEar 2018) has been prepared to guide further interpretation and visitor experience of Tomaree Head in conjunction with the Tomaree Coastal Walk (see Section 6.2).

An important priority for NPWS is the development of community education initiatives such as NPWS guided tours. A NPWS Discovery Ranger Program is regularly conducted in Tomaree National Park during school holiday periods.

### **Plan reference: Guidelines/actions: page 20**

**Delete** the sixth and seventh dot points:

- Interpretative signs will be installed at appropriate locations within the park, including Tomaree Head, Point Stephens, Samurai Beach, and Birubi Point.
- Promotional and interpretive brochures will be maintained and updated as required.

**Replace with:**

- Interpretative signage will be installed at appropriate locations within the park, including Tomaree Head, Point Stephens, Samurai Beach, Birubi Point and other key sites along the Tomaree Coastal Walk.
- Digital technologies for delivering visitor information will be developed.

### **Plan reference: 6.2 Recreation Opportunities: page 21**

**Delete** the second paragraph:

Tomaree National Park attracts an estimated 250,000 visitors each year. A pedestrian counter on the Tomaree Head Summit track indicates visitation of approximately 100,000 people per year on the summit walking track. It is expected that there will be continued growth in visitor numbers due to the close proximity of the park to Sydney and Newcastle as well as the rapid growth being experienced in the local residential population.

**Replace with:**

Tomaree National Park attracts an estimated 300,000 visitors each year. A pedestrian counter on the Tomaree Head Summit track indicates visitation of approximately 200,000 people per year on the summit walking track. It is expected that there will be continued growth in visitor numbers due to the close proximity of the park to Sydney and Newcastle as well as the rapid growth being experienced in the local residential population.

### **Plan reference: Guidelines/actions page 21**

**Delete** the second dot point:

- Priority will be given to maintaining existing day-use facilities.

**Replace with:**

- Priority will be given to enhancing existing day-use facilities and development of the Tomaree Coastal Walk.

**Delete** the sixth dot point:

- The landing of private aircraft within the park is will be prohibited.

**Replace with:**

- The landing of private aircraft within the park is permitted with consent on Fingal Island for visitor purposes and elsewhere in the park for management and emergency purposes.

### **Plan reference: Bushwalking: page 22**

**Delete** the entire section (four paragraphs):

The only designated walking tracks within the park are provided on Tomaree Head. While walking is permitted throughout the entire park, the dense heath or understorey throughout most of the park makes walking off cleared tracks difficult. Other features of the park are accessible to walkers along management trails, closed vehicle trails, rocky foreshore and beaches. The priority is to maintain existing infrastructure and to provide facilities at the most popular visitor sites.

Trails closed to vehicle access may be retained for pedestrian access depending on environmental impact and whether there are existing feasible alternative walking routes in that area. If retained, they will revert to a track of just sufficient width to allow track maintenance and weed control.

The concept of providing a walking route from Tomaree Head south to Birubi Point has long been of interest to the general community. While there are existing opportunities using old vehicle access trails, beaches, public road reserves, cycleways and management trails, no designated route exists. Due to constraints of terrain, vegetation and soil types, constructing a track of the appropriate standard will require considerable funding and support from the local community.

There are a number of informal walking tracks that form essentially private or exclusive access routes from adjoining lands into the park. These tracks have potential to cause significant adverse impacts on park values as well as liability issues.

**Replace with:**

The only designated walking tracks within the park are provided on Tomaree Head. While walking is permitted throughout the entire park, the dense heath or understorey throughout most of the park makes walking off cleared tracks difficult. Other features of the park are accessible to walkers along management trails, closed vehicle trails, rocky foreshore and beaches.

In response to the growing popularity of nature-based walks, a 20-kilometre signature walk will be developed in the park, connecting visitors with outstanding natural features, Aboriginal culture, historic sites and scenery from Tomaree Head to Birubi Point. An indicative alignment is shown in Figure 1. Spur tracks to significant coastal features and vistas will also be included. The development of the Tomaree Coastal Walk will involve upgrades to some existing sections of walking tracks, construction of new track sections,

and new supporting facilities. These include car parking, public amenities, signage and whale watching lookouts at various points along the walk.

The route of the coastal walk passes through key recreation areas from Tomaree Head at the northernmost end, to Zenith, Wreck and Box beaches, Rocky Point, Samurai and One Mile beaches, Morna Point, Kingsley Beach, Fishermans Bay and finally the Anna Bay Foreshore.

Strategic location of supporting facilities will allow visitors to choose between short walks to viewing platforms for sightseeing, half-day walks or the full distance for experienced walkers. The majority of the Tomaree Coastal Walk will be constructed and maintained to Class 3 or 4 standard under the Australian Walking Track Grading System (see Table 3). Walking tracks on Tomaree Head will be constructed and maintained to a Class 2 or 3 standard.

**Table 3 Australian Walking Track Grading System**

<b>Class 1</b>	No bushwalking experience required. Flat even surface with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them. Walks no greater than 5km.
<b>Class 2</b>	No bushwalking experience required. The track is hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps. Walks no greater than 10km.
<b>Class 3</b>	Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps. Walks up to 20km.
<b>Class 4</b>	Bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signage may be limited.
<b>Class 5</b>	Very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills, including navigation and emergency first aid. Tracks are likely to be very rough, very steep and unmarked. Walks may be more than 20km.

A master plan will be prepared to bring together all aspects of the Tomaree Coastal Walk, with site-specific information about the route, and associated visitor facility improvements, and staging for their delivery. The master plan and environmental impact assessments will be publicly exhibited to allow for further community input and, once finalised, will inform the final alignment and design of the walk and accompanying visitor facilities.

Trails closed to vehicle access may be retained for pedestrian access depending on environmental impact and whether there are existing feasible alternative walking routes in that area. If retained, they will revert to a track of just sufficient width to allow track maintenance and weed control.

There are a number of informal walking tracks that form essentially private or exclusive access routes from adjoining lands into the park. These tracks have potential to cause significant adverse impacts on park values as well as liability issues.

### **Plan reference: Guidelines/actions: page 22**

**Delete** the second dot point:

- The NPWS will prepare a feasibility study for a walking track from Tomaree Head to Birubi Point utilising existing and former trails wherever possible. Spur tracks to significant coastal features may be included. An amendment to this plan will be necessary before new tracks can be constructed.

**Replace with:**

- Subject to a master plan and environmental and heritage impact assessment, construct and maintain the Tomaree Coastal Walk from Tomaree Head to Birubi Point. The final track alignment may differ from the indicative route corridor shown in Figure 1 as the result of relevant assessments.

**Insert** a new dot point:

- Subject to environmental and heritage impact assessment, upgrade existing visitor facilities and/or construct new visitor facilities to support the Tomaree Coastal Walk. These may include car parking, whale watching platforms, signage and public amenities at various points along the walk as determined by the Tomaree Coastal Walk master plan. No new access roads will be constructed in the park.

### **Plan reference: Camping, page 23**

#### *Guidelines/Actions*

**Delete** the dot point:

- Camping will only be permitted in the park at the designated nude camping site at Samurai Beach's northern end, in association with the legal nude beach at Samurai.

**Replace with:**

- Camping will only be permitted in the park at the designated clothing-optional camping site at Samurai Beach's northern end, in association with the legal clothing-optional beach at Samurai.

### **Plan reference: Bicycling: page 23**

#### *Guidelines/Actions*

**Delete** the second dot point:

- Cycling will not be permitted on designated walking tracks or off trails and roads.

**Replace with:**

- Cycling will not be permitted on designated walking tracks including the Tomaree Coastal Walk or off management trails and roads.

### **Plan reference: Rock climbing and abseiling, page 24**

#### *Guidelines/Actions*

**Delete** the first dot point:

- Abseiling and rock climbing activities will not be permitted on Tomaree Head but will be permitted elsewhere in the park, provided that these activities are undertaken in accordance with:
  - the provisions of this plan;
  - any code of conduct promoted by the NPWS, and
  - any other restrictions, exclusions or closures which may be introduced by the NPWS.

**Replace with:**



- Abseiling and rock climbing activities will not be permitted on Tomaree Head but will be permitted elsewhere in the park, provided that these activities are undertaken in accordance with:
  - the provisions of this plan
  - a valid consent issued by NPWS
  - any code of conduct promoted by the NPWS
  - any other restrictions, exclusions or closures which may be introduced by the NPWS as a result of any environmental, visitor experience and safety issues arising.

### **Plan reference: Key Recreation Areas: pages 24 – 31**

#### *Tomaree Head (page 24)*

**Delete** the single paragraph:

The walking track to the summit of Tomaree Head is the most popular walk in the park. Spectacular views are available from the summit and the remains of the WWII defence installations add to the interest of the site. The standard of the walking track has been improved to accommodate a large number of visitors while minimising the impact on the natural and cultural heritage of the area. To enhance the protection of the heritage value of the site and improve visitor safety, walkers are encouraged to stay on designated walking tracks. The start of the summit walk is within the grounds of Tomaree Lodge and requires an agreement between the Department of Aging, Disabilities and Home Care and NPWS to formalise this access. Further works are planned to improve visitor experience at the gun emplacements by installing interpretation signs and restoring a view to the ocean.

**Replace with:**

The walking track to the summit of Tomaree Head is the most popular walk in the park. Spectacular views are available from the summit and the remains of the WWII defence installations add to the interest of the site. To enhance the protection of the heritage value of the site and improve visitor safety, walkers are encouraged to stay on designated walking tracks. The start of the summit walk and the section between the gun emplacement and torpedo tubes are within the grounds of the adjoining Tomaree Lodge and requires an agreement between the Department of Family and Community Services and NPWS to formalise this access. There is also a walking track along the foreshore through Tomaree Lodge land that connects the Tomaree Head trackhead carpark to the torpedo tubes.

As part of the development of the 20-kilometre Tomaree Coastal Walk, further improvements are planned for Tomaree Head to address the quality of track infrastructure and ameliorate the impacts of extensive visitor use. In addition to upgrading existing infrastructure, proposals include formalising the track that links the Summit Walking Track to the Fort Tomaree Walking Track, upgrading the carpark at the off-park trackhead, constructing a lookout south of the gun emplacements and developing a new section of track to link Tomaree Head and Zenith Beach carpark. Work will also be undertaken to alleviate congestion during peak periods around the existing stairs and boardwalk structures. Some viewing platforms will be enlarged, and extra platforms may be added to cater for increases in visitation.

As part of the enhancement to visitor facilities in the Tomaree Head precinct, the informal track from the gun emplacements down to the foreshore near the torpedo tubes will be upgraded in consultation with the Department of Family and Community Services.

Details about the location and design of all improvements and upgrades in the Tomaree Head precinct will be addressed in the Tomaree Coastal Walk master plan.

### *Guidelines/Actions (page 25)*

**Insert** a new dot point after the first dot point:

- Walking tracks and associated infrastructure on Tomaree Head will be upgraded and developed as part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk. This may include viewing platforms, track improvements, car parking, interpretation and public amenities.

**Delete** the third dot point:

- A formal agreement between the Department of Aging, Disabilities and Home Care and NPWS will be developed to ensure continued public access to the Tomaree Head track.

**Replace with:**

- A formal agreement between the Department of Family and Community Services and NPWS will be developed to ensure continued public access to the Tomaree Head track and facilitate upgrading of the foreshore loop.

### *Zenith, Wreck and Box Beaches (page 25)*

**Delete** the first, second, third and fourth paragraphs:

The Zenith Beach facility comprises of an upper and lower carpark, both with walking access to the beach. The lower carpark is on land managed by Port Stephens Council and serves as the main car park for visitors undertaking the walk to Tomaree Head as well as visitors to Zenith Beach. The upper carpark has a small picnic area adjacent to it with two tables. During holiday periods, the area can become over congested with cars parking on sandy banks at the lower car park causing damage to vegetation.

Wreck Beach is accessible to walkers using Wreck Beach Management Trail and an informal walking track. Visitors park at the end of Verona Road or Lionel Avenue, Shoal Bay. Some sections of the access are badly eroded, with new tracks being created by walkers as they attempt to avoid obstacles or eroded areas.

Visitor numbers at Wreck Beach are relatively low because of the walking distance involved (approx. 600m), limited car parking capacity, poor signposting and poor track standard. These factors add to the attraction of the beach to some regular users who prefer a more “remote” experience. Any significant improvement to the standard of the access to the beach would detract from the “remote” character of the beach, however, the degradation of the present walking track is a significant environmental issue.

Box Beach is accessible by the only sealed public access road in the park. A car park and walking track to the beach are provided. The beach end of the walking track section requires upgrading. Vandalism, rubbish dumping, illegal camping and dangerous driving are regular problems, particularly at night in the car park.

**Replace with:**

As part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk (described in the bushwalking section above), a new track will be constructed linking Tomaree Head to Fingal Beach via Zenith, Wreck and Box beaches (see Figure 1). The proposed route will allow visitors to traverse Stephens Peak, Quarry Hill and Green Hill offering views to Fingal Island and back to Tomaree Head.

Wreck Beach is also accessible to walkers using Wreck Beach Management Trail and walking track. Visitors park at the end of Verona Road or Lionel Avenue, Shoal Bay.

Visitor numbers at Wreck Beach are relatively low because of the walking distance involved (approx. 600m), limited car parking capacity and poor track standard. These factors limit access to this part of the coast for many visitors to the Port Stephens area.

Box Beach is accessible by the only sealed public access road in the park. A car park, walking track to the beach and viewing platform are provided. A gate is installed on Box

Beach Road at the Ocean Avenue end and is generally closed between the hours of 10pm and 5am.

As part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk (described in the bushwalking section above), a new track will be constructed linking Zenith, Wreck and Box beaches (see Figure 1). The proposed route will allow visitors to walk along the eastern edge of Stephens Peak and Quarry Hill offering views to Fingal Island and back to Tomaree Head. The walk connects the cliff top with the beach route and proceeds around the rock formations at the southern end of Box Beach.

Toilets may also be provided at the northern carpark adjoining Zenith Beach and/or at Box Beach, depending on the outcome of environmental impact assessment and other considerations. Carparking upgrades may also be planned and implemented at Zenith Beach and Box Beach.

### *Guidelines/Actions (page 26)*

**Delete** the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth dot points:

- The NPWS will liaise with Port Stephens Council regarding upgrading the Zenith Beach lower car park.
- Zenith Beach upper car park and picnic area will be upgraded and an additional two picnic tables will be provided.
- The remote character of Wreck Beach will be maintained. Walking track improvements will be limited to those required to prevent environmental degradation.
- A gate will be installed on Box Beach Road at the Ocean Avenue end and closed between the hours of 10pm and 5am, or as otherwise considered appropriate by the regional Manager when considering time of year, public safety, demand for access etc.
- The pedestrian access to Box Beach will be upgraded to provide a firm surface. Additional fencing will be installed to protect dune vegetation. A viewing platform over the beach may be constructed at the termination of the walking track.

**Replace with:**

- New walking track connections linking Zenith, Wreck and Box beaches will be developed as part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk.
- Box Beach Carpark may be upgraded in accordance with the outcomes of the Tomaree Coastal Walk master plan.
- NPWS will liaise with Port Stephens Council regarding upgrading the Zenith Beach lower car park as part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk master plan.
- Zenith Beach upper car park may be upgraded in accordance with the outcomes of the Tomaree Coastal Walk master plan.
- The gate on Box Beach Road at the Ocean Avenue end will be closed between the hours of 10pm and 5am, or as otherwise considered appropriate by the Branch Director when considering time of year, public safety, demand for access, etc.

### *Point Stephens Lighthouse (page 26)*

**Insert** a new paragraph after the first paragraph:

Fingal Island can also be accessed by helicopter as part of a licensed commercial activity (see Section 6.3).

### *Rocky Point (page 26)*

**Delete** the entire section:

This headland (also known as 'Big Rocky') is located approximately halfway between Boulder Bay and Samurai Beach. The headland has a long history of human occupation and use. Aboriginal use of the area is evident from midden material and stone artefacts. Non-Aboriginal use of the area includes a history of shell grit extraction although there is little evidence of this former use now. The headland continues to be a popular location for recreational fishing, snorkelling, scuba diving and scenery appreciation. As the area is popular for diving, the surface of the walking track will be hardened. This will make it easier to transport diving equipment from vehicles to the water's edge.

Current vehicle access is along Big Rocky Road and is a combination of two-wheel drive gravel road and four-wheel drive sandy trail. A network of trails has evolved over time to access nearby fishing spots and to avoid difficult trail conditions. This network of trails, often duplicating existing trails, has caused disturbance to Aboriginal sites and vegetation, soil erosion and illegal rubbish dumping.

Walking tracks from the proposed new car park to Little Rocky and Skate Bay will also be developed, although at a lower standard to the walking track to Big Rocky. The route to Little Rocky is to follow the existing vehicle track where possible, while the route to Skate Bay is likely to be a combination of new walking track and existing vehicle trail.

It is recognised that continued access to Rocky Point is desirable to enable continued recreational use of this popular destination. However, some restriction on vehicle access and a rationalisation of access trails to limit adverse environmental impacts, particularly to the coastal foreshore, are needed.

To protect the environment at Rocky Point it is proposed to terminate the four-wheel-drive trail 200m before Rocky Point at the existing cleared area. A car park will be established here with a short walking track to the headland. Walking access will also be retained to Little Rocky. No vehicle access will be permitted to the headland. All other vehicle access to Rocky Point, including that from Boulder Bay and Samurai Beach, will be closed.

**Replace with:**

This headland (also known as 'Big Rocky') is located approximately halfway between Boulder Bay and Samurai Beach. The headland has a long history of human occupation and use. Aboriginal use of the area is evident from midden material and stone artefacts. Non-Aboriginal use of the area includes a history of shell grit extraction although there is little evidence of this former use now. The headland continues to be a popular location for recreational fishing, snorkelling, scuba diving and scenery appreciation. Vehicle access is along Big Rocky Road to the car park. Big Rocky Trail provides pedestrian access from the car park to the foreshore. The Big Rocky carpark and vehicle access will be upgraded as part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk. A new toilet may also be planned and developed.

Walking tracks from the Big Rocky car park to Little Rocky will also be developed. The route to Little Rocky will follow the existing vehicle track where possible, while the route to Skate Bay is likely to be a combination of new walking track and existing vehicle trail.

*Guidelines/actions (page 27)*

**Delete** the first and third dot points:

- The Big Rocky vehicle access track will be terminated at a point approximately 200m from the existing trail terminus, where a new car park will be constructed in the existing cleared area. Minor trail improvements will be carried out and the access on Gan Gan Road will be signposted in consultation with Port Stephens Council. All other vehicle access trails in this area will be closed.
- In addition, formalise and harden the walking track surface from the car park to the foreshore.

**Replace** the second dot point with:

- From the carpark, develop and maintain walking tracks to Little Rocky as part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk.

### *One Mile and Samurai Beaches (page 27)*

**Insert** a new paragraph after the third paragraph:

The Tomaree Coastal Walk (as described in the bushwalking section above) will utilise the existing route along Samurai Beach (see Figure 1) with spur tracks at both ends leading down to the beach from the headlands. The feasibility of an alternative route passing behind the beach via the Samurai Wetlands will also be considered, and may be developed in the future, subject to available funding.

**Delete** the sixth and seventh paragraphs:

Unlike nearby Stockton Beach which is managed by Port Stephens Council, beach vehicle permits are not required for vehicles on Samurai Beach. At this stage, it is not considered viable to introduce a beach vehicle permit for Samurai. However, a permit system may be necessary to protect park values and/or introduced if a permit system is introduced in Myall Lakes National Park or management of Stockton Beach by NPWS comes into effect.

A small group of regular campers, primarily nudists, use the northern end of Samurai Beach. This activity commenced in the 1970s and has continued, pending the adoption of a plan of management for the park to determine camping policy in the park. The scale of camping at this site has been relatively low. No facilities such as toilets are provided and the area is not publicised in any published promotional material for the park. The establishment of a formal camping area within the dune system at Samurai Beach, being a legal nude beach and the only camping area within the reserve, could potentially create a situation of social conflict. This nude camping use will be permitted to continue, with regulation as to the area to be utilised and conditions of access and use established. The camping use will be monitored.

**Replace with:**

Unlike nearby Stockton Beach which is managed by the Worimi Conservation Lands Board, beach vehicle permits are not currently required for vehicles on Samurai Beach. A permit system may become necessary to protect park values in the future.

A small group of regular campers, primarily nudists, use the northern end of Samurai Beach. This activity commenced in the 1970s and has continued. The scale of camping at this site has been relatively low. No facilities such as toilets are provided and the area is not publicised in any published promotional material for the park. The establishment of a formal camping area within the dune system at Samurai Beach, being a clothing-optional beach and the only camping area within the reserve, could potentially create a situation of social conflict. This clothing-optional camping use will be permitted to continue, with regulation as to the area to be utilised and conditions of access and use established. The camping use will be monitored. Guidelines/Actions (page 30).

**Insert** a two new dot points after the first dot point:

- Spur tracks will be constructed at both ends of Samurai Beach to provide access for walkers on the Tomaree Coastal Walk.
- Construct an alternative walking route behind Samurai Beach via the Samurai Wetlands, subject to the outcomes of a feasibility assessment and availability of funding.

**Delete** the second dot point:

- Driving on Samurai Beach will be permitted via the access corridor shown on the map but driving outside the access corridor or beach front onto the dunes or on vegetated areas is prohibited. Vehicle use of Samurai Beach will be monitored and vehicle access

on to Samurai Beach may be temporarily restricted or closed if the beach is unsafe or if vehicle use threatens park values.

**Replace with:**

- Driving on Samurai Beach will be permitted via the access corridor shown on the map but driving outside the access corridor or beach front onto the dunes or on vegetated areas is prohibited. Vehicle use of Samurai Beach will be monitored and vehicle access on to Samurai Beach may be temporarily restricted or closed if the beach is unsafe or if vehicle use threatens park values. A beach vehicle permit system may be introduced by NPWS.

**Delete** the sixth and seventh dot points:

- Nude camping use will be permitted to continue at the northern end of Samurai Beach, with regulation as to the area to be utilised and conditions of access and use established. The camping site and use will be monitored and may be regulated if its use threatens park values.
- Install signs at the main entry points to Samurai Beach advising that nude bathing is permitted and about driving, camping and other regulations.

**Replace with:**

- Clothing-optional camping use will be permitted to continue at the northern end of Samurai Beach, with regulation as to the area to be utilised and conditions of access and use established. Campers are required to provide their own toilet facilities. The camping site and use will be monitored and may be regulated if its use threatens park values.
- Install signs at the main entry points to Samurai Beach advising that clothing-optional bathing is permitted and about driving, camping and other regulations.

*Morna Point (page 29)*

**Insert** a new paragraph after the first paragraph:

The Tomaree Coastal Walk (as described in the bushwalking section above) passes through Morna Point. Track will be upgraded and new infrastructure provided, including a viewing platform and interpretative display.

*Kingsley Beach, Fishermans Bay and Anna Bay Foreshore (page 29)*

**Insert** a new paragraph after the fourth paragraph:

The Tomaree Coastal Walk (as described in the bushwalking section above) passes through Kingsley Beach, Little Kingsley, and Fishermans Bay before reaching its southern terminal at Birubi Point. As part of formalising the track for the coastal walk, part of the Fishermans Bay track is proposed to be closed and rehabilitated. Works are also proposed at the trackhead, where the carpark will be upgraded and interpretation signage provided at the existing Iris Moore day-use area. Upgrading of the parking areas at Kingsley Beach and Fishermans Bay may also be planned and implemented.

*Guidelines/Actions (page 30)*

**Delete** the fifth dot point:

- The Iris Moore Reserve car park will be reconstructed and sealed. Basic day use facilities will be retained and upgraded where necessary to comply with NPWS standards.

**Replace with:**

- The Iris Moore Reserve car park may be upgraded as part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk and day-use facilities will be retained and upgraded where necessary as part of the development of the Tomaree Coastal Walk.

### **Plan reference: Commercial Recreation, Group Activities and Competitive Events: page 31**

**Delete** the first paragraph:

Commercial recreation operations carried out in the park at present are only a small component of public use of the park. Licenses for commercial recreation have been issued for a surfing school at One Mile Beach. Interest has also been expressed for other activities such as bushwalks on Tomaree Head and Point Stephens. It is unknown to what extent unlicensed commercial tours operators utilise Tomaree Head. Occasional permits are issued for commercial filming and photography within the park. These activities need to be undertaken and managed in accordance with Service policy and legislation. Licences and consents will prescribe the approved activities, locations and frequency of activities, maximum group sizes, appropriate behaviour, fees and other special provisions to ensure the long term protection of the park, park visitors and recreation opportunities. Licence and consent conditions will be kept under review and amended as necessary.

**Replace with:**

Commercial recreation operations carried out in the park at present are only a small component of public use of the park. Licensed tours currently on offer include a WWII bus tour and a 4WD tag-along tour. Licenses for commercial recreation have been issued for a surfing school at One Mile Beach. Interest has also been expressed for other activities such as bushwalks on Tomaree Head and Point Stephens. It is unknown to what extent unlicensed commercial tours operators utilise Tomaree Head. The Tomaree Coastal Walk (as described in the bushwalking section above) offers scope for additional guided tours, for example, Aboriginal cultural heritage and land-based whale watching. In keeping with current trends and visitor profiles, there is also likely to be demand for providing licenced coffee and food vans to visitors using the walking track. Permits are also issued for commercial filming and photography within the park.

**Insert** after the first paragraph:

The helipad on Fingal Island is available for licensed helicopter tours. The issue of licences for these tours by NPWS will consider the need to avoid bird breeding events and potential impacts during whale migration. The frequency and timing of helicopter landings will be monitored in order to identify any issues for land and marine animals and other park values.

### *Guidelines/Actions (page 31)*

**Delete** the first dot point:

- All commercial recreation activities in the park require a licence or other authorisation.

**Replace with:**

- All commercial recreation and visitor support activities in the park require a licence or other authorisation.

**Insert** after the fourth dot point:

- Private aircraft providing visitor tours may land on Fingal Island with consent.

## 2. Birubi Point Aboriginal Place

Birubi Point Aboriginal Place was gazetted over part of Tomaree National Park after the plan of management was adopted, on 20 April 2007. It is an important burial and ceremonial site for Worimi Aboriginal people and is believed to be associated with men's ceremonies. The place will be managed in accordance with the Birubi Point Aboriginal Place Management Plan (Umwelt 2018).

### Birubi Point

References to Birubi Point throughout the plan of management have been updated to refer to Birubi Point Aboriginal Place as appropriate.

### Section of plan

#### Plan reference: 5.4 Cultural heritage: page 12

**Delete** the second paragraph:

Birubi Point has recently been nominated for declaration as an Aboriginal Place under Section 84 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act*. Birubi Point is significant to the Worimi Aboriginal people because its cultural values include, but go beyond, the archaeological material that is the physical representation of their connection and occupation of the land. The area of Birubi Point within the park is part of a larger cultural landscape that has significant elements on various land tenures.

**Replace with:**

Birubi Point Aboriginal Place was declared on 20 April 2007 under Section 84 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act*. Birubi Point is significant to the Worimi Aboriginal people because its cultural values include, but go beyond, the archaeological material that is the physical representation of their connection and occupation of the land. The area of Birubi Point within the park is part of a larger cultural landscape that has significant elements on various land tenures. The Birubi Point Aboriginal Place Management Plan (Umwelt 2018) sets out how the Aboriginal place will be managed over the next 10 years to protect and respect its value and significance to the Worimi People.

#### Guidelines/actions (page 14)

**Delete** the tenth dot point:

- A Conservation Management Plan will be developed for Birubi Point in partnership with the Worimi Local Aboriginal Lands Council and local Aboriginal community members. This will include working with Port Stephens Council to adequately protect sites on and off the park, including the large midden on Council land in Fitzroy Street, Anna Bay.

**Replace with:**

- Birubi Point Aboriginal Place will be managed in accordance with the site-specific management plan (Umwelt 2018) in consultation with the Worimi Local Aboriginal Lands Council, the Worimi Conservation Lands Board and local Aboriginal community members. This will include working with Port Stephens Council to adequately protect sites on and off the park, including the large midden on Council land in Fitzroy Street, Anna Bay.



**Plan reference: 12. References: page 47**

**Insert** an additional reference:

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited 2018, Birubi Point Aboriginal Place Management Plan – Final, report prepared for Port Stephens Council.

[www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/grow/development-controls-plans-and-strategies/open-space-and-recreation-planning/birubi-point-aboriginal-place-management-plan](http://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/grow/development-controls-plans-and-strategies/open-space-and-recreation-planning/birubi-point-aboriginal-place-management-plan)

### **3. Acknowledgement of Worimi Conservation Lands**

The Worimi Conservation Lands are located southwest of Tomaree National Park along Stockton Bight and comprise Worimi National Park, Worimi State Conservation Area and Worimi Regional Park. An agreement for joint management of these Aboriginal-owned lands by the Worimi Conservation Lands Board of Management and NPWS was signed in 2007 after the Tomaree National Park Plan of Management was adopted.

#### **Worimi Conservation Lands**

While the Worimi Conservation Lands are managed under a separate plan of management, it is appropriate to acknowledge them under the Tomaree National Park Plan of Management.

The amendment adds references to the Worimi Conservation Lands in several places throughout the plan, as appropriate.

#### **Section of plan**

**Plan reference: Location, Gazettal and Regional Setting: page 3**

**Insert** a new sentence at the end of the first paragraph:

Tomaree National Park is located in the Port Stephens area of NSW, approximately 45 kilometres north of Newcastle. The park stretches along the coastline from the south head of Port Stephens (Tomaree Head) to Birubi Point. The park falls within the Port Stephens local government area and is within the area of the Worimi Aboriginal Nation and the Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The park neighbours the Worimi Conservation Lands along the Stockton Bight which were gazetted in 2007.

**Plan reference: Section 6.2 Recreation Opportunities, Key Recreation Areas, Kingsley Beach, Fishermans Bay and Anna Bay Foreshore: page 33**

**Delete** the eighth paragraph:

The narrow strip of Tomaree National Park between Iris Moore Reserve and Birubi Point has been highly modified and experiences high recreational use, particularly by anglers, walkers and surfers. Given the narrow shape, degree of habitat modification and recreational use, it may be appropriate to investigate a change in the protected area classification in this section of the park only; changing it to a regional park which would link to the proposed adjoining regional park at Stockton Beach.

**Replace with:**

The narrow strip of Tomaree National Park between Iris Moore Reserve and Birubi Point Aboriginal Place has been highly modified and experiences high recreational use, particularly by anglers, walkers and surfers. Given the narrow shape, degree of habitat modification and recreational use, it may be appropriate to investigate a change in the protected area classification in this section of the park only; changing it to a regional park which would link to Worimi Regional Park, part of the Worimi Conservation Lands.

**Guidelines/Actions (page 33)**

**Delete** the seventh dot point:

- Changing of the classification of the section of the park from Birubi Point to Iris Moore Reserve to a regional park will be investigated. This would then adjoin the proposed Stockton Beach Regional Park.

**Replace with:**

- Changing of the classification of the section of the park from Birubi Point Aboriginal Place to Iris Moore Reserve to a regional park will be investigated.

## 4. Additions to the park

A small addition of 29.5 hectares was made to Tomaree National Park in 2005 and another addition of 45 hectares in 2007. This land was formerly Crown land. The land is now managed as part of the park and included on the revised map (Figure 1).

### Park additions

#### Section of plan

**Plan reference: Location, Gazettal and Regional Setting: page 3**

**Delete** second paragraph:

Originally reserved in 1984 as a thin coastal strip of 800ha, the park was extended to 2,310ha in 1996 with the addition of most of the Nelson Bay Special Area, a water reserve declared under the *Hunter Water Act 1991* (refer Section 10). The Port Stephens lighthouse, associated grounds and ruins of the lighthouse keepers' house were formally added to the park in January 2003.

**Replace with:**

Originally reserved in 1984 as a thin coastal strip of 800 hectares, the park was extended to 2310 hectares in 1996 with the addition of most of the Nelson Bay Special Area, a water reserve declared under the *Hunter Water Act 1991* (refer Section 10). The Port Stephens lighthouse, associated grounds and ruins of the lighthouse keepers' house were formally added to the park in January 2003. In 2005, a small addition (29.5 hectares) was made to the park behind One Mile Beach, and in 2007 three small parcels of Crown land at various locations (45 hectares in total) were added to the park, bringing the area to 2402 hectares.

## 5. Fire management

The adopted plan referred to the preparation of a draft fire management strategy in 2003. The amendment updates this section by referring to NPWS' policy of regular review of the fire management strategy to take fire history, emerging information and other changes into account on an ongoing basis.

### Fire management strategies

#### Section of plan

##### Plan reference: 5.6 Fire Management: page 19

**Delete** the fourth paragraph:

A Draft Fire Management Strategy for Tomaree National Park and Tilligerry Nature Reserve was placed on public exhibition from 1 October 2003 until 2 January 2004. This document describes the strategies the NPWS plans to implement in these reserves between 2003 and 2008 to meet its fire management obligations under the *Rural Fires Act 1997*, *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. The Draft Tomaree National Park and Tilligerry Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy has been developed in accordance with the more broader ranging Port Stephens Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (Port Stephens Bush Fire Management Committee, 2000). Annual hazard reduction programs are also submitted to the Bush Fire Management Committee.

**Replace with:**

A fire management strategy has been prepared for Tomaree National Park and the Tilligerry Nature Reserve which outlines the fire management approach for these reserves. The strategy outlines recent fire history, key assets within and adjoining the parks, fire management zones and fire control advantages such as management trails and water supply points. It also contains fire regime guidelines relevant to the specific vegetation communities, Aboriginal heritage and other values found in the parks. The strategy will be updated on a regular basis.