



**Central Coast Recreational Use Study
Stage 1: Open Coast and Coastal Lagoons**

PART B

Detailed Coastal Recreational Use Maps

This section of the report contains 18 maps covering the length of the coast within the study area, commencing at the northern edge of the study area at Munmorah, and concluding at Patonga in the south. The extent of each map is illustrated adjacent in Figure 103. More detailed maps are also provided for 39 significant beaches, indicating the locations of recreational infrastructure, uses and paths for each beach.

Each of the 18 regional maps and 39 beach maps set out in detail the results of the Coastal Recreational Use Audit, the categories of the Coastal Recreational Use Classification Framework applied to the area, and a description of the specifics of the area – complete with supporting photos. The maps are based on the spatial geocoded dataset compiled during the audit tool application and classification process. A complete Legend for all symbols used in these maps is found on Page 19.



Figure 103: Extent of the 18 regions across the study area.

Map 1:	Munmorah State Conservation Area	50
Map 2:	Budgewoi Lakes	53
Map 3:	Norah Head	57
Map 4:	Wyrribalong National Park North	61
Map 5:	The Entrance	62
Map 6:	Blue Bay to Blue Lagoon	66
Map 7:	Wyrribalong National Park South	71
Map 8:	Wamberal	73
Map 9:	Terrigal	77
Map 10:	Avoca	81
Map 11:	Winney Bay Cliffs	85
Map 12:	Copacabana Macmasters	86
Map 13:	Bouddi National Park East	89
Map 14:	Bouddi National Park West	92
Map 15:	Brisbane Waters South	95
Map 16:	Brisbane Waters North	99
Map 17:	Broken Bay	101
Map 18:	Pearl to Patonga	104

Map 1: Munmorah State Conservation Area



Figure 104: Looking north from Snapper Point towards Flat Rocks Point.

Munmorah State Conservation Area encapsulates the northern-most part of the study area. It is a regionally significant conservation reserve with an accompanying management plan aimed at balancing ecological habitat, aesthetic and recreational values. Recreational opportunities are primarily land-based: walk trails and lookout spots are found at both Snapper Point (Figure 104) and Wybung Head (Figure 105). The former is also a popular (if hazardous) rock fishing location (Figure 106) and the latter a popular whale watching spot. Lying between the two headlands is Frazer Beach: a popular regional surfing spot with an adjacent campground. A second popular surf break and campground are found at Birdie Beach, which marks the start of the Budgewoi Peninsula coastal beach strip that stretches SW to Cabbage Tree Bay.



Figure 106: Life buoys are provided for rock fishers at Snapper Point.



Figure 105: Signage at the start of the walking trail leading to Wybung Head Lookout

Map 1B: Birdie Beach

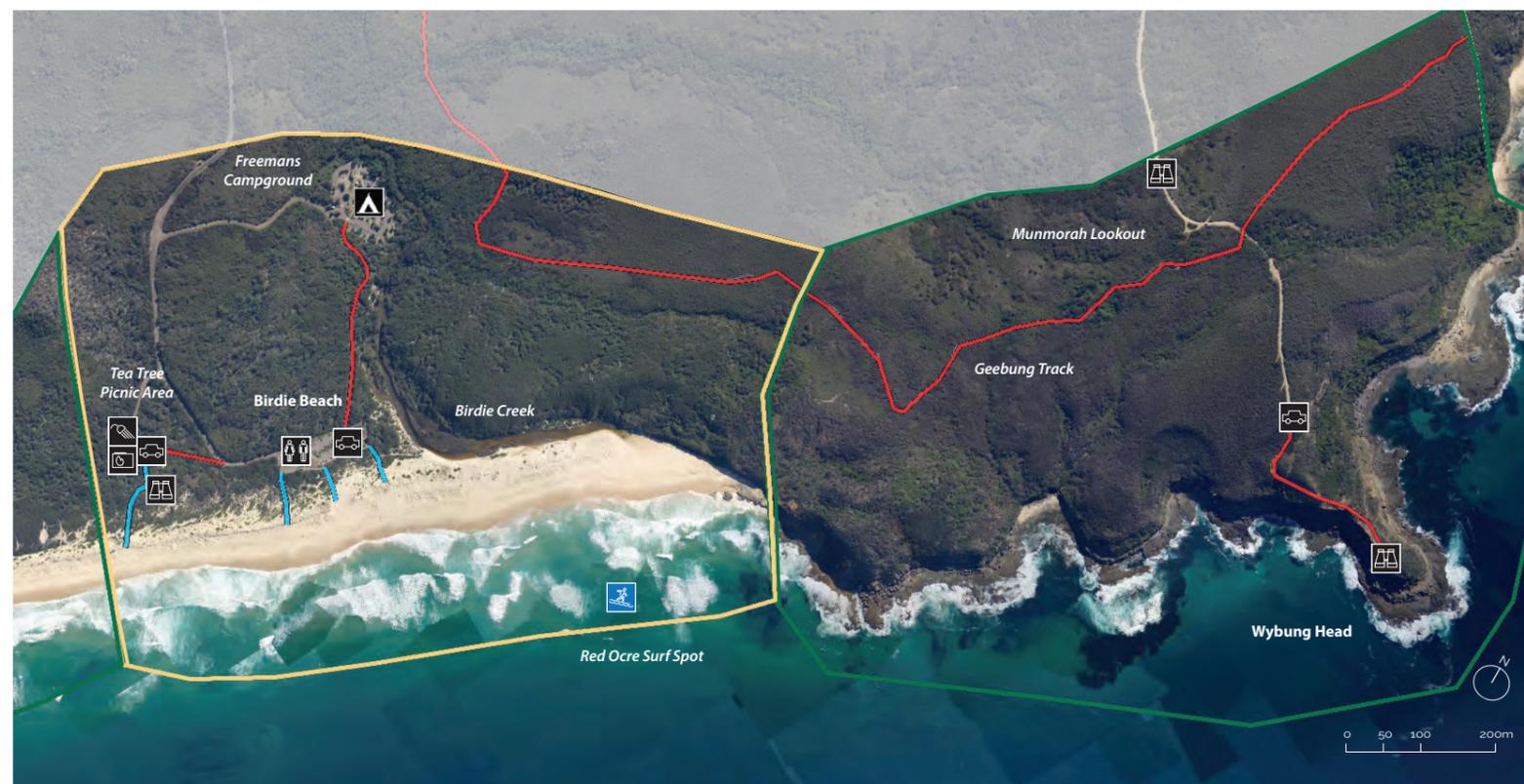


Figure 110: Birdie Beach toilets.

Birdie Beach is most notable for being the only clothing optional beach on the Central Coast. Also a Minor Activity Node, it has similar facilities to Frazer Beach to the north, including ample parking and public toilets for beach users (Figure 110). The main difference is that the campground is located several hundred metres from the beach, which can be accessed by foot from the path at the north of the carpark. A informal path provides access from the campground to the Geebung Track, which runs east through Wybung Head towards Frazer Beach, and north to completion at Campbell Road. To the NE of the main node is Birdie Creek (Figure 111), as well as Red Ochre surf spot. To the SW of the main node is the Tea Tree Picnic Area, which provides a BBQ and sheltered seating (Figure 112). Halfway down the beach access path is a lookout point, which provides views back towards Wybung Head and south towards Budgewoi Beach.

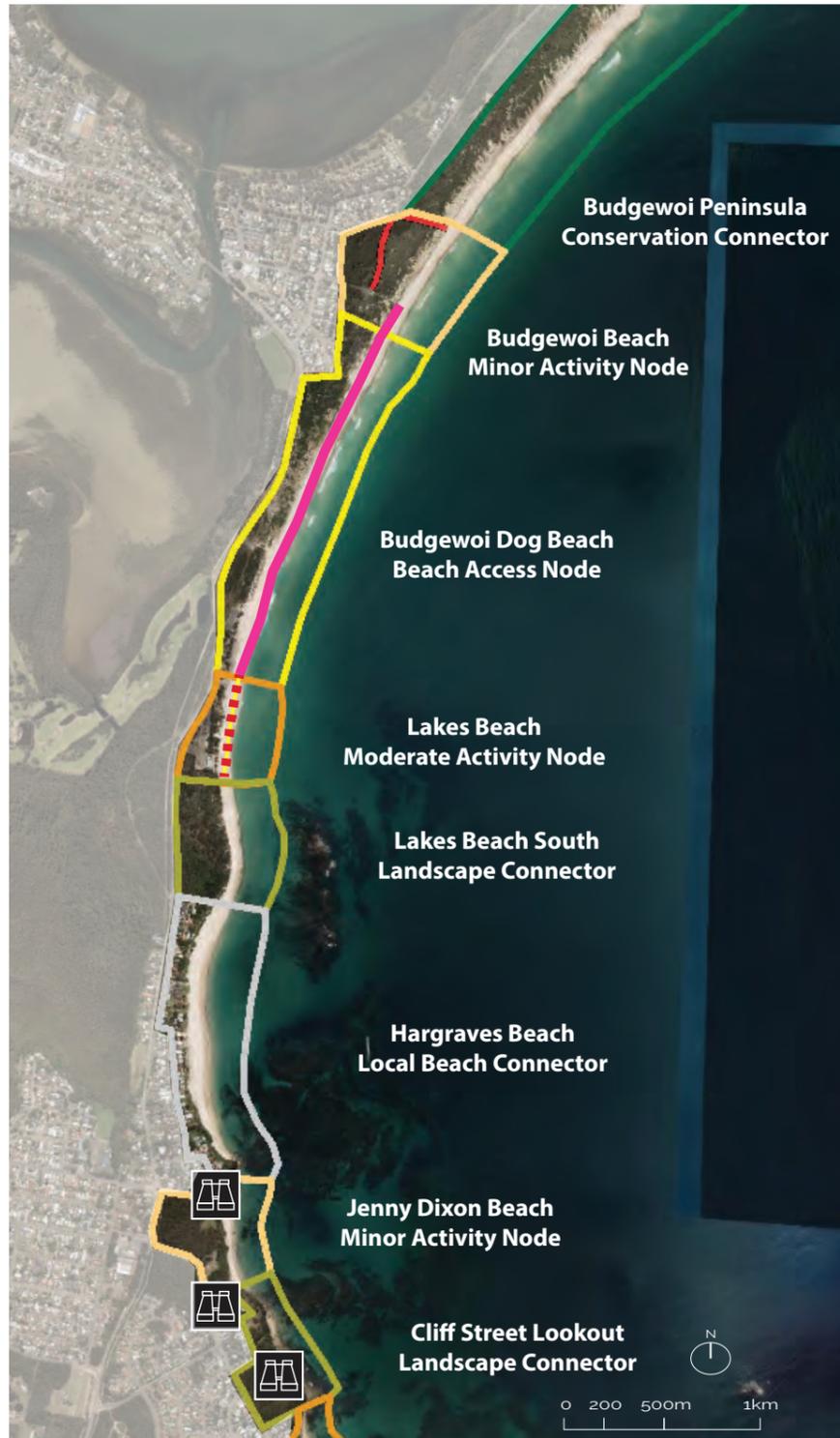


Figure 112: BBQ and seating at Tea Tree Picnic Area.



Figure 111: Birdie Creek.

Map 2: Budgewoi Lakes



The Budgewoi Lakes Coastal strip runs approximately 9kms from Birdie Beach in the north to Jenny Dixon Beach in the south. Regular beach access nodes are provided south of Budgewoi Peninsula, the first of which is the main Budgewoi Beach node that also contains a wetland walk trail. A designated dog beach runs south for roughly a kilometre, and can be accessed from three different carparks: with the whole dog beach classified as a Beach Access Node accordingly. The dog beach ends at the edge of Lakes Beach, which provides the northernmost Surf Life Saving patrolled beach in the study area. Surfing occurs along the entire beach stretch to Jewfish Point, however swell is larger to the North adjacent to Budgewoi Beach node. The coastal strip narrows at Hargraves Beach – the first Local Connector in the study area – and transforms into cliffs at Jenny Dixon Beach: providing multiple lookout opportunities, most notably to the very south at Cliff Street Lookout (Figure 115).



Figure 113: Drone image of the Budgewoi Lakes coastline looking north towards Birdie Beach.



Figure 115: View towards Norah Head from Cliff Street Lookout, just south of Jenny Dixon Beach.



Figure 114: Drone image of the Budgewoi Lakes coastline looking south towards Lakes Beach.

Map 2A: Budgewoi Beach



With only basic parking facilities provided to support a popular dog beach and surf spot, Budgewoi Beach would be a typical Beach Access Node, were it not for the Dunecare Circuit Walk (Figure 116). The walk runs north-west as a wetlands boardwalk from the carpark to a second street parking area, before running south-east to the beach (see map in Figure 177). Educational signage is found throughout the boardwalk section of the circuit, explaining local ecology principles and management practices. The dog exercise area begins directly south of the main carpark, and can also be accessed further south from Coloma Street. Even further south are a series of informal, poorly surveilled carparks, which were observed being used by caravans (Figure 118).



Figure 117: The Dunecare Circuit Walk is the main land-based recreation opportunity at Budgewoi Beach.



Figure 118: A range of vehicles found at one of the dog beach carparks.

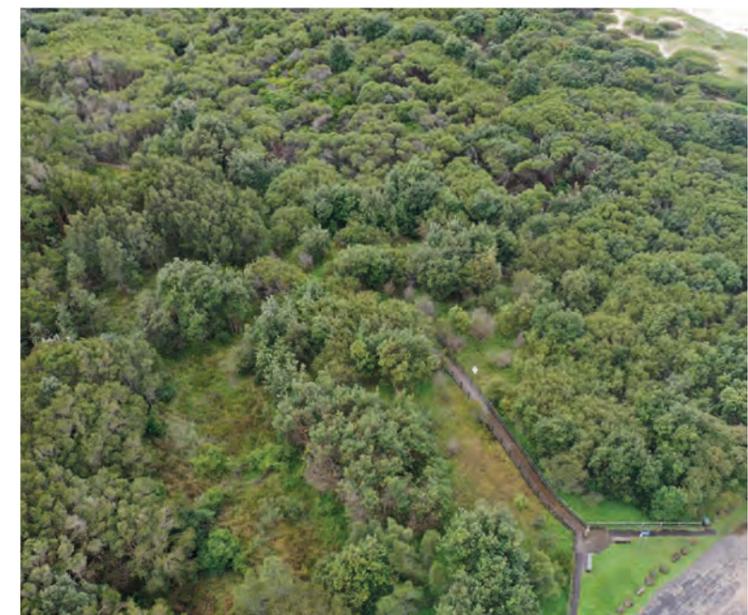
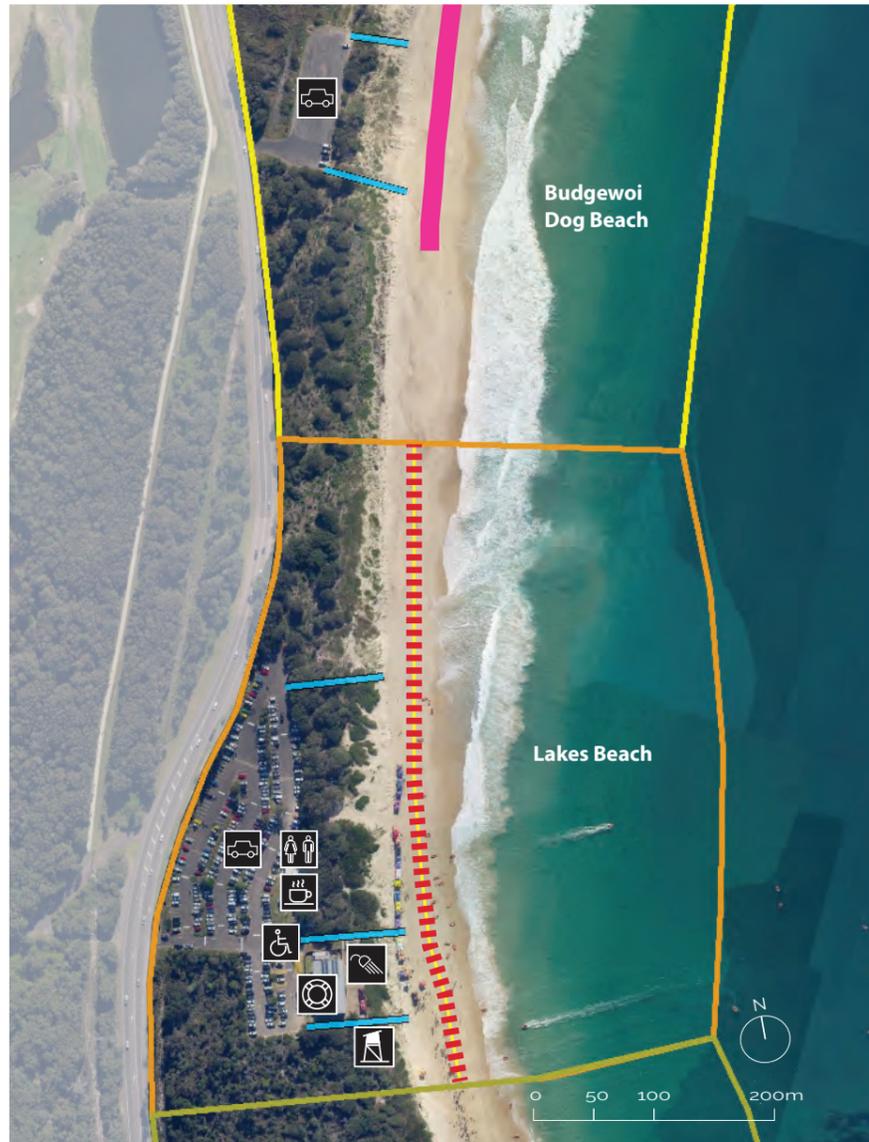


Figure 116: Drone image of the entrance to the Dunecare Walk Trail from the carpark.

Map 2B: Lakes Beach



Lakes Beach is a typical Moderate Activity Node, however is one of the few such nodes not located in a residential area. It contains a large carpark, beach access facilities with and adjacent cafe and picnic area (Figure 119). To the south is a Surf Life Saving Club and observation tower (Figure 120). Another notable feature of Lakes Beach is that it is one of the most universally accessible nodes in the study area. Multiple designated parking spaces (Figure 121), a wheelchair accessible toilet and marked wheelchair ramp leading to the raised viewing platform and beach (see Universal Beach Access example on Page 22 for more information).



Figure 119: Public toilets (including universal access facilities), kiosk and picnic seating at Lakes Beach.



Figure 121: Universal access parking is supported by accessible toilets (Figure 119), wheelchair hire and ramp access to the beach.



Figure 120: A SLS observation tower lies at the south of the node.

Map 2C: Jenny Dixon Reserve



Jenny Dixon Beach and adjacent Reserve represent a typical Minor Activity Node. It contains a medium-sized carpark with full beach access infrastructure, as well as a grassed recreational area with a playground (Figure 122), BBQ and sheltered picnic facilities. The raised location of the foreshore also provides several lookout opportunities, most notably to the south of the node (Figure 123). The most notable feature of Jenny Dixon Beach when it was visited in mid-2022 was that the main beach access path was closed due to rock fall hazards around the stairs down to the beach (Figure 124). To the north of the node is Hargraves Beach: a Local Connector with private residences abutting the foreshore reserve.



Figure 123: The view south from Jenny Dixon Reserve towards Norah Head.

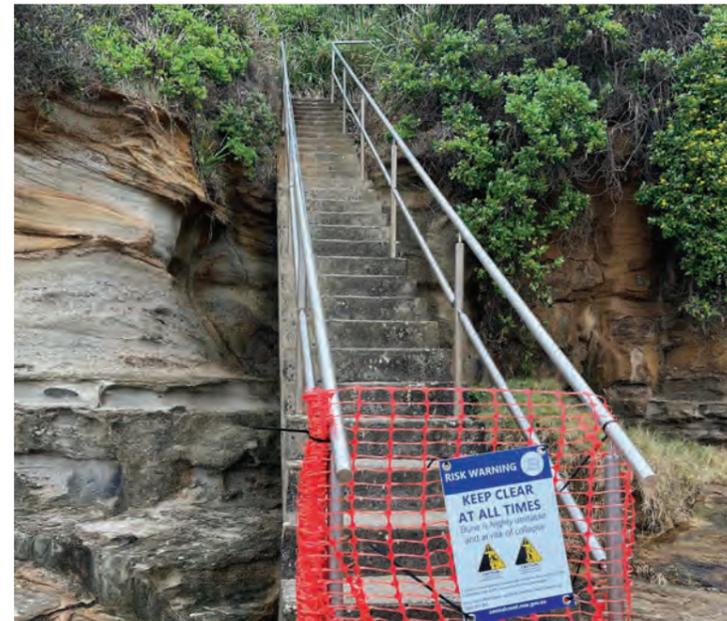


Figure 124: The main beach access path was closed due to rock fall hazards around the stairs.



Figure 122: Playground at Jenny Dixon Reserve.

Map 3: Norah Head



Norah Head is one of the highest intensity use regions in the study area, with three separate Moderate Activity Nodes. Cabbage Tree Bay in the north provides a sheltered beach for boat launching, fishing and protected swimming in its rockpool (Figure 125). A bushland walk trail provides unique recreational, educational and aesthetic values, while also linking to the Norah Head Lighthouse precinct (Figure 126), which includes some of the most significant cultural and heritage value in the study area. Pebbly Beach (Figure 127), linking Norah Head to Soldiers Beach, also has significant Indigenous values, as does the entire Norah Head precinct. Various opportunities for rock fishing are found around the headland.



Figure 125: Norah Head Rockpool within Cabbage Tree Bay provides safe ocean swimming opportunities, alongside fishing and boat launching facilities.



Figure 127: View across Pebbly Beach towards Norah Head Lighthouse.



Figure 126: The iconic Norah Head Lighthouse can be accessed by foot from Cabbage tree Bay via the Headland Nature Trail.

Map 3A: Cabbage Tree Bay



Figure 128: Cabbage Tree Bay provides ideal sheltered conditions for boat launching..

Cabbage Tree Bay is an atypical Moderate Activity Node in that it doesn't contain a SLS club or commercial area, however provides infrastructure for multiple water-based activities unique to the broader region. It provides one of the few open water boat launching ramps in the study area (Figure 128), along with a boat and marine rescue club (Figure 130). Adjacent to the boat ramp is a fish cleaning station (see Fishing discussion on Page 23), while to the east of the node is a large rockpool with adjacent changing facilities. A playground is found west of the node in Mazlin Reserve, while the eastern edge of the node connects with the Headland bushland reserve and nature trail (Figure 129). An additional carpark and playground is located in the adjacent Young Street Reserve, however was not considered within the node given it was separated by a main road.



Figure 130: The entrance to the Norah Head Marine Rescue club.



Figure 129: The Headland Nature Trail connects the nodes between Cabbage Tree Bay and Norah Head Lighthouse

Map 3B: Norah Head Lighthouse



Figure 131: Lighthouse history sign provided at Pebbly Beach.

Norah Head Lighthouse is the most significant heritage precinct in the study area. As such, it was classified as a Moderate Activity Node despite a small development footprint and lack of supporting beach access infrastructure. The main feature is the Lighthouse – a 27 metre tower constructed in 1903 (Figure 131) – with several other key heritage features retained for cultural and educational purposes (Figure 132). The precinct also includes guest accommodation and venue hire. The rock shelf below is a popular fishing spot, with users warned of the hazards of rock fishing on entrance (Figure 133).



Figure 133: Information signs for rockshelf fishers.



Figure 132: An example of the heritage retained within the Norah Head Lighthouse precinct.

Map 3C: Soldiers Beach



Figure 134: The view from Soldiers Point towards the SLS Club.

Soldiers Beach is one of the largest Moderate Activity Nodes in the study area – although, similar to Lakes Beach, it does not lie directly adjacent to a residential area. It contains three large carparks, the eastern of which contains a kiosk, beach access facilities and provides access to the rockshelf (Figure 135). The eastern point also provides a vantage point across Pebbly Beach. The smaller carpark is directly adjacent to the SLS club, which provides beach wheelchair access to the patrolled beach below that is also a popular surfing spot. Bike racks would assist to facilitate use from the shared path, which runs north to the holiday park (Figure 136).



Figure 136: The shared path connecting Soldiers Beach with the adjacent holiday park and residential area.



Figure 135: Rock fishing is popular off the Soldiers Point rockshelf however comes with risk.

Map 4: Wyrabalong National Park North



The northern coastal stretch of Wyrabalong National Park runs from Norah Head to Curtis Parade Beach. Beach access nodes are provided at Pelican, Magenta and Tuggerah Beaches: Pelican and Magenta Beaches have formal parking spaces, while Tuggerah Beach is accessed from a Government landfill site (Figure 138). A longer walking trail leads from a small informal parking area on Central Coast Highway, east of Magenta Golf Course. Adjacent to this parking area are access points to the popular Red Gum and Lillypilly walking trails, however are located outside of the study area. While not mapped, informal trails provide a connection between the three beaches for keen walkers (Figure 139).



Figure 139: Informal trails branching off from the Magenta Beach access path, leading to Pelican Beach to the north and Tuggerah Beach to the south.

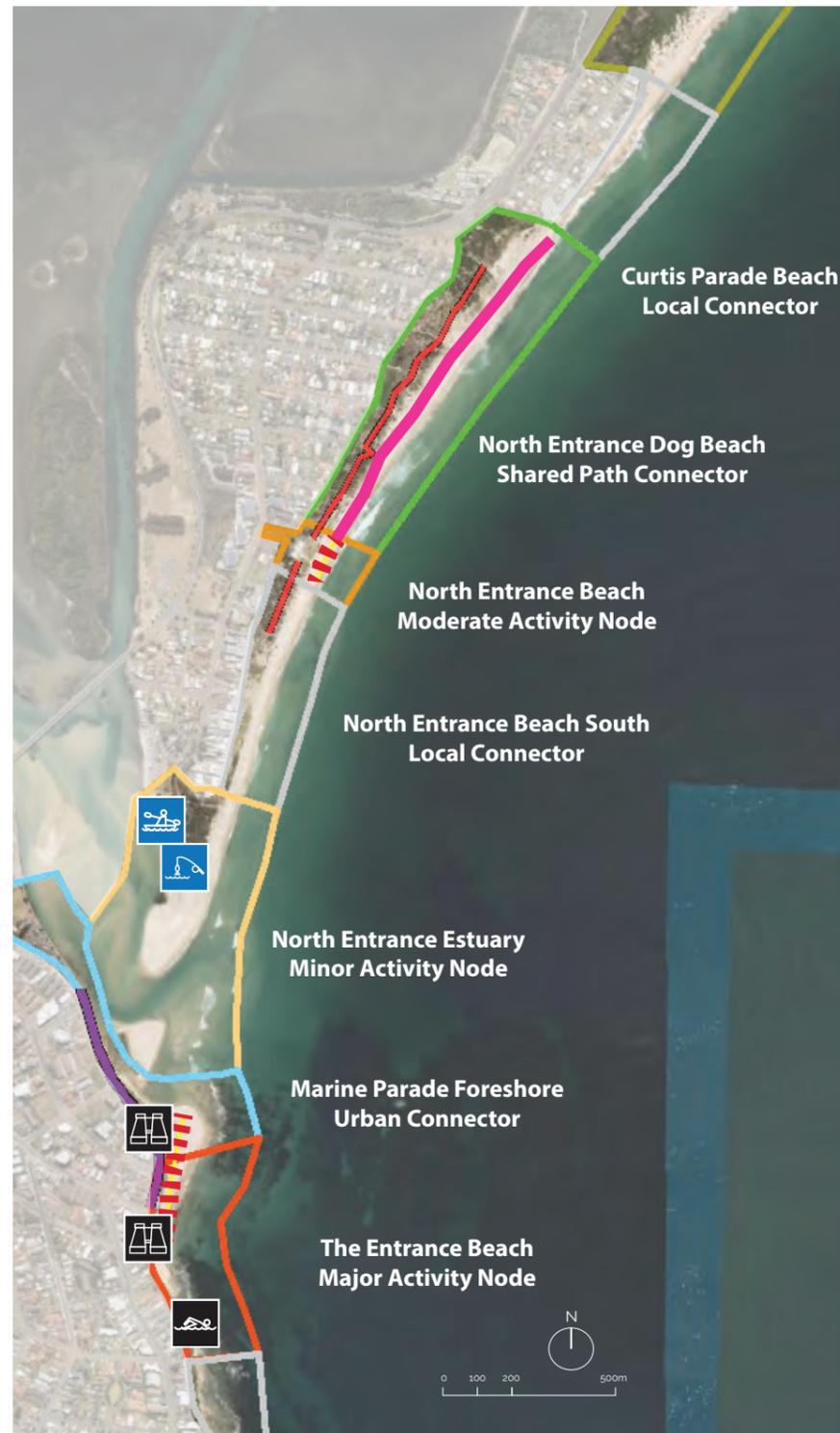


Figure 137: Drone image looking from Pelican Beach towards Magenta Beach.



Figure 138: Beach Access points are found at Pelican, Magenta and Tuggerah Beaches, although the latter provides only an informal parking area next to a Landcare site.

Map 5: The Entrance



One of the most valued areas of the Central Coast, The Entrance extends north and south of the channel entrance to Tuggerah Lake. The residential area begins at Curtis Parade Beach (See Local Connector example on Page 43) before the only Shared Path Connector in the study area – North Entrance Dog Beach – classified as such given the walking path that runs through the coastal reserve parallel to the beach (see Shared Path Connector example on Page 41). The sheltered waters of the channel provide various water-based activities, including kayaking and fishing around the inlet, and are renown for birdlife viewing particularly during breeding season. Marine Parade Foreshore is the first Urban Connector in the study area: linking Memorial Park to The Entrance Beach through a shared path with multiple lookout points (see Urban Connector example on Page 42). The main Entrance Beach node encompasses the iconic SLS Club (Figure 141) and Grant McBride Ocean Baths (Figure 142): one of only five Major Activity Nodes in the study area.



Figure 140: View of the southern side of the channel from Marine Parade.



Figure 142: The Grant McBride Ocean Baths.



Figure 141: The Entrance Surf Club.

Map 5A: North Entrance Beach



North Entrance Beach extends south from Curtis Parade to the northern side of The Entrance Channel. The main beach node is one of the smaller Moderate Activity Nodes in the study area, with limited parking at the SLS Club (some additional parking is provided at the adjacent school) making it more of a local node. Its most unique feature is the walking path (Figure 144) that runs north along the extent of the dog beach, and south to the beach access path at Roberts Street. The dog beach otherwise functions as a Local Beach Connector, with a high level of local ownership of the space by residents (see Figure 145).



Figure 145: An example of local ownership of the coastline along North Entrance Dog Beach.



Figure 143: North Entrance SLS Club.



Figure 144: A walking path runs along the length of North Entrance Dog Beach to the main beach node, before commencing again to the south.

Map 5B: The Entrance Channel



Figure 146: The northern banks of the channel provide an ideal spot for kayak launching.

As with other inlets along the study area, The Entrance Channel provides ideal sheltered conditions for water-based activities. Kayaking, SUP and other boarding activities are facilitated by commercial operators at the main node at Karagi Point (Figure 146), which is supported by a carpark, changing facilities and a small playground. Fishing was also observed all along the northern bank of the inlet (Figure 148). The stretch of Marine Parade Foreshore across the channel, including Memorial Park, is classified as an Urban Connector as the foreshore is entirely built over and it provides no formal access to the water. The Entrance Waterfront is a Major Activity Node that falls under Stage 2 of this study.

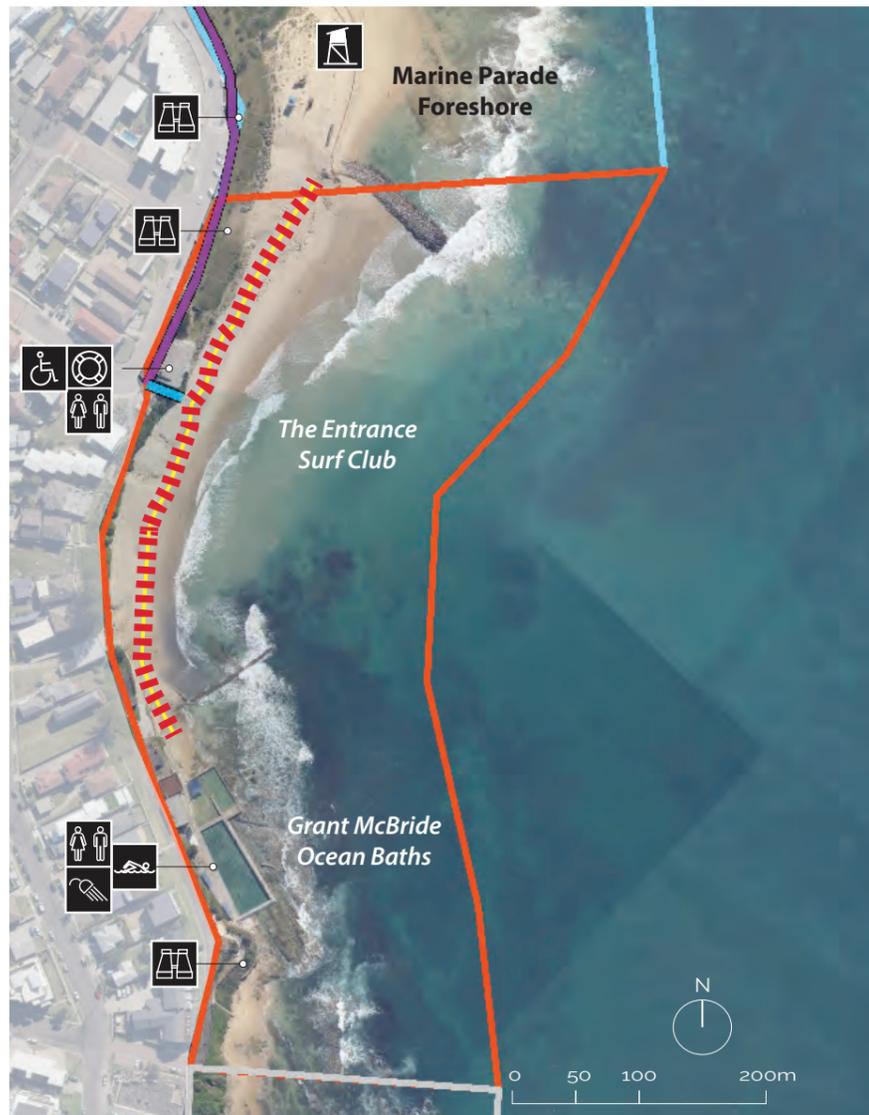


Figure 148: Fishing along the northern bank of the estuary.



Figure 147: The view across the channel towards Memorial Park.

Map 5C: The Entrance Beach



The Entrance was classified as a Major Activity Node for several reasons: its location in one of the most developed areas of the study area that sees heavy use from locals and visitors, its iconic Surf Club at the north and unique Grant McBride Ocean Baths at the south. What makes The Entrance problematic as a Major Node is a lack of parking both at the SLS Club and Ocean Baths – only street parking is provided at the SLS Club (Figure 149), while only a small carpark is provided at the Ocean Baths. The presence of a shared path encourages pedestrian use from the commercial and recreational precinct to the north, while providing numerous lookout opportunities along Marine Parade.



Figure 151: The view towards the Ocean Baths from the Surf Club.



Figure 149: Users arriving by car to The Entrance Beach will have to rely on street parking.

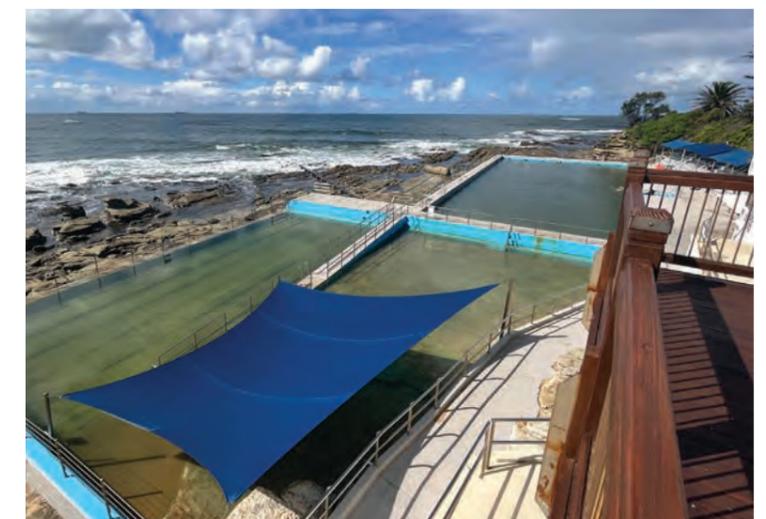


Figure 150: Grant McBride Ocean Baths, one of the main attractions on the Central Coast.

Map 6: Blue Bay to Blue Lagoon



The coastal strip from Blue Bay to Blue Lagoon is one of the most popular tourist precincts along the Central Coast, as evidenced by the presence of holiday parks at Toowoan Bay, Shelly Beach and Blue Lagoon Beach (Figure 154). Moderate Activity Nodes are found at Toowoan Bay Beach and Shelly Beach – both of which are considered close to Major Nodes due to large development footprints and adjacent holiday parks. The northern bay areas provide multiple snorkeling opportunities, as well as a boat launching at Toowoan Bay, while a dog exercise area runs from the south to the main North Shelly Dog Beach carpark (Figure 153). Blue Lagoon beach was difficult to classify, as use is largely restricted to users of the holiday park, meaning it functioned largely as a Local Beach Connector for those residents.



Figure 152: Looking south along Blue Bay Beach.



Figure 154: The view across Blue Lagoon Resort south of Shelly Beach.



Figure 153: The view across North Shelly Dog Beach towards Toowoan Bay, from the carpark lookout.

Map 6A: Blue Bay



Blue Bay stretches from the Ocean Parade in the north to Toowoan Bay in the south. The main access point is a small Beach Access Node, with additional street access provided to the north (Figure 155). The node has only a handful of parking spaces (Figure 156), making its use mainly for locals, with a small toilet block, showers and grassed area (Figure 157). The coastal stretch from Blue Bay to Toowoan Bay is one of the most popular snorkelling locations in the study area, with the series of reefs also providing several surf breaks.



Figure 157: Watching surfers from the grass at Blue Bay Beach.



Figure 155: Beach access to Blue Bay North from Ocean Parade.



Figure 156: Only a handful of parking bays are provided at Blue Bay Beach.

Map 6B: Toowoon Bay

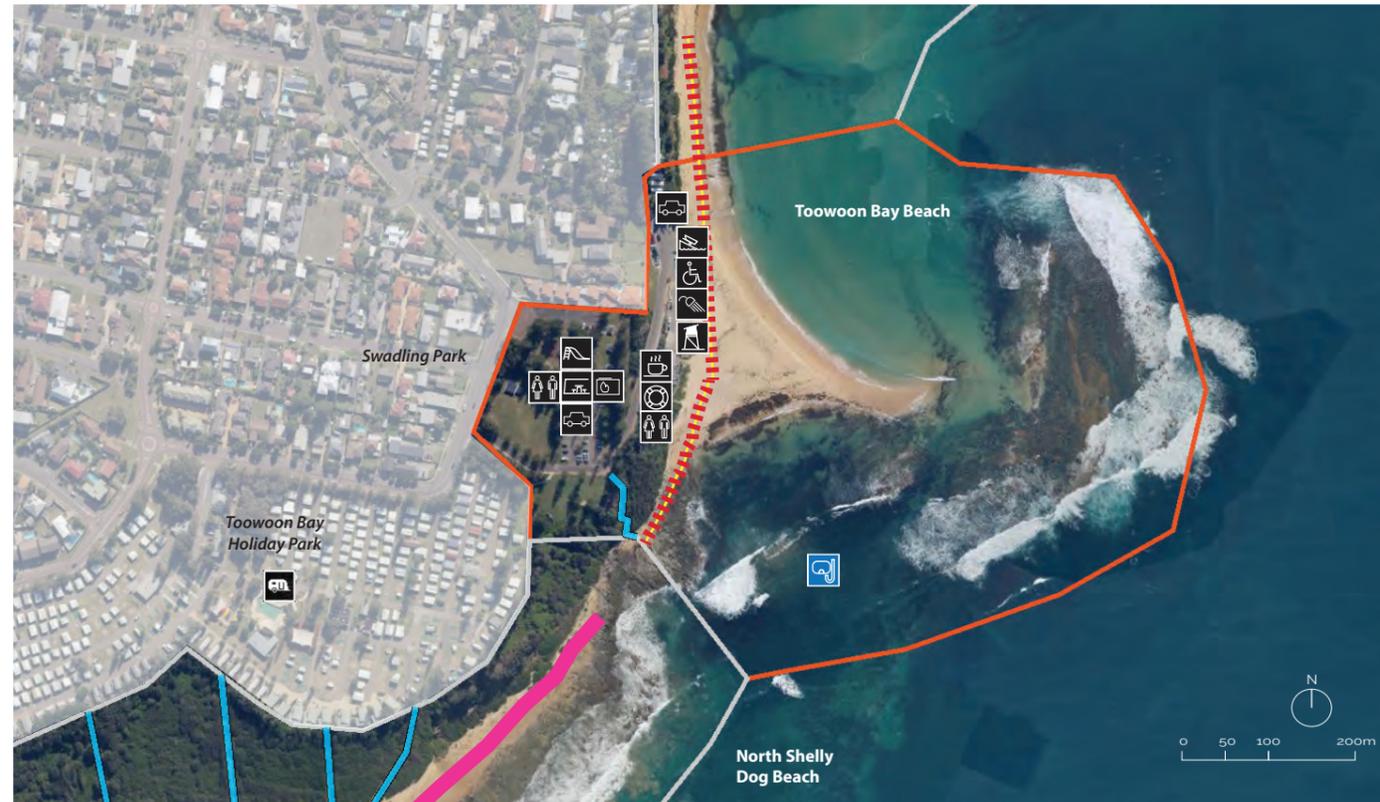


Figure 158: Beach wheelchair mat at Toowoon Bay.

Toowoon Bay is one of the most popular beaches on the Central Coast, owing mainly to its reef feature that provides a sheltered bay for safe swimming, snorkelling and boat launching. It is a popular tourist destination, with a holiday park and numerous short-stay accommodations directly adjacent to the node (Figure 159). A beach wheelchair mat is often set up next to the boat ramp (Figure 158), along with wheelchair hire from the SLS Club. Swadling Reserve lies within the node and provides an extra set of public toilets, along with a playground, BBQ and picnic facilities (Figure 160).



Figure 160: Play and picnic facilities at Swadling Park.



Figure 159: Beachside accommodation overlooking Toowoon Bay Beach.

Map 6C: North Shelly Dog Beach



Figure 161: The view south along North Shelly Dog Beach.

This node provides the main access point to North Shelly Dog Beach, along with a popular reef break for local surfers (Figure 162). The beach can also be accessed by holiday park residents via a series of beach access paths through the foreshore reserve. Along with parking and changing facilities, the presence of BBQ and picnic facilities (Figure 163) make this a Minor Activity Node. The raised profile of the node also provides good lookout views in both directions along the coast.



Figure 163: BBQ and picnic facilities adjacent to the carpark.



Figure 162: A surfer captured mid-ride at North Shelly Dog Beach.

Map 6D: Shelly Beach



Shelly Beach was classified as a Moderate Activity Node, however has a strong case to be a Major Node. It has a large development footprint, with extensive parking around a large SLS building that also contains an upstairs bar and restaurant (Figure 164). Two large changing facilities and beach wheelchair hire and access are also provided. Multiple bike racks are provided to cater for the shared path that extends in each direction (Figure 165). To the south of the node at Blue Lagoon Beach, the shared path changes into a walking path that links to the Wyrribalong Coastal Walk commencing at Bateau Bay (Figure 166).



Figure 164: View of the bar and restaurant located above Shelly Beach SLS Club (photo courtesy of Central Coast Council).

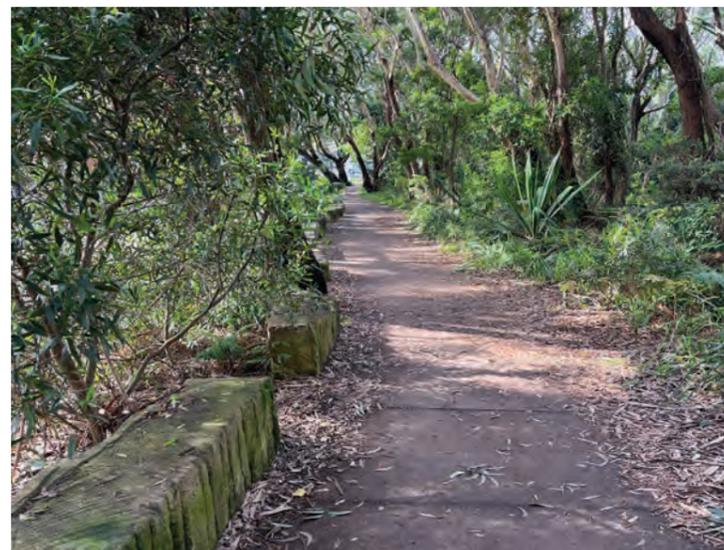


Figure 166: The shared walking path running south from Shelly Beach towards Bateau Bay.



Figure 165: Bike racks near Shelly Beach SLS Club.

Map 7: Wyrabalong National Park South



The southern coastal stretch of Wyrabalong National Park runs south from Bateau Bay to Foresters Beach. Its most notable feature is the Wyrabalong Coastal Walk, which provides a continuous 3km trail from Bateau Bay to Wyrabalong Lookout. Approximately halfway along the track is Crackneck Point Lookout (Figure 168), a popular whale watching location that also provides views across the Crackneck Point surf spot: a notorious break often visited by pro-surfers. Hand gliding is also common within the Park (see sign in Figure 169).



Figure 167: Drone image of Wyrabalong National Park South, looking north.



Figure 169: Advice to hand gliders at Wyrabalong Lookout.



Figure 168: Drone image of Crackneck Point Lookout, looking West.

Map 7A: Bateau Bay Beach



Figure 170: The view over Bateau Bay Beach from the carpark.

Bateau Bay Beach is a small sheltered bay that provides opportunities for safe swimming, snorkelling and rock fishing. While a typical beach access nodes, with the presence of a small carpark and toilets, the shared walking path that runs across the node marks the start of the Wyrrabalong Coastal Walk (Figure 171), which runs 3 kms south to Wyrrabalong Lookout. Another notable feature of Bateau Bay is as one of the few locations of mangroves along the coast.



Figure 172: Bike racks are provided at the node to cater for shared path users.

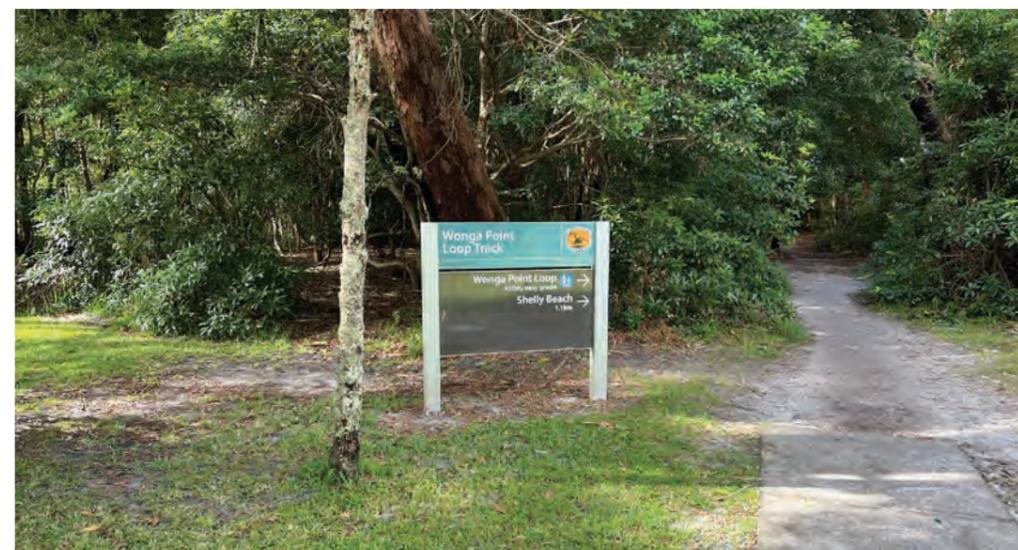


Figure 171: The shared walking path running through Bateau Bay connects south to the Wyrrabalong Coastal Walk.