



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

Map 12: Copacabana Macmasters



Figure 211: The view across Copacabana Beach from Winnie Bay Cliffs.

The Copacabana Macmasters is a coherent coastal strip similar in nature to Avoca Beach to the north. It is centred around the mouth of a lagoon – Cockrone Lagoon (Figure 212) – with Moderate nodes found at either end. Both Copacabana Beach to the north and Macmasters Beach to the south contain popular rock fishing spots and surf breaks: surfing occurs all along the beach, however is best supported adjacent to the SLS Clubs. Macmasters Beach has the notable additions of a playground to the north of the node and a constructed rockpool to the south, making it the primary recreational node. Linking the nodes to together is a long dog beach, classified as a Local Connector due to the now familiar combination of residential beach frontage and regular beach access paths from the street. No nodes are found along the lagoon foreshore, however local connectors provide various recreational opportunities, as shown in Figure 213.



Figure 213: Locals fishing in Cockrone Lagoon along Del Monte Place.



Figure 212: A sheltered lagoon inlet divides the two nodes and the dog beach that links them.

Map 12A: Copacabana Beach



Figure 214: Copacabana SLS Club.

Copacabana Beach is a typical Moderate Activity Node with an iconic name and iconic surf club (Figure 214). It contains a popular surf break, and the rockshelf to the east provides fishing and safe swimming opportunities depending on the tide (Figures 215 and 216). While catering for a variety of uses at the node and the beach, it contains only limited car parking. Opposite the node is a popular commercial and dining precinct, which provides additional parking for beach users. A lookout lies at the west of the node, and beyond that the commencement of the dog beach, which can be accessed through a series of beach access paths from Del Monte Place.



Figure 216: Copacabana Beach from the rocks.



Figure 215: Advice to fishers on the rockshelf.

Map 12B: Macmasters Beach



Macmasters Beach is a Moderate Activity Node situated at the very south of the coastal strip. Similar in nature to the main Avoca Beach node, it contains a SLS Club with beach wheelchair hire, a cafe and picnic area, and changing facilities to support use at the popular rockpool (Figure 219). The patrolled area extends up Marine Parade to the edge of the dog beach, where an observation tower (Figure 217) stationed adjacent to a playground and additional public toilets (Figure 218). The rocks to the south are popular for climbing and fishing, and a popular surf break lies just off the point.



Figure 219: Macmasters Beach Rockpool (photo courtesy of Central Coast Council).

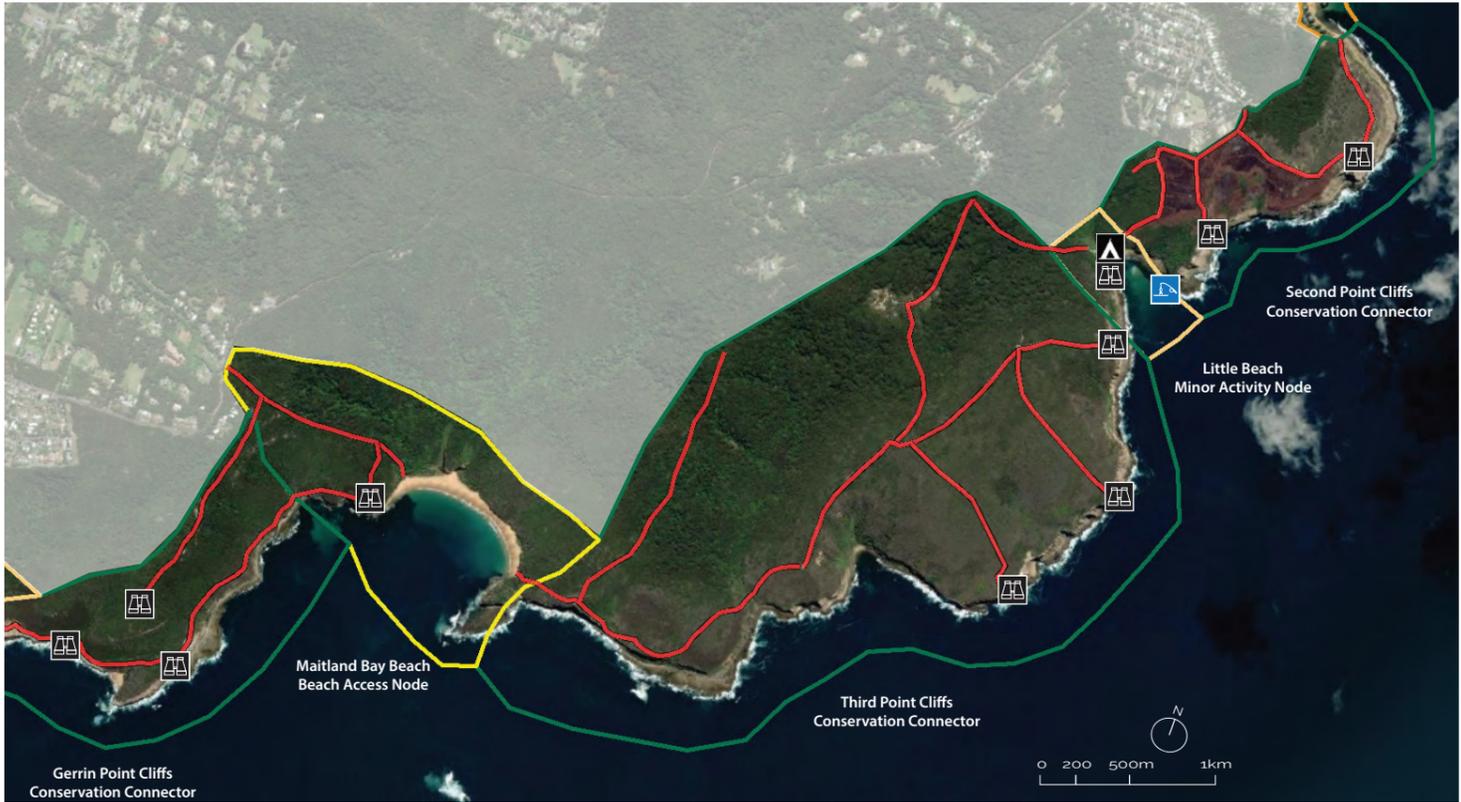


Figure 217: Looking south along Macmasters Beach towards the SLS Club.



Figure 218: Macmasters Beach Playground.

Map 13: Bouddi National Park East



The eastern component of Bouddi National Park stretches from Macmasters Beach in the NE to Putty Beach in the SW. It is most notable for its series of Conservation Connectors that provide a largely continuous series of walking trails with multiple lookout opportunities (Figures 220 and 221). The cliffs are punctuated by two beaches - Little Beach and Maitland Bay Beach - which must both be accessed by foot over occasionally challenging terrain (Figure 222).



Figure 222: The walking path to Maitland Bay Beach is not for the faint hearted.



Figure 220: The slightly interrupted view from Little Beach Lookout.



Figure 221: Looking east over Maitland Bay Beach from the lookout.

Map 13A: Little Beach



Little Beach is an atypical Minor Activity Node in the sense that it lies within a National Park and can only be accessed by foot. Visitors can either park either at Beachview Avenue and approach from the east through Second Point Cliffs (Figure 223), or from the end of Graham Drive to the west. Once at the node, a formal campground is provided for visitors, with long drop toilets, BBQ and picnic facilities (Figures 224 and 225). As well as providing a small sheltered beach for swimming, the rockshelf extending to the east also provides additional fishing and play opportunities (Figure 226).

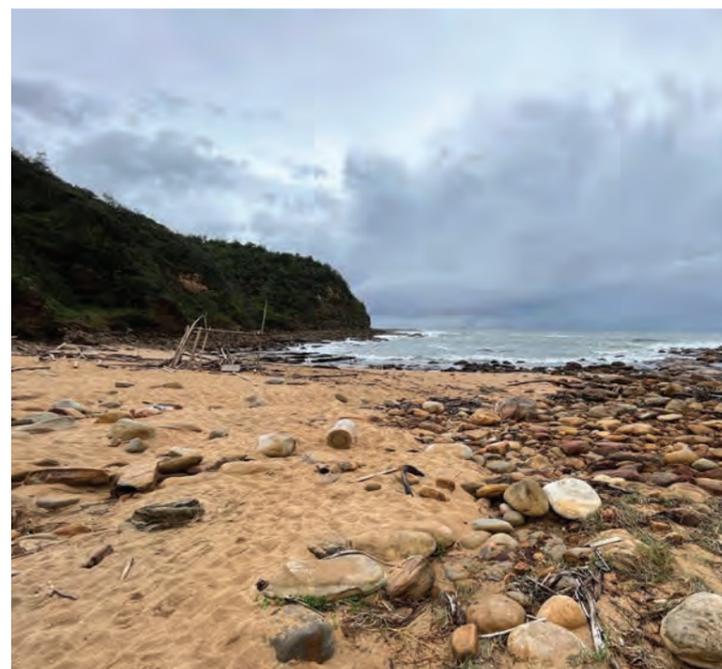


Figure 226: Driftwood art on Little Beach, with rockshelf visible in the background.



Figure 223: Eastern access path to Little Beach from Second Point Cliffs.



Figure 225: Toilets at Little Beach Campground.



Figure 224: Little Beach Campground also contains BBQ and picnic facilities.

Map 13B: Maitland Bay Beach

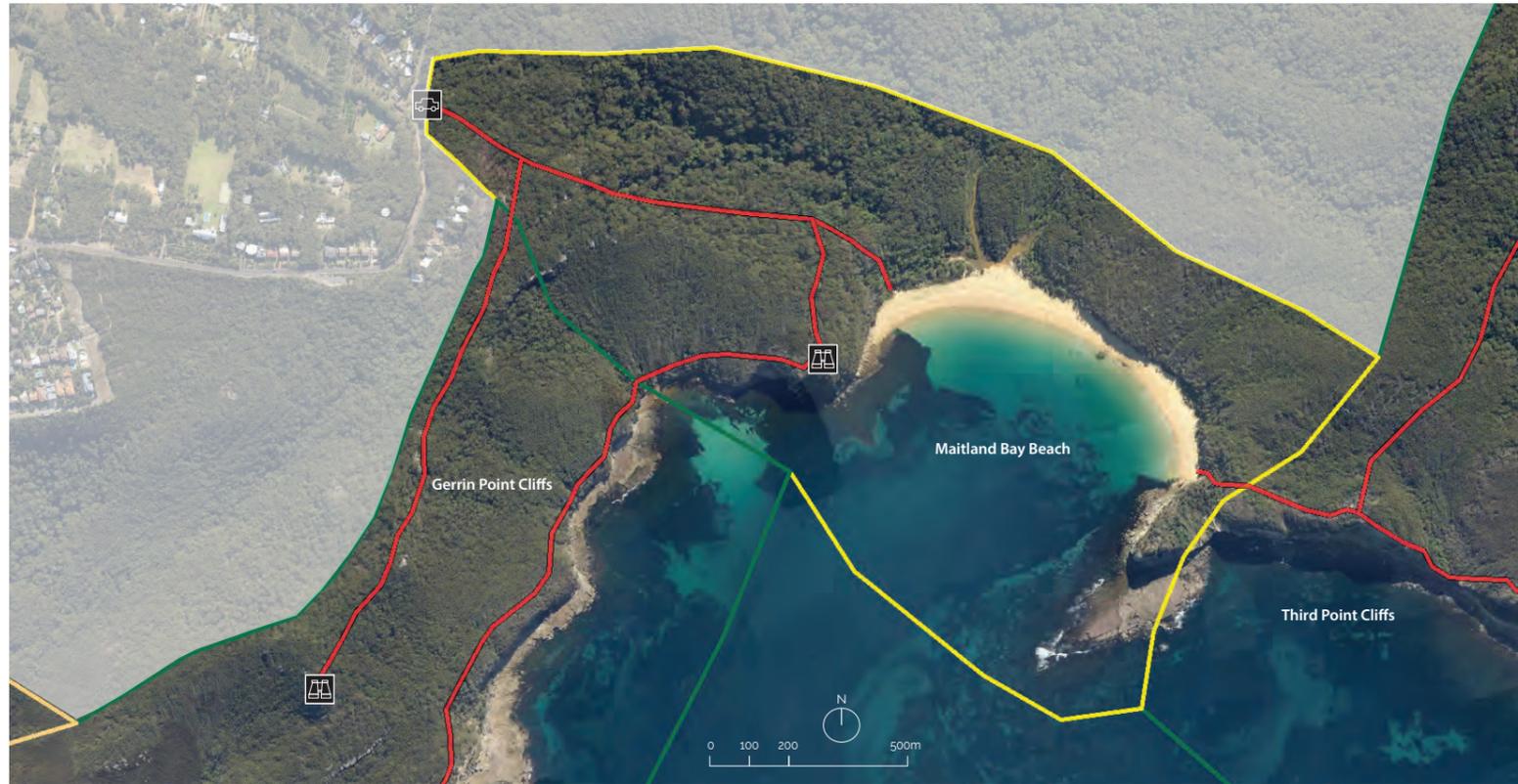


Figure 227: Entry signs at the start of the Maitland Bay Beach walking trail.

Maitland Bay is named after the paddle steamer SS Maitland that crashed in the bay en route to Newcastle in 1898 - parts of the shipwreck can still be found on the rocks. As well as this fascinating backstory, Maitland Bay Beach is a novel Beach Access Node in that it can only be accessed by foot, via a long walking trail commencing just south of Maitland Bay Information Centre on The Scenic Road (Figure 227). Only a carpark is provided at the "node", with no additional beach infrastructure. Several hundred metres from the carpark, a trail branches off towards Bullimah Spur (Figure 228), while several hundred metres from the beach, a right turn onto Bouddi Coastal Trails leads to a lookout over the Beach. No additional infrastructure are found at the beach, however.



Figure 229: Driftwood art on Maitland Bay Beach.



Figure 228: After a few hundred metres, the trail branches off towards Bullimah Spur Lookout.

Map 14: Bouddi National Park West



Figure 230: Looking east across Tallow Beach (photo courtesy of Central Coast Council).

The western component of Bouddi National Park stretches from Putty Beach in the east, Box Head Cliffs in the west and Lobster Beach in the north. It contains the only coastal stretch accessible by car in the Park, which includes a Moderate Activity Node at Killcare Beach and a dog beach to the East. From Killcare Beach, a series of walking paths link to Tallow Beach (Figure 230) and Lobster Beach (Figure 231), the former providing a small camping site and the latter providing views across the bay to Umina Point (Figure 232)



Figure 232: The view across Lobster Beach towards Umina Point.



Figure 231: Lobster, Tallow and Killcare Beaches can all be accessed via continuous walking paths.

Map 14A: Putty Beach



Figure 234: Information for campers at Putty Beach.

Putty Beach is a Minor Activity Node similar in nature to other nearby coastal campgrounds. It contains 20 formal camping spots that (see map in Figure 234), with adjacent picnic and changing facilities (Figure 235). It marks the end of the Bouddi Coastal Walk, allowing it to be accessed by hikers. Unlike Little and Tallow Beaches to either side, it can also be accessed via car. As shown in Figure 233, driftwood deposited during recent flooding events can be found along the beach, as it could be seen in other non-residential beaches.



Figure 235: BBQ and sheltered seating at Putty Beach Campground.



Figure 233: Driftwood like this at Putty Beach was found at most remote beaches in the study area, owing to the recent floods.

Map 14B: Killcare Beach



Figure 236: Killcare Beach is one of the few coastal nodes in study area with public exercise equipment.

Killcare Beach is a Moderate Activity Node similar in nature to the main nodes at Avoca and Macmasters Beaches. The carpark to the east of the node provides access to the dog beach (Figure 238), which ends at the edge of the main carpark. One novel feature is the presence of a public fitness equipment circuit in the small park area (Figure 236), which also houses a BBQ and picnic area. South of the SLS Club, which also provides beach wheelchair hire and small kiosk, is a natural rockpool for safe swimming (Figure 237). While the entire Putty Killcare coastal strip can be surfed, the main break lies adjacent to Killcare SLS Club.



Figure 238: Shower and dog beach access at the northern carpark.



Figure 237: Killcare Beach Rockpool.

Map 15: Brisbane Waters South



Figure 239: Looking south along Wagstaffe Beach.

The southern half of Brisbane Waters runs from Wagstaffe Point in the west to Hardys Bay Parade Foreshore in the east. It includes the first Residential Beach Connectors in the study area, with the beach north and south of Wagstaffe Wharf (Figure 239) largely restricted to being accessed from adjacent residential properties. Both Pretty Beach and Hardys Bay are broken up into both Urban Connectors and Minor Activity Nodes: while minor infrastructure can be found along the foreshore areas, the nodes are centred around the main jetties: with Hardys Bay being adjacent to a popular commercial precinct (Figure 240). The two bays are connected by a walking path running through Araluen Drive Foreshore (Figure 241).



Figure 241: The entrance to Araluen Drive Foreshore path.



Figure 240: Commercial precinct opposite Hardys Bay Jetty.

Map 15A: Wagstaffe Wharf



Figure 242: The jetty at Wagstaffe Wharf, with a fishing advice sign on the right.

Wagstaffe Wharf is the smallest node in the study area, centered around a small carpark and fishing jetty halfway along Wagstaffe Beach (Figure 242). Adjacent to the small carpark are bike racks, a small picnic area with seating and a BBQ, public toilets, totem pole art features (Figure 244) and the Wagstaffe Hall community centre. As shown in Figure 243, private jetties to the north and south restrict public access to the beach, thus their classification as Residential Connectors.



Figure 244: Public art at Wagstaffe Wharf.



Figure 243: Access to Wagstaffe Beach is restricted to adjacent residences.

Map 15B: Pretty Beach



Figure 245: Pretty Beach swimming net.

Pretty Beach is comprised of an Urban Connector in the west and a Minor Activity Node in the east. A small playground lies adjacent to the western jetty (Figure 247), however was not considered as lying within the coastal area due it being separated by a main road. The main node encapsulates a swimming net and adjacent changing room (Figure 245), however the only toilets are located adjacent to the jetty and boat ramp. While all the jetties can be used for fishing, a dedicated cleaning station (Figure 246) makes this the main fishing spot across the two Brisbane Waters South bays.



Figure 247: Playground opposite Pretty Beach.



Figure 246: A fishing station is located next to the jetty and boat ramp.

Map 15C: Hardys Bay



Figure 248: Hardys Bay Jetty.

Hardys Bay, similar to Pretty Beach to the west, is broken up into a longer Urban Connector and smaller Minor Activity Node at its main jetty and public toilets (Figure 248). A further small public toilets can be found at the western jetty (Figure 250), however without any formal parking or additional infrastructure it was not considered a node. Adjacent to the public jetty are toilets and a boat mooring jetty with commercial kayak and board hire (Figure 249), while opposite the node is a popular commercial precinct.



Figure 250: Small public toilets are provided along the Hardys Bay, although are not considered part of a node.



Figure 249: Kayak and board hire is available at the jetty.

Map 16: Brisbane Waters North



Figure 251: Booker Bay Wharf.

The northern half of Brisbane Waters runs from Rocky Point in the East to Ettalong Dog Beach in the west. Booker Bay is a long Residential Beach Connector comprised mainly of private boat mooring jetties. It does contain one public jetty at Guyra Street - Booker Bay Wharf (Figure 251) - and a public boat launching ramp at Karu Avenue. The coast changes to a Local Beach Connector near Mareela Avenue, with many backyards fronting directly onto the public beach (Figure 253). A node of sorts is found at Anderson's Boatshed and the adjacent boat mooring jetty at Petit Street (Figure 252). Kayak and board hire is available from the boatshed to make use of the sheltered Brisbane Waters. A shared path commences at Ettalong Wharf, and continues west through Ettalong Beach along the dog beach to Ocean Beach.



Figure 253: Many private residences have direct frontage on to Anderson's Boatshed Beach.



Figure 252: Boat and board hire at Andersons Boatshed.

Map 16A: Ettalong Beach



Figure 254: The start of the shared path at Ettalong Wharf.

The Ettalong Beach coastal strip stretches from Ettalong Wharf - the departure point for the ferry to Palm Beach - to Ettalong Dog Beach. Its main feature is a continuous shared path, the longest in the study area (Figure 254). Ettalong Beach is one of the few Moderate Activity Nodes in the study area without a SLS Club. The main attraction is the beachfront cafe just south of the commercial precinct (Figure 255), which also provides changing facilities and bike racks. Further south adjacent to the war memorial is a playground and picnic area. Even further south is another playground and picnic area, this time with the addition of public fitness equipment (Figure 256). A fishing platform is located at the end of the node, which can be accessed via the small parking area at the start of the dog beach, which also provides a third boat launching point into Brisbane Waters



Figure 256: Fitness equipment adjacent to the shared path at the south of the node.



Figure 255: Kayak and board hire is available at the jetty.

Map 17: Broken Bay



The Broken Bay coastline stretches from Ettalong Point to Umina Point. At both ends are iconic surf breaks: The Box at Ettalong Point is perhaps the most well known in the study area, with the Espy lookout giving a perfect vantage point for observers (Figure 257). The shared path (Figure 258), which commenced at Ettalong Wharf, runs east past the edge of the dog beach to the end of Ocean Beach. Moderate Activity Nodes are found at the SLS clubs at Ocean Beach and Umina Beach: two of the most popular SLS clubs in terms of memberships on the Central Coast. A second dog beach begins just west of the node, and runs along the Holiday Park foreshore to Umina Point. A Beach Access Node was identified at the southern end of the Umina Beach, at the mouth of Ettalong Creek, providing a small carpark, showers and changing facilities for surfers and dog beach users (Figure 259).



Figure 259: Facilities for dog beach users at Ettalong Creek.



Figure 257: The view of The Box surf break from The Espy lookout, with Lion Island visible in the background.



Figure 258: Walkers along the shared path adjacent to Ettalong Dog Beach.

Map 17A: Ocean Beach



Figure 260: Cafe seating in front of Ocean Beach SLS Club, with the Observation Tower in the background.

The Ocean Beach node begins at the formal street parking at edge of the dog beach, which ends at Augusta Avenue. It is a typical Moderate Activity Node, with a large SLS Club with beach wheelchair hire, downstairs kiosk (Figure 260) and upstairs restaurant. Adjacent to the SLS Club is a small playground, as well as a war memorial looking out to sea (Figure 262). Across the carpark, located within the node, is a popular dining precinct (Figure 261).



Figure 262: The Ocean Beach War Memorial.



Figure 261: Cocktails with a view at Umina Beach.

Map 17B: Umina Beach

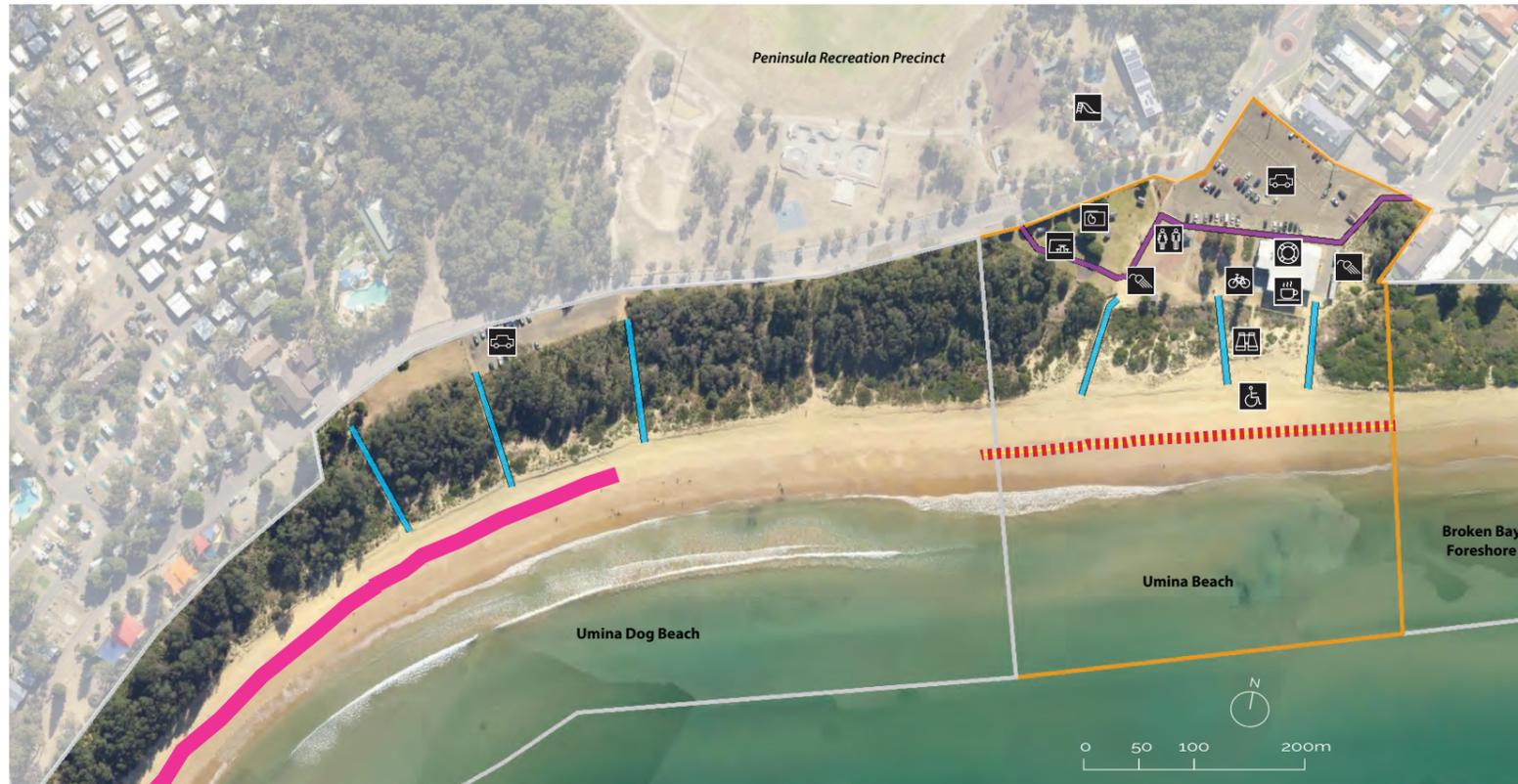


Figure 263: The view out to sea from Umina Beach Lookout.

Umina Beach is a large Moderate Activity Node located within the broader Umina recreational and tourist precinct. In front of the SLS Club and cafe is a lookout (Figure 263). East of the shared path that runs along the top of the node is a small picnic area with a BBQ and sheltered seating (Figure 264). While it was not considered within the study, being separated from the coastal reserve by a main road, the Peninsula Recreation Precinct lies directly opposite the node: providing a range of additional land-based recreational opportunities (Figure 265). West of the node is a Local Beach Connector, with the beach mainly serving holiday park residents and dog walkers.



Figure 265: The Peninsula Recreation Precinct lies on the opposite side of Sydney Avenue.



Figure 264: Looking across the shared path towards the picnic area.

Map 18: Pearl Beach to Patonga



Figure 266: Pearl Dog Beach looking south towards the rockpool.

The final section of the study area stretches from Umina Point to Patonga Creek. The Pearl and Patonga coastlines are separated by Middle Head Cliffs: a large Conservation Connector that connects the two through a continuous walking trail starting from the end of Crystal Avenue. Halfway along the track is Warrah Lookout, which provides spectacular views across the bay (Figure 267). Both beaches are similar in nature as Minor Activity Nodes: providing a range of land and water-based recreational opportunities but without SLS Clubs. Patonga Beach also provides a boat launching ramp at its eastern end, and a campground to the west.

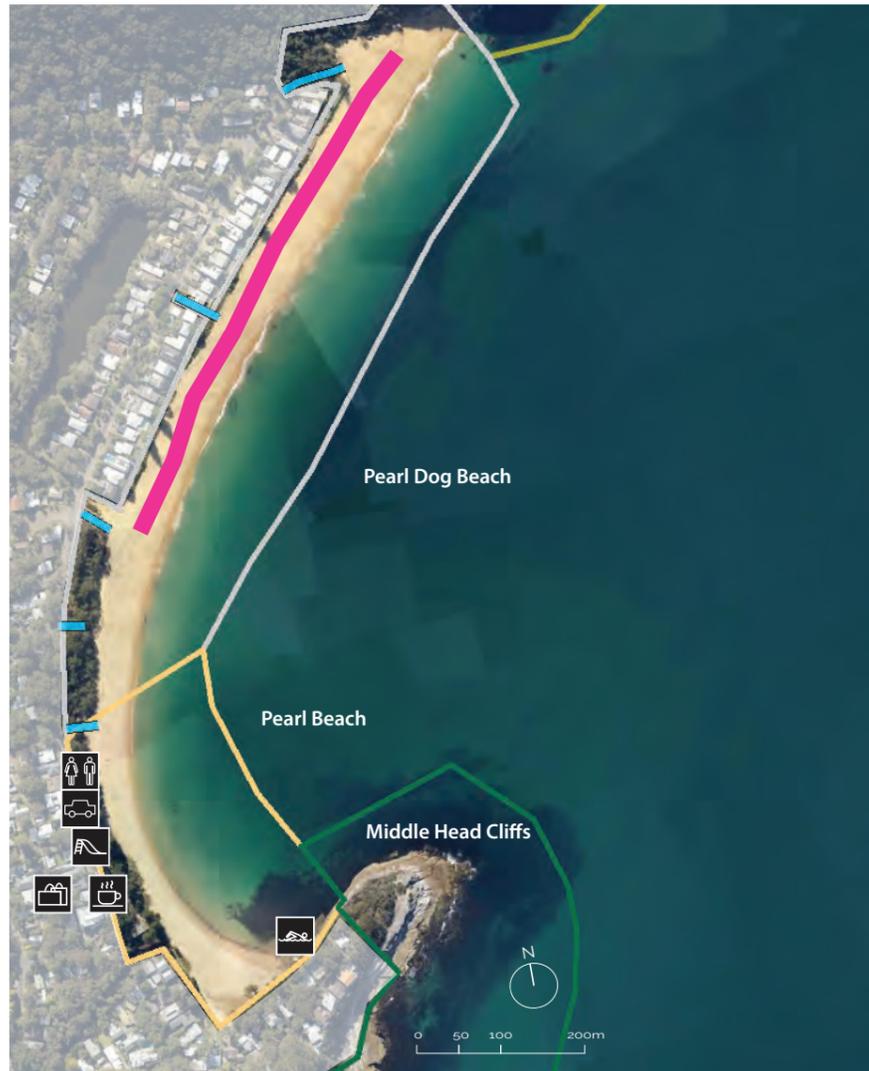


Figure 268: The view west across Patonga Creek.



Figure 267: The view of Patonga Beach from Warrah Lookout.

Map 18A: Pearl Beach



Pearl Beach is a secluded local beach also popular with tourists. A dog exercise area stretches from Umina Point to the entrance to Pearl Beach Lagoon (Figure 269), providing private residences with direct beach frontage as a typical Local Connector. After a series of beach access paths, the main node begins just north of Amethyst Avenue, where a small toilet block and shaded seating are provided alongside formal street parking bays and a small playground and picnic area further south (Figure 270). A popular restaurant lies within the node at the end of Tourmaline Avenue, with a small commercial precinct and tourist accommodation opposite. At the very south of the node, at the base of Green Point Cliffs, is a small ocean pool (Figure 271).



Figure 269: The entrance to Pearl Beach Wetland, with the dog exercise area stretching north with direct fronting to private residences.



Figure 271: Pearl Beach Ocean Pool, with Pearlys on the Beach restaurant visible in the background.



Figure 270: The small picnic and play area at Pearl Beach, with the commercial precinct adjacent to the node visible in the background.

Map 18B: Patonga Beach



Figure 272: Patonga jetty and ferry platform.

Patonga Beach is the final coastal strip in the study area. A Minor Activity Node at the west encapsulates both a boat launching ramp with extensive trailer parking, as well as a jetty that leads to the departure point of the ferry to Palm Beach (Figure 272). A small playground and picnic area is found west of the jetty, with toilets and showers located opposite the node adjacent to the playing field, as is a small dining precinct. South from the jetty is a Local Connector, with private residences separated from the beach by a narrow power line reserve (Figure 273). A dog exercise area runs from the jetty through the connector to Meroo Avenue. A final Minor Activity Node is found at the edge of Patonga Creek, a popular fishing location. A formal campground with changing, play and picnic facilities (Figure 274). While outside of the study area, low tides allow for access to Little Patonga Beach on the other side of Pacific Head.



Figure 274: Play and picnic facilities in Patonga Beach Campground.



Figure 273: Looking west along the dog beach foreshore reserve.