



# Tomaree Coastal Walk

## Master Plan



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**Gymea lily in Tomaree National Park.  
Geoff Woods/DPIE**

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# Acknowledgment of Traditional Owners

**Yii Warrimayguba Barray wanyimbu wanyimbu  
Ngarralgal barra ngarrakay  
Ngatha ngarragi Nyura barraygal ngarragi  
Gathay nyiirun Wakul**

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**We acknowledge the Worimi People, the  
traditional custodians of the land where the  
Tomaree Coastal Walk resides.**

**We pay our respect to Elders past and present.**

**Let us go together.**

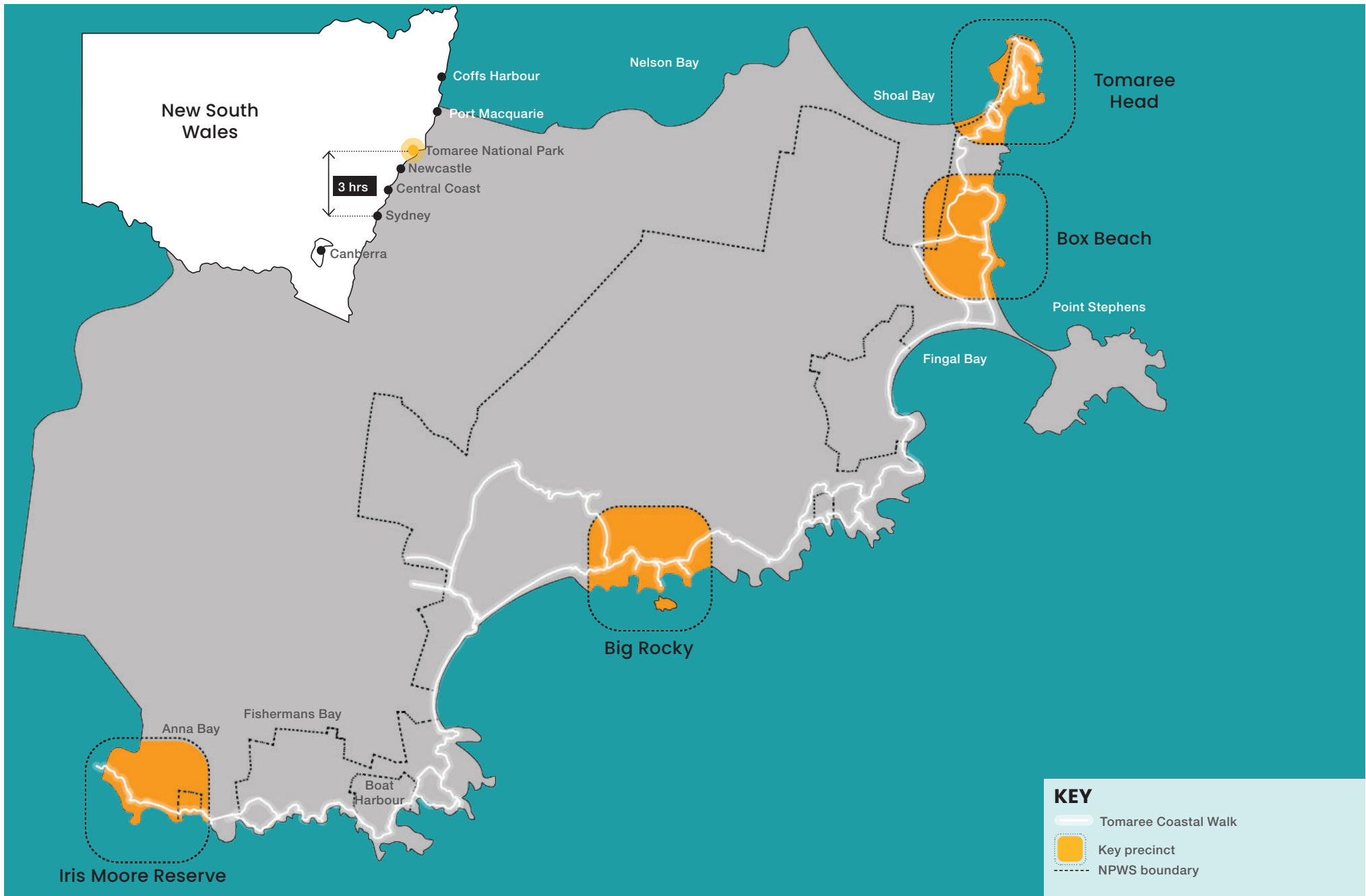


Figure 1 Precinct Map, Tomaree National Park

# Summary

Tomaree National Park is a rich and special place: the traditional land of the Worimi People, an ancient volcanic landscape, a site steeped in military history, a landscape teeming with fauna and flora. It is a complex environment with significant cultural, natural and historic values; an important place for local communities and one of the major destinations for visitors to Port Stephens.

Tomaree National Park is one of the top 20 visited parks in the State, attracting visitors each year from across New South Wales, interstate and overseas. Tomaree Head summit in the northern section of the park is the major attraction, attracting over 200,000 walkers annually, giving visitors an opportunity to experience the natural environment and breathtaking panoramic views. With increasing demand for nature-based experiences, it is expected that there will be continued high levels of visitation within the park due to its proximity to Sydney and Newcastle, established international visitor markets, as well as further development in local residential areas.

Tomaree National Park provides the backdrop for the local coastal communities of Shoal Bay, Fingal Bay, Boat Harbour, Fishermans Bay and Anna Bay. The park is an important community asset, providing recreational opportunities which improve health, wellbeing and connection with nature. The provision of visitor experiences and supporting infrastructure in the national park has not kept pace with demand and does not reflect the importance of the park as one of the key visitor destinations in Port Stephens. To do nothing is not an option.

The Tomaree Coastal Walk will contribute towards balancing the conservation of the natural and cultural values of Tomaree National Park with future visitation demands by creating exceptional experiences that disperse visitors across the park throughout the year.

The Tomaree Coastal Walk will allow visitors to undertake an iconic 20-kilometre walking experience that links Tomaree Head and the rocky coast and sheltered beaches of Tomaree National Park, with Birubi Point at the southern end of the walk. The project will upgrade existing tracks and provide new links to complete the coastal walk. Design and upgrades to Tomaree Head are also a key component of the project and will include walking tracks, lookouts, interpretation and other visitor facilities.

The walk will cater for a range of visitor experiences from short walks to half-day or overnight options and provide opportunities for tourism partnerships, strengthening the local economy. The *Tomaree Coastal Walk Master Plan* presents an important step in developing the walk and balancing the characteristics of what makes Tomaree National Park unique and special for Worimi People, locals and visitors whilst ensuring it can continue to play a central role in the NSW tourism industry by providing a high quality visitor experience. During the detailed design phase, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) will investigate options for providing disabled and equitable access, where feasible.

The master plan creates a long-term framework to deliver the Tomaree Coastal Walk and future improvements within Tomaree National Park. The master plan highlights that the project can protect and enhance cultural, natural and community values, support the visitor economy, deliver high quality experiences and provide equitable access opportunities, whilst limiting impacts.

The priority for the Tomaree Coastal Walk project is to connect Tomaree Head with Birubi Point to create the 20-kilometre coastal track, and funding will be directed to deliver this priority objective. The master plan also outlines several supporting initiatives and infrastructure to enhance the experience, improve visitor management and meet future visitation demands. Further detailed costing, feasibility assessments and evaluations will determine what will be constructed as part of the current \$6.74 million NSW Government funding for the Tomaree Coastal Walk project.

The Tomaree Lodge site is out of scope for the Tomaree Coastal Walk project and this master plan.

NPWS has formally consulted with the community about the Tomaree Coastal Walk project in the following ways:

- *Tomaree National Park Plan of Management Draft Amendment: Coastal walk and visitor experience improvements* (exhibited in 2019 and adopted in 2020)
- *Tomaree Coastal Walk Draft Master Plan* (September 2020) and associated *Review of Environmental Factors Tomaree Coastal Walk: Consultation draft* ('draft REF', September 2020)
- *Draft Tomaree Coastal Walk Strategy* (2019).

This master plan supersedes the draft master plan and draft strategy. The master plan supports the strategies and policies of the plan of management, as amended in 2020, and is informed by environmental, cultural and historic heritage assessments and feedback from community and stakeholders. The *Review of Environmental Factors Tomaree Coastal Walk* (2021) includes mitigation measures on how to

reduce the impacts on the values of the park.

The master plan includes a range of design elements that are **not** progressing as part of the current \$6.74 million Tomaree Coastal Walk project, however, provide for future visitor facility improvements should future funding become available.

These elements are not part of the current project due to a number of factors, including feedback during the public exhibition of the draft plan, draft REF and draft master plan, additional environmental and cultural assessment and approvals, and future funding.



Zenith Beach, Tomaree National Park  
Destination Port Stephens/DPIE



Tomaree National Park



# 1. Introduction

## Overview

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is creating an iconic 20-kilometre coastal walk that will connect Tomaree Head with Birubi Point through Tomaree National Park.

Turf Design Studio were engaged to prepare this master plan to support the development of the Tomaree Coastal Walk, as well as a variety of experiences on Tomaree Head and other precincts along the coastal track. The master plan supports a series of experiences for a wider range of park visitors with varying interests, capabilities, ages and walking expertise than is currently provided.

The master plan outlines the sections of existing tracks that will be realigned and/or upgraded along the Tomaree Coastal Walk, and new sections of track to be constructed to provide for the coastal walk connecting Tomaree Head to Birubi Point. With improved access and visitor precincts across the national park, the Tomaree Coastal Walk will include numerous short and half-day walking options as well as the overnight 20-kilometre Tomaree Head to Birubi Point walk. With multiple entry points to the park, the walk can be undertaken in different sections, catering for different capabilities. Visitors will be able to design their own itineraries, discover more of the national park and utilise improved amenities at key experience nodes. The walk also provides unique opportunities for storytelling and education through interpretation.

The master plan provides an overarching vision for visitor improvements in Tomaree National Park to better cater for existing and future visitation. It includes a range of design elements that are **not** progressing as part of the current \$6.74 million Tomaree Coastal Walk project. These elements, including tracks and infrastructure, cater for future expected increases in visitation and offer enhanced visitor experiences in the park.

The walk lies within the Worimi cultural landscape. The area is steeped in history with ancient volcanic peaks delivering world-class views, remnant rich World War II (WWII) heritage on Tomaree Head, secluded beaches and bays, migrating whales, wildflowers and wildlife. This master plan outlines NPWS's strategy to improve access and enjoyment of this pre-eminent part of Australia's east coast, enabling visitors to better connect with the national park, local culture, the landscape and the sea.



Point Stephens Lighthouse, Fingal Island, Tomaree National Park. Geoff Woods/DPIE

## Context

In 2018 the NSW Government announced funding to deliver a number of signature walking tracks in NSW national parks in response to the growing global popularity of nature-based walks. The funding provides an outstanding opportunity to strengthen the appeal of New South Wales as a nature-based walking destination and engage visitors with the values of NSW national parks by improving the quality and accessibility of walking experiences and infrastructure.

The Tomaree Coastal Walk is part of NPWS's long-term strategy to deliver iconic nature-based experiences that connect people with culture and nature. The project has been awarded \$6.74 million to deliver the iconic coastal walk and supporting facilities within Tomaree National Park. The project will have a range of benefits, including:

- protect and enhance significant cultural, natural and historic values
- create memorable experiences
- enable better management of existing and future visitation in the park
- drive growth in the visitor economy, including growing regional visitor numbers and increasing overnight visitor expenditure.

## Overarching principles

The Tomaree Coastal Walk supports four key principles: conservation, culture and heritage, communities and experiences.

### Conservation

- protecting fauna and flora species
- protecting and enhancing cultural, natural and social values
- managing the environmental impacts of visitors
- developing an educational focus for the walk that will foster an improved understanding of conservation works and encourage future stewardship of national parks
- selecting an alignment and sustainable track design, material selection and construction techniques that will minimise impacts to biodiversity values and maximise opportunities for learning, understanding and experience.

### Culture and heritage

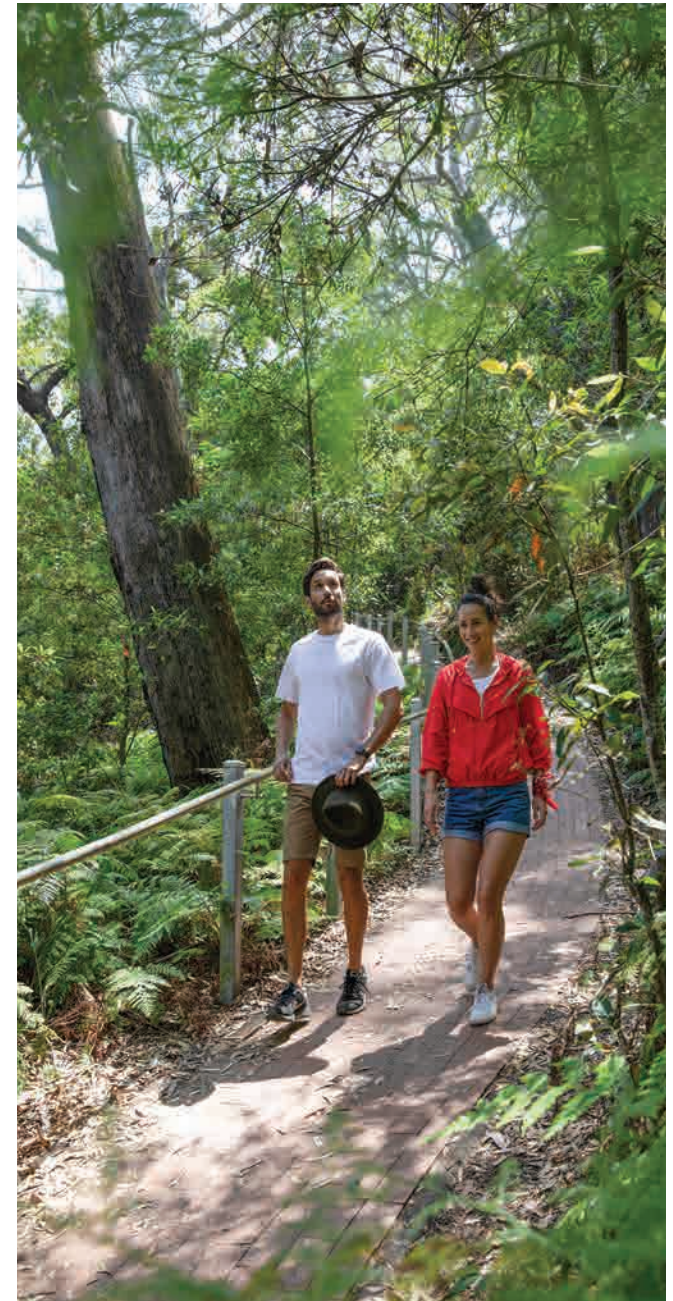
- protecting and enhancing cultural, natural and heritage assets
- providing a visitor experience and facilities that interpret, foster education, awareness and respect for the Aboriginal and historic heritage in the region and highlight the park's significant WWII heritage.

### Communities

- protecting social values
- enhancing and introducing new park experiences, infrastructure and opportunities for community benefit
- delivering local economic benefits by supporting visitation, 'dwell time' and overnight stays in the region
- providing opportunities for service partnerships and local jobs.

### Experiences

- providing an innovative experience for a greater range of visitors that builds high-quality, memorable connections with the natural environment and cultural landscape in Tomaree National Park.



Tomaree Summit Walk, Tomaree National Park  
Destination Port Stephens/DPIE

## The master plan

### Purpose of the master plan

The *Tomaree Coastal Walk Master Plan* creates a long-term framework to deliver the Tomaree Coastal Walk visitor experience improvements in Tomaree National Park. Over recent years, visitor numbers to Tomaree National Park have been steadily increasing, with Tomaree National Park being one of the top 20 visited parks in the State. The park attracts visitors each year from across New South Wales, interstate and overseas, with over 200,000 people accessing Tomaree Head summit in 2018–19. Visitor infrastructure in the national park has not kept pace with its role as a key visitor destination in Port Stephens.

The master plan aims to identify infrastructure and experiences to better manage current and future visitor numbers. The master plan sets out a range of initiatives to limit the impact of visitors on the natural, cultural, physical and social environment, and provide infrastructure that disperses visitors across the national park and across the year. For example, widening and improving access to Tomaree Head summit, providing short walks in the southern section of the park and enhancing the visitor experience at Big Rocky Precinct.

The proposed infrastructure and opportunities outlined in the master plan highlight how infrastructure can be used to deliver high quality experiences whilst protecting and enhancing cultural, environmental and social values.

### Structure of the master plan

The master plan is structured to provide an overview of the existing situation and identify opportunities for improvement across the breadth of the Tomaree Coastal Walk. This includes an introduction and background to the coastal walk project (this section), a site analysis (section 2), and a vision and principles for the Tomaree Coastal Walk (section 3).

Importantly, the master plan provides information on the alignment of the coastal walk corridor (sections 5) and how the project will provide an uninterrupted walking connection along the length of the Tomaree coast. The master plan also incorporates information on experiences, including integrated interpretation, as well as proposed materials for construction which is inspired by the landscape of Tomaree National Park.

Whilst providing information on experiences and the track alignment of the ‘visitor journey’ through the landscape, the master plan also outlines plans for the establishment of visitor precincts to support access and experiences along the 20-kilometre Tomaree Coastal Walk (section 4). Following extensive visitor and industry demand analysis, several key locations across Tomaree National Park were also identified as appropriate to provide improved visitor facilities and access. These key precincts and key experience nodes are highlighted in the master plan.

In particular, the master plan:

- identifies the overall vision of the project and principles to guide development of the Tomaree Coastal Walk
- provides the opportunity to enhance visitors’ experience to an integrated, high quality and innovative standard
- confirms and reinforces the importance of Tomaree National Park to the tourism industry
- considers views and interests of the community and other stakeholders
- gives a clear indication to community, businesses and government about the future direction for the visitor experience of the Tomaree Coastal Walk
- provides a strategic document to guide and prioritise current and future funding for Tomaree National Park.

Artist impressions and concepts in the master plan are conceptual only and will be refined through the detailed design phase of the project, pending environmental assessment, costing and other constraints.

The Tomaree Lodge site is out of scope for the Tomaree Coastal Walk project and this master plan. Fingal Island is also out of scope for the Tomaree Coastal Walk project.

## Developing the master plan

Our national parks are managed to protect areas that play a critical role in conserving biodiversity, and natural and cultural heritage. This includes providing meaningful visitor experiences and, where appropriate, new infrastructure including tracks and facilities to support engagement with visitors. NPWS is required to follow NSW legislative requirements for environmental and cultural heritage impact assessments and planning approvals, as well as NPWS policies and procedures for development consent.

NPWS has made a significant investment in project planning and assessment including completing a comprehensive set of cultural, geotechnical, risk, track alignment and environmental assessments. This follows earlier concept development work and extensive visitor and demand analysis to inform the project development.

The development of the master plan has required:

- site visits and investigations
- project brief development and experience identification, including interpretation
- identification of issues and opportunities
- site analysis and option studies
- targeted consultation with key stakeholders
- public exhibition of draft planning documents and strategy.

The *Tomaree Coastal Walk Master Plan* responds to and considers feedback received through the public exhibition of the following:

- *Tomaree National Park Plan of Management Draft Amendment: Coastal walk and visitor experience improvements* (exhibited in 2019 and adopted in 2020)
- *Tomaree Coastal Walk Draft Master Plan* (September 2020) and *Review of Environmental Factors Tomaree Coastal Walk: Consultation draft* (draft REF; September 2020)
- *Draft Tomaree Coastal Walk Strategy* (2019).

This master plan supersedes the *Tomaree Coastal Walk Draft Master Plan* (2020) and the *Draft Tomaree Coastal Walk Strategy* (2019). The master plan supports the strategies and policies of the plan of management (as amended in 2020) and is informed by environmental, cultural and historic heritage assessments. The *Review of Environmental Factors Tomaree Coastal Walk* (REF, 2021) includes mitigation measures on how to reduce the impacts on the values of the park.

Design development for interpretation is continuing to be refined and progressed in response to community feedback and planning.



Figure 2 Tomaree Coastal Walk project timeline

## Implementing the master plan

The master plan creates a long-term framework to deliver the Tomaree Coastal Walk and future improvements within Tomaree National Park. The master plan highlights how the project can support the visitor economy and how infrastructure can be used to deliver high quality experiences, protect and enhance cultural, natural and community values, whilst limiting impacts. The priority of the Tomaree Coastal Walk is to connect Tomaree Head with Birubi Point to create the 20-kilometre coastal track; and funding will be directed to deliver this priority objective.

The master plan also outlines several design elements (e.g. supporting initiatives and infrastructure) to enhance the experience, provide better visitor management and meet future demand. This includes, for example, the currently unfunded koala loop track connecting Big Rocky Precinct with the Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary, and the 'slot canyon' lookout on Tomaree Head. The detailed design phase of the project, further detailed costing, feasibility assessments and evaluations will determine what will be constructed as part of the \$6.7 million NSW Government funding for the Tomaree Coastal Walk project. Delivery of infrastructure and experiences identified over and above the current funding will be subject to future capital investment.

The master plan is not a tool for advocating growth in visitation but rather a strategic planning approach to accommodate likely visitation and to address existing and emerging issues. An outcome of this is that the plan strives to protect the cultural, environmental and social values of the park while allowing the local and wider community to experience all that Tomaree National Park has to offer.

The master plan presents a bold, innovative and visionary plan for Tomaree Coastal Walk and the future of the Tomaree National Park. It aims to help protect the region's extensive natural and cultural assets and provide rich and engaging visitor experiences which will in turn support the regional economy and a sustainable tourism industry.

## Community and stakeholder engagement

This master plan has been informed by a number of specialist studies (outlined in this master plan) as well as community and stakeholder engagement, which occurred at the following stages.

The **first stage** was initial stakeholder engagement which occurred in August and September 2019 as part of the *Tomaree National Park Plan of Management Draft Amendment*. The amendment enabled the delivery of an iconic 20-kilometre coastal walking experience linking Tomaree Head to Birubi Point and the Worimi Conservation Lands to the south, including the upgrade of existing tracks and construction of new track sections and supporting facilities.

The plan amendment was an important step in the planning process for the Tomaree Coastal Walk. This stakeholder engagement focused on providing the community an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed amendment. Engagement occurred through exhibition of the draft amendment and *Draft Tomaree Coastal Walk Strategy*, a community open-house information session, the Tomaree Coastal Walk webpage and online register, and written submissions.

The **second stage** was a formal 6-week public exhibition period of the draft *Review of Environmental Factors Tomaree Coastal Walk: Consultation draft* and draft *Tomaree Coastal Walk Master Plan* from 22 September to 3 November 2020. The exhibition provided interested people with the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the proposals.

During the exhibition of the draft plans, NPWS held meetings with key stakeholder groups, displayed materials on the NSW Environment website and at the Tomaree Library and Community Centre, and held community information sessions.

Following the exhibition of the plans, NPWS reviewed all submissions and prepared a *submissions report*, outlining the feedback received and change made to the project in response to the feedback and further technical investigations.

The master plan has been reviewed following community feedback and further technical assessment. Key changes include:

- To deliver the connected walk from Tomaree Head to Birubi Point, the project will include upgrades to approximately 12.5 kilometres of existing tracks, the development of approximately 8.3 kilometres of new track, as well as utilising approximately 6.2 kilometres of beach and off-park tracks. This includes using existing tracks on the western side of Stephens Peak, Pacific Street at Fishermans Bay and other existing tracks where feasible.
- The proposed track on the eastern side of Stephens Peak will not be developed as part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk project. The existing track on the western side of Stephens Peak will be used for the walk.
- Further geotechnical investigations and detailed design will be completed to determine the feasibility of walking tracks at Green Hill and Quarry Hill. This proposal remains in the master plan, however, any development will aim to be low key with minimal infrastructure to address community concerns. Use of existing tracks on the western side is also an option being considered.
- The platform at the Slot Canyon at Tomaree Headland will **not** be progressed as part of the current \$6.7 million Tomaree Coastal Walk project.
- The proposed coastal track adjacent to Ocean Street residences will not be developed as part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk project. The master plan will identify that the walk follow Pacific Street and link with a new track to be developed south of Fishermans Bay to Iris Moore.

- The viewing platform at Big Rocky knoll will not be developed as part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk project.
- Detailed concept planning will be undertaken for the Tomaree Summit Walk and Gun Emplacements as part of the project, in preparation for future funding opportunities. No major construction work will be undertaken at Tomaree Headland as part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk project.
- We will continue to work with the Worimi community in the detailed design stage to ensure protection and appropriate promotion of Worimi culture.
- Additional ecological surveys have been completed and the REF has been revised to provide increased protection for orchids, sea eagles and shorebirds and other species. A biodiversity management plan will also be prepared prior to construction commencing.
- We will continue to consult with residents and other agencies such as Port Stephens Council in the detailed design phase, to minimise potential impacts on the community.
- We will continue to collaborate with Port Stephens Council's Traffic Management Committee to better support the project and current and future visitation.
- The master plan has been revised to include the potential expansion of existing carparks and allow for a range of transport options including bicycles and shuttle bus services to ease traffic congestion.

The master plan, Review of Environmental Factors and Submissions Report on the draft plans are available to on the **Tomaree Coastal Walk webpage**.

## Revising and adapting the master plan

The master plan is not intended to be a static document. Master plans require periodic review, as well as reconsideration when conditions, circumstances or settings change. Such revisions could be triggered by specialist studies for key infrastructure, significant changes in tourism supply and demand, new regional or local developments, future funding opportunities, as well as any land acquisitions or additions to the park. As such, the master plan should be viewed as a dynamic strategic planning tool that sets a long-term framework for the Tomaree Coastal Walk and broader Tomaree National Park which can be adapted to accommodate unforeseen changes as they arise.

## What is being delivered and when?

The master plan will be delivered in stages taking into account a number of factors, including conservation, environmental, cultural, social and heritage values, as well as economic and construction/operational considerations.

There are a number of elements in the master plan that will **not** be progressed as part of the current \$6.7 million Tomaree Coastal Walk project. These are noted in the master plan.

The next planning stage is the detailed design, which will consider environmental, cultural, heritage, social, and cost and time implications to the project. Immediate priorities that cannot be constructed through the current \$6.7 million funding may become medium-term priorities if funding becomes available. Longer term priorities will require further assessments and capital investment.

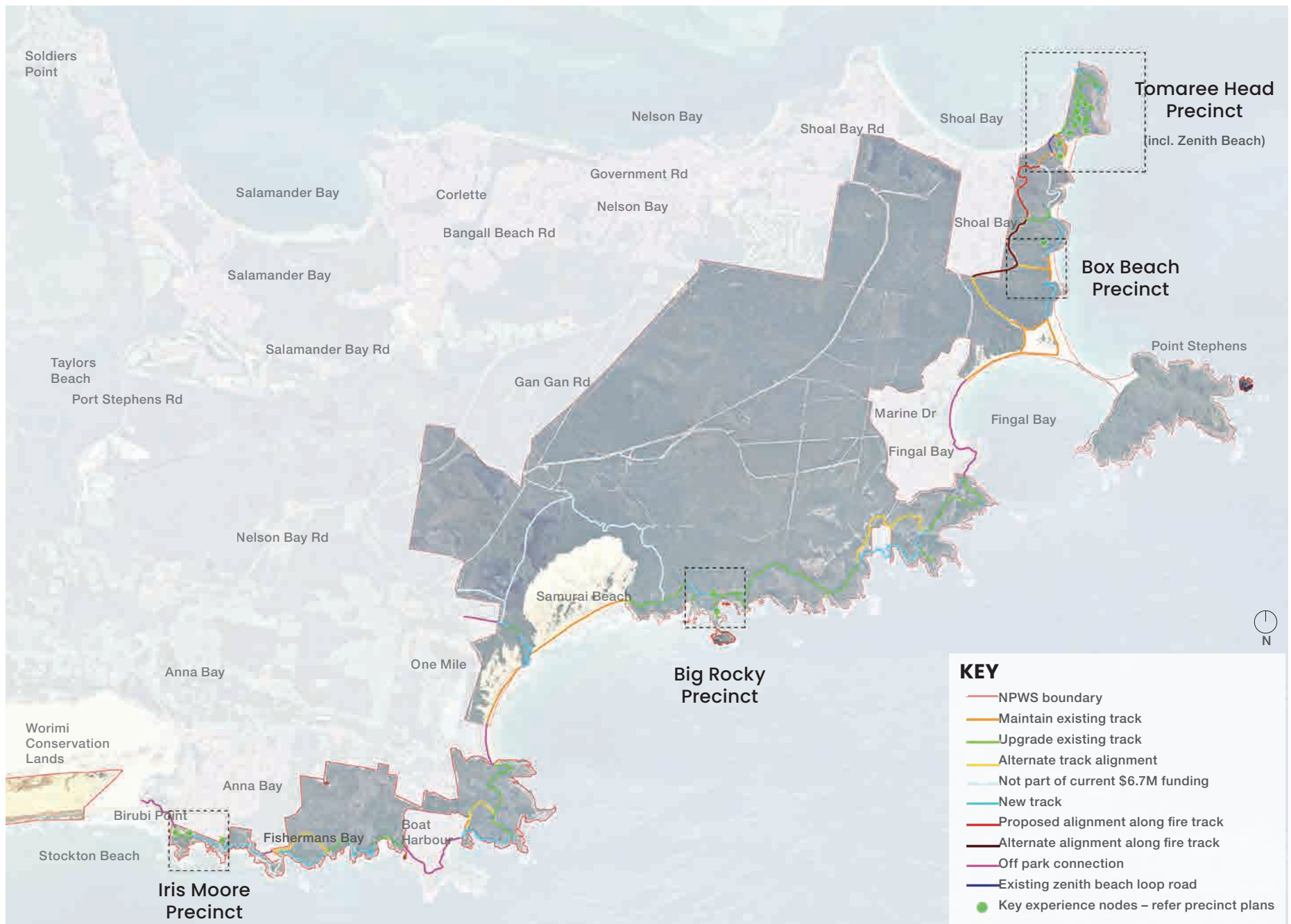


Figure 3 Map of project area

## Taste of the Tomaree Coastal Walk

### Worimi culture

The Worimi (Worrimay) People have always been, and remain today, the traditional custodians of the 'Worimi Nation' which includes Port Stephens and Tomaree National Park. Tomaree Headland itself and Yacaaba Head on the other side of Nelson Bay are culturally significant. For Worimi, the Tomaree Coastal Walk will be an opportunity to tell the stories of place. For non-Indigenous visitors, it will forge a better understanding of Aboriginal living culture, the ongoing physical and spiritual connection to the land, sea and sky that Worimi People have, and the history of Aboriginal occupation of the Worimi Nation for tens of thousands of years.

### European heritage

Tomaree National Park is rich in heritage, with Tomaree Head Fortifications recorded as state significant under the NSW *Heritage Act 1977*. Tomaree Head is steeped in WWII history, with crumbling remains of the torpedo tubes at the water's edge, to the strong remnant forms of the gun emplacements and observation post that once played an important role in Australia's east coast defence system. Interpreting heritage plays a pivotal role in enhancing the visitor experience. Select sites of the WWII fortifications on Tomaree Head will be interpreted for visitors with emphasis placed on demonstrating the importance of the complex for the defence of the east coast of Australia and Port Stephens in particular.

### Walking tracks

As part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk project, walking tracks in Tomaree National Park have been aligned to provide visitors with the opportunity to explore the landscape features within the park. Where possible, the tracks will be designed to hug the coast and take in elevated viewpoints as much as possible while also respecting sites of cultural, ecological and historical sensitivity.

Alternate alignments have also been identified in the master plan to allow for flexibility when implementing the project. Where possible, tracks will be constructed from the materials of the landscape, utilising a palette that complements the surrounding landscape. The Tomaree Coastal Walk will be connected to various coastal communities allowing for a multitude of walking options, including short walks (i.e. less than an hour) that link up with the main 20-kilometre coastal walk.

### Whales

Tomaree National Park contains some of the best vantage points in New South Wales to watch the annual migration of humpbacks and southern right whales. Tomaree Coastal Walk will provide numerous opportunities to experience this majestic display, from high on the peak of Tomaree Head to up-close encounters along the coastline between Boat Harbour and Birubi Point.



Birubi Beach, Port Stephens



## Fauna

The Tomaree Coastal Walk offers visitors the opportunity to see and hear an abundance of wildlife. Around 50 mammal species have been recorded or are expected to occur within the park and over 200 species of birds. Common mammal species recorded include the eastern grey kangaroo, wallabies, bandicoots, sugar glider, possums and short-beaked echidna. The park provides habitat for 12 species of bat and 10 species of native rats and mice. Koalas are also frequently sighted in the park.

## Flora

Along the length of Tomaree Coastal Walk, vegetation varies with topography and geology. With over 350 plant species known in the area, the park conserves a high number of species for its size. As such, the park is an important centre for biological diversity. The majority of the walk traverses exposed coastal shrub and Nerong rocky heath. Native shrubs such as hakeas and ferns provide masses of green foliage along large sections of the walk, along with pockets of smooth-barked apple, swamp mahogany and freshwater wetland species.



Samurai Beach, Tomaree National Park  
Destination Port Stephens/DPIE

## Summits

Ancient volcanic peaks located along the northern half of the national park frame the magnificent Tomaree coastline. The highest peak, at 162 metres, is Tomaree Head which provides stunning 360-degree views along the coastline to Point Stephens Lighthouse, inland across Port Stephens, across to Yacaaba Head and out to sea. Weaving around the stunning headlands of Quarry Hill and Green Hill (between Tomaree Head and Fingal Beach), the walk provides visitors with breathtaking views and a unique perspective of the sublime beauty of the coastline.

## Canyons

The towering, steep 'slot canyon' that cuts deep into Tomaree Head is one of the most unique geological formations in the Port Stephens area. Currently this magnificent feature of Tomaree National Park can only be safely viewed from the ocean. This master plan considers options to make this feature accessible to visitors through a cantilevered platform that would effectively place the visitor in the slot canyon.

## Beaches

The Tomaree coastline is made up of a variety of picturesque beaches, framed by impressive headlands and expansive sand dunes. Tomaree Coastal Walk will take visitors on a journey across all beaches within Tomaree National Park, from the expansive Fingal Beach and One Mile Beach, to shifting sand dunes on Samurai Beach and onto secluded, intimate beaches such as Wreck Beach and Kingsley Beach. At the southern gateway to the coastal walk visitors are treated to the spectacle of 30-metre high mobile sand dunes stretching to meet the horizon at the Worimi Conservation Lands. Swimming, exercise and relaxation are key drivers for park visitation and the numerous beaches along Tomaree Coastal Walk provide for this in abundance.

## Recreation

For a geographically confined area, Tomaree National Park has an array of recreational opportunities available to visitors of all levels of fitness and experience. The Tomaree Coastal Walk project provides opportunities for short walks to half-day or overnight walk options across varying landscapes. Access to snorkelling, scuba diving, surfing, mountain biking (on management trails), rock climbing, abseiling, kayaking, fishing and swimming create opportunities for diverse itineraries and experiences. Such variety provides a sound basis for a rich visitor experience, suited to a wide range of people. Rock climbing and abseiling within the park will be subject to a code of conduct specifying safety and emergency provisions, as well as mitigation measures for any adverse impacts.



**Spectacular view from Tomaree Summit  
Destination Port Stephens/DPIE**

## 2. Site analysis

### Topography

Tomaree Coastal Walk traverses varying topography. The northern section of the walk from Tomaree Head to Fingal Bay is a heavily undulating landscape created by ancient volcanic activity. Tomaree Head Lookout is the highest point along the walk and provides uninterrupted views over the islands to the north-east, Shoal Bay and Zenith Beach.

South of Fingal Bay the walk weaves through a flatter and varied landscape. Walkers on the Tomaree Coastal Walk will experience secluded beaches, rock pools, canyons, rocky ledges overlooking the ocean and coastal vegetation rich in flora and fauna.

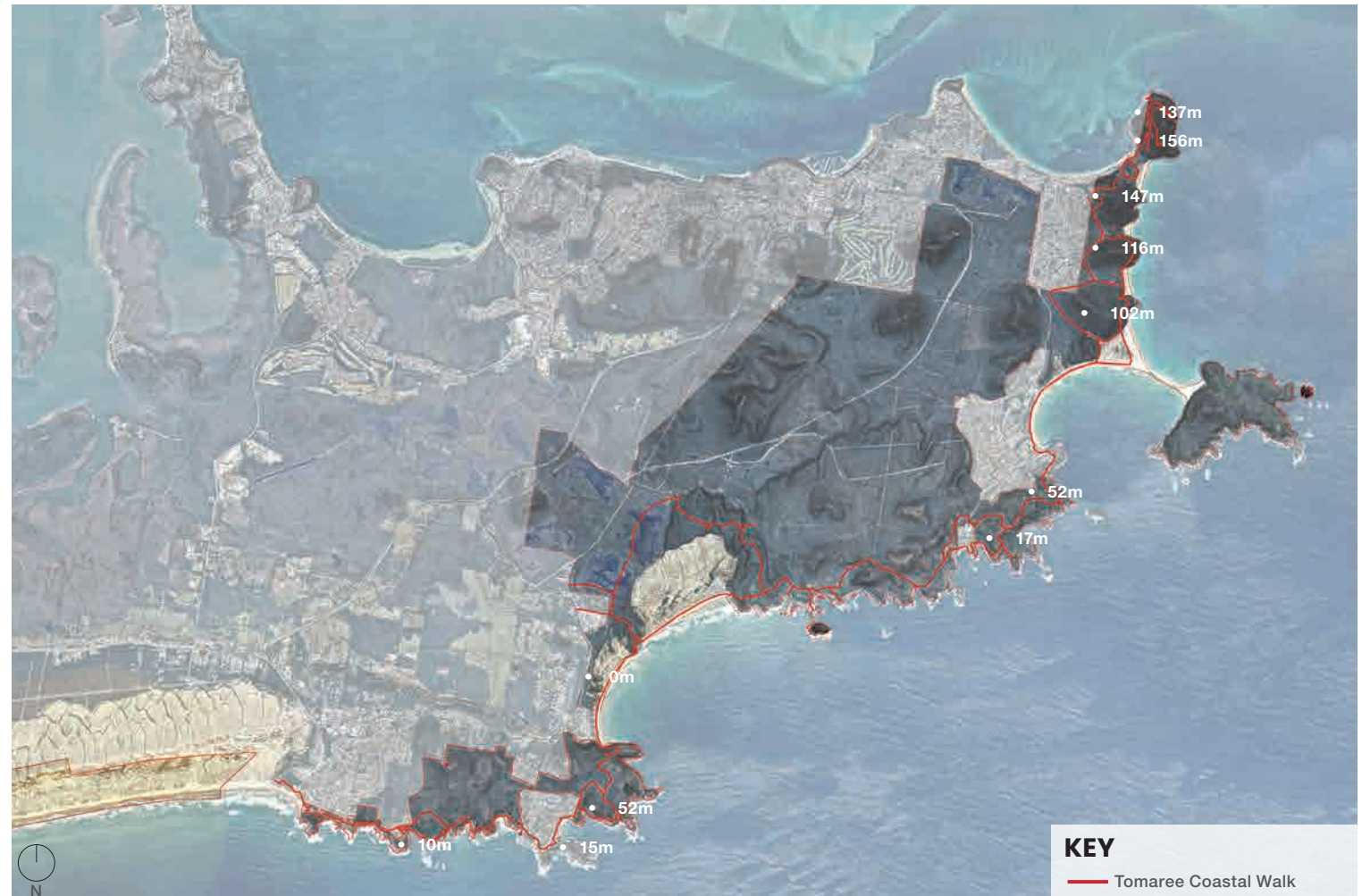


Figure 4 Map of Tomaree National Park, Elvis Geospatial Data, Zone 56

## Geology

The northern section of Tomaree National Park has four dramatic peaks, with Tomaree Head being the highest at 162 metres. The southern sections of the park comprise a much lower, undulating land surface. The Tomaree landscape is produced by erosion over a long period, the surface being uplifted during the Tertiary Period (66–2.5 million years ago) and subsequently eroded, leaving only the more-resistant volcanic rocks that form the peaks.

The Tomaree Coastal walk is dominated by 3 geological formations.

### Nerong volcanics

The 2 main types of Nerong volcanic rocks form the highest points of the Tomaree Coastal Walk. The first, 'ignimbrite interbedded', is a consolidation of material deposited by pyroclastic flows. Forming the base of all high points along Tomaree Coastal Walk, these rocks are a solid formation, typically pink to red in colour and have yellow and white speckles. The second volcanic rock, 'rhyodacite' or eruptive volcanic rock, is formed from volcanic activity and is typically pink to red in colour with black and white speckles. The rock formations are predominantly encountered across the northern section of Tomaree Coastal Walk.

### Coastal deposits – sand dunes

Sand dunes are potentially the most iconic formation associated with the Port Stephens area. These iconic, shifting dune formations are synonymous with the Worimi Conservation Lands to the south of Birubi Point and are visible from the southern gateway of Tomaree Coastal Walk. Shifting dunes are also encountered along the walk at Samurai Beach and One Mile Beach.

### Coastal deposits – bedrock

Bedrock is the most predominate formation along the Tomaree Coastal Walk. It forms the mid-elevation points of the walk and has a number of soil types sitting above the bedrock. The bedrock is yellow to brown in colour and is often quite porous.



Cliff at Tomaree Head



Rocky outcrop in Tomaree National Park



Birubi Beach, Port Stephens

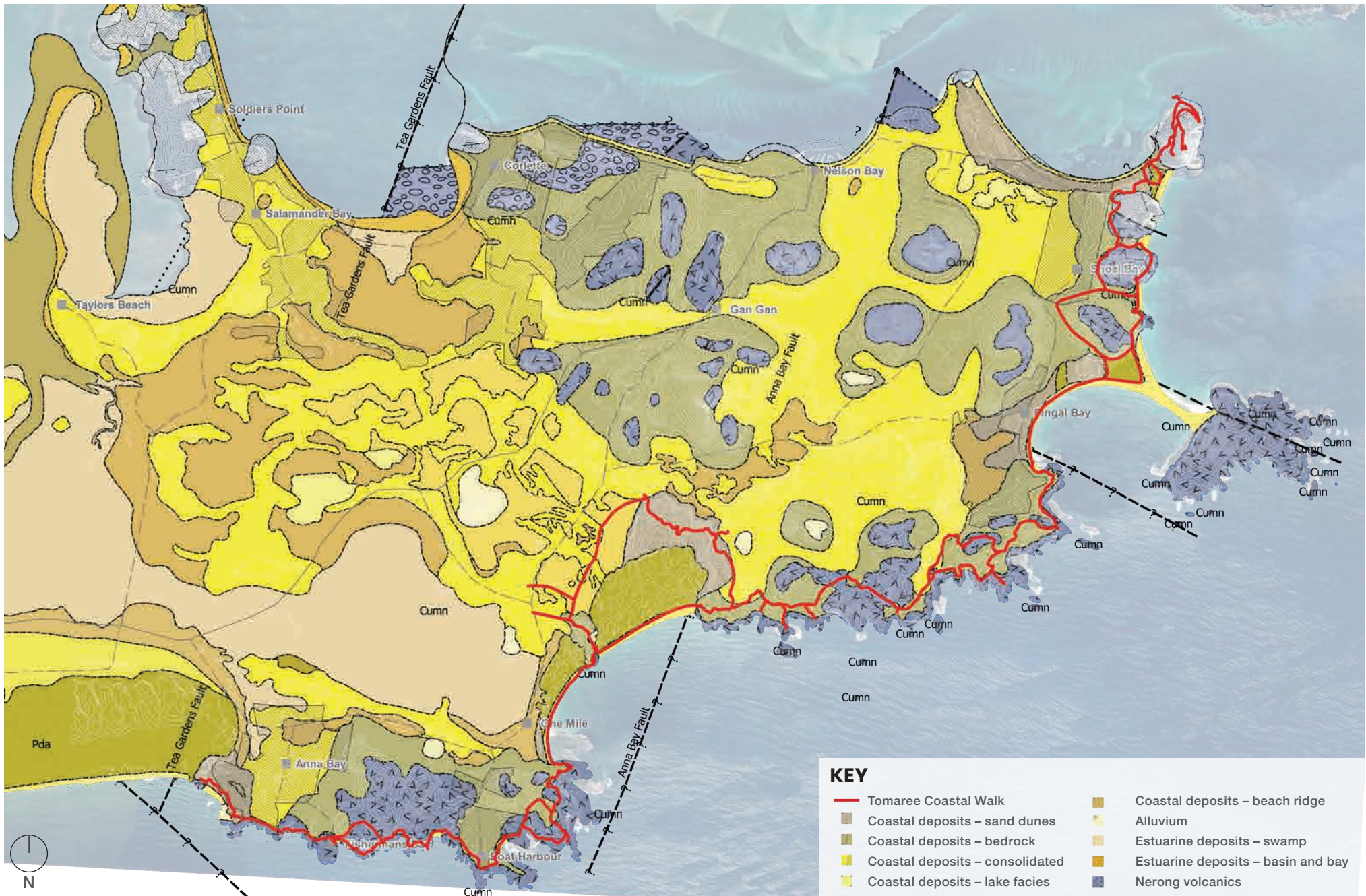
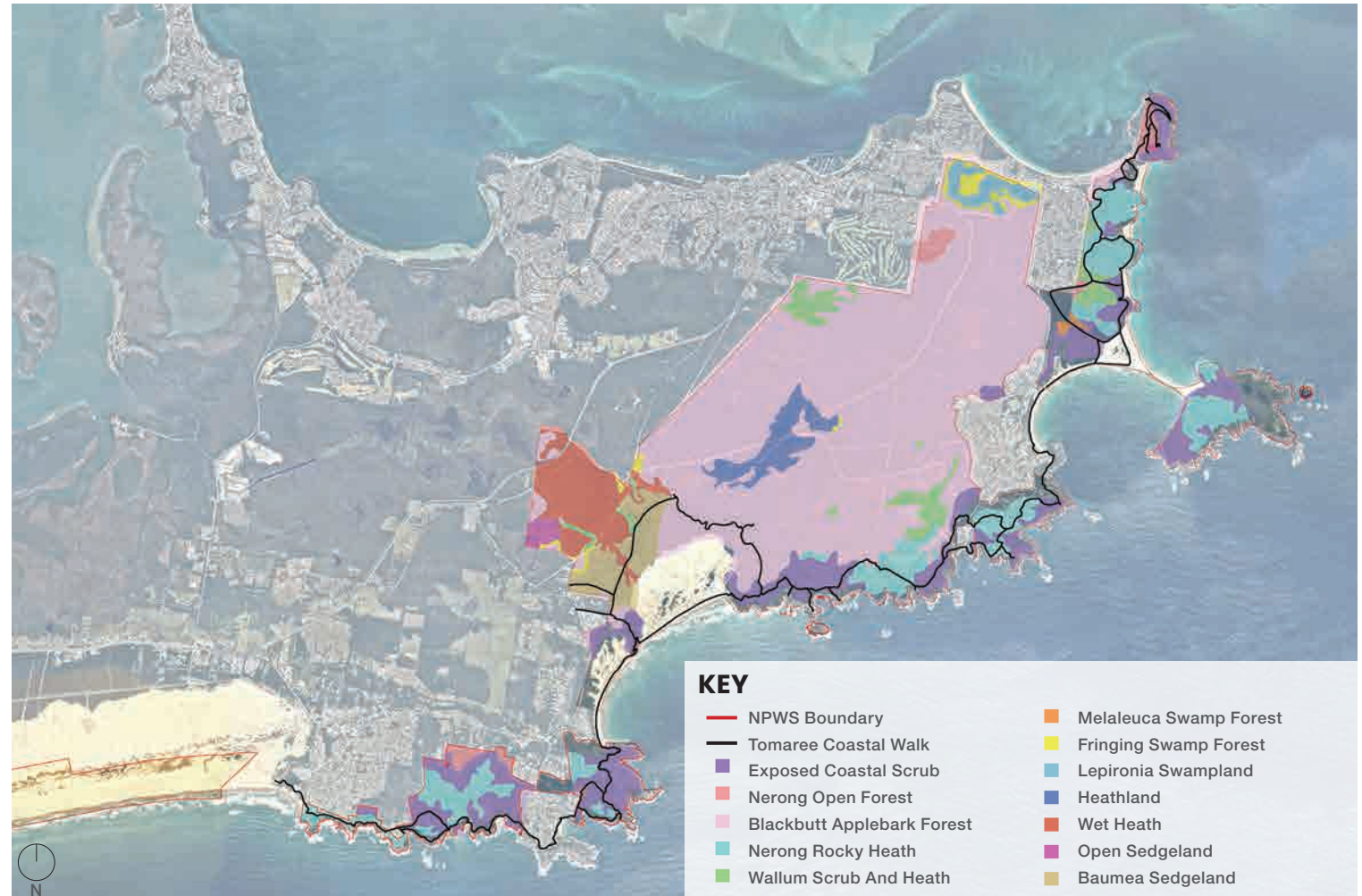


Figure 5 Geology Map, NSW Seamless Geology, Zone 56

## Vegetation

Vegetation along Tomaree Coastal Walk varies in response to changes in topography and geology along the walk. The Port Stephens area receives a significant amount of rainfall, averaging 1290 mm annually. The wet climate means a number of forest types flourish within the national park including the prolific moist blackbutt–applebark forests. The upper canopy of these forests is dominated by eucalypts, the mid-storey is dominated by wattles and banksias, and the lower storey contains the most diversity, with native shrubs such as hakeas and ferns providing masses of green foliage.

Areas more exposed to coastal winds are dominated by lower vegetation types, including heathlands and sedgelands. The lower storey and heathland vegetation types are the predominant feature along Tomaree Coastal Walk providing a diverse walking experience. Pockets of smooth-barked apple, swamp mahogany and freshwater wetland species are also a highlight of the walk.



**Figure 6** Tomaree coast vegetation (Source: NPWS 1998)

## Local communities

Tomaree National Park is an important asset to the adjacent communities of Shoal Bay, Fingal Bay, Boat Harbour, Fishermans Bay and Anna Bay. The park provides numerous recreational opportunities, however, the provision of visitor experiences and supporting infrastructure in the national park has not kept pace with increasing demands and use.

Tomaree Coastal Walk will provide enhanced walking experiences for residents and visitors to the area and improve access to locations along the Tomaree coast. Port Stephens Council parks, reserves and infrastructure located at Birubi Point, One Mile Beach, Fingal Beach and the foreshore of Shoal Bay also provide convenient access, increased amenity and accessibility for the community to connect with Tomaree Coastal Walk and to experience the Tomaree coast.

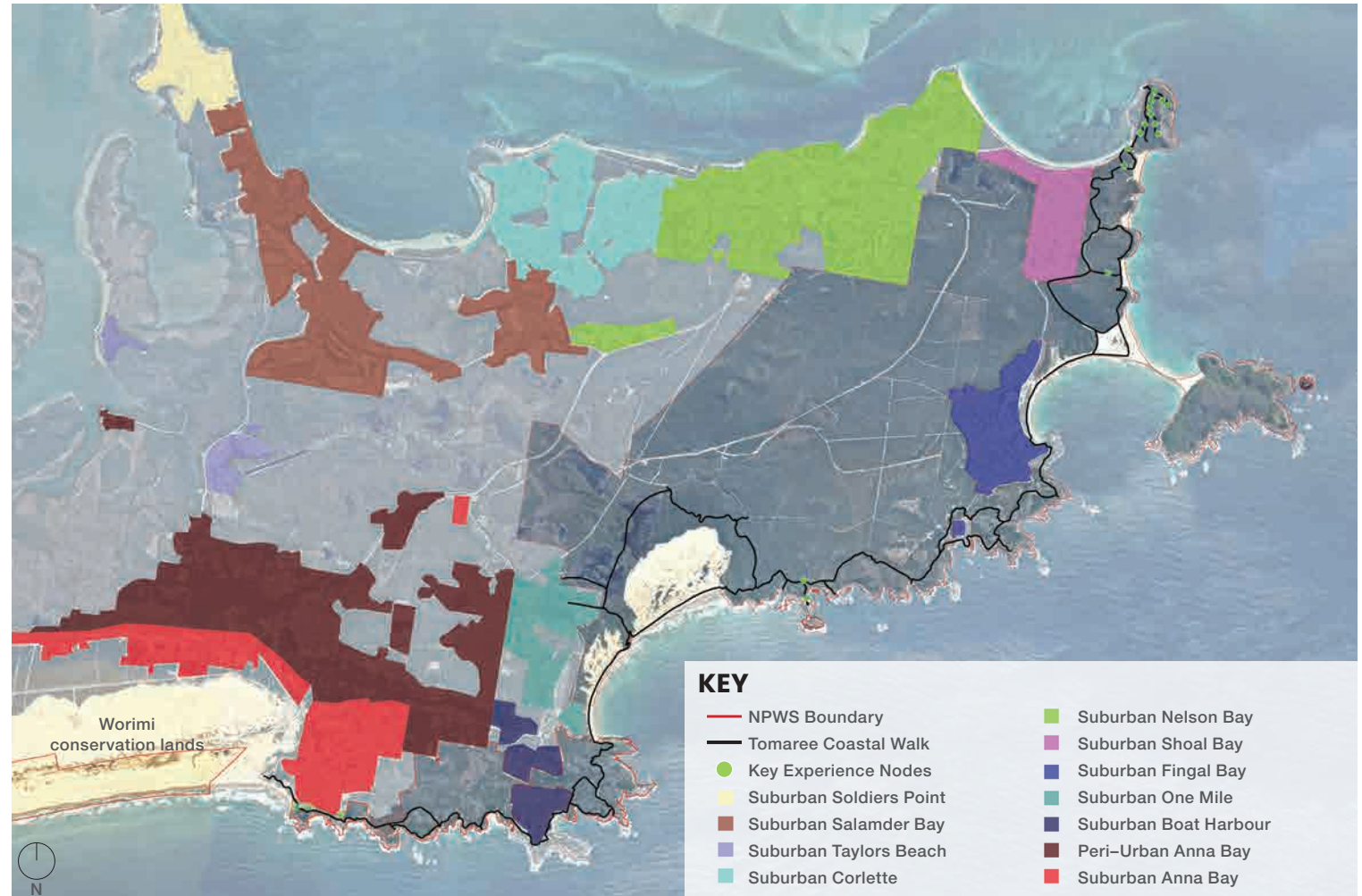


Figure 7 Local community, Port Stephens (Source: Six Maps 2020)

## Amenities

Tomaree Coastal Walk traverses a number of communities with high level amenities, including shops, water refill points, toilets, shelters, carparking and accommodation. The abundance of off-park accommodation in close proximity to the walk allows visitors the option to undertake small sections of the walk or larger walks whilst staying in a variety of accommodation which caters to different visitor markets. Likewise, access to water, food and carparking in towns facilitates the option of walks of varying duration and opens up areas of the park with previously limited access or to those with less walking experience.

The Tomaree Coastal Walk project will improve amenity across the park to complement key off-park council locations such as Shoal Bay, Fingal Beach, One Mile Beach and Birubi Beach. There are also a number of picnic shelters and seats scattered along the walk, both on and off park, that provide shelter from inclement weather.

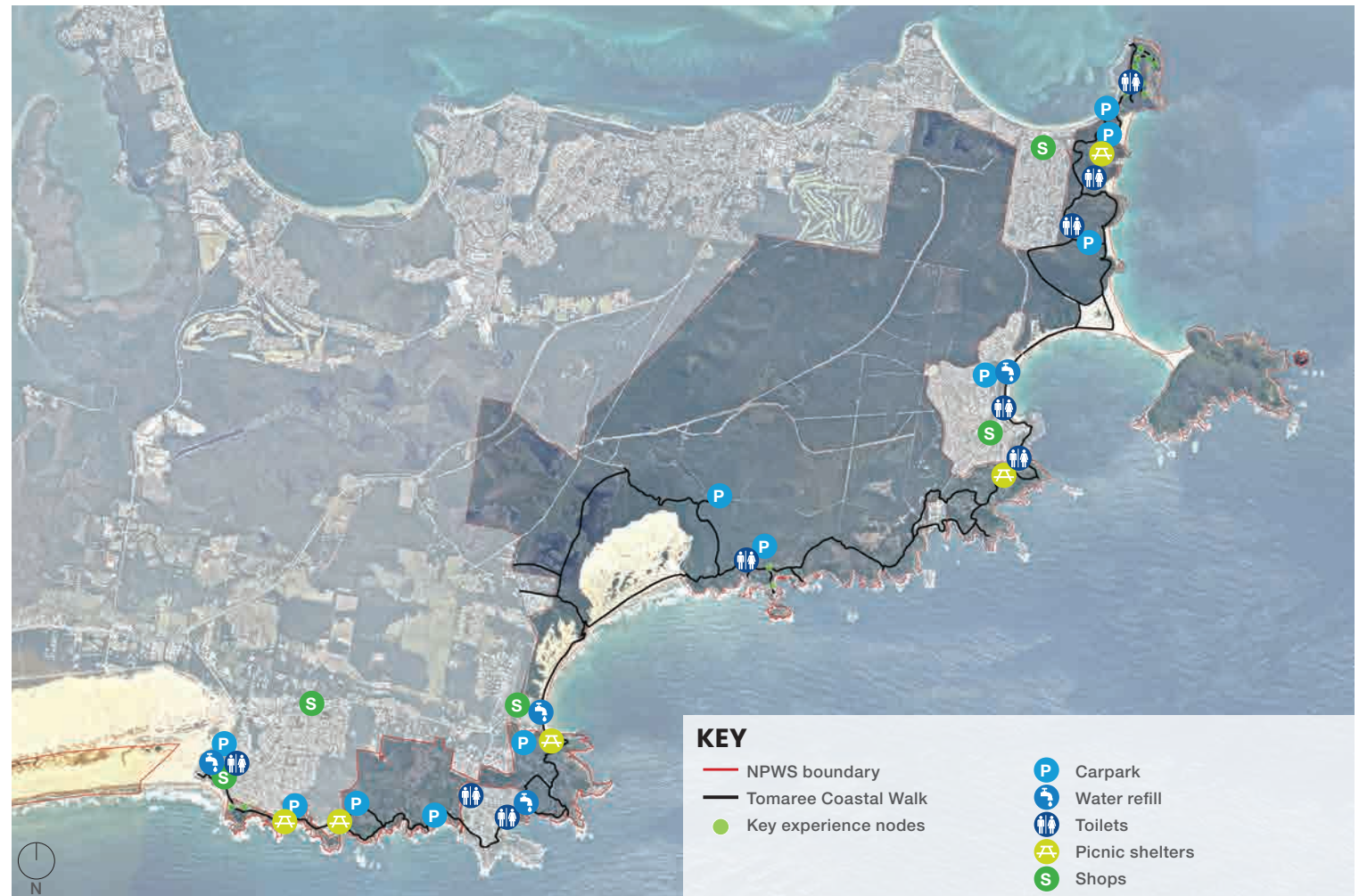


Figure 8 Amenities along Tomaree Coastal Walk (Source: Six Maps 2020)



## Access, connections and transport

Currently the most convenient way to access Tomaree National Park is by driving and parking at one of the numerous carparks located along the length of the coast. A number of arterial roads deliver visitors to these key locations. The park's popularity as a key visitor destination, coupled with the popularity of council parks, reserves and beaches, particularly in peak season, places stress on road and parking infrastructure.

Key experience nodes along the walk are easily accessed by standard vehicles on sealed roads or by foot from surrounding residential areas. These nodes include: Tomaree Summit Walk trailhead, Zenith Beach carpark, Box Beach carpark, Fingal Beach, One Mile Beach, Boat Harbour and Iris Moore Reserve. Big Rocky, one of the highlights and the midway point of the walk, is accessible to four-wheel drive (4WD) vehicles on an unsealed road. A shared path along the Shoal Bay foreshore provided by Port Stephens Council provides great active transport access to Tomaree Head with dedicated bicycle stands, including at the base of Tomaree Head.

With improved access and visitor precincts across the national park, and with multiple entry points to the walk, the project provides opportunities to disperse visitors across the park, particularly from Tomaree Head, in peak times and encourage visitation in the quieter off-peak seasons. During the detailed design phase, NPWS will investigate options for providing disabled and equitable access, where feasible. Improving access on park that complements existing access to areas managed by Port Stephens Council will aim to lessen the demand on vehicle-based

travel and provide more localised active transport connections.

NPWS will investigate a shuttle service to improve traffic management across the national park. The service could provide a dedicated, convenient transport option to connect visitors with key precincts along the walk. Specific shuttle bus stops and seasonality of a proposed shuttle service is yet to be confirmed, however, such a service would allow visitors to undertake a variety of walking options without having to double back to access their vehicles. The service could also open up the walk to those without a vehicle or a driver's licence and provide a connection to the park that is less vehicle dependent.

The carpark at Box Beach is currently closed from dusk-to-dawn. NPWS will investigate additional ways to improve traffic and parking management at all on-park locations, including park-user fees, permits and parking time restrictions. Traffic management has been incorporated into the REF.



Existing Zenith Beach walkway



Tomaree Summit carpark



Zenith Beach  
Destination Port Stephens/DPIE

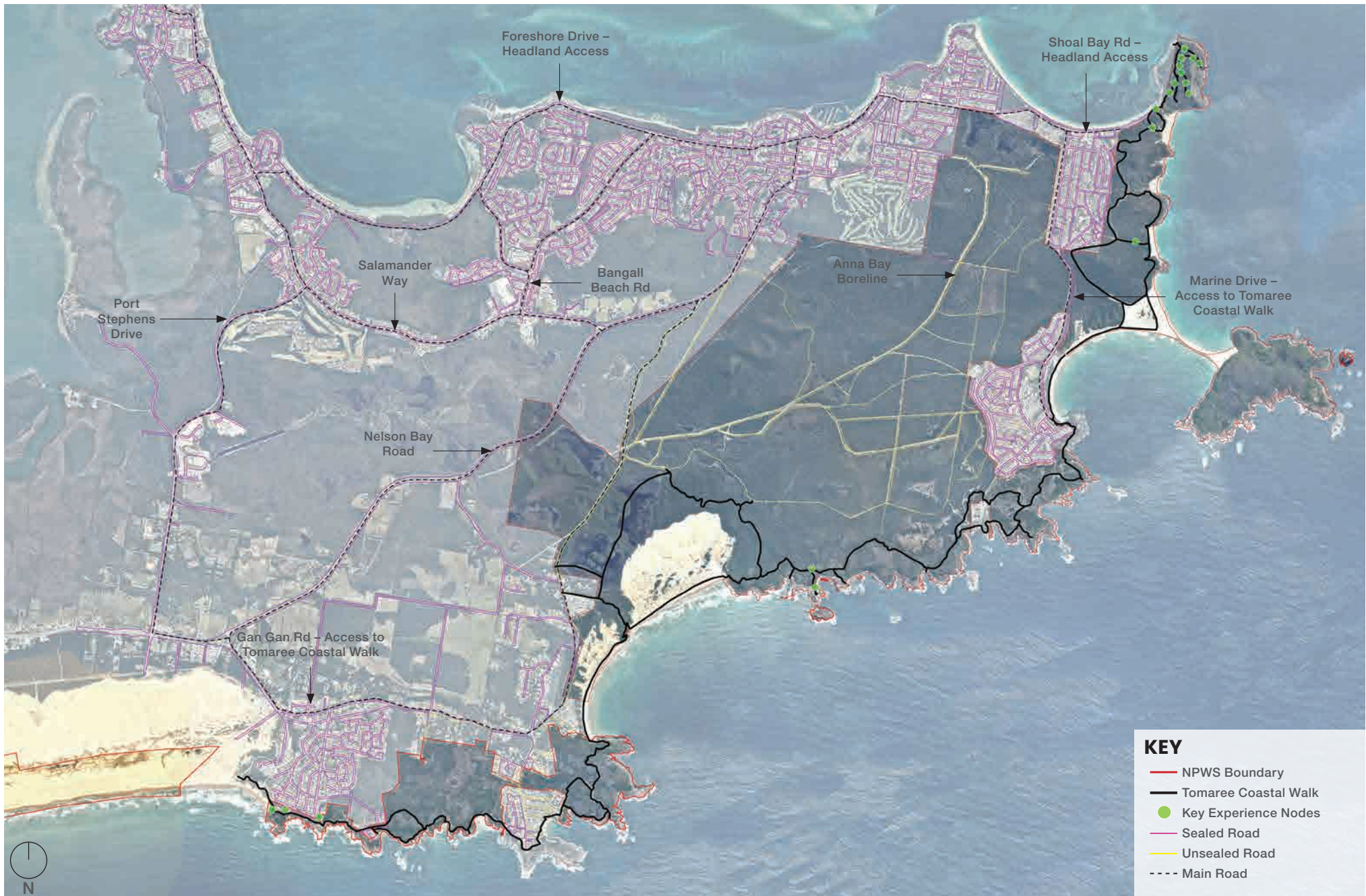


Figure 9 Access to Tomaree National Park (Source: Six Maps 2020)



# 3. Tomaree Coastal Walk

## Tomaree Coastal Walk principles

### Developing the visitor experience

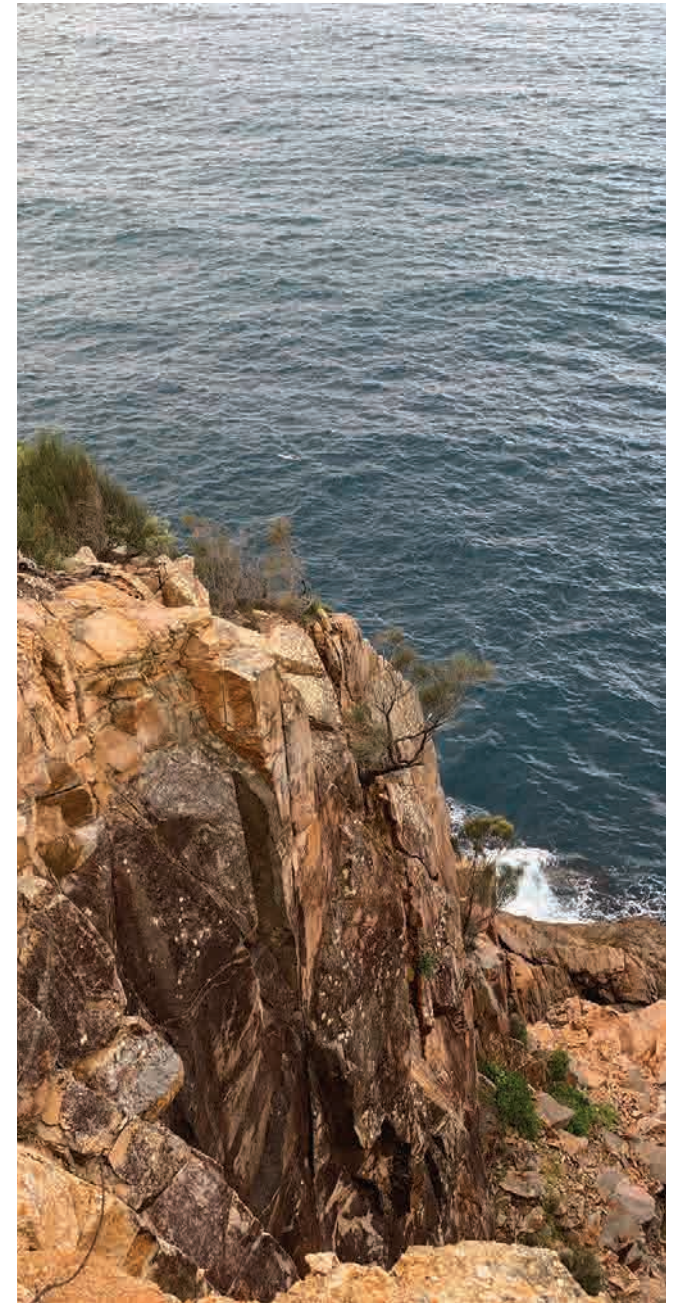
Visitor and market demand analysis, including engagement with local stakeholders and peak industry groups, has unveiled opportunities to enhance the visitor experience with a focus on promoting park values. A variety of walk lengths across the landscape, iconic 'shareable moments', cultural content and engagement, and hero coastal views will provide a pre-eminent coastal experience.



Visitors enjoying Tomaree Head in Tomaree National Park Destination Port Stephens/DPIE

Principles for the design of the visitor experience include:

- carefully consider conservation values during planning, design and implementation of the project
- protect and promote the rich culture and heritage of the area
- ensure the visitor journey is inclusive and considered in all aspects of planning and design to deliver an iconic experience
- explore consumer and market demand analysis and align the experience to project objectives and outcomes
- be cohesive through the application of a consistent design language and approach based on recognisable themes that reflect and enhance the values and environment of the experience
- develop world-class innovative interpretation to enhance visitor experiences on and off park, including physical, digital and programmatic mediums
- ensure trailheads and start and finish points reflect the unique nature of the park to create a sense of place and sense of arrival and departure
- partner with tourism operators to develop customer-centric, nature-based tourism experiences that meet conservation and economic development goals.



Typical rock formation at Tomaree Head

## Developing tracks and infrastructure

Extensive track and infrastructure investigations have been undertaken by NPWS and specialist track designers, geotechnical and structural engineers. Environmental and cultural heritage assessments have been undertaken to refine the location and alignment of tracks to protect cultural, ecological and heritage items. Further assessment may be required as part of the detailed design phase.

Principles for the design of tracks and infrastructure include:

- enhance the visitor experience
- manage impact on visual amenity, environmental and conservation values and blend with the immediate environment
- maximise the use of natural and local materials where possible and minimise the use of synthetic materials
- consider the design principles set out in the NPWS Park Facilities Manual and ensure that all new structures have an overall design language that is consistent, contemporary and constrained, and sensitive to the natural values of the site.

Tomaree Summit Lookout  
Destination Port Stephens/DPIE

## Developing precincts

Following detailed site and demand analysis, select locations across Tomaree National Park were identified as appropriate to provide improved visitor facilities and serve as vital links to Tomaree Coastal Walk. These precincts will provide access to key park features, including trailheads, parking and drop-off and pick-up points, toilets, seating, viewing platforms, signage and interpretation.

Principles for the design of precincts include:

- minimise footprints with a focus on respecting environmental and cultural sensitivities
- incorporate best practice sustainable development, including lifecycle considerations, sustainable water and other services as feasible
- maximise the use of natural materials, colours and finishes which are sympathetic to the natural surrounds and easy to maintain
- design to enhance key visitor experience nodes
- design to improve track entry and exit points and interrelationships with day use areas and visitors.



Tomaree Summit Walk  
Destination Port Stephens/DPIE



## Master plan vision

### Landscape

The vision of the master plan is to unlock the potential of Tomaree National Park as the location of a signature coastal walk in New South Wales. The park offers an array of exciting experiences, inspiring and diverse environments to satisfy varied interests.

Key objectives of the landscape vision include:

- connect the currently fragmented 20-kilometre coastal walking track from Tomaree Head to Birubi Point
- upgrade aging infrastructure, particularly on Tomaree Head
- provide new high-quality infrastructure to meet existing and future visitor demand
- improve access whilst protecting the natural landscape
- integrate and respect cultural heritage and celebrate the Worimi cultural landscape
- provide a number of experiences and options, including new trailheads, lookouts, rest areas and pause points, whilst clarifying and enhancing existing offerings
- feature and celebrate park values and built heritage
- create shareable moments such as breathtaking views whilst elevating the visitor experience of nature and wildlife.

### Interpretation

The vision for interpretation is to reveal the unique and special qualities of Tomaree National Park and its surrounding community interface to create journeys, stories and immersive experiences through the landscape for visitors and locals alike.

The key objectives of the interpretation vision include:

- develop world-class innovative interpretive concepts to enhance visitor experiences on and off park, including all aspects of the experience (physical, digital and programmatic)
- create a unified track identity and develop the sub-identities of individual track sections
- encourage deeper sensory engagement with track surroundings
- offer varied and engaging stories and platforms
- develop compelling Worimi cultural material and authentic ways of storytelling in consultation with Worimi traditional owners
- incorporate the use of spoken and written Gathang language as much as possible along the walk
- support layers of active interpretation for guided and self-guided tours across the walk.



Artist impression of proposed upgrade at Tomaree Summit



Tomaree Summit Walk



Artist impression of proposed entrance to Tomaree Summit Walk

## Experiencing the Tomaree coast

At the heart of Tomaree Coastal Walk is the aim to provide outstanding natural spaces and engaging experiences, a NPWS core principle. The experience has been developed to appeal to the following key national park market segments:

- **Explorers:** Users who want a new place to explore, who like to do the same activity in different places and want special events and word-of-mouth recommendations.
- **Escapers:** Visitors looking for peace and quiet, encounters with nature to slow the pace down and who use parks as places to relax and unwind rather than actively walk.
- **Socialisers:** Visitors who seek parks out as places to play. They want the park to be a backdrop for outings with children or for exercise in a natural setting.
- **Adventurers:** Users seeking a place where they can do their own hobbies or pursuits such as rock climbing. They are spontaneous and independent and value being in nature and being active within the park, especially walking.

For visitors, the realisation of the master plan will deliver a variety of spectacular experiences through a seamless journey into and through Tomaree National Park. It will encourage visitors to slow down, explore, immerse and contemplate. Movement onto and along Tomaree Coastal Walk and across Tomaree Head will become part of the visitor experience, rather than just a way to get to a destination. The park's history and values will be revealed through placement of infrastructure, precincts and experience nodes that connect and provide a framework for positive interaction with the environment and immersion in the stories of the place.

Tomaree Coastal Walk will become a key nature-based tourist attraction for Port Stephens. The walk may be enjoyed alongside several adjacent or nearby attractions. These experiences may include Worimi Conservation Lands, Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary, Birubi Tourist Interchange, boat transfers to Fingal Island and other experiences delivered by local tour operators and attractions.

## Tomaree Coastal Walk

The central focus of the Tomaree Coastal Walk project is to create a continuous track linking Tomaree Head to Birubi Point. The 20-kilometre coastal track includes a number of proposed upgrades to the existing track network along with the creation of new tracks to link existing tracks.

The immersive 20-kilometre walk is best experienced as an overnight walk staying at nearby off-park accommodation. This two-day, one-night walk can be self-guided or could be undertaken as part of a guided tour. Shorter half-day and part-day experiences are available along the 20-kilometre walk capturing iconic vantage points.

The walk traverses coastal, eucalypt forest and heathland environments, ranging from volcanic peaks, through smooth-barked apple forests to secluded beaches and large sand dunes. Experiences along the way include rich wildlife, vegetation and Worimi culture. The walk can incorporate a variety of activities, including swimming, snorkelling, bird watching, whale watching, wildflower walks as well as cultural learning opportunities.

While the 20-kilometre Tomaree Coastal Walk is the signature overnight walk experience, sections of the track can be walked as short walks, providing a range of exceptional walking experiences. Some of these short walks are described here.



Lush ferns at Tomaree National Park



Breathtaking views from Tomaree Summit  
Destination Port Stephens/DPIE

## Tomaree Head Summit Walk

Rising 162 metres above sea level, the invigorating walk to Tomaree Head summit rewards visitors with breathtaking panoramic views up and down the Port Stephens coastline and into Nelson Bay, including views of Yacaaba Head, Cabbage Tree, Myall Lakes, Karuah River, Boondelbah and Broughton islands to the north; and Zenith Beach, Fingal Island and Point Stephens Lighthouse to the south. Vantage points along the climb are ideal for spotting seabirds and dolphins, or migrating whales during winter.

The Tomaree Summit Walk showcases WWII military heritage, including gun emplacements and torpedo tubes used in the defence of east coast Australia during the war. The walk provides places for rest and contemplation and locations to take in breathtaking views. As the northern gateway to Tomaree Coastal Walk, Tomaree Head provides a taste of the 20-kilometre coastal track and access to a dramatic stretch of the Tomaree coastline.

To support the full Tomaree Coastal Walk experience, upgrades are required to facilities and infrastructure on Tomaree Head, for example, tracks, lookouts, interpretation and other visitor facilities. Detailed design is required to ensure infrastructure is fit for purpose to meet current and future visitation and to deliver an integrated and enhanced visitor experience. While the detailed design planning and heritage approvals will be undertaken for Tomaree Headland as part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk project, improvement work is not funded as part of the project (i.e. future funding is required).



View of rocky coastline in Tomaree National Park

## Shoal Bay to Fingal Bay Walk

A relaxing and easy half-day walk through natural bushland from Tomaree Head trailhead to Fingal Bay. This walk is planned to traverse the eastern flanks of Quarry Hill and Green Hill, pending geotechnical and detailed design assessments. The walk includes stunning views back to Tomaree Head, the adjacent marine environment and out to Fingal Island which is home to the historic Point Stephens Lighthouse. With access to three secluded beaches (Zenith Beach, Wreck Beach and Box Beach) combined with rocky headlands, the walk connects visitors to an ancient volcanic landscape.

The Shoal Bay to Fingal Bay Walk provides visitors with a mix of volcanic peaks, secluded beaches and spectacular views, providing a stunning introduction to Tomaree Coastal Walk.



## **Birubi Point to Boat Harbour Walk**

Commencing at the southern gateway to the park in the popular tourist township of Anna Bay neighbouring Worimi Conservation Lands, this short walk traverses rugged coastline, a declared Aboriginal Place and passes small coastal villages. Vantage points along the track are ideal for spotting dolphins or migrating whales during winter. Views to the south take in the 32-kilometre stretch of Stockton Beach and Worimi Conservation Lands. There are opportunities to cool off with a swim at Kingsley Beach or connect to tourism activities such as sandboarding, 4WD tours, camel rides, and quad bike tours on the neighbouring Worimi Conservation Lands.

As the southern gateway to Tomaree Coastal Walk this short walk provides a taste of the 20-kilometre coastal track and easy access to a stunning stretch of the Tomaree National Park coastline.



Sand dunes in Tomaree National Park  
Geoff Woods/DPIE

## Tomaree Coastal Walk track alignment

Deciding on the alignment of the Tomaree Coastal Walk, tracks on Tomaree Head and supporting visitor infrastructure has involved significant project planning and assessment, including comprehensive cultural and environmental assessments, geotechnical and risk assessments, and track feasibility and scoping studies.

There are numerous points of access into Tomaree National Park, and the park is close to overnight accommodation in the Port Stephens area and local communities. The walk can be undertaken in different sections allowing visitors to undertake suggested itineraries or design their own walking experience.

The master plan includes track alignment maps that illustrate the indicative alignment of both existing and proposed new tracks (see section 5). Plans also show indicative off-park connections across Port Stephens Council or Crown land along the coastal walk, general terrain information, surrounding amenities, parking, experience opportunities, interpretation and navigational sign locations.

Proposed works and construction will be undertaken in accordance with the *Tomaree National Park Plan of Management* (as amended in 2020), all requirements outlined in the REF and other statutory requirements.

Tomaree Coastal Walk can be experienced in either a north to south or south to north direction. There are numerous places along the walk to connect with local communities or explore parts of Tomaree National Park. An indicative Tomaree Coastal Walk itinerary, walking from north to south over two days, is provided below.

### Example itinerary

There are a wide variety of options available for people wishing to undertake all or part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk. The following itinerary is just one example.

#### Day 1

Tomaree Summit Walk trailhead to Zenith Beach Precinct – 0.3 km

Zenith Beach Precinct to Fingal Bay – 4.2 km

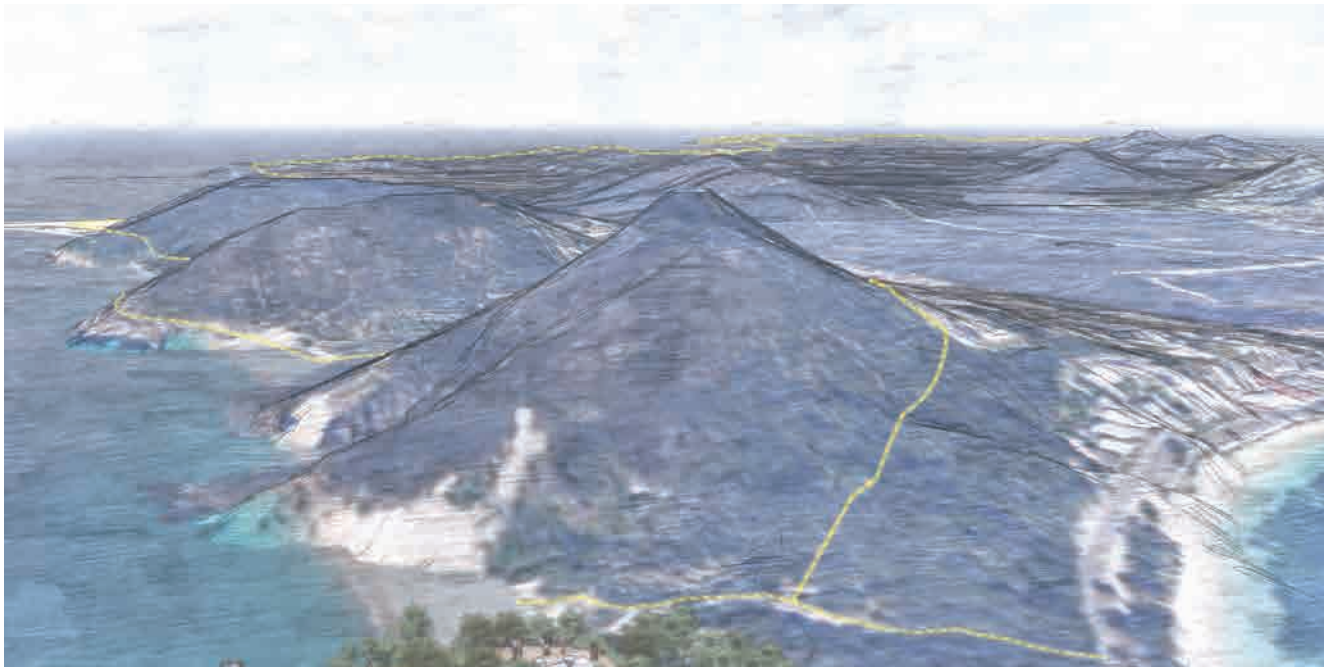
Fingal Bay to Samuari Beach/Koala Sanctuary – 7.0 km

#### Day 2

Samuari Beach/Koala Sanctuary to Boat Harbour – 4.0 km

Boat Harbour to Iris Moore Reserve Precinct – 4.0 km

Iris Moore Reserve to Birubi Point – 0.5 km



Artist impression of indicative track alignment (not to scale)

## Interpretation strategy

NPWS has commissioned Trigger design to develop a strategy for the interpretation of Tomaree Coastal Walk. The strategy aims to deliver rich and engaging education and interpretation to immerse visitors in the landscape; promote the park's natural, historical and cultural values; and create memorable experiences for visitors. Developing interpretation concurrently with the master plan ensures that interpretation is embedded in the walk's design. It is planned that the interpretation will come in all forms, including digital innovations and programs as well as tried and tested mediums such as park signs and information panels.

The strategy has been developed in collaboration with Worimi owners and outlines interpretation elements across the entire Tomaree Coastal Walk. Implementation of interpretation will be delivered as funding becomes available. As part of developing interpretation, the following three key themes have been identified that encapsulate the cultural and environmental heritage of the walking experience.

### Looking out

This theme is about highlighting the coastal views along the walk. Tomaree Head is a magnificent natural vantage point that encourages visitors to look out and question how the landscape was formed and how the place has been used. Much of the history of Tomaree Head relates to looking at the surroundings; for defence, fishing, navigation and watching wildlife. The walk extends this theme into the surrounding coastal areas offering varied and outstanding visual links to the adjacent ocean.

### Sea country

This is sea country, or *garuwa* for the Worimi, a culturally rich landscape. The interconnectivity between land and sea is an important part of Worimi culture and is a key asset of the track. The track passes many places that are important for a range of communities. This theme focuses on the cultural richness of sea country, from its significant places, its night sky, to the vitality of the environment, its seasons and animals. This includes both Worimi and post-settlement stories of fishing, whale watching and the navigation of the coastal islands and coves.

### Diverse and distinct

The focus of this theme is the walk experience as a journey through diverse landscapes. It encourages immersive wonderment in each unique track stage, highlighting the sights, sounds, smells and heart-stopping views of the 20-kilometre coastal walk. It encourages track users to notice the landscapes with all the senses; the steep volcanic hills, rocky headlands, coastal forests, urban fringe and vast sand dunes.



Artist impression of proposed digital interpretation opportunities

## Interpretation approach

The design language employed for Tomaree Coastal Walk is inspired by forms in the landscape and aspects of its history and living culture. Triangles, triangulation and intersections are visible in rock formations, military installations and Aboriginal dwellings, and most notably the shape of the peaks. This inspiration creates an opportunity to translate these qualities into a distinctive interpretative design language which will help set Tomaree Coastal Walk apart.

Varied interpretation elements have been developed to form a 'kit of parts' approach, designed to coexist and be in harmony with current NPWS signage. This includes gateway signage, sculptural posts that also act as a beacon to trigger digital interpretation and interaction, a variety of different sized interpretation panels, balustrade interpretation, paving inlays and interpretation incorporated into seating. A range of digital interpretive interactive experiences are also being investigated, triggered throughout Tomaree Coastal Walk by signage and sculptural elements, adding a compelling layer of storytelling.

Interpretation will continue to be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders.



Artist impression of proposed interpretation

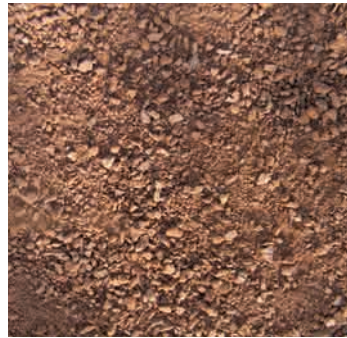
## Existing site materials

### Of the mountain

Tomaree Head has a distinct local landscape character due to its geology and vegetation. In particular, natural stone and gravel pathways generate a sense of intimate contact with the mountain.

Moments such as a tree within a path, or a walkway fashioned around a stone boulder further generate a sense of respect for the mountain. Elevated walkways, aside from providing access, further develop a sense of respect for the mountain; to tread lightly, to look but not touch.

The remnant fabric of WWII heritage elements appear in symbiosis with the mountain. The concrete patinas appear as though a mutual respect has been forged over time with the mountain, creating a historic dialogue with the ancient landscape.



Rhyodacite washed aggregate concrete



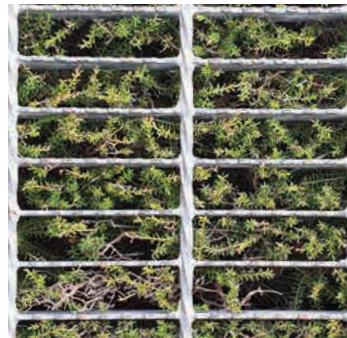
Interpretation – The earthy pink hues of the volcanic rock



Stone retaining wall



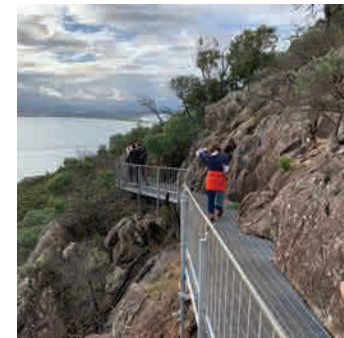
Aged exposed aggregate concrete path



Large grate aperture for vegetation to grow through



Grate cut around rock face



Elevated structures



Informal 'wild mountain' path



Tomaree slot canyon exposed and eroded Rhyodacite stone



Remnant WWII structures, softened, rusted and dilapidated



Tree trunk in centre of pathway



Stone steps

## Of the coast

Tomaree Coastal Walk passes through an array of coastal landscapes from sandy beaches to rocky cliffs, stony bays, heathlands and forests. Each landscape expresses an individual but connected character.



Residual eroded and crushed stone build up



Weather coastal bedrock stone



Informal 'coastal' path



Informal 'forest' path



Beach entry path



Gravel coastal track through heathland



Sandy coastal track through coastal vegetation



Forest path through angophora and banksia scrubland



Wind swept coastal vegetation



Timber boardwalk structure



Interpretation – Intersections and triangulation in the landscape



Repurposed boulder as seating element

## Proposed site materials

### Strategy

The materials proposed for Tomaree Coastal Walk have been inspired by the landscape of Tomaree National Park. The material palette has been broken into two broad categories: 'Of the mountain' and 'Of the coast'.

### Of the mountain

'Of the mountain' provides a framework for design and materiality that reflects the distinct conical volcanic mountain and headland landscape forms of the national park with distinct granitic stone forms and colourings. Proposed master plan works that fall within the mountain/headland landscape zones are recommended to complement the natural materiality of the mountain. In particular, Tomaree Head has a distinct local landscape character due to the local geology and vegetation. Proposed works on Tomaree Head are to develop this unique character to intensify the experience of being on the mountain. Proposed material upgrades seek to preserve the mountain character and enhance the visitor's experience.

### Of the coast

Master plan works that fall within the coastal landscape are recommended to follow the character and materiality of the coast. As the coastal landscape varies across sandy beaches, forests, rocky cliffs and stony bays, the proposed coastal materials will be low impact and sympathetic to the park, whilst enhancing appreciation of the diverse natural environments through which the track passes.

## Tomaree Mountain Materials

### Ground



Rhyodacite washed aggregate concrete



Stone steps

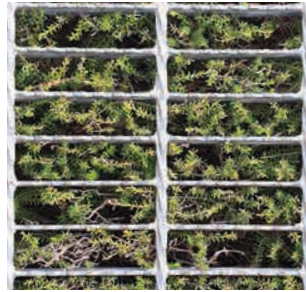


Informal 'wild mountain' path



Asphalt – parking

### Elevated experiences



Large grate aperture for vegetation to grow



Grate cut around rock face



FRP mesh floor, galvanised steel handrail, steel balustrade



FRP mesh floor, timber handrails, steel balustrade and timber handrail

### Pausing points



Stone bleacher seating



Steel frame timber batten seats



Squared off timber log seating



Balustrade interpretation elements

# Tomaree Coast Materials

## Ground



'Bedrock' washed aggregate concrete



'Sand dune' washed aggregate concrete



Informal 'coastal' path



Informal 'forest' path



Gravel - parking



Asphalt - parking

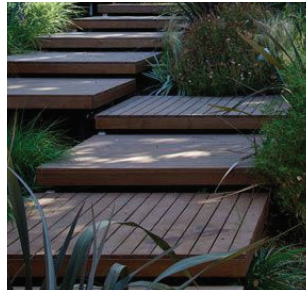
## Pausing points



Steel frame timber batten surfer bench



Stone bleacher seating



Timber decking with timber bleacher seating

## Thresholds



Interpretation elements



Narrowing view lines with mounded planting

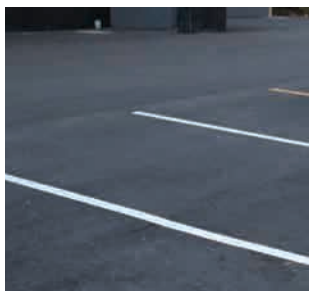


'Sand dune' and 'bedrock' aggregate concrete

## Organisational elements



Timber log barrier - gravel



Painted lines to indicate parking bays - asphalt

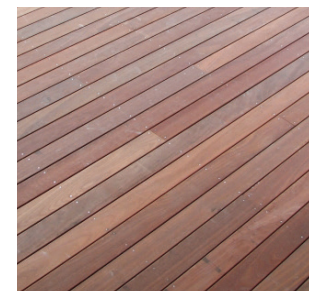


Timber bollards



Signage

## Amenities block



Timber decking



Amenities building





## 4. Precinct plans

The master plan provides an overarching vision for facility improvements in Tomaree National Park, to better cater for existing and future visitation.

The following precinct plans include a range of design elements that may not progress as part of the current \$6.74 million Tomaree Coastal Walk project. These have been included in the master plan should future funding become available.

## Tomaree Head Precinct

The Tomaree Head Precinct (including Zenith Beach access and carpark) forms the northern gateway to Tomaree National Park and the spectacular 20-kilometre Tomaree Coastal Walk, and encompasses a multitude of experiences to be discovered on Tomaree Head.

Tracks on Tomaree Head will generally be consistent with the existing alignments. Several sections are proposed to be upgraded to improve track condition, reduce maintenance and provide better access to park features to deliver a memorable experience.

Track upgrades on Tomaree Head aim to reduce congestion by widening and improving the Tomaree Head Summit Walk and creating a loop walk to the Tomaree WWII Gun Emplacements.

Proposed improvements to visitor facilities at Tomaree Head include upgraded walking tracks, viewing platforms and interpretation to reduce congestion and improve the visitor experience.

The Tomaree Lodge site on the western side of the headland, is not in the national park and is therefore not included in the master plan and the Tomaree Coastal Walk project.

Detailed design planning and heritage approvals for the proposed improvements at the Tomaree Head Precinct will be undertaken as part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk project. The upgrade work is not funded as part of the \$6.7 million Tomaree Coastal Walk project and is subject to future funding.



Artist impression of proposed upgrade to entrance of summit walk



Vegetation at Tomaree Head



Existing walkway to Tomaree Summit

**E** EXISTING

**P** PROPOSED



**E**

**Key opportunities**

1. Trailhead upgrade
2. Upgrade information panels
3. Upgrade with exposed aggregate tracks
4. Upgrade Fishermans Track Picnic Area
5. Provide new Fishermans Track Lookout
6. Upgrade stairs and seating area
7. Repair/retain local stone stairs
8. Expand stairway up terraced bank
9. Upgrade summit lookout
10. Retain historic route
11. Upgrade gun emplacement curtilage 1
12. Upgrade gun emplacement curtilage 2
13. Provide slot canyon experience
14. Upgrade picnic area and track junction at Gun Emplacement Road & Tomaree Track junction
15. Upgrade connection to torpedo tubes
16. Upgrade Zenith Beach access node

Figure 10 Tomaree Head proposed improvements

Existing (E) Track Condition

## Tomaree Head existing and proposed track and trail types

### Existing (E)

- Loose gravel/asphalt road
- Used as NPWS maintenance road for park work

### Proposed (P)

- Retain existing condition, repair where necessary

### Existing (E):

- Red brick paving
- Slippery when wet
- Uneven surface
- Uncharacteristic of mountain materiality

### Proposed (P):

- Exposed stone aggregate concrete with washed finish comprised of rhyodacite if possible

### Existing (E):

- Combination of materials: stone, steel, concrete
- Exposed aggregate concrete: degraded and uneven surface resulting in pooling
- Local stone stairs: damaged due to wear and tear
- Gang walks composed of galvanised steel mesh floors and handrails: aged and dated

### Proposed (P):

- Repair existing stairs and paths
- Upgrade steel to fibreglass reinforced plastic (FRP) mesh flooring with anti-climb balustrade

### Existing (E)

- 'Wild' type track with no formalised ground material

### Proposed (P)

- Provide minor works to improve walkability

### Existing (E)

- Asphalt road

### Proposed (P)

- Existing condition to be retained, with potential pedestrian access. Partially located on Council land.

### Existing (E)

- Concrete path (not on NPWS land)

### Proposed (P)

- Retain concrete path (not on NPSW land)

### Existing (E)

- 'Wild' type track with no formalised ground material
- Formalised stone steps and gravel infill track

### Existing (E)

- Sand track

### Proposed (P)

- Retain existing beach access track

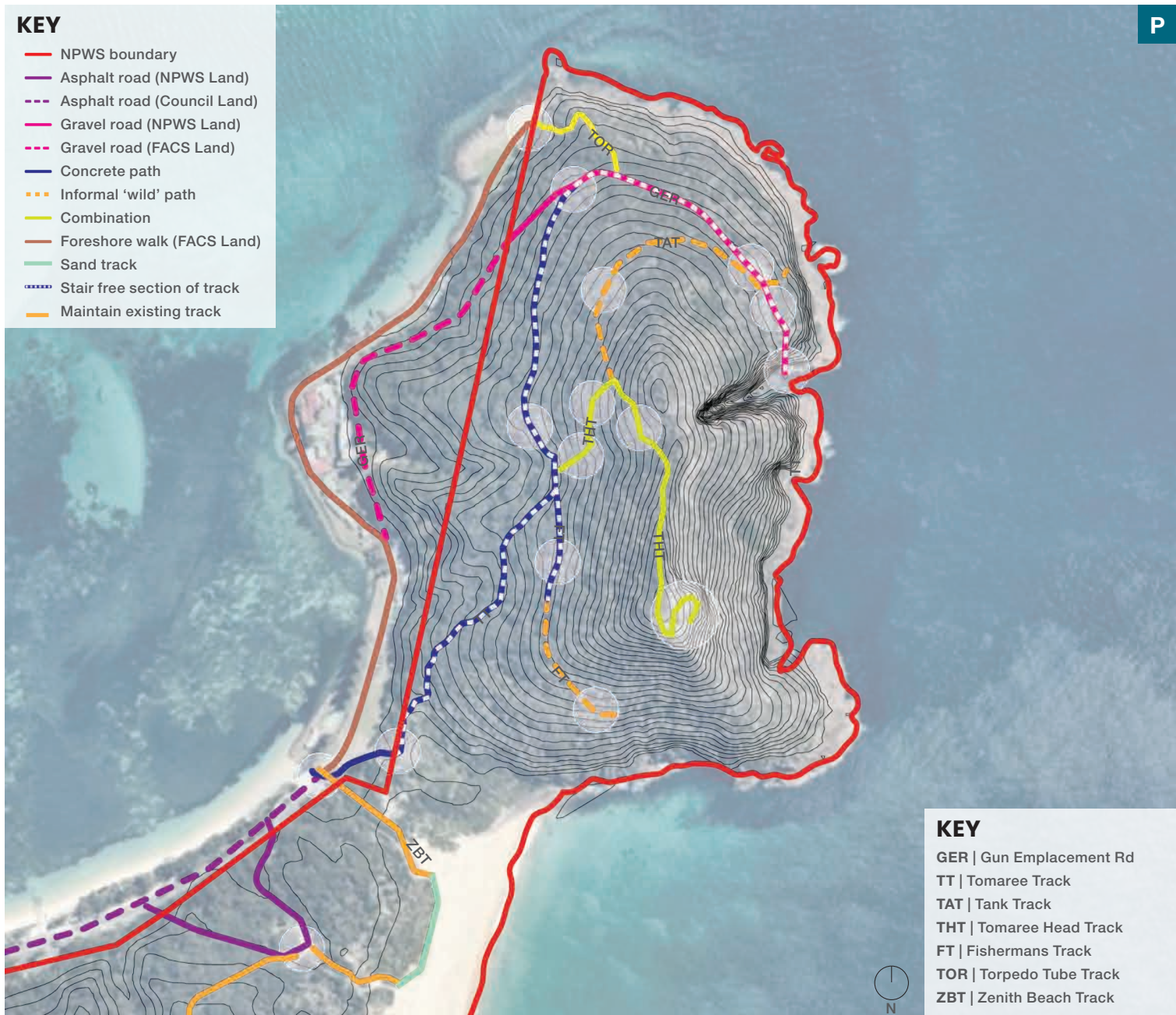


Figure 11 Proposed track types at Tomaree Head



Existing (E) track condition, red brick paving



Existing (E) track condition, informal "wild" track



Existing (E) track condition, concrete with local stone aggregate

Proposed (P) Track Condition



## Upgrade Tomaree Summit Walk trailhead

### Existing (E)

- Poor sense of arrival
- Signage dominates experience
- Confusing interface between trailhead and Tomaree Lodge entry

### Proposed (P)

- Relocate trailhead entry to make more visually prominent
- Consolidate Tomaree Summit Walk trailhead with Zenith Beach Track trailhead
- Provide larger trailhead marshalling area with amenities, including seating and track routes/information
- Worimi 'Welcome to Country' paving inlay
- Improve access and connectivity onto park
- Formalise parking area and improve pedestrian safety



Walkway to Zentih beach



Artist impression of proposed upgraded entrance at Tomaree Head



Existing Tomaree Head entrance



Existing entrance to Tomaree Summit Walk



Carpark at Tomaree Head

## Existing (E)

- Limited parking capacity— Existing vegetation is a constraint to carpark expansion within national park
- Carparking blocks views to track entries
- Tomaree Lodge signage distracts from trailhead
- Park signage small and underwhelming
- Poor clarity to both Tomaree Head Summit and Zenith Beach tracks
- Trailhead outside of national park boundary
- Poor opportunity for trailhead Instagram moment
- No marshalling or seating area

## Proposed (P)

- Existing Tomaree Lodge access road and footpath
- New Tomaree Head Summit Track entry node, including stone pavement, location and interpretive signage, and seating
- Remove existing red brick paved path and replace with a new slip-resistant, exposed aggregate concrete pathway
- Connect Tomaree Summit Walk trailhead with Zenith Beach Track and coastal walk track



Figure 12 Proposed Tomaree Summit carpark and entrance



## Reimagining interpretation and navigation

### Existing (E)

- Interpretation not in line with current NPWS signage suite
- Signage in poor condition
- Signage detracts from heritage items

### Proposed (P)

- Upgraded and integrated signage and interpretation pieces throughout the site
- New physical signage consistent with NPWS guidelines
- Highlight the natural, historical and cultural heritage values of the areas
- Increase visitors' understanding, awareness and appreciation of nature, heritage and site resources



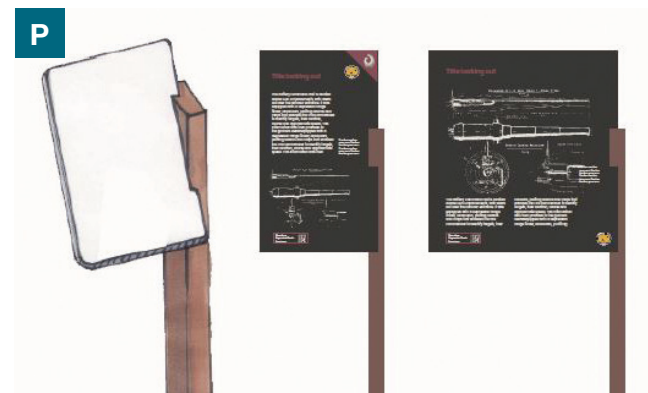
Interpretation shelter at Tomaree Head



Artist impression of proposed interpretation



Tomaree Summit



Artist impression of interpretation



Artist impression of digital Interpretation





## Upgrade with exposed aggregate tracks

### Existing (E)

- Material and finish blends well with the natural landscape

### Proposed (P)

- Track surface provides good slip resistance
- Tracks surface provides good erosion control
- Track surface is in keeping with natural landscape



Track to Tomaree Summit



Tomaree Summit track



Tomaree Summit track



Tomaree Summit track



## Upgrade Fishermans Track Picnic Area

### Existing (E)

- Poorly maintained
- Aged furniture
- Red brick path not in context with the headland/mountain
- WWII heritage item not identified

### Proposed (P)

1. Retain picnic area. Clean up fallen branches and retain as leaf mulch (forest) picnic area. Retain existing facilities or upgrade to new
2. Expose WWII heritage element and provide interpretive signage
3. Remove existing red brick path and upgrade to exposed aggregate concrete track
4. Retain existing bush track to proposed lookout. Clarify surface through moving stones to path edge
5. Interpretation elements



**Figure 13** Proposed Fishermans Track Picnic Area



Picnic table at Tomaree Head



Picnic table along walk to Gun Emplacements



Walking track to WWII Gun Emplacements



## Provide Fishermans Track Lookout

### Existing (E)

- Does not provide enough amenity for the increased number of visitors

### Proposed (P)

1. Stone seating wall to rear of track
2. Expand gravel terrace behind new stone wall
3. Galvanised steel and mini-mesh viewing structure, minor tree clearing
4. Signage informing visitors that the track ends here and risks ahead
5. Interpretation elements



**Figure 14** Proposed Fishermans Track Lookout



Fishermans walking track



Coastal view from Fishermans Track



## Upgrade stairs and seating area

### Existing (E)

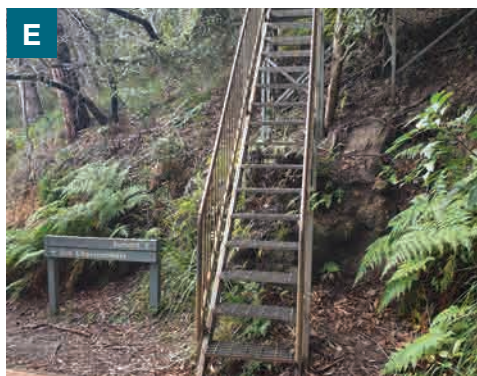
- Narrow bridges and stairways create bottlenecks along track at peak times
- Erosion and environmental impacts due to shortcutting of tracks

### Proposed (P)

1. Stone seat rest spot at top of stairs
2. Stabilised gravel track
3. Wider stairs / walkways FRP mini-mesh grating / steel framing
4. Broad landing, welcoming and generous
5. Stone seat
6. Seat with backrest
7. Exposed aggregate concrete track
8. Expand track intersection and node to improve experience
9. Interpretation elements



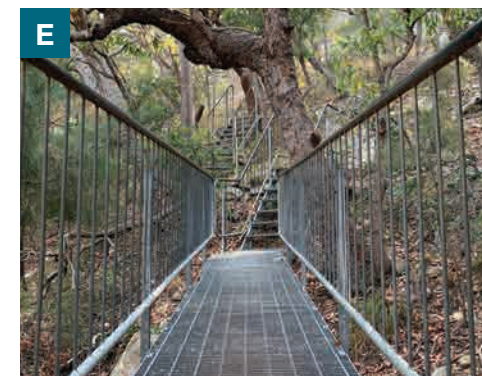
**Figure 15** Proposed upgrade to Tomaree Summit Walk



Stairway on to Tomaree Summit



Tomaree Summit walking track



Walkway to Tomaree Summit



Artist impression of upgraded stairs and seating area on Tomaree track junction



## Retain/repair local stone stairs

### Existing (E)

- Due to wear and tear, mortar between stone stairs has degraded, sections of stone have become loose

### Proposed (P)

- Where possible repair damaged sections of stairs with same mortar and stone. Stone (rhyodacite) to be sourced from local quarry where possible.

## Expand stairway up terraced bank

### Existing (E)

- Erosion and environmental impacts due to shortcutting of tracks

### Proposed (P)

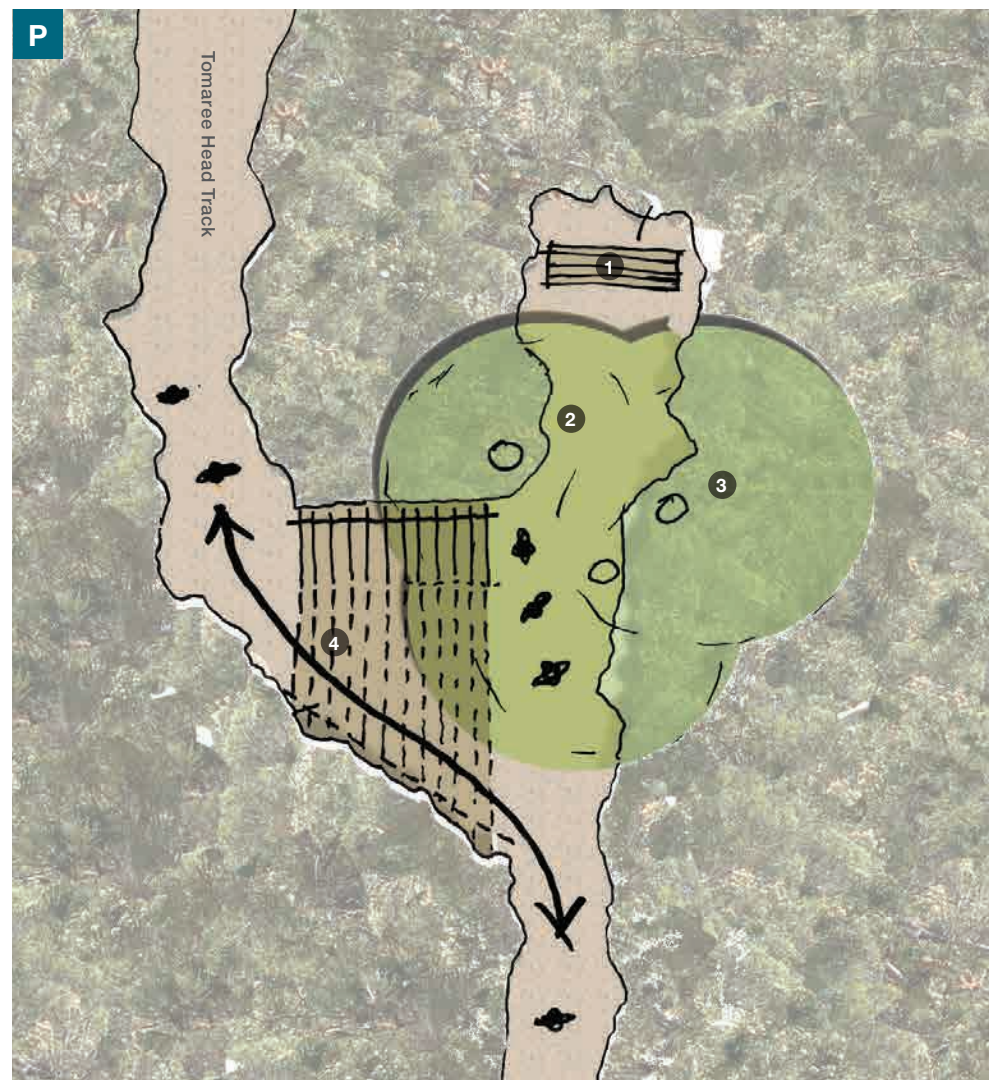
1. Bench seating for short rests at top of stairs
2. Repair exposed aggregate track
3. Retain and protect existing trees
4. Expand stairway to reduce bottleneck in track network and reduce environmental impacts. Galvanised steel frame with FRP mesh treads



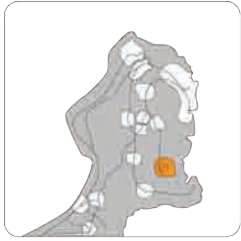
Steps on the Tomaree Summit walking track



Tomaree Summit Walk



**Figure 16** Proposed stairway design to reduce congestion and environmental impacts



## Capitalise on open views to Shoal Bay

### Existing (E)

- Narrow track creates bottleneck for walkers

### Proposed (P)

1. Extend galvanised steel structure to create a viewing node and overtaking area
2. Capitalise on views to Shoal Bay and Port Stephens Harbour / Karuah River
3. Provide rest stop on walk to the summit without creating a bottleneck for walkers
4. Incorporate interpretation
5. Reduce congestion at other lookouts and create shareable moment



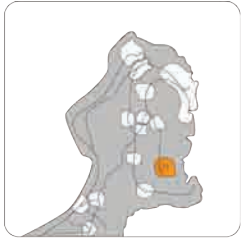
Proposed lookout at Tomaree Summit



Section of Tomaree Summit walking track



View of Shoal Bay from summit walk



## Upgrade Tomaree Summit

### Key opportunities

1. Continue to review elevated galvanised structure; replace aging components; and develop a replacement strategy as structure ages beyond repair
2. Selective track widening: Expand track width at points to create spaces of pause to allow viewers momentary spaces to stop and take in view. This will be in the form of 'lean-to' balustrades with signage
3. Landing lookout: Expand landing to frame views over adjacent headlands and allow increased overtaking capacity
4. South summit: New stone bleacher seating reflecting the rocky mountain and providing restful viewing opportunities at key southern viewing node
5. East summit: Provide new lookout deck shifted off structure below to reveal history
6. North summit: New expanded lookout with jagged edge to direct views, enhance experience, provide interpretation and shareable moments and to reflect the mountain rock shards
7. North summit: Provide jagged seating around mountain rock providing rest and viewing opportunity
8. Upgrade summit radar station: Cut back edge to set radar station in gravel plane. Incorporate stone seating to rest and ponder the radar in the foreground view
9. Formalise the summit
10. Interpretation elements



**Figure 17** Proposed upgrade to Tomaree Summit





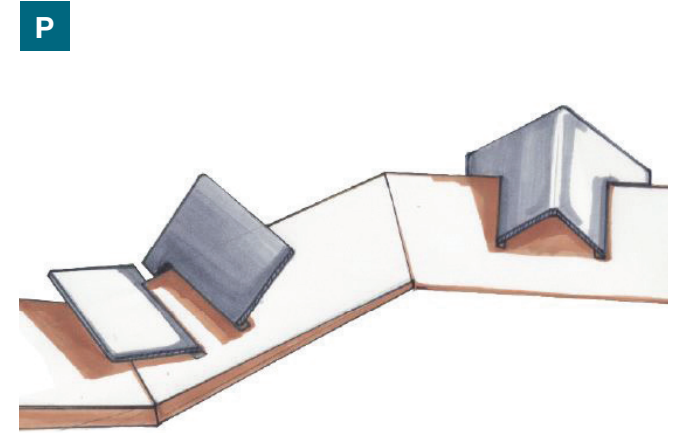
Artist impression of proposed upgrade to Tomaree Summit



Tomaree Summit Walk



Artist impression of interpretation integrated into balustrade



Artist impression of proposed interpretation

**P**

**D1. Front Elevation**

**D2. Front Elevation**

**D3. Front Elevation**

**D4. Front Elevation**

**Etched elements in the balustrade**

**D2. Alternative Colour front elevation**

**Sketch: side elevation showing D2 and D3 fixing detail**

**Sketch: front elevation showing D2 insertion details**

**Sketch: front elevation showing D2 and details**

**Sketch: front elevation showing D4 insertion details**

**Sketch: front elevation showing D4 insertion details**

**Sketch: side elevation showing D1, D4 fixing detail**

Artist impression of proposed interpretation



Artist impression of proposed upgrade to Tomaree Summit

## Upgrade Summit Lookout (east)

### Existing (E)

- Aged infrastructure, lacks sense of place
- Lookout structure covers and hides WWII structure beneath

### Proposed (P)

1. Upgrade lookout with architecturally designed structure
2. Potential for further expansion over the water for heightened effect
3. Opportunity to reveal the existing structure below for visual interest



Lookout at Tomaree Summit

## Upgrade Summit Lookout (north)

### Existing (E)

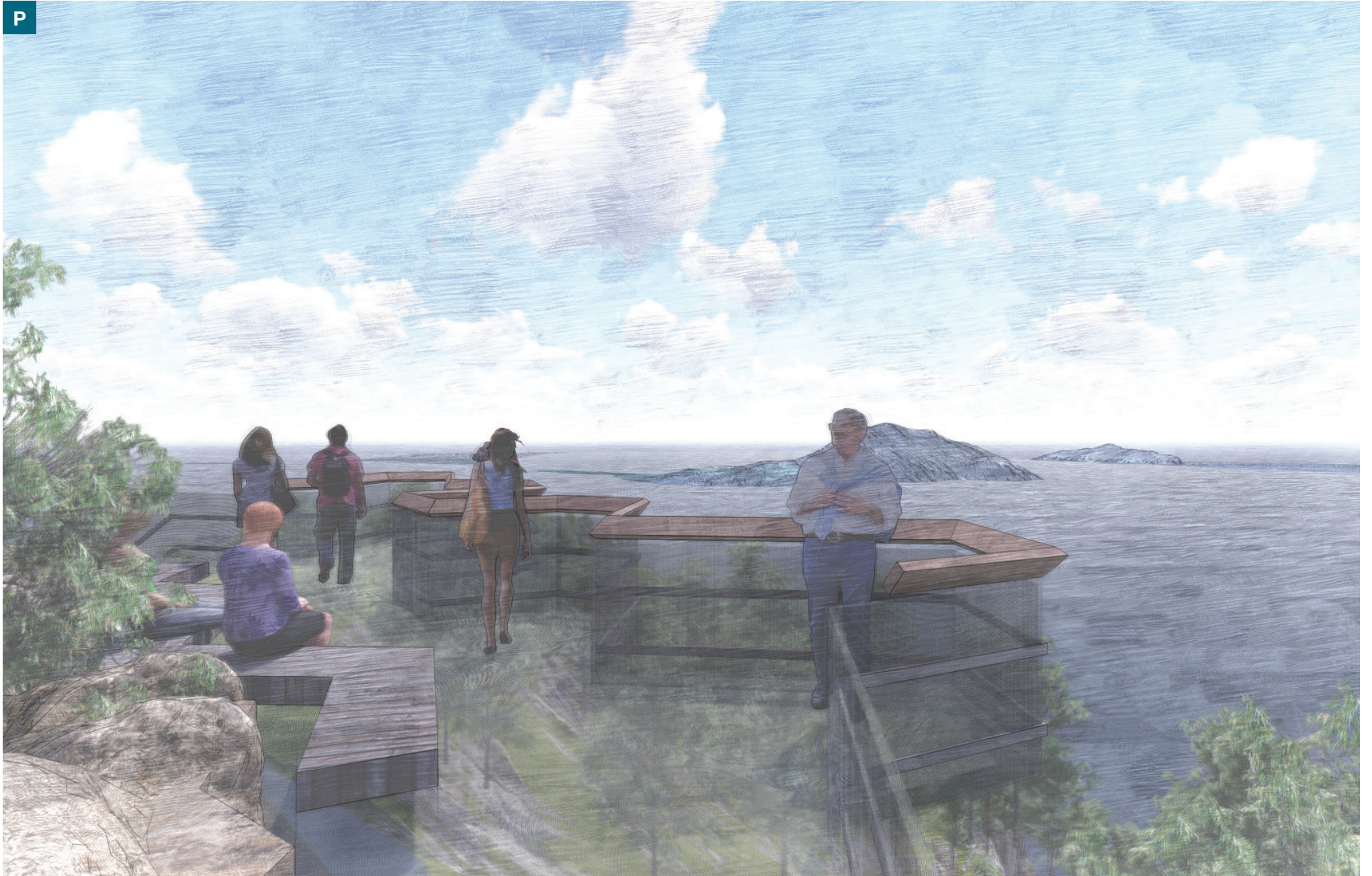
- Narrow track creates bottleneck and limits rest and view opportunities
- Informal seating on rocks only
- Balustrade dominates the view (particularly from seated position)
- Outdated and inconsistent interpretation elements

### Proposed (P)

1. Widen steel lookout platform to increase capacity and reduce congestion. Upgrade existing structure and handrail design for consistency with new works
2. Create edge to direct views
3. Create organic form edge to reflect mountain shards and create directed view opportunities
4. Incorporate physical and digital interpretation
5. Capitalise on spectacular views and provide shareable moments



Breathtaking views from Tomaree Summit



Artist impression of proposed Tomaree Summit Lookout (north)



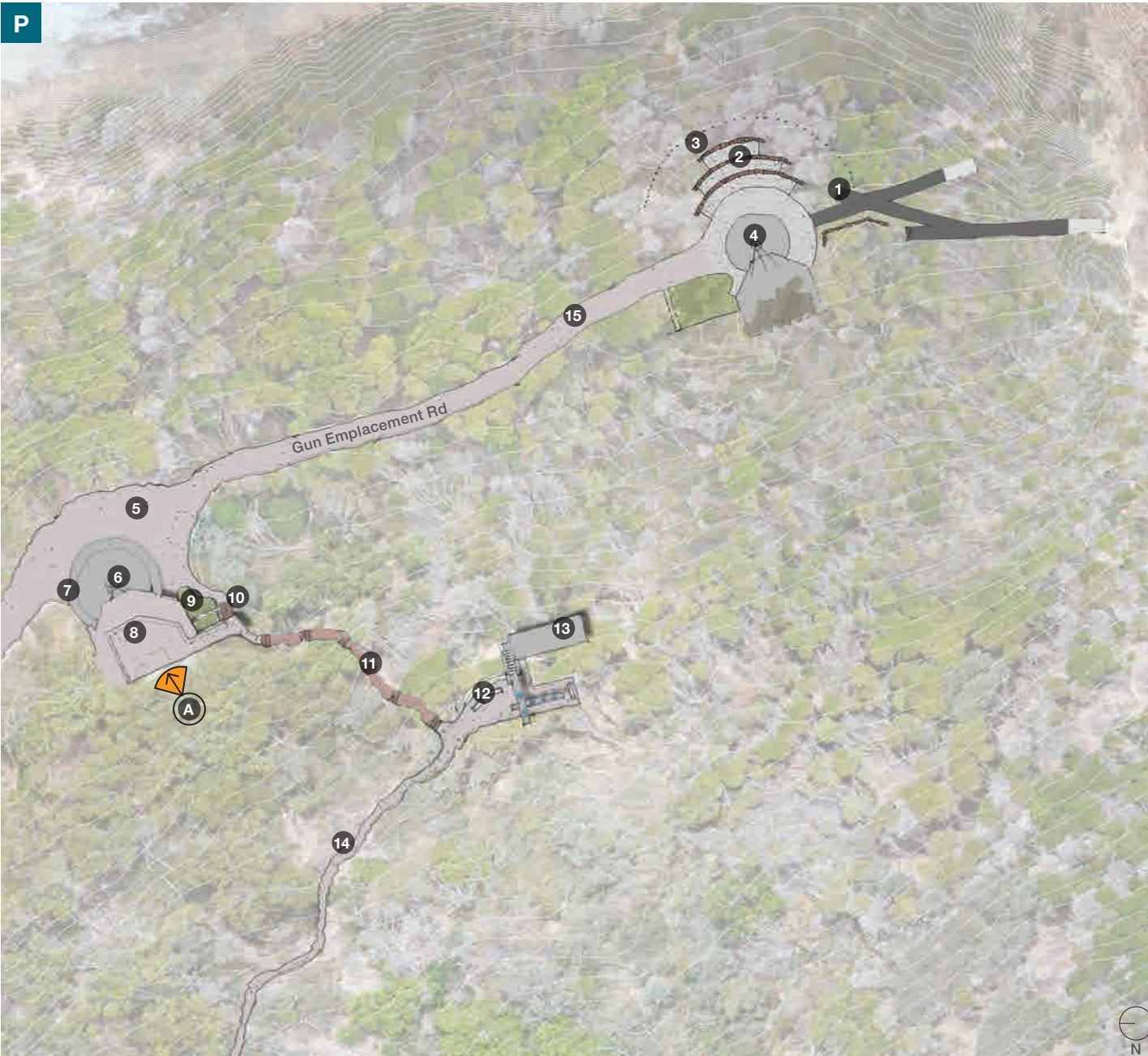
## Upgrade WWII gun emplacements

### Key opportunities

1. Slot canyon viewing deck is not progressing as part of the \$6.7 million Tomaree Coastal Walk project
2. Concrete bleacher seating with gravel terrace insets
3. Lower safety barrier hidden in bushland
4. Undertake further structural assessment of the gun emplacement to see if installing supports from above is an option, and removing supports cluttering the space below
5. Retain existing asphalt road surface
6. Undertake further structural assessment of the gun emplacement to see if installing supports from above is an option, and removing those cluttering the space below
7. Retain existing gun emplacement heritage structures
8. Provide gravel viewing opportunity on roof of WWII structure with balustrade safety fence
9. Proposed retaining walls and native planting to secure steep eroded bank
10. Proposed flight of stone stairs to formalise the existing 'goat track' access
11. Formalise existing eroded bush track into stone steps and exposed aggregate concrete track
12. Provide level (retained) gravelled surface to bunker surrounds including simple seating for respite, and the existing WWII water trough structures
13. Structurally assess the safety of the structure and the need to potentially reinstate a new supporting beam. Enable access via existing stairs to an internal floating mesh floor. Selectively prune trees to open one vista to the ocean beyond.
14. Tank track
15. Interpretation



WWII Gun Emplacements at Tomaree Head.  
John Spencer/DPIE



**Figure 18** Proposed upgrades at the WWII Gun Emplacements



Existing interpretation at the Gun Emplacements  
John Spencer/DPIE



Exploring WWII Gun Emplacements  
John Spencer/DPIE



Sharing stories of the areas rich WWII history  
John Spencer/DPIE





## Upgrade gun emplacement 1

### Existing (E)

- Existing informal access to gun emplacement roof creates safety and fall risk hazards
- Poor drainage on top of gun emplacement may have impact on heritage fabric
- Current access not in keeping with preserving or interpreting heritage structure

### Proposed (P)

1. Provide new viewing area with balustrade on top of gun emplacement to be sympathetic to the heritage of the structure
2. Define access to improve visitor safety
3. Capitalise on views
4. Provide interpretation and education opportunities



Artist impression of WWII Gun Emplacements, Tomaree National Park



## Upgrade gun emplacement 2

### Existing (E)

- No opportunity to rest and relax and enjoy the area
- Vegetation masks long views out to the ocean
- Poor interpretation and signage
- Aging WWII structure

### Proposed (P)

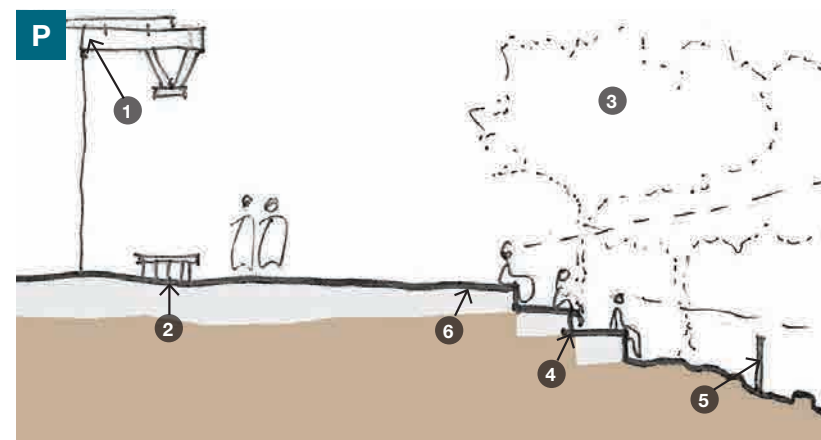
1. Support aging infrastructure from above
2. Protect exposed pins below via small balustrade
3. Minor tree removal to open views
4. Provide new bleacher seating with safety overlooking the ocean for ocean views and outdoor 'classroom' opportunity
5. Safety balustrade below viewshed
6. Provide interpretation on new seating bleachers



WWII Gun Emplacement relics



Gun Emplacement structure at Tomaree Head



Proposed improvements at Tomaree Head Gun Emplacements



Artist impression of proposed upgrade to Gun Emplacements



## Celebrate the slot canyon experience

The proposed slot canyon viewing deck is not progressing as part of the \$6.7 million Tomaree Coastal Walk project, however, is included in the master plan should funding become available.

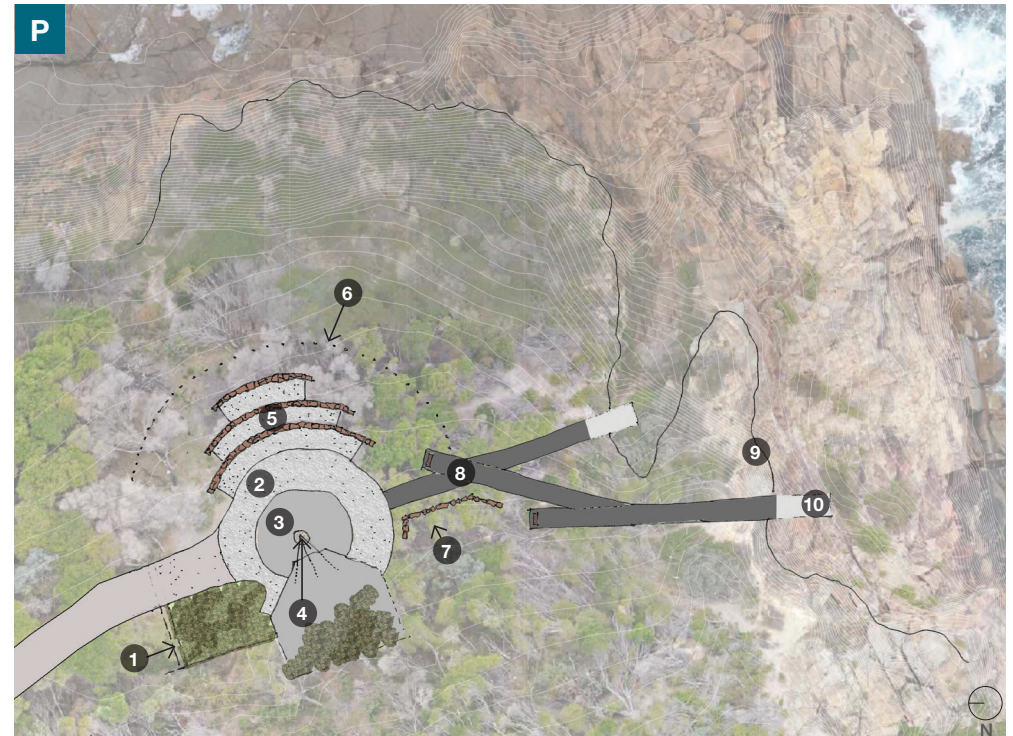
### Existing (E)

- Limited and unsafe engagement with one of the walk's most spectacular features

### Proposed (P)

- Existing drainage channel
- New basalt gravel surface
- Retain concrete surface
- Support ageing heritage steel work from above, and cordon off drop zone below with a simple circular balustrade
- Seating opportunity to enjoy ocean views. Minor vegetation clearing. Circular form reflecting gunnery geometry. Concrete bleacher with inset gravel terraces

- Safety balustrade hidden in vegetation
- Minor retaining required through bank cutting
- Canyon view access boardwalk with two cantilevered viewing options. Incorporate seating/marshalling zones
- Approximate cliff edge
- Interpretation elements



**Figure 19** Proposed improvement at the Tomaree Head slot canyon (not progressing as part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk project)



Ocean view of slot canyon at Tomaree Head



Slot canyon at Tomaree Head



## Upgrade picnic area at Gun Emplacement Road & Tomaree Track junction

### Existing (E)

- Existing picnic area degraded
- Unidentified WWII elements
- Poor orientation/directional signage
- Road widens for vehicle turning – good viewing opportunity

### Proposed (P)

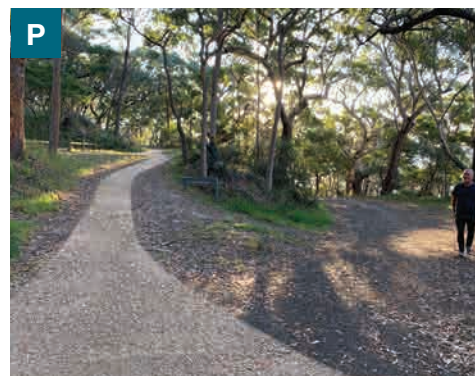
1. Remove existing brick paving and replace with exposed aggregate concrete
2. Formalise picnic area around WWII heritage structure with lawn, gravel, tables and seating; and provide interpretive signage
3. Create marshalling, rest, viewing node at track intersection. Rework gravel surface with low stone wall
4. Formalise track connection to torpedo tubes, adding stone stairs to better negotiate steep grades



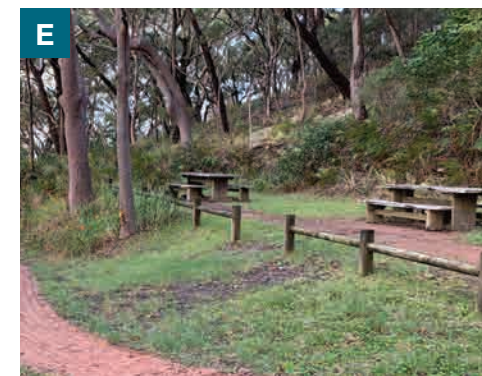
Figure 20 Proposed upgrades



Existing walking track to Gun Emplacements



Proposed walking track to Gun Emplacements



Existing picnic area



## The site of the torpedo tubes

The torpedo tubes site is located outside of the national park and proposed improvements are subject to further consultation.

### Existing (E)

- Currently overgrown
- Not signposted or formally connected to track network
- Very steep
- Good views through forest to Shoal Bay
- Opportunity to connect to foreshore WWII heritage elements

### Proposed (P)

1. Connect new concrete footpath to existing bush track
2. Viewing and interpretation nook of the remnant WWII torpedo tube
3. Torpedo tubes
4. Extend concrete footpath along water's edge

5. New seating nook overlooking the port entry and gun emplacement bunker
6. Surf battery
7. Formalise existing rough track with stone steps and exposed aggregate concrete path in sections prone to erosion
8. Upgrade signage to include Torpedo Tube Track



Figure 21 Proposed upgrade to torpedo tubes site



Overgrown vegetation



Existing walking track to torpedo tubes



Torpedo tubes



## Upgrade Zenith Beach access node

Zenith Beach access node has been identified as appropriate to provide improved visitor facilities such as a trailhead, parking, drop-off and pick-up points, toilet, seating and interpretation. The node forms a key link as part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk and provides parking opportunities to ease congestion at the Tomaree Summit Walk trailhead in peak times.

Current walker access from Zenith Beach to Fingal Bay is via an existing fire management trail that passes alongside nearby residential properties. A new track will provide a walker-only coastal track between Wreck Beach and Fingal Beach, creating an enhanced visitor experience that can be enjoyed as a short or half-day walk. The new section of track will follow the contour of the land to minimise visual impact on sightlines from the Tomaree Head summit and will also be able to be accessed from the Box Beach Precinct.

It is proposed to reconfigure the current carpark layout to increase parking capacity from 24 to 38 and improve pedestrian safety. NPWS will investigate additional ways to improve traffic and parking management at this location, including park-user fees, permits and parking time restrictions.

The existing fire management trail from Zenith Beach carpark to Fingal Bay will be retained for pedestrian access and vehicle use for park operations and cycling.

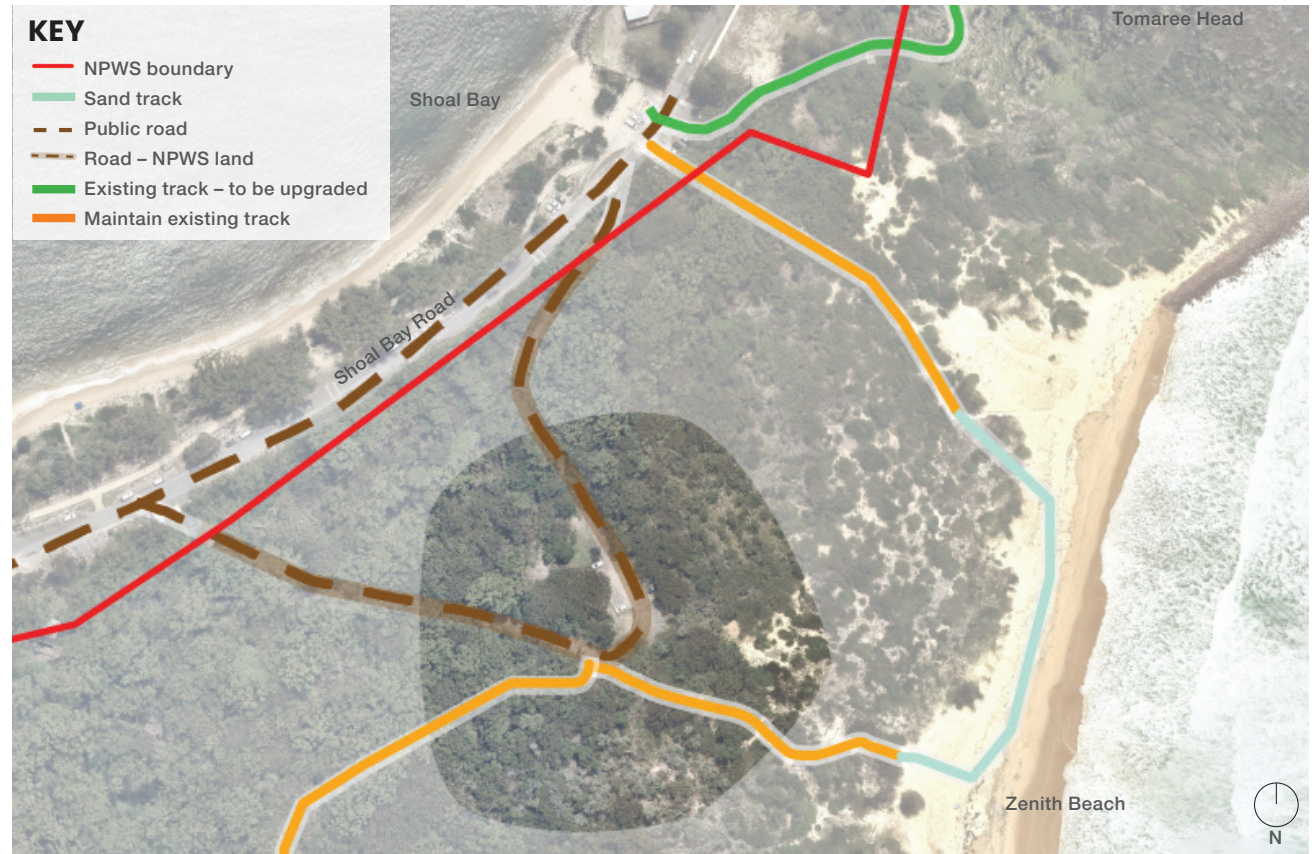


Figure 22 Proposed Zenith Beach upgrades



Zenith Beach road



Zenith Beach carpark



Zenith Beach

## Upgrade Zenith Beach access node

### Existing (E)

- Limited car parking: 24 spaces
- Lack of amenity
- Lack of open space definition
- Aged picnic facilities

### Proposed (P)

1. New amenities building with wheelchair accessible double-stall toilets, integrated signage/trail information (coastal walk). Connected via 'of the coast' concrete footpath. Include bollards to roadside
2. Existing overland flow path
3. Right-angled parking on both sides of road (extend to the extent required, retaining any existing significant trees). Allow greater access to Zenith Beach and surrounding tracks
4. Connect amenities block and carparking to beach access and coastal track
5. Remove existing weedy scrub; extend lawn and tree planting
6. Retain existing beach access and boardwalk link across drainage swale

7. New coastal track boardwalk connection
8. Concrete node between track and amenities. Retain vehicle access boom gate
9. Existing Tomaree Coastal Walk route along fire trail
10. Option for additional parking through minor cut and fill along roadway; increasing capacity to 38 spaces
11. Retain existing smooth-barked apple trees
12. Formalise lawn picnic zone with perimeter concrete edge bollards to roadside
13. New picnic settings adjacent to carparking



**Figure 23** Proposed carpark and access upgrades at Zenith Beach



## Box Beach Precinct

Box Beach Precinct has been identified as an ideal location to provide improved visitor facilities and access, such as a trailhead, parking, drop-off and pick-up points, toilet, seating and interpretation.

The precinct forms a key link as part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk and connects to the new walker-only track that is proposed to follow the coast from Wreck Beach to Fingal Beach. Improvements to the precinct will also enhance the location's appeal as a day use area within Tomaree National Park and provide improved amenities for those wishing to only access Box Beach.

The precinct will provide parking opportunities to ease congestion at the Tomaree Summit Walk trailhead and is an ideal parking location for those wishing to undertake a half-day walk to explore this breathtaking section of coast and Tomaree Head.

It is proposed to reconfigure the current carpark layout to increase parking capacity from 19 to 31 spaces. Should future funding be secured there is scope to further expand the carpark to a maximum of 43 spaces.

NPWS will investigate additional ways to improve traffic and parking management at this location, including park-user fees, permits and parking time restrictions.

The carpark in this precinct will continue to be closed from dusk-to-dawn. The existing fire management trail from Zenith Beach carpark to Fingal Bay will be retained for pedestrian access and vehicle use for park operations and cycling.



Box Beach carpark



Walking track to Box Beach



Box Beach carpark

**E** Existing

**P** Proposed



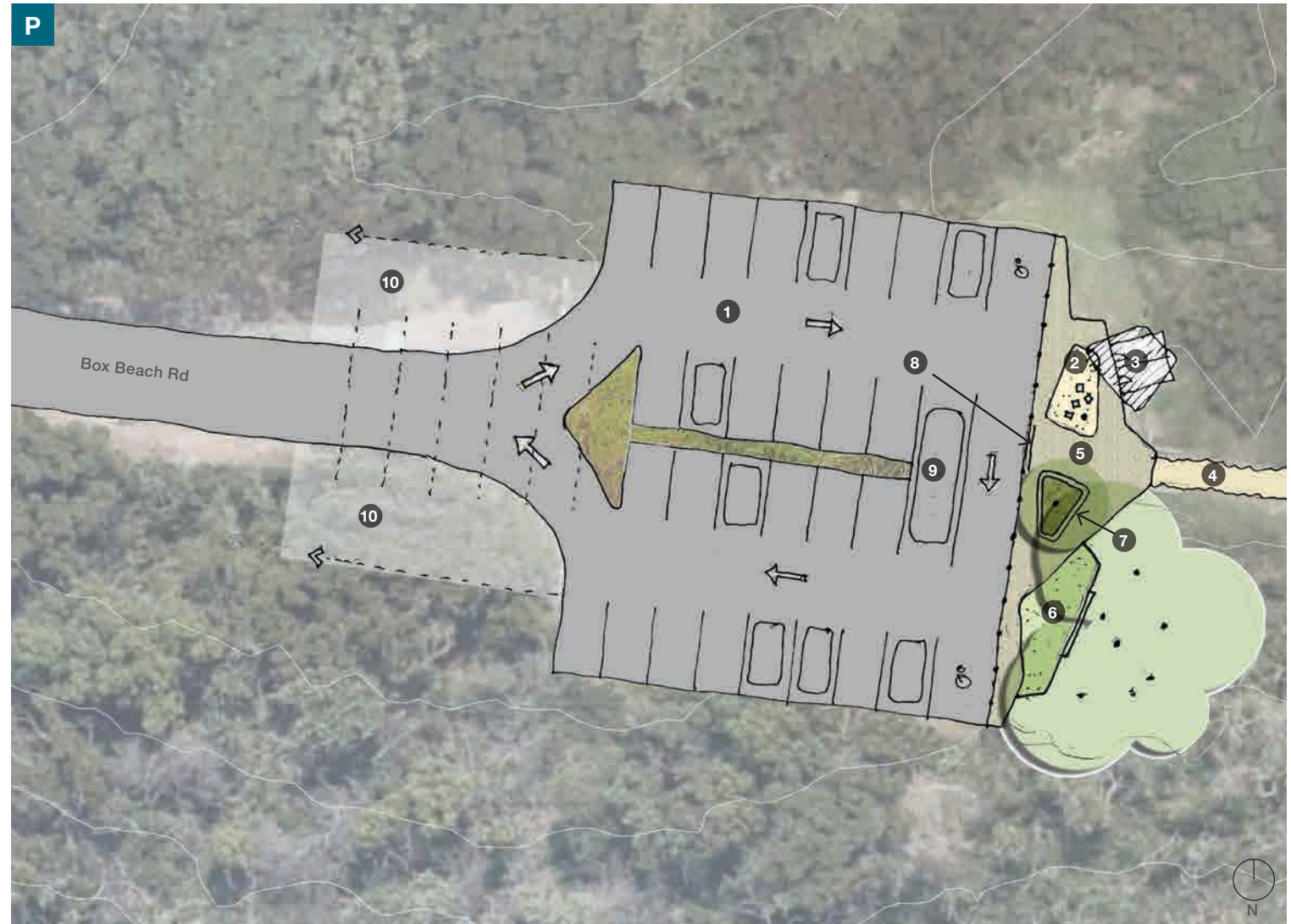
## Upgrade Box Beach carpark

### Existing (E)

- Poor arrival experience
- Aged signage
- Limited parking: 19 car spaces

### Proposed (P)

1. Re-orient parking bays to north-south alignment, increasing capacity to 31 spaces, and resurface carpark
2. Gravel seating and signage zone
3. New amenities building with wheelchair accessible double-stall toilets, integrated signage/trail information (coastal walk)
4. Existing beach access track
5. Beach entry node including 'of the coast' concrete pavement
6. Grassed area with long bench seating beneath canopy of existing trees
7. Raised concrete planter with seating edge



**Figure 24** Proposed carpark upgrade at Box Beach Precinct

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 8. Boom gate beach entry catering for small vehicle beach access | 10. Carpark future expansion option; would increase the number of spaces to 43 |
| 9. Pick-up and drop-off point                                    |  |

## Big Rocky Precinct

Big Rocky Precinct forms a vital link as part of the Tomaree Coastal Walk experience. Big Rocky marks the approximate halfway point on the Tomaree Coastal Walk and is the ideal location for a day visit and half-day walks.

The surrounding area is rich in heritage and is an ideal location to connect with Tomaree Coastal Walk.

Proposed upgrades to visitor facilities include improved access to walking tracks and the beach, upgraded parking, drop-off and pick-up points, toilets, interpretation, seating and viewing areas.

Improvements will also assist in dispersing visitors across the park by providing an alternate destination for visitors to experience.

The precinct will provide parking opportunities to those accessing the day use area, short walks or the overnight Tomaree Coastal Walk.

It is proposed to reconfigure the current carpark layout to increase parking capacity, improve drainage, and should future funding be secured, there is scope to further expand the carpark to a maximum of 31 spaces.

Four-wheel drive access to Big Rocky carpark will be maintained. NPWS will investigate additional ways to improve traffic management at the precinct.



Existing interpretation at Big Rocky carpark



Big Rocky carpark



Big Rocky coastline

**E** Existing

**P** Proposed



## Upgrade Big Rocky carpark

### Existing (E)

- Poor arrival experience with aged signage
- Informal parking amenity and visitor facilities
- Lack of amenity
- 15 existing car spaces

### Proposed (P)

1. Realign carpark to prevent vehicle 'burnouts'. Grade carpark levels to shed water. Increase parking spaces to 21
2. Gravel surface with end bay markers
3. Turning bays
4. Potential future extension; would increase parking spaces to 31 in total
5. Vegetated swales to capture and direct overland flow away from carpark
6. Concrete feeder path to entry node



**Figure 25** Proposed upgrades at Big Rocky Precinct

7. Entry node, amenities building, seating, signage
8. Coastal walk connection track

9. Revegetate
10. Wayfinding path intersection. Concrete pavement, signage and seating

11. Interpretation elements
12. Pick-up and drop-off point



## Big Rocky Beach area

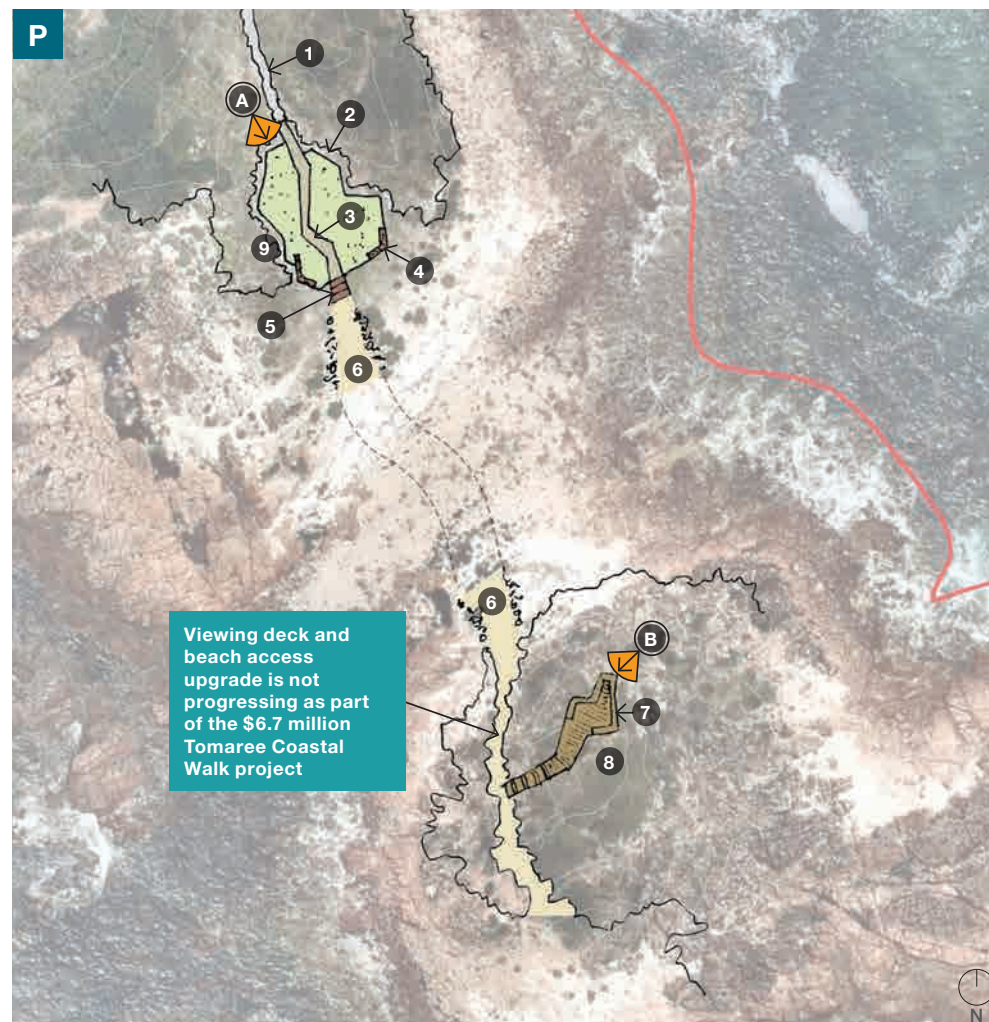
### Existing (E)

- Open panoramic views of the coastline
- Views and access to eroded headland islands
- High exposure to coastal elements
- Low windswept vegetation
- Lack of amenity

### Proposed (P)

1. Existing track retained
2. Formalise picnic area
3. New 'of the coast' track to beach access
4. Low stone viewing seats
5. Stone steps down to beach
6. Informal beach access/ connection (These works are not progressing as part of the \$6.7 million Tomaree Coastal Walk project)

7. Viewing deck on rocky knoll with perimeter seat (These works are not progressing as part of the \$6.7 million Tomaree Coastal Walk project)
8. Eradication of invasive weeds such as bitou bush, mother of millions, Chinese violet and pampas grass whilst prioritising protection of the natural environment required for surrounding bushland
9. Interpretation elements



**Figure 26** Proposed upgrades to Big Rocky Beach area

## Iris Moore Precinct

Iris Moore Precinct forms the southern gateway to Tomaree National Park and the spectacular 20-kilometre Tomaree Coastal Walk experience.

Iris Moore Reserve has been identified as an ideal location to provide improved low-key visitor facilities and access, such as a trailhead, parking, interpretation and day use facilities such as picnic tables.

The southern gateway and its short connection to Birubi Point offers a multitude of experiences to be explored, from short walks and improved connection to Birubi Point, Stockton Beach and Worimi Conservation Lands as well as new tracks to connect through to Boat Harbour.

Establishing new tracks between Iris Moore Reserve and Boat Harbour to connect to existing tracks will complete the 20-kilometre coastal walk. Upgrading and maintaining existing sections of the track will improve the visitor experience and, importantly, reduce environmental impacts.

The area is rich in cultural heritage with the walk traversing the Birubi Point Aboriginal Place. NPWS has worked closely with the Worimi community and undertaken extensive cultural heritage assessments through the planning phase of the project to ensure protection of cultural heritage items.

The Iris Moore Reserve will provide limited parking opportunities to those accessing the day use area and short walks.

NPWS is investigating ways to improve parking management in this precinct including formalising the Pacific Avenue carpark, adjacent to Birubi Point Historic Cemetery.



Iris Moore Reserve carpark



Rocky coastline at Iris Moore Reserve



Looking south to the Worimi Conservation Lands from Iris Moore Reserve

**E** Existing

**P** Proposed



## Upgrade Iris Moore Reserve

### Existing (E)

- Poor interfaces with surrounding residential areas
- Poor connections to key landscape features
- Poor park amenity and visitor facilities
- Nine existing carparks

### Proposed (P)

1. Stronger framing of the open space with vegetation to create sense of immersion in national park (screening buffer to adjacent residential)
2. Planting to provide shade and frame existing memorial plinth
3. Seating benches for convenience adjacent to carparking (place to put bag down while waiting, marshalling groups, etc.)
4. Landscaped screening of service infrastructure (access retained from roadway)

5. Picnic tables oriented to take in coastal views; shade from western sun provided with new tree planting
6. Pavement treatment celebrates coastal walk interface with park (interpretation opportunities); and also removes potential 'goat tracking' issue
7. Connect to coastal track
8. Direct route south to walking track
9. Existing drainage swale
10. Stepped tree planting to reduce visibility of houses in reserve
11. Interpretation elements



**Figure 27** Proposed upgrade to Iris Moore Reserve



## Pacific Avenue carpark

### Existing (E)

- Poor arrival experience
- Poor connections to coastal walk track and local beaches
- Aged signage
- Informal parking amenity and visitor facilities
- Approximately nine existing spaces

### Proposed (P)

1. Formalise asphalt road surface
2. Sealed bitumen parking zone with wheel stops; increasing to 14 car spaces
3. Turning head
4. Viewing seat
5. Coastal track formalised to concrete path around parking area
6. Parking surround; viewing area
7. Connection to coastal track
8. Existing beach connection tracks
9. Interpretation elements

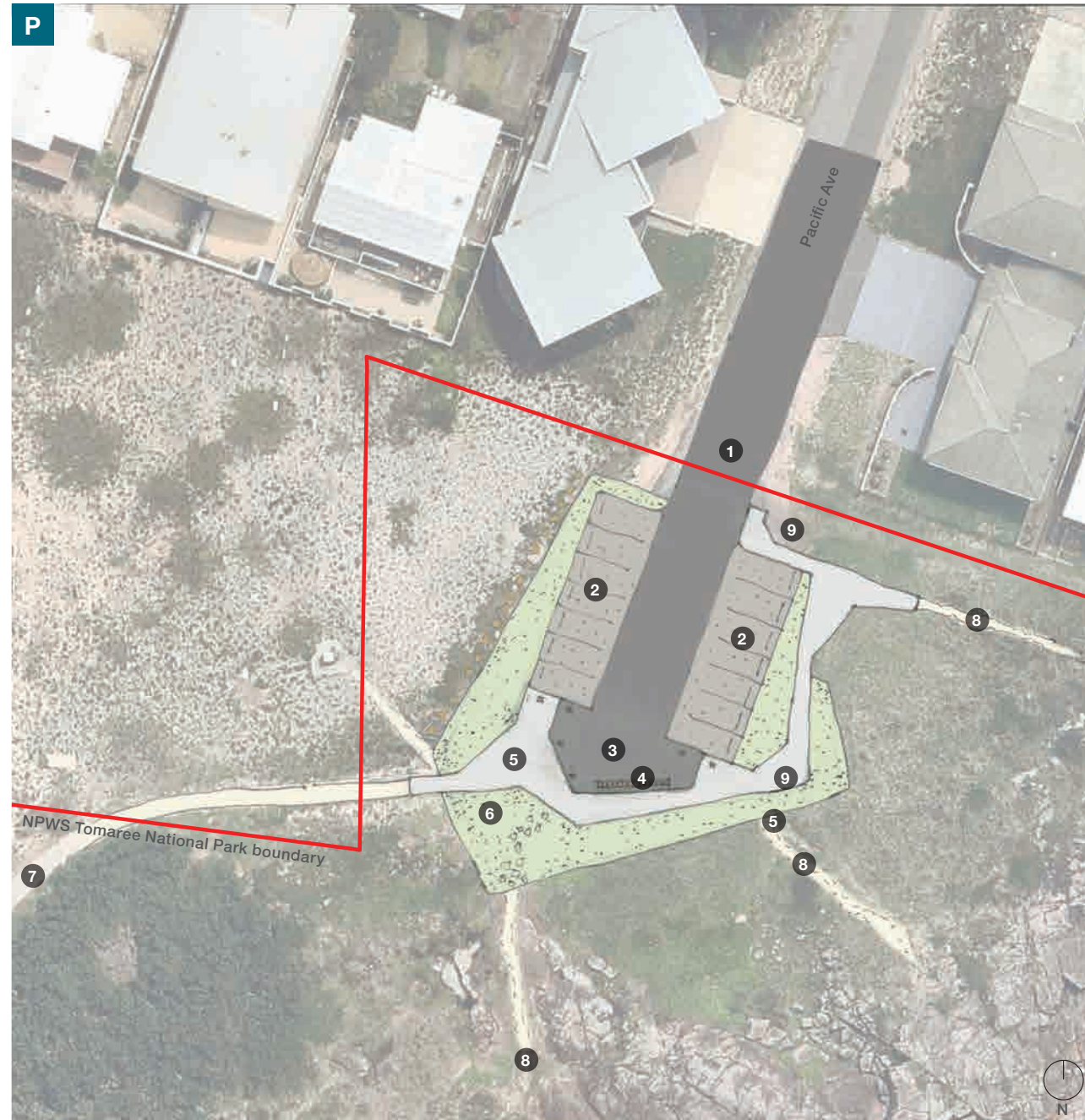


Figure 28 Proposed carpark at Pacific Avenue





## Southern gateway

### Existing (E)

- Lack of arrival experience at NPWS park entrance
- No identification of the coastal track
- Long view across Stockton Beach and Worimi Conservation Lands

### Proposed (P)

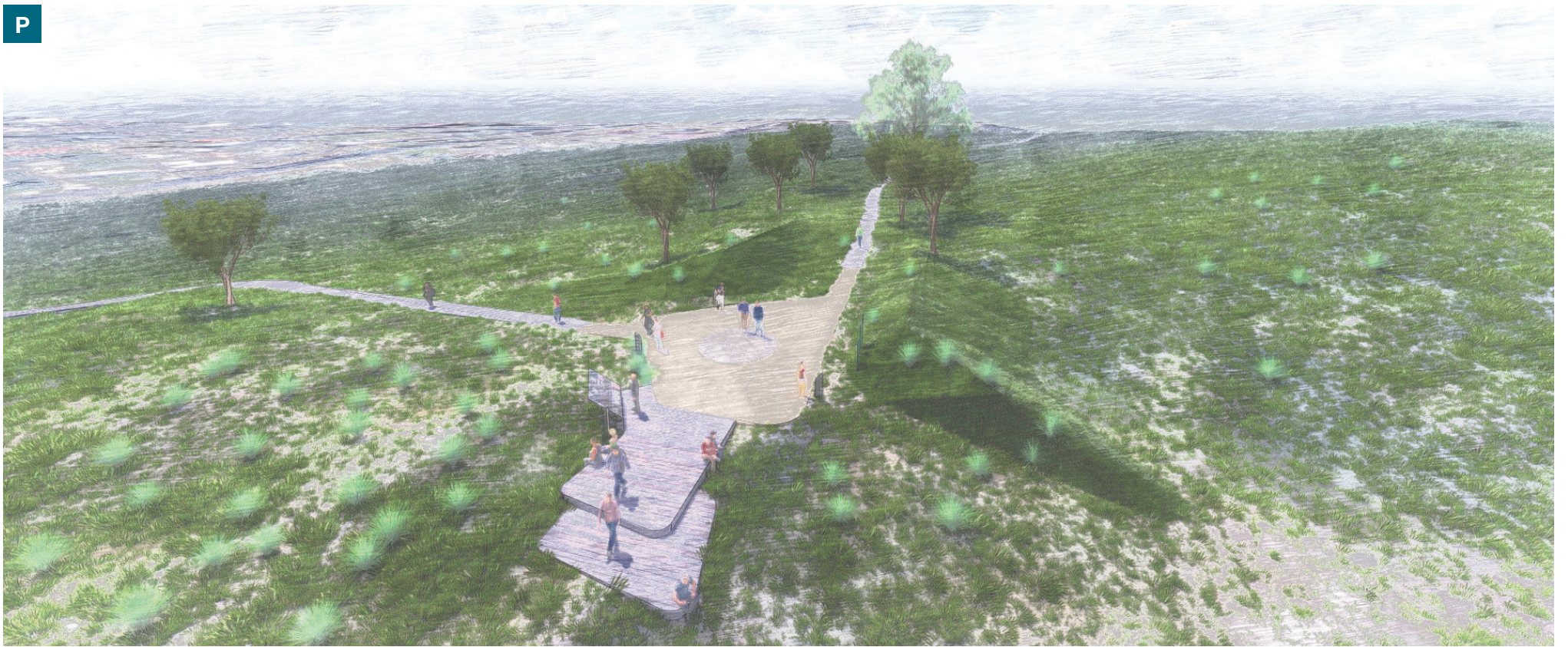
#### Existing tracks

1. Planted mounds to focus vista on Stockton Beach and Worimi Conservation Lands
2. New concrete pavement, opportunity to include interpretation element
3. Viewing deck, elevated seating overlooking Stockton Beach and Worimi Conservation Lands
4. Interpretation element
5. Interpretation element: Welcome to Country
6. Gateway signage: Tomaree National Park entry signage



**Figure 29** Proposed southern gateway near Birubi Point

P



Artist impression of proposed Southern Gateway

P



Artist impression of proposed Southern Gateway

P



Artist impression of proposed Southern Gateway

P



Artist impression of proposed Southern Gateway

## 5. Walking track maps



Artist impression of proposed upgrade  
at the WWII Gun Emplacement



1 : 40,000 @ A3

**Tomaree Coastal Walk**

Sheet 00 - Key plan

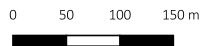
**Figure 30** Overview of Tomaree Coastal Walk maps

# Tomaree Coastal Walk

Sheet 01

Tomaree head to Zenith beach

1 : 5000 @A3



N

## Legend

-  Signage
-  Stairs
-  Rough track
-  Along walk interpretation
-  Entry interpretation
-  Picnic areas
-  Public toilets
-  Lookout
-  Water refill station shops
-  Shops
-  Parking
-  Proposed alignment along fire trail
-  Alternate alignment along fire trail
-  Alternate alignment
-  Maintain existing track
-  Upgrade existing track
-  Construct new track
-  Not part of current \$6.7M funding
-  Off park connection
-  Existing zenith beach loop road



The proposed route on the eastern side of Stephens Peak is not progressing as part of the \$6.7m Tomaree coastal walk project.

Track alignment is indicative

Figure 31 Map 1, Tomaree Head to Zenith Beach

REFER TO SHEET 02



# Tomaree Coastal Walk

## Sheet 02 Zenith Beach to Box Beach

1 : 5000 @A3



### Legend

- Signage
- Stairs
- Rough track
- Along walk interpretation
- Entry interpretation
- Picnic areas
- Public toilets
- Lookout
- Water refill station
- Shops
- Parking
- Proposed alignment along fire trail
- Alternate alignment along fire trail
- Alternate alignment
- Maintain existing track
- Upgrade existing track
- Construct new track
- Not part of current \$6.7M funding
- Off park connection
- Existing zenith beach loop road

Track alignment is indicative

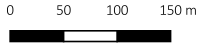
Figure 32 Map 2, Zenith Beach to Box Beach






















# Tomaree Coastal Walk

Sheet 03  
Box Beach to Fingal Spit

1 : 5000 @ A3

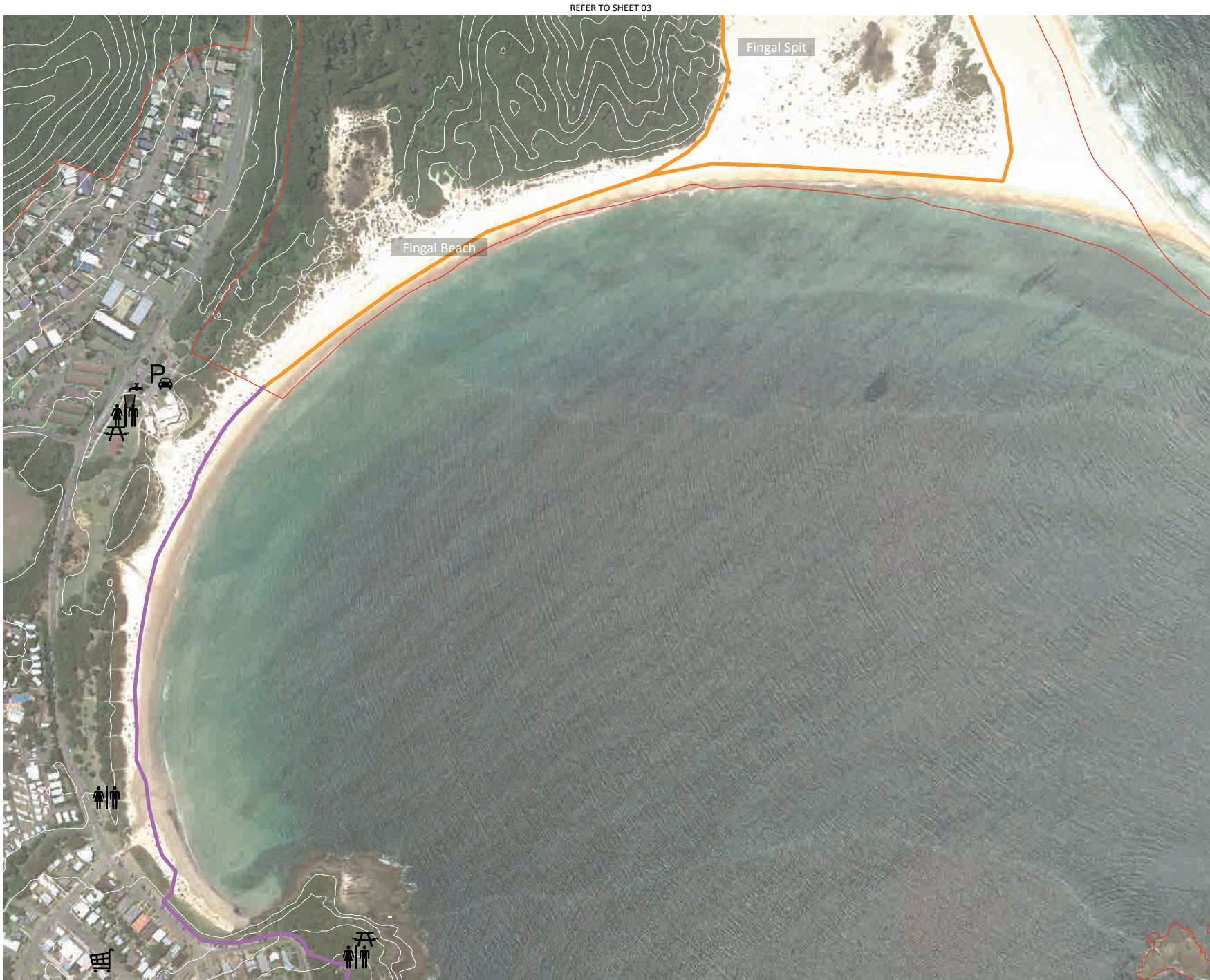


## Legend

-  Signage
-  Stairs
-  Rough track
-  Along walk interpretation
-  Entry interpretation
-  Picnic areas
-  Public toilets
-  Lookout
-  Water refill station
-  Shops
-  Parking
-  Proposed alignment along fire trail
-  Alternate alignment along fire trail
-  Alternate alignment
-  Maintain existing track
-  Upgrade existing track
-  Construct new track
-  Not part of current \$6.7M funding
-  Off park connection

Track alignment is indicative

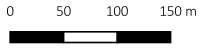
Figure 33 Map 3, Box Beach to Fingal Spit






















# Tomaree Coastal Walk

Sheet 04  
Fingal Spit to Fingal Bay

1 : 5000 @A3



## Legend

-  Signage
-  Stairs
-  Rough track
-  Along walk interpretation
-  Entry interpretation
-  Picnic areas
-  Public toilets
-  Lookout
-  Water refill station
-  Shops
-  Parking
-  Proposed alignment along fire trail
-  Alternate alignment along fire trail
-  Alternate alignment
-  Maintain existing track
-  Upgrade existing track
-  Construct new track
-  Not part of current \$6.7M funding
-  Off park connection

Track alignment is indicative

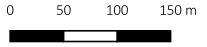
Figure 34 Map 4, Fingal Spit to Fingal Bay





















# Tomaree Coastal Walk

Sheet 05  
Fingal Bay to Fingal Point

1 : 5000 @ A3



## Legend

-  Signage
-  Stairs
-  Rough track
-  Along walk interpretation
-  Entry interpretation
-  Picnic areas
-  Public toilets
-  Lookout
-  Water refill station
-  Shops
-  Parking
-  Proposed alignment along fire trail
-  Alternate alignment along fire trail
-  Alternate alignment
-  Maintain existing track
-  Upgrade existing track
-  Construct new track
-  Not part of current \$6.7M funding
-  Off park connection

Track alignment is indicative

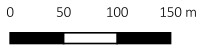


Figure 35 Map 5, Fingal Bay to Fingal Point




















# Tomaree Coastal Walk

Sheet 06  
Fingal Point to Snapper Point

1 : 5000 @A3



## Legend

-  Signage
-  Stairs
-  Rough track
-  Along walk interpretation
-  Entry interpretation
-  Picnic areas
-  Public toilets
-  Lookout
-  Water refill station
-  Shops
-  Parking
-  Proposed alignment along fire trail
-  Alternate alignment along fire trail
-  Alternate alignment
-  Maintain existing track
-  Upgrade existing track
-  Construct new track
-  Not part of current \$6.7M funding
-  Off park connection

Track alignment is indicative



REFER TO SHEET 07

REFER TO SHEET 05

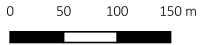
Figure 36 Map 6, Fingal Point to Snapper Point

# Tomaree Coastal Walk




















Sheet 07

Snapper Point to Big Rocky

1 : 5000 @A3



## Legend

-  Signage
-  Stairs
-  Rough track
-  Along walk interpretation
-  Entry interpretation
-  Picnic areas
-  Public toilets
-  Lookout
-  Water refill station
-  Shops
-  Parking - 4WD
-  Proposed alignment along fire trail
-  Alternate alignment along fire trail
-  Alternate alignment
-  Maintain existing track
-  Upgrade existing track
-  Construct new track
-  Not part of current \$6.7M funding
-  Off park connection

Track alignment is indicative



Koala loop track is not progressing as part of the \$6.7m tomaree coastal walk project.

Proposed work at big rocky lookout is not progressing as part of the \$6.7m tomaree coastal walk project.

Big Rocky carpark

Big Rocky

REFER TO SHEET 08

REFER TO SHEET 06

Figure 37 Map 7, Snapper Point to Big Rocky



# Tomaree Coastal Walk

Sheet 08  
Big Rocky to Samurai Beach

1 : 5000 @A3



## Legend

- Signage
- Stairs
- Rough track
- Along walk interpretation
- Entry interpretation
- Picnic areas
- Public toilets
- Lookout
- Water refill station
- Shops
- Parking
- Proposed alignment along fire trail
- Alternate alignment along fire trail
- Alternate alignment
- Maintain existing track
- Upgrade existing track
- Construct new track
- Not part of current \$6.7M funding
- Off park connection

Track alignment is indicative

Figure 38 Map 8, Big Rocky to Samurai Beach



# Tomaree Coastal Walk

Sheet 09

Samurai Beach to Samurai Point

1 : 5000 @A3



### Legend

- Signage
- Stairs
- Rough track
- Along walk interpretation
- Entry interpretation
- Picnic areas
- Public toilets
- Lookout
- Water refill station
- Shops
- Parking
- Proposed alignment along fire trail
- Alternate alignment along fire trail
- Alternate alignment
- Maintain existing track
- Upgrade existing track
- Construct new track
- Not part of current \$6.7M funding
- Off park connection

Track alignment is indicative

Figure 39 Map 9, Samurai Beach to Samurai Point

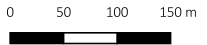


# Tomaree Coastal Walk

Sheet 10

Samurai Point to One Mile Beach

1 : 5000 @A3



## Legend

- Signage
- Stairs
- Rough track
- Along walk interpretation
- Entry interpretation
- Picnic areas
- Public toilets
- Lookout
- Water refill station
- Shops
- Parking
- Proposed alignment along fire trail
- Alternate alignment along fire trail
- Alternate alignment
- Maintain existing track
- Upgrade existing track
- Construct new track
- Not part of current \$6.7M funding
- Off park connection

Track alignment is indicative

Figure 40 Map 10, Samurai Point to One Mile Beach



# Tomaree Coastal Walk

## Sheet 11

### One Mile Beach to Boat Harbour Headland

1 : 5000 @A3



#### Legend

- Signage
- Stairs
- Rough track
- Along walk interpretation
- Entry interpretation
- Picnic areas
- Public toilets
- Lookout
- Water refill station
- Shops
- Parking
- Proposed alignment along fire trail
- Alternate alignment along fire trail
- Alternate alignment
- Maintain existing track
- Upgrade existing track
- Construct new track
- Not part of current \$6.7m funding
- Off park connection

Track alignment is indicative

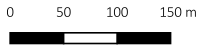
Figure 41 Map 11, One Mile Beach to Boat Harbour Headland

# Tomaree Coastal Walk















Sheet 12

Boat Harbour Headland to Iris Moore

1 : 5000 @A3



## Legend

-  Signage
-  Stairs
-  Rough track
-  Along walk interpretation
-  Entry interpretation
-  Picnic areas
-  Public toilets
-  Lookout
-  Water refill station
-  Shops
-  Parking
-  Proposed alignment along fire trail
-  Alternate alignment along fire trail
-  Alternate alignment
-  Maintain existing track
-  Upgrade existing track
-  Construct new track
-  Not part of current \$6.7M funding
-  Off park connection

Track alignment is indicative

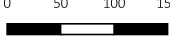


Figure 42 Map 12, Boat Harbour Headland to Iris Moore






















# Tomaree Coastal Walk

Sheet 13  
Iris Moore to Birubi Beach

1 : 5000 @ A3 



## Legend

-  Signage
-  Stairs
-  Rough track
-  Along walk interpretation
-  Entry interpretation
-  Picnic areas
-  Public toilets
-  Lookout
-  Water refill station
-  Shops
-  Parking
-  Proposed alignment along fire trail
-  Alternate alignment along fire trail
-  Alternate alignment
-  Maintain existing track
-  Upgrade existing track
-  Construct new track
-  Not part of current \$6.7M funding
-  Off park connection

Track alignment is indicative

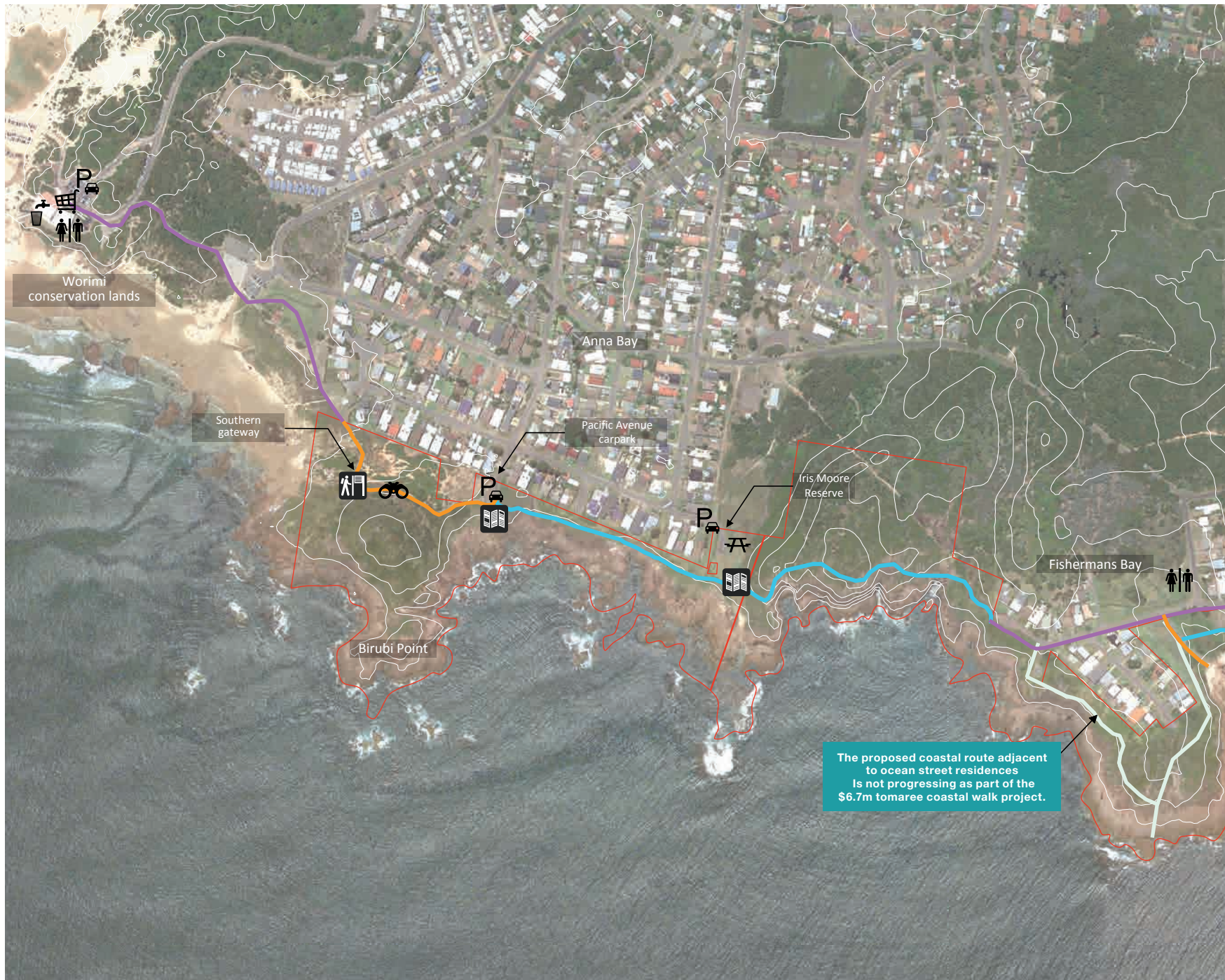


Figure 43 Map 13, Iris Moore to Birubi Beach



Destination NSW/DPIE



Destination NSW/DPIE



View from Tomaree Summit in Tomaree National Park  
Destination Port Stephens/DPIE