



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Barunguba Montague Island Nature Reserve

Draft plan of management



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Cover photo: Greater crested terns on Barunguba Montague Island. Stuart Cohen/DPE

This document is a draft for public comment. The provisions in the final plan may differ from the provisions of this draft document.

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Have your say

We want to know what you think about this draft plan. To give us feedback, please send a written submission via:



the [online submission form](#)



email to npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au



post to Manager, Planning and Assessment, National Parks and Wildlife Service,
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124.

Written submissions must be received by 20 November 2023.

Our response to your submission will be based on the merits of the ideas and issues you raise, rather than the quantity of submissions making similar points. For this reason, a submission that clearly explains the matters it raises will be the most effective way to influence the finalisation of the plan.

Submissions are most effective when we understand your ideas and the outcomes you want for park management. Some suggestions to help you write your submissions are:

- write clearly and be specific about the issues that are of concern to you
- note which part or section of the document your comments relate to
- give reasoning in support of your points – this makes it easier for us to consider your ideas and will help avoid misinterpretation
- tell us specifically what you agree or disagree with and why you agree or disagree
- suggest solutions or alternatives to managing the issue if you can.

What happens to your feedback?

- Step 1: At the close of the public exhibition period, we consider all submissions and prepare a submissions report.
- Step 2: We provide the relevant advisory committees with the draft plan, all of the submissions and the submissions report. They consider the documents, make comments on the plan or suggest changes, and provide advice to the Minister.
- Step 3: The Minister considers the plan, submissions and advice, makes any necessary changes and decides whether to adopt the plan under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Your privacy

Your submission will be provided to NPWS advisory bodies. Your comments on the draft plan may include personal information. The Department of Planning and Environment complies with the *NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*, which regulates the collection, storage, quality, use and disclosure of personal information. For details, see our privacy statement (see link in the 'More information' section).

Information that identifies you may be gathered when you use our website or send us an email. If you indicate in your written submission that you object to your submission being made public, we will ask you before releasing your submission in response to any access applications under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

How to use this plan

Once adopted, this plan of management will direct the future management of Barunguba Montague Island Nature Reserve (also referred to as 'the park') and will replace the current plan of management (adopted in 1995) and 2 subsequent amendments to the plan (in 2003 and 2009). This plan includes a scheme of operations consistent with section 72AA of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Once the plan is adopted, no management operations can be undertaken that are not consistent with the plan and its scheme of operations. This plan will also apply to any future additions to Barunguba Montague Island Nature Reserve.

Sections 1 to 5 of the plan summarise the park's key values, management principles and management considerations. These matters are outlined thoroughly in the *Barunguba Montague Island Nature Reserve planning considerations* report. **It is recommended that readers of the plan refer to the planning considerations report for detailed explanations of the park's values and management considerations.**

The scheme of operations (Section 6) is the core part of this plan. It describes the desired outcomes for the park's values and actions that National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) proposes to undertake to achieve these outcomes.

The park use regulations tables (Section 7) set out the recreational and commercial activities that are permitted in the park and any requirements to undertake these activities, including whether consent must be sought from NPWS.

Acknowledgements

Barunguba Montague Island Nature Reserve is in the traditional Country of the Yuin People.

This plan of management was prepared by NPWS, with assistance from relevant stakeholders.

Contact us

For more information about this plan of management or Barunguba Montague Island Nature Reserve, contact NPWS at npws.eurobodalla@environment.nsw.gov.au, PO Box 4282 Narooma NSW 2546 or by telephone on 02 4476 0800.

Acknowledgement of Country

Barunguba Montague Island is Yuin Country. Aboriginal people have a deep spiritual and cultural connection to this Country. Their ancestors have lived here for thousands of years and, in doing so, form part of this living landscape.

Barunguba Montague Island is an integral part of a rich and complex cultural landscape that is of profound significance. The rights of the Yuin People, their enduring connections to Country and their aspirations for their Country are acknowledged and respected.



Figure 1 Map of Barunguba Montague Island Nature Reserve

Barunguba Montague Island Nature Reserve

Barunguba Montague Island Nature Reserve (also referred to as ‘the park’) is located on Barunguba Montague Island, an island in the Tasman Sea, approximately 9 km south-east of Narooma on the Far South Coast of New South Wales (NSW) (see Figure 1). The park has 2 elevated sections, commonly referred to as the north and south ‘islands’, divided by a ravine. It was reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act (as ‘Montague Island Nature Reserve’) in January 1990. A small lot of land containing the Montague Island Lighthouse was initially excluded from the park but was reserved in March 2003. Since that time, the park has comprised the entire island, above the mean high water mark, encompassing a total area of 82 ha.

Place names help to convey the significance, a sense of history and the identity of a place. The island was officially dual named in 2021, followed by the park in 2023, to recognise the significance of the island to Aboriginal people and their continuing connection to Country. Dual naming will help promote this significance and connection to the broader community.

The landscape of Barunguba Montague Island is characterised by exposed and weathered granitic rock and marine sands. Soils formed on the island are coarse textured and range in depth, though where moderately deep, allow seabird burrowing. The marine environment around the island hosts rich kelp forests and a broad range of fish and other aquatic organisms. The proximity to the continental shelf and cooler waters originating from southern Australia, mixing with the warm East Australian Current, contribute to this marine diversity.

Barunguba Montague Island protects one of the largest little penguin colonies in New South Wales, the largest aggregation of fur seals on the NSW coast and provides habitat for many seabirds. It is a declared asset of intergenerational significance for the endangered Gould’s petrel. The coastal region around Narooma supports agriculture, fishing and forestry, and high levels of seasonal tourism.

In 2014, the park was included on the Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, established by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, recognising excellence in protected area management.

Barunguba Montague Island lies within the Batemans Marine Park, established in 2006 and managed under the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014* by the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Table 1 The park and its regional setting

Features	Description
Area	82 ha, above the mean high water mark.
Reservation date	The park was first reserved in January 1990. The small lot containing the lighthouse was retained by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority until March 2003 when it was reserved as part of the park.
Previous tenure	Crown land.
Biogeographic region	The park lies in the Bateman Subregion, South East Corner Biogeographic Region.

Why this park is important

Important habitat for nesting seabirds

Barunguba Montague Island provides important habitat for nesting seabirds. The island is home to one of the largest colonies of little penguins in New South Wales. Large colonies of short-tailed shearwaters, wedge-tailed shearwaters, greater crested terns and silver gulls also breed on the island.

Targeted pest control works have removed rabbits, goats and mice from Barunguba Montague Island and created a vertebrate pest-free environment. Along with the removal of these feral animals, extensive weed control (especially control of kikuyu grass) and revegetation works have improved seabird habitat, and now white-faced storm-petrel and threatened Gould's petrel are successfully breeding on the island. The park is a declared asset of international significance for important Gould's petrel habitat.

Marine mammals

The rocky shoreline and island fringes provide a haul-out and breeding site for Australian fur seals and long-nosed fur seals. Barunguba Montague Island is home to the largest aggregation of fur seals on the NSW coast and is the most northerly breeding site for fur seals on the east coast of Australia.

Important Aboriginal cultural landscape

The declaration of Barunguba Aboriginal Place recognises the importance of the island as a very significant ceremonial area and a significant resource gathering place. The declaration also recognises the special song lines connecting Barunguba Montague Island to the mainland, especially to Gulaga Mount Dromedary.

Dual naming of the island and the park also recognises and promotes the significance of the island for Aboriginal people and their continuing connection to Country.

Significant historic heritage

Montague Island Lighthouse, designed in the late 19th century by NSW Colonial Architect James Barnet, is an important part of the 'highway lights' of the east coast. The lighthouse, residences, gardens and graves are demonstrative of the island's rich European maritime history. The lightstation (which includes the lighthouse, residences, and other buildings) and its setting is listed on the NSW State Heritage Register; the lighthouse itself, managed under the control of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, is listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List.

Environmental education and tourism

Barunguba Montague Island is an extremely attractive visitor destination. It is remote from development on the mainland, relatively wild, teeming with seabirds and marine life, and rich with Aboriginal and historic heritage.

Public visitation is restricted to visitors on authorised short-duration tours and a small number of pre-booked commercial overnight guests. Authorised tours provide an excellent opportunity for visitors to appreciate, enjoy and understand the island's natural and cultural values.

Significant research and monitoring opportunities

Barunguba Montague Island has a history of environmental research, and the island continues to be a popular destination for researchers. Several long-term monitoring programs have been, or continue to be, run on the island. Research and monitoring provide valuable information for park managers to improve decision-making and better manage the island's precious natural and cultural heritage values.

Management principles

Development of the objectives, actions and regulations in this plan has been directed by the management principles outlined in the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The National Parks and Wildlife Act requires that a nature reserve be managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem function, protect geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena
- conserve places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value
- promote public appreciation, enjoyment and understanding of the nature reserve's natural and cultural values
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

1. Protecting the natural environment

Yuin People have cared for Country in and around Barunguba Montague Island for countless generations. For its traditional custodians, Barunguba is part of a social and cultural complex that connects Barunguba to Gulaga Mount Dromedary and Najanuka Little Dromedary Mountain through song lines. Section 2 provides more detail about the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of Barunguba and its connections to Gulaga and Najanuka.

Western scientists also recognise a connection between Gulaga, Najanuka and Barunguba. According to geologists, Gulaga is an ancient volcano that formed Barunguba and Najanuka around 90 million years ago. They consider Gulaga, Barunguba and Najanuka to be part of the Cretaceous age **Mount Dromedary Igneous Complex** geological formation, which extends across some 40 km². The southern part of Barunguba Montague Island is banatite, while the northern part is older andesite lava and tuffs. Over time, the area between the 2 rock formations has eroded to form a ravine between the 2 elevated sections of the island, commonly referred to as the north and south islands.

Over the last 150 years or so, the **vegetation** on Barunguba Montague Island has been significantly altered in 3 key phases: firstly, removal of trees and shrubs; secondly, the introduction of exotic plants, including grasses for lawns and stock feed; and thirdly, rehabilitation to restore seabird habitat.

Early records, dating from the construction of the lighthouse, describe scrub, trees and grass. However, the introduction of rabbits and goats onto the island as an emergency food supply for shipwrecked sailors in the mid to late 1800s, and the felling of trees to supplement coal supplies for heating and cooking at the lightstation, changed the vegetation significantly. By 1908, only a few ragged trees remained. By 1932, trees were no longer present and native shrubs such as coastal rosemary, white correa, sea berry saltbush and sea box persisted only along sections of the cliffs inaccessible to rabbits and goats.

Following the disappearance of woody plants, the island's vegetation was dominated by spiny-headed mat-rush. Bracken and coast tussock grass were also widespread and, in some places, locally dominant.

Introduced plants have had a considerable impact on the island's vegetation. Some species were deliberately introduced to stabilise sand or for stock feed, while others were accidentally introduced.

Kikuyu grass, which forms dense mats, smothering native vegetation and adversely impacting seabird habitat, was first introduced onto Barunguba Montague Island in the early 1900s. By 2001 kikuyu covered close to 40% of the park's vegetated area and control efforts were the subject of detailed research, which culminated in the development and implementation of the **Seabird Habitat Restoration Project**, an integrated pest management approach combining the use of herbicides, prescribed fire and revegetation.

The Seabird Habitat Restoration Project, which began in 2001, has significantly reduced the extent and impact of kikuyu and planted tens of thousands of native plants. A nursery will be maintained on the island to house seedlings and provide native plants for ongoing revegetation and habitat restoration work. A plan, informed by research and monitoring, will be developed to guide that work.

While the extent and impacts of kikuyu have been significantly reduced, work continues to suppress its regrowth. **Exotic vines** such as rambling dock, dolichos pea, morning glory, madeira vine and cape ivy are also present and require ongoing management.

Barunguba Montague Island supports a diverse assemblage of native animals. **Nine threatened species** listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* have been recorded and a further **8 are listed as migratory** under international agreements upheld by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Several seabird species, including threatened species, breed on the island. An estimated 15,000 pairs of **shearwaters** breed annually on Barunguba Montague Island. The number of shearwater fledglings produced on Barunguba Montague Island each year has been recorded since the early 1960s in one of the longest, continuous seabird studies in the world. Records show considerable variability in breeding success – from over 2,000 chicks fledged per hectare in some years, to catastrophic breeding failure in other years such as when extreme summer rainfalls flooded burrows. While the number of fledglings produced is variable, the long-term data shows a gradual decline in the dominance of short-tailed shearwaters and an increase in the proportion of wedge-tailed shearwaters. Sooty shearwaters also nest on the island, maintaining very low numbers (less than 1% of burrows in all years).

Other threatened birds known to breed on Barunguba Montague Island include **Gould's petrel** and **sooty oystercatcher**. Gould's petrel was first discovered breeding on the island in 2012 and their numbers are increasing. The presence of Gould's petrel in the park is attributed to conservation efforts on Cabbage Tree Island at Port Stephens, which enabled a population recovery there, leading to birds dispersing to other suitable islands. The presence of Gould's petrel is also due to the successful removal of vertebrate pests (goats, mice and rabbits) and restoration of seabird habitat on Barunguba Montague Island.

Barunguba Montague Island has been identified as an asset of intergenerational significance for the protection of Gould's petrel and their habitat. A **conservation action plan**, which includes actions to protect and monitor Gould's petrel on the island, has been prepared and will be implemented.



Photo 1 Greater crested terns and chicks on Barunguba Montague Island. Stuart Cohen/DPE

White-faced storm-petrel were first observed on the island in 2012. Removal of vertebrate pests and restoration of seabird habitat, particularly regeneration of sea berry saltbush, has created more favourable conditions for this species.

Little penguins reside on Barunguba Montague Island throughout the year and nest in burrows densely positioned amongst mat-rush and coast tussock grass. The island is home to one of the largest colonies of little penguins in New South Wales – with estimates of between 3,500 and 7,000 breeding pairs annually since 1992. Two large nesting colonies of **greater crested tern** and **silver gull** occur from September to January, with both species having up to 2,000 breeding pairs annually.

Barunguba Montague Island is an important site for **Australian fur seal and long-nosed fur seal**. The largest aggregation of fur seals on the NSW coast occurs on the island, and both species breed on the island. The surrounding Batemans Marine Park contains a diverse range of marine fauna, including migrating whales, turtles, seals, pelagic fish and crustaceans.

In the past, natural values on Barunguba Montague Island have been adversely impacted by pest animals. Focussed control efforts led to the eradication of rabbits, goats and mice and in 2009, the park was declared **vertebrate pest-free**. Maintaining this pest-free status is critical to protect the park's biodiversity. A **biosecurity plan** will be prepared to identify actions to minimise the potential for the introduction and establishment of new weeds, pest animals or pathogens into the park. It will include emergency response procedures to potential biosecurity threats and will be reviewed and updated periodically.

Climate change is forecast to lead to sea level rise, increased sea and air temperatures, more frequent and more intense storm activity, and more frequent and more intense wildfires. These and other effects of climate change may adversely impact the island's native plants and animals and Aboriginal heritage, particularly sites located close to sea level. There is potential for climate change to adversely impact historic heritage. Visits to the island for tourism, research and management may also be adversely impacted by climate change.

A climate change impact assessment will identify park values and locations at risk to ensure the potential impacts from climate change are clearly understood. The values and locations at risk will be monitored, and mitigation measures implemented, where practicable and where they are likely to be effective.

Wildfire, despite being a relatively rare occurrence on Barunguba Montague Island, poses a threat to park visitors, to nesting seabirds and to Aboriginal and historic heritage values. For example, a significant fire moving through seabird nesting areas during nesting season would likely cause extensive loss of eggs and young birds. Adult little penguins would also probably perish. Climate change may lead to more frequent and more intense wildfires.

Prescribed fire and mechanical hazard reduction may be used to help reduce the risks of wildfire to park visitors, nesting seabirds, and Aboriginal and historic heritage sites. For example, mechanical hazard reduction will be used in the asset protection zone at the lightstation to maintain reduced fuel loads and protect historic heritage assets. Prescribed fire has been a critical component of the integrated pest management approach taken to control kikuyu and restore seabird habitat. While prescribed fire will play less of a role in integrated weed control, it will continue to be used on the island for ecological and hazard reduction purposes.

A **fire management strategy** has been prepared for the park. The strategy outlines the island's fire history, key assets, including sites of natural and cultural heritage value, fire management zones and fire control advantages such as management trails and water supply points. The park fire management strategy will be reviewed to consider appropriate fire regimes that acknowledge the changes in vegetation occurring on the island and the presence of threatened and other key species, such as Gould's petrel.

Visitation and inappropriate visitor behaviour may adversely impact native animals and their habitat. NPWS will closely manage visitation on the island to protect native plants and animals, and Aboriginal and historic heritage values (see Section 3).

The park has an extended history of environmental **research and monitoring**, including long-term monitoring programs for shearwaters and extensive research on little penguins. A research and monitoring strategy will be prepared to identify key areas for future research and enhance our understanding of the natural and cultural values of the park.

2. Looking after culture and heritage

Yuin People have lived in the Eurobodalla area for many thousands of years. There is a long and continuing connection between Aboriginal peoples and Barunguba, stretching back to the time before the sea level rose, when the island was part of the mainland. This continuing connection to Country was formally recognised in 2018 by the declaration of **Barunguba Aboriginal Place** over most of the island (excluding operational areas such as the lighthouse precinct and the track and trail network).

The island was officially dual named in 2021 by the Geographical Names Board of NSW in recognition of the significance of the island for Aboriginal people and their continuing connection to Country. The park was renamed with the dual name in 2023. Dual naming can help reawaken Aboriginal language and provide a sense of belonging and identity.

Barunguba is part of a social and cultural landscape including Gulaga, Najanuka and Biamanga. Barunguba, Najanuka and Gulaga are connected through song lines.

Barunguba is an important place for cultural lore and learning, particularly for Aboriginal men. Barunguba is an important seasonal food source for the entire Aboriginal community and has been for many generations, with Yuin People travelling to Barunguba in summer to feast on shearwater ('muttonbird') chicks, and also eating seals, shellfish, eggs and fish. Natural freshwater springs allowed long stays on the island and have considerable heritage value.

Aboriginal sites are places with evidence of Aboriginal occupation or that are related to other aspects of Aboriginal culture. They are important as evidence of Aboriginal history and as part of the culture of local Aboriginal people. There are currently 69 recorded Aboriginal sites on Barunguba. The sites predominantly consist of stone artefact material and shell middens.

Although the NSW Government has legal responsibility for the protection of Aboriginal sites and places, NPWS acknowledges the right of Aboriginal people to make decisions about their heritage. NPWS also supports NSW Government policies that aim to support employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples and sustainable Aboriginal business growth through government procurement of construction, goods and services. Aboriginal people will be provided opportunities to access Country, and to maintain, renew or develop cultural practices and associations. NPWS will work with the Aboriginal community to develop mechanisms, such as an ongoing forum or partnership arrangement, for ongoing involvement in park management. Opportunities for the Aboriginal community to be more involved in the provision of tours and educational services to visitors will also be encouraged.

NPWS will also support the community to prepare and implement a management plan for Barunguba Aboriginal Place.

In addition to its rich Aboriginal heritage, the island has an extensive historic heritage, commencing with the first recorded European sighting by James Cook in 1770. Since then, the island has played an important role in coastal shipping through the design, construction and operation of the lightstation, and hosted extensive research into key biological values and testing of technical equipment by the Royal Australian Navy.

As coastal shipping increased significantly along the east coast throughout the 1800s, pressure mounted for navigational aids on prominent headlands and near-shore islands. A series of lighthouses between Green Cape and Cape Byron were constructed between 1875 and 1903. The **Montague Island Lighthouse**, part of this 'coastal highway', commenced operation in 1881. Together with the residences and other infrastructure it forms a significant component of the island's historic heritage. The lighthouse is listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List; and the lightstation, which includes the lighthouse, residences and other

buildings, is listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. A conservation management plan has been prepared for the park and NPWS will continue to implement its recommendations. However, many recommendations have already been implemented and the plan requires review and updating. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority has prepared and is implementing a separate management plan for the lighthouse consistent with the requirements for a site on the Commonwealth Heritage List.



Photo 2 Aerial view of the lightstation complex. Daniel Tran/DPE

NPWS maintains a full-time staff presence on the island to assist with protection of the park's cultural and natural values. The residences at the lightstation are used to house NPWS and other agency staff and contractors, volunteers and researchers. They have been adaptively reused to provide accommodation for commercial overnight guests. NPWS will also consider adaptive reuse of other buildings in the lightstation complex for accommodation or other suitable purposes provided this remains consistent with the conservation management plan.

As a component of its work to protect the park's historic heritage, NPWS will endeavour to interpret and promote understanding of the history of the island and its historic heritage values. This could include seeking opportunities to better interpret how lighthouse keepers and their families lived on the island, including their use of vegetable gardens.

3. Providing for visitor use and enjoyment

Barunguba Montague Island Nature Reserve is a popular visitor destination because it provides a unique experience and an excellent opportunity to gain an appreciation and an understanding of the natural and cultural values of the park. It is also visited by Aboriginal people for cultural purposes, and by agency staff and contractors, volunteers and researchers.

However, visitation has potential to impact on a range of park values. Native animals, especially little penguins, other seabirds and seals, and the vegetation that provides habitat for seabirds, may be vulnerable to visitation. Cultural heritage sites, including Aboriginal and historic heritage sites, may also be impacted by visitation.

To facilitate a sustainable level of visitation, public visitors can only access the park if they are part of an authorised short-duration tour accompanied by an NPWS authorised guide, or if they are pre-booked overnight guests. Confining access to appropriate areas further limits the footprint of visitors, and setting limits to visitor numbers also helps to facilitate sustainable visitation on the island and an improved visitor experience.

The park use regulations tables in Section 7 set out the recreational and commercial activities that are permitted in the park and any requirements to undertake these activities.

Park infrastructure supporting visitor use and enjoyment and park management is discussed in Section 4.

3.1 Aboriginal custodians

Aboriginal people have a long and continuous connection with Barunguba and countless generations of Aboriginal people have visited the island to gather food, conduct ceremony and care for Country.

Aboriginal people will continue to be provided opportunities to visit the park to maintain, renew or develop cultural practices, and to maintain connections to Country. Opportunities to participate in park management activities, including the provision of tours and other educational services to visitors, may also be provided. See also Section 2.

3.2 Public visitors

Barunguba Montague Island Nature Reserve is a very attractive tourist destination. It is away from development on the mainland, relatively wild, teeming with birds and marine life, and rich with Aboriginal and historic heritage.

To limit impacts on the island's native plants and animals and its Aboriginal and historic heritage values, NPWS closely regulates public visitation by:

- allowing **authorised access only** – public visitors must be part of an authorised short-duration tour accompanied by an NPWS authorised guide or be pre-booked commercial overnight guests. Guides help keep visitors safe and enable them to better enjoy, understand and appreciate the values of the park in an environmentally sustainable way. The vast majority of public visitors are on short-duration tours, and only a relatively small number of public visitors stay overnight. Public visitors staying overnight are subject to a code of conduct, receive a briefing from NPWS staff and participate in an island tour.
- **confining public access to appropriate areas** – restricting locations available for visitation effectively limits the footprint and impacts of visitation. All public visitors are restricted to sites on the south island and are required to remain on authorised walking

tracks linking these sites (see Figure 1). Public visitors are not permitted south of an east–west line through the graves site, and there is no public access to the north island. These restrictions are relatively easily enforced in the park where all public visitors must be on an authorised tour and accompanied by an NPWS authorised guide or are overnight guests subject to a code of conduct. Public visitor access to the lightstation complex is restricted to visitors on authorised tours; with access to the lighthouse keeper’s cottage and assistant lighthouse keepers’ cottage limited to overnight guests. The provision of access inside the lighthouse is subject to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority lease agreement.

- **setting limits on visitor numbers** – public visitor numbers will be limited to:
 - a maximum of 120 public visitors on authorised short-duration tours in any given 24-hour period
 - a maximum of 40 public visitors at any one time on authorised short-duration tours, to reinforce a remote recreation experience and limit crowding at popular sites
 - a maximum visitor to guide ratio of 30:1 to enable guides to effectively communicate with their groups, helping visitors to appreciate, enjoy and understand the park. A modest group size also allows guides to manage their groups to limit their impacts and to manage any medical emergencies
 - commercial overnight guest numbers will be based on available beds/rooms and managed to minimise impact to historic heritage values and ensure a remote, secluded experience.



Photo 3 Visitors on a guided tour looking towards Gulaga. Daniel Tran/DPE

From time-to-time, temporary closures may be applied to the park or to any of the approved visitor sites for operational reasons, for visitor safety, or to protect natural, Aboriginal cultural or historic heritage values. Visitor access to other sites or parts of the park may be temporarily opened, including to provide alternative visitor access in case of any temporary closures.

Similarly, the number of public visitors may be temporarily revised. For example, a temporary reduction may be put in place during seabird breeding or moulting seasons, if the island's water supply is restricted, where public visitation may be causing deleterious impacts to the park's native plant and animals or heritage values, or where staff and/or volunteers are not available to provide guiding or other visitor and park management services.

Any permanent changes to the locations open to visitors or to the limits on visitor numbers would require an amendment to the plan of management.

The relative remoteness of the island and its limited accessibility increase the potential risk to visitors during emergency events. NPWS will regularly review the island's **emergency action plan** to better manage and protect park visitors in the event of storms, wildfire and other potential emergencies.

3.3 Commercial overnight guests

Currently, all overnight accommodation is provided in the residences at the lightstation complex. NPWS prioritises accommodation for NPWS and other agency staff and contractors, Aboriginal people, volunteers and researchers. However, when there is spare capacity, accommodation is made available for public visitors as commercial overnight guests.

Commercial overnight guests must be pre-booked and are bound by a code of conduct which outlines NPWS's expectations of overnight guests staying on the island. They also receive a briefing from NPWS staff upon arrival to assist them to better enjoy, appreciate and understand the values of the park. A tour of the island is also included as part of their accommodation package.

To better accommodate commercial overnight guests, NPWS may adaptively reuse other buildings at the lightstation complex, provided this remains consistent with the conservation management plan.

3.4 Other visitors

NPWS and other agency staff and contractors, volunteers and researchers also visit the park and may stay overnight.

NPWS and other agency staff may be based in the park or visit for park management purposes and for the operation of the lighthouse and other infrastructure. Occasionally NPWS or other agencies may employ contractors to undertake work on the island.

Volunteers provide a range of services in the park, including leading visitor tours or participating in programs, such as the Seabird Habitat Restoration Project, to protect and restore park values. Volunteers must have authorisation from NPWS to be in the park and to participate in management programs.

Researchers are visitors whose primary purpose for being in the park is to undertake, or participate in, research taking place on or around the park. Researchers require a scientific licence from NPWS to access Barunguba Montague Island Nature Reserve.

Volunteers can access all areas of the park as required by their approved program of activity. Similarly, researchers can access those areas of the park as agreed to by NPWS.

Volunteers and researchers are generally on the island for several days at a time, staying overnight in provided accommodation. At peak times, accommodation capacity can limit the numbers of volunteers and researchers able to stay overnight. Accordingly, NPWS may develop additional accommodation and research facilities for NPWS and other agency staff and contractors, researchers and other non-public visitors at the Nursery precinct (see Section 4) provided this remains consistent with the conservation management plan and subject to environmental and cultural heritage assessment and approvals.

3.5 Licensing commercial operators

Public visitors are transported to the park by commercial operators licensed by NPWS.

NPWS will ensure licence conditions for commercial operators detail allowable visitor numbers, sites open for visitation and clearly identify that NPWS may vary visitor numbers and sites available on a temporary basis to protect park values, visitor safety or for operational reasons. Licence conditions for commercial operators will also identify a vessel size limit that is consistent with the jetty configuration.

Access to the park is highly dependent on favourable weather and sea conditions. When conditions are not favourable, travelling to the island and transfers onto the island may be too dangerous. Disembarking and embarking a vessel at Jetty Bay can be difficult, and is not without risk, even in good conditions. It requires visitors to listen and follow safety directions and to independently climb the access ladder. As the safety risks for children younger than 5 years old are considered too great, they are not permitted to land in the park.

Currently, all guided tours on the island are led by NPWS staff and volunteers. Subject to operational requirements, NPWS may move to a visitation model that authorises commercial tour operators to lead tours on the island. Any commercial tour operators leading tours on the island would require a licence from NPWS and be subject to licensing conditions.

3.6 Interpretation

Interpretation of the park can be done directly by taking visitors on authorised guided tours, and indirectly through interpretive signs, websites and other media.

NPWS will prepare and implement a simple **education and interpretation plan** that will focus interpretation on a range of key themes including:

- biodiversity values, especially seabirds and seals, and management of threats to those values
- Aboriginal use and cultural significance
- European history
- park management, including management of visitation.

NPWS will support and encourage local Aboriginal community involvement in the development and delivery of material and programs interpreting Aboriginal culture and heritage.

3.7 Research and monitoring

Under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, one of the management principles for nature reserves is that they be managed to provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The extended history of environmental research, including long-term research and monitoring programs for shearwaters and little penguins, has improved the understanding of the management needs of species present in the park. Research is also important to monitor wildlife population responses to visitation, allowing park managers to make informed decisions about appropriate visitor numbers.

NPWS will prepare a **research and monitoring strategy** to identify key areas for future research and monitoring to enhance our understanding of the natural and cultural values of the park. The strategy will identify our ongoing commitment to establish and maintain research partnerships with universities and other institutions to achieve these goals.

4. Park infrastructure and services

NPWS operates and maintains a range of infrastructure assets on Barunguba Montague Island, including a network of management trails, heritage and other buildings at the lightstation complex, a jetty and associated facilities (including a boatshed and loading crane), a plant nursery, a workshop, and power, water and sewerage assets.

The network of **management trails** provide access for park management activities, including fire management and weed control. Some also function as **walking tracks** for visitors (see Figure 1). Management trails will be maintained to the fire trail standards identified in the park fire management strategy. They are generally maintained as slashed grass tracks, except Jetty Track, linking Jetty Bay and the lightstation complex, which has sections of concrete hardstand.

Many of the NPWS assets at the lightstation complex are **heritage-listed buildings** (see Section 2). They require ongoing maintenance and management to protect their heritage values. A conservation management plan has been prepared for the park. However, the plan requires review given many of its recommendations have already been implemented.

NPWS staff and volunteer guides stationed on the island to provide park management and visitor services are housed in the heritage-listed residences. As discussed in Section 3, these also provide accommodation for other agency staff, contractors, volunteers, researchers and commercial overnight guests.

Accommodation in the park is limited and in peak research and visitor periods struggles to meet demand. To better accommodate overnight guests, NPWS may **adaptively reuse other buildings at the lightstation complex** for accommodation or other suitable purposes. Whilst adaptive reuse of existing buildings is the preferred approach, NPWS may also **construct additional accommodation and research facilities** for NPWS and other agency staff and contractors, researchers and other non-public visitors, designed in a simple contemporary manner, but sympathetic to the existing heritage values. Any additional accommodation and research facilities would be sited in the cleared area at the Nursery precinct (see Figure 1), identified as a potential site for new development in the conservation management plan, and must not impact on views to and from the significant structures and natural features. It would be subject to environmental and cultural heritage assessment and approvals.

Other buildings, such as the workshop and nursery shed, are used to store and maintain a range of park management equipment, including firefighting and weed control equipment.

The **jetty and associated infrastructure** at Jetty Bay, including the boatshed, ramp and loading crane, are critical for providing safe access for park management and for all visitors, including public visitors. The jetty and associated infrastructure may be upgraded to improve accessibility, reduce risks to those landing on the island or better protect the island's native plants and animals and heritage values. Any modifications to the boatshed must be consistent with the conservation management plan.



Photo 4 Lightkeepers' residences. Daniel Tran/DPE

The **viewing platform** at Jetty Bay enables visitors to watch the spectacle of little penguins returning to the island at the end of the day and commencing their overland journey ('parade') to their burrows. The viewing platform has been designed to minimise its impact on the surrounding little penguin landing site and nesting habitat. Upgrades may be made to the viewing platform to better protect little penguins, other native plants and animals and heritage values or to improve access and visitor safety.

The park is largely self-sufficient regarding **water** and **electricity**. Approximately 180,000 litres of rainwater can be collected and stored, largely in underground tanks. Electricity is generated via a solar photovoltaic system and stored in batteries. Imported fuels include diesel for a generator to provide backup power, and LPG gas for cooking and hot water.

The current sewage system, installed in 2003, is a 3-stage connected tank system with post treatment water dispersed via linear line. The system has been strategically located to allow an effective gradient from the lightstation and minimise any impacts to the values and aesthetics of the precinct.

Advances in self-reliant power, water and sewage treatment systems are rapidly reducing their environmental impacts. The existing water, electricity generation and sewage treatment systems in the park may be upgraded to reflect increasing demand, more efficient technology or to improve environmental outcomes.

Construction and maintenance of park infrastructure will consider impacts on the park's natural, cultural heritage and social amenity values.

A reserve access strategy will be prepared and implemented for the park. The strategy will establish the status of park access points and identify options for securing park access for public visitors and management purposes.

5. Non-park infrastructure and services

The park contains infrastructure and other assets which are owned, operated or used by other organisations.

The lighthouse is owned by NPWS and leased to Australian Maritime Safety Authority. The authority is responsible for the lighthouse's continuing operation and maintenance, including the maintenance of its solar power system that is independent of other power supply systems on the island. The authority is also responsible for meeting any obligations arising from the lighthouse's listing on the Commonwealth Heritage List.



Photo 5 Montague Island Lighthouse at night. Stuart Cohen/DPE

Other non-park infrastructure on the island includes weather recording equipment owned and maintained by the Bureau of Meteorology, and communications equipment owned and maintained by various government agencies and emergency services.

Access is required for the use, operation, maintenance and repair of non-park infrastructure. Access agreements will be formalised to ensure safe access to, and environmentally sustainable management of, non-park infrastructure.

The lease of the lighthouse to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority was renewed on 1 July 2022 for a 25-year lease period, expiring on 30 June 2047.

The Bureau of Meteorology anemometer is maintained unobtrusively on the historic flagstaff, and their Stevenson screen meteorological shelter is on the eastern side of the residences.

Several organisations and agencies are licensed by NPWS to have communications equipment located on the island. Since 2010, all communications equipment has been located immediately south of the solar array, minimising interference with the heritage fabric of the lightstation complex. Any new communications equipment would be sited on the existing single tower and interlink to the nearby radio hut.

Any new non-park infrastructure would be subject to environmental assessment and heritage approvals. The open landscape and views to and from the lightstation complex contribute substantially to the cultural landscape significance of the site and as such views from or to the site should not be dominated by any new park or non-park infrastructure.

6. Scheme of operations

The scheme of operations in Table 2 is consistent with section 72AA of the National Parks and Wildlife Act. It details the desired outcomes for the park's values and the actions that NPWS proposes to undertake to achieve these outcomes.

A management priority has been assigned to each action to guide the allocation of resources. These priorities are based on an assessment of the risks posed by threats to the park's values, the feasibility of mitigating the impacts of these threats or opportunities to improve the condition of park values.

Priorities are:

- Very high – Loss or significant decline in the condition of the park value is likely if action is not taken or significant improvement in the condition of the value is likely if action is taken
- High – Decline in the condition of the park value is likely if action is not taken or improvement in the condition of the value is likely if action is taken
- Medium – Some decline in the condition of the park value is possible if action is not taken or some improvement in the condition of the value is possible if action is taken
- Low – While decline in the condition of the park value is not likely in the short term, the action would help build the long-term resilience of the park value.

NPWS's performance in meeting the **outcomes** in the scheme of operations will be measured through periodic assessments. Performance in delivering the **actions** in the scheme of operations will be measured through regular audits of plans of management.

The scheme of operations sets strategic goals and priorities. Subsidiary plans consistent with this plan of management may also be developed to guide actions at an operational level. Subsidiary plans enable adaptive responses to new information or changed circumstances, such as for pests, weeds, fire and recreational activities, as required by NPWS policy. Assessments of performance and review will be used to inform adaptive management in these subsidiary plans as well as any required adjustments and improvements to future plans of management for the park.

NPWS policy is that all cultural heritage items listed on the State Heritage Register require a conservation management plan. A conservation management plan for the park was prepared in 2008 and 2009 (refer to the planning considerations report for more information).

Conservation action plans will be prepared and implemented to manage and monitor assets of intergenerational significance declared under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

The implementation of actions set out below may be subject to statutory responsibilities under the National Parks and Wildlife Act and other relevant state and Commonwealth legislation, including heritage and environmental impact assessments and approvals. Further community consultation on the proposed actions may be undertaken as part of these processes.

Information on popular recreational or commercial activities that are permitted in the park is provided in the park use regulations tables in Section 7. More detailed information on other activities is available on the NPWS website.

Table 2 Scheme of operations

Outcome	Actions	Priority
Protecting the natural environment		
1. The condition and extent of habitat for native animals is maintained or improved	a. Prepare and implement a plan to guide habitat restoration. Update the plan based on monitored outcomes and expert opinion.	Very high
	b. Monitor seabird habitat and habitat restoration to identify emerging threats and assess management responses.	Very high
	c. Maintain a plant nursery in the park to support revegetation and habitat restoration work.	Medium
	d. Support volunteer bush regeneration programs in priority locations in the park.	Medium
2. The populations and diversity of native animals and plants are maintained	a. Implement pest and weed control programs in accordance with relevant pest and weed management strategies. Prioritise pest and weed work where control efforts will provide the greatest benefit to nesting seabirds, maintain the vertebrate pest-free status of the park, or protect cultural heritage values.	Very high
	b. Implement relevant actions in the Biodiversity Conservation Program and Australian Government recovery plans for threatened species, populations and ecological communities occurring in the park.	Very high
	c. Implement conservation action plans to manage and monitor assets of intergenerational significance declared under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.	Very high
	d. Prepare and implement a biosecurity plan to minimise the potential for new weeds, pest animals or pathogens to be introduced or become established in the park.	Very high
	e. Manage the park in accordance with the IUCN Green List Standard to ensure it is recognised internationally for its planning, governance, effective management and conservation outcomes.	High
Looking after culture and heritage		
3. There are increased opportunities for Aboriginal people to build connection to	a. Enable the local Aboriginal community to access Country to maintain, renew or develop cultural connections and practices. This may include opportunities for the non-commercial	Very high

Outcome	Actions	Priority
Country, engage in caring for Country	use of resources or initiatives by Aboriginal businesses or organisations that promote and support management objectives, such as operating and managing educational tourism services.	
4. Increased involvement of Aboriginal people in park management is facilitated	a. Work with the local Aboriginal community to develop and implement an ongoing forum or partnership arrangement for Aboriginal involvement in management of the park.	Very high
5. There is increased awareness among park visitors and the community about the park's Aboriginal culture and heritage	a. Enable the local Aboriginal community to share their knowledge and culture where appropriate, through involvement in park management, employment and the provision of cultural tours.	High
	b. Develop and communicate information about Aboriginal culture and heritage in the park in partnership with the Aboriginal community and where appropriate.	High
6. The condition of Aboriginal heritage sites, places and cultural values is maintained	a. Support the local Aboriginal community to prepare and implement a management plan for Barunguba Aboriginal Place.	High
	b. Work with the Aboriginal community to monitor impacts on cultural values and implement strategies to protect values.	High
	c. Undertake Aboriginal site surveys with Aboriginal people and in consultation with specialists. Target sites considered at risk, sites where information is lacking, or sites otherwise identified by the community. Implement management actions to protect sites as required.	High
7. The condition of historic heritage sites, places and cultural values is maintained	a. Review and implement the conservation management plan for the park and update as required to protect heritage values.	High
	b. Adaptively reuse heritage buildings, including for accommodation, provided this remains consistent with the conservation management plan.	Medium
	c. Maintain the vegetable garden, growing heirloom vegetables, herbs, fruits and flowers grown by the lightkeepers, provided this remains consistent with the conservation management plan.	High

Outcome	Actions	Priority
8. There is increased awareness among park visitors and the community about the park's historic heritage	a. Interpret and promote the park's historic heritage through a range of measures, including signage and use of innovative and emerging technology.	Medium
Providing for visitor use and enjoyment		
9. Visitor use is safe, ecologically sustainable and does not significantly impact on the park's natural and cultural values nor on the experience of other visitors	a. Allow public visitors only as part of an authorised tour accompanied by an NPWS authorised guide, or as pre-booked overnight guests. Ensure public visitation is focussed on education, conservation and scientific research.	Very high
	b. Restrict public visitors to sites on the south island and to authorised walking tracks linking these sites (see Figure 1).	Very high
	c. Limit public visitor numbers consistent with Section 3.2 of this plan. Temporary adjustments to visitor numbers or accessible sites may be made for operational reasons, visitor safety or to minimise impacts to park values.	High
	d. Continue to provide overnight accommodation for NPWS and other agency staff, Aboriginal people, contractors, licensed researchers, volunteers and pre-booked commercial overnight guests.	High
	e. Continue to provide guided tour access to the lighthouse, subject to the terms of the lease agreement with Australian Maritime Safety Authority.	Medium
	f. Monitor visitor numbers and the impact of visitor access and use. Review visitor numbers periodically or if impacts are significant.	High
	g. Regularly review the island's emergency action plan.	High
	h. Protect the safety of those under 5 years old by prohibiting them from embarking/disembarking onto/off the island.	High
	i. Ensure commercial operators are appropriately licensed.	High
	j. Monitor commercial operators and their tour groups with respect to cumulative impacts, safety requirements, quality of information provided and compliance with licence conditions.	High

Outcome	Actions	Priority
10. Visitor facilities support low-key visitor recreation, are adequately maintained and meet visitor expectations	a. Visitor facilities and utilities may be modified or redeveloped in accordance with this plan of management to reduce environmental and safety risks or to improve accessibility.	Medium
11. The community understand and appreciate the park's natural and cultural values. Knowledge is shared through educational tours and interpretation	a. Provide managed public visitation to enable the community to better appreciate, understand and enjoy the natural and cultural values of the park.	High
	b. Interpret and promote the park's natural, Aboriginal cultural and historic heritage through a range of measures, including guided tours conducted by NPWS authorised guides, signage and use of innovative and emerging technologies.	High
	c. Prepare and implement a simple education and interpretation plan for the park.	Medium
Park infrastructure and services		
12. Park infrastructure and operations adequately support management of the park and have minimal impacts on environmental, cultural and heritage values	a. Maintain and upgrade management trails identified in the park fire management strategy to enable access for island-based vehicles and fire suppression appliances and to be consistent with NPWS policy.	Very high
	b. Update and implement the park fire management strategy. Revise and adjust the park fire management strategy, as required, to take account of new and emerging information or changes in understanding of the role of fire in habitat restoration.	Very high
	c. Prepare and implement a reserve access strategy to secure park access for public use and management purposes.	Medium
	d. Construct additional accommodation and research facilities for NPWS and other agency staff, researchers and other non-public visitors at the Nursery precinct, provided this remains consistent with the conservation management plan.	Low
	e. Upgrade the jetty if required to improve accessibility, visitor safety or to better protect native plants and animals and heritage values. Secure a long-term licence for the jetty and any improvements located below the mean high water mark and within adjacent waters.	Medium

Outcome	Actions	Priority
	f. Upgrade the penguin viewing platform if required to better protect little penguins, other native plants and animals and heritage values or to improve access and visitor safety.	Medium
	g. Upgrade sewerage, water and electricity infrastructure as required to provide for visitors and limit environmental impacts. Upgrades may be required to install more efficient technology or enable better environmental outcomes.	High
	h. Collaborate with the managers of Batemans Marine Park to promote island values, address any issues arising from adjacent sea-based users, and support relevant research.	Medium
13. Research and monitoring supports park management outcomes	a. Prepare and implement a research and monitoring strategy to better coordinate research and monitoring and improve conservation outcomes for the park. Encourage and support priority research and monitoring and incorporate findings into park management.	High
	b. Undertake a climate change impact assessment for the park and encourage ongoing research into the effects of climate change on the park.	High
	c. Monitor park values and specific locations at risk of climate change impacts and implement mitigation measures where they are practicable and likely to be effective.	High
Non-park infrastructure and services		
14. Non-NPWS uses have minimal impact on natural, cultural and heritage values or on visitor experiences, and are appropriately authorised where required	a. Ensure all non-NPWS uses and occupancies of NPWS land are authorised in accordance with Part 12 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act.	Medium
	b. Formalise access agreements with relevant parties to ensure safe access to, and environmentally sustainable management of, non-park infrastructure.	Medium

7. Park use regulations

7.1 Recreational activities

Only public visitors participating in an authorised tour and pre-booked overnight guests are permitted to access the park. All authorised tour groups must be accompanied by an NPWS authorised guide. Overnight guests are subject to the terms of a code of conduct.

Sites open to authorised public visitors are Jetty Bay, the lightstation complex, Nursery precinct, vegetable garden, graves site and Old Jetty Bay (see Figure 1). Public visitors must walk around the park and remain on existing tracks and trails while walking between identified visitor sites.






There is no public or recreation access available to the north island or to those parts of the south island that are south of an east–west line through the graves site.

To protect and maintain the park's natural and cultural heritage values, and ensure a high quality visitor experience, the number of visitors are limited (see also Section 3.2).


Temporary adjustments to the number of visitors permitted may be made by the Branch Director. Similarly, temporary closures may be applied to the entire island, or to any visitor sites, at the discretion of the Branch Director.

Information regarding activities that require consent and obtaining consent is available on the NPWS website or by contacting the relevant NPWS office (contact details at the front of this plan).

Table 3 Park use regulations – recreational activities

	Type of activity	Allowed	Note/Exceptions
	Abseiling, rock climbing and canyoning	No	Not permitted owing to the lack of suitable safe locations and risks to conservation values.
	Barbecues – portable	No	Cooking facilities for overnight visitors are provided in the lighthouse precinct.
	Camping	No	Camping only permitted by consent for cultural purposes. Overnight accommodation is available in the lighthouse precinct for pre-booked guests.
	Cycling	No	Visitors must walk in the park. Limited access (by licensed boats only), sensitive habitats and cultural sites preclude the use of bicycles.
	Dog walking	No	Pets are not permitted. Dog walking is not permitted. Except: A person may be accompanied by their trained assistance animal provided they meet the requirements of proof and other conditions set out in the NPWS <i>Pets in parks policy</i> .

	Type of activity	Allowed	Note/Exceptions
	Drones	No	<p>Not permitted to be launched for recreational purposes due to potential impact to wildlife and the experience of other visitors.</p> <p>Drones may be used for park management purposes and may be authorised as part of a commercial filming consent.</p> <p>Civil Aviation Safety Authority rules and regulations must be followed when using drones.</p>
	4-wheel driving	No	No public vehicle access is available in the park.
	Fossicking	No	Not permitted due to potential environmental and cultural heritage impacts, particularly given the presence of large numbers of ground-nesting seabirds.
 	Group gatherings – non-commercial (for example, family or social gatherings, school groups)	Yes	<p>Group gatherings are constrained by tour size limits and accommodation capacity.</p> <p>Public visitors to the park require consent either via a valid tour booking or via accommodation booking.</p>
	Hang-gliding	No	Not permitted due to lack of suitable safe locations and potential risks to other park users.
	Horse riding	No	Boat access only, sensitive habitats and cultural sites preclude the use of horses in the park.
	Motorcycling and trail bike riding	No	No public vehicle access is available in the park.
	Walking	Yes	As part of an authorised tour or independently for pre-booked overnight guests. Only at authorised visitor sites, including the lighthouse precinct and on walking tracks shown on Figure 1.
 	Water-based recreation (for example, fishing, swimming, surfing, diving and snorkelling)	No	<p>The island and its shoreline are unsuitable for swimming and other water-based recreation activities due to strong currents, marine wildlife and lack of access to lifeguards or other safety services.</p> <p>Overnight guests can board a licensed commercial vessel to undertake snorkelling, diving or fishing activities.</p> <p>Other legislative requirements may apply to activities below the mean high water mark such as fish catch limits and use of certain types of recreational or safety equipment.</p>

Type of activity	Allowed	Note/Exceptions
 Wood fires	No	Wood fires may be permitted by consent for cultural purposes (except during total fire bans and park fire bans).

7.2 Commercial and non-commercial activities requiring approval

The following table lists some common events and commercial activities that may be permitted in the park with approval from NPWS under a consent, licence or lease. It is not a definitive or exhaustive list of permitted commercial or other activities. Information on relevant policies, required approvals and fees is available on our website.

Commercial filming and photography in parks requires approval consistent with the NPWS *Filming and photography policy*. Information about how to apply is available on our website.

Approval to use supporting equipment, such as marquees, amplified sound or drones, will be determined on a case-by-case basis, subject to an assessment of potential impacts on park values and other park users. Use of any supporting equipment will be subject to consent conditions.

Under NPWS policy, commercial operators may be required to support understanding of cultural heritage conservation and management and promote respect for Aboriginal culture and sites. This may include requirements to consult with Aboriginal communities to develop appropriate material and information for participants.

Table 4 Park use regulations – events, functions and commercial activities

Type of activity	Group size	Type of approval required
Commercial and charity events	All groups irrespective of size	Consent or licence
Sporting activity that is part of an organised competition or tournament	All groups irrespective of size	Consent
Commercial tours, recreational and educational activities, transport services and any other commercial services	All groups irrespective of size	Consent or licence
Private, non-commercial, organised (for example, club-based, student) events	All groups irrespective of size	Consent
All other events and gatherings	All groups irrespective of size	Consent
Filming and photography	All groups irrespective of size	Consent or licence
Research (scientific, educational, or related to conservation or park management)	All groups irrespective of size	Consent or licence

More information

- [Barunguba Montague Island Nature Reserve draft planning considerations report](#)
- [Department of Environment and Heritage website](#)
- [National Parks and Wildlife Service webpage](#)
- [Department of Planning and Environment's Privacy and security, webpage](#)
- [Park policies](#)