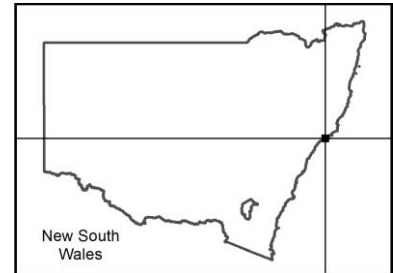


Statement of Management Intent



Bushy Island, Corrie Island, One Tree Island and Snapper Island nature reserves

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Bushy Island, Corrie Island, One Tree Island and Snapper Island nature reserves. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the parks until a plan of management has been prepared in accordance with the [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 \(NPW Act\)](#). The NPWS [Managing Parks Prior to Plan of Management Policy](#) states that parks and reserves without a plan of management are to be managed in a manner consistent with the intent of the NPW Act and the 'precautionary principle' (see Principle 15).

2. Management principles

Nature reserves are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas containing outstanding, unique or representative ecosystems, species, communities or natural phenomena. Under the NPW Act ([section 30J](#)), nature reserves are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, and 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 reserve's natural and cultural values
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The primary purpose of nature reserves is to conserve nature. Nature reserves differ from national parks in that they do not have the provision of visitor use as a management purpose or principle.

3. Context

Reservation details: Bushy Island Nature Reserve and One Tree Island Nature Reserve were reserved on 2 May 2003. Corrie Island Nature Reserve was reserved on 5 March 1999. Snapper Island Nature Reserve was reserved on 30 July 1982.

Size: Bushy Island Nature Reserve is 0.3 hectares. Corrie Island Nature Reserve is 164 hectares. One Tree Island Nature Reserve is 0.6 hectares. Snapper Island Nature Reserve is 13 hectares.



Bushy Island, Corrie Island (Cut Feet Island and Corrie Island), One Tree Island and Snapper Island nature reserves are situated within the bay of Port Stephens, near the local hub of Nelsons Bay. They fall within the NSW North Coast Bioregion, and the administrative areas of Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council, Hunter Local Land Services and Port Stephens Council.

Corrie Island, situated at the mouth of the lower Myall River, is part of the Myall Lakes Ramsar site. The island represents an emerged section of the flood tide delta, and prior to the construction of the current channel in 1909 was only separated from the mainland by a small creek. The Myall Lakes are listed as internationally important wetlands under the Ramsar Convention because they consist of a diverse mosaic of near-natural wetlands, within a relatively unmodified coastal lake system. The lake system is unique in New South Wales. The Ramsar site contains 18 different wetland types, dominated by the extensive interconnected lake and river systems, the forested wetlands and swamps that fringe the waterways, the rocky and sandy shores, and offshore islands of the coastline.

Snapper, Brushy and One Tree islands are all formed on rocky outcrops of the Nerong formations, and are remnants of small peaks in the now-drowned river valley that is Port Stephens. All of these

island nature reserves are important refuges, protecting habitat for threatened birds, other native animals and threatened vegetation communities.

4. Values

- Corrie Island and One Tree Island nature reserves protect important habitat for migratory waders and shorebirds.
- Endangered little terns (*Sternula albifrons*) and pied oystercatchers (*Haematopus longirostris*), and vulnerable eastern osprey (*Pandion cristatus*) have been recorded on Corrie Island.
- Snapper Island Nature Reserve protects habitat for the vulnerable grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*).
- Snapper Island Nature Reserve protects the endangered ecological community Littoral Rainforest in the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions.
- Corrie Island Nature Reserve is the site of a Roads and Maritime Services lead marker, a critical part of the maritime safety system for vessels entering Port Stephens. Significant remains of a historic timber lead structure are on the west of the island.
- Snapper and Corrie islands both have a significant history of low-key, boat-based recreational use by the local community. One Tree and Bushy islands receive less use, and are more difficult to access.

5. Issues

- All of these island reserves are likely to be impacted by rising sea levels associated with climate change.
- The eastern side of Corrie Island is experiencing erosion, as the eastern channel moves westward on a path established after the loss of the protective Myall Point in storms in 1927. The highly dynamic nature of the island ensures the maintenance of exposed sand spits, important roosting habitat for migratory waders and shorebirds.
- Domestic dogs, wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.) and foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) from the mainland can cross the channel to Corrie Island, posing threats to migratory waders and shorebirds.
- Bushy Island Nature Reserve has infestations of bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*), ground asparagus (*Asparagus aethiopicus*), lantana (*Lantana camara*) and prickly pear (*Opuntia stricta*).
- Corrie Island Nature Reserve has infestations of bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *rotundata*) and exotic pine trees (*Pinus* sp.).
- One Tree Island Nature Reserve has infestations of lantana, bridal creeper, ground asparagus, prickly pear and *Polygala* sp.
- Snapper Island Nature Reserve has infestations of lantana, common passionfruit (*Passiflora edulis*), bridal creeper, climbing asparagus (*Asparagus plumosus*), crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*), mistflower (*Ageratina riparia*), moth vine (*Araujia sericifera*), prickly pear and other garden escapees. Vegetation on the island is still responding to the 1998 removal of feral goats, which had removed all low-growing plants and hindered regeneration.
- Illegal camping and associated rubbish dumping is an issue on Corrie Island and One Tree Island, with visitors causing damage to shorebird habitat and island vegetation.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Myall Lake National Park and Island Reserves [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Lower North Coast Region. Current priorities include an ongoing program of rainforest regeneration on Snapper Island which is targeting lantana and climbing asparagus to protect the littoral rainforest vegetation community. Dog and fox control programs on Corrie Island, and on the adjoining peninsular in partnership with Port Stephens Council and Local Land Services, are undertaken as required.
- Camping is not appropriate or permitted on any of these island nature reserves, and management efforts (signage, information, and enforcement) will aim to minimise the impacts from illegal activities.
- All management activities will be preceded by the preparation of an environmental assessment or heritage assessment where this is a requirement of NPWS policy or legislation.
- Environmental repair and threat management programs, such as erosion mitigation measures, pest management, and activities arising from threatened species requirements may be implemented in accordance with NPWS policies and procedures.
- Non-intrusive works may be undertaken where necessary to protect cultural heritage items from further deterioration, to ensure the safety of visitors, to protect wildlife or to prevent damage to park assets.
- A plan of management will be prepared to set out the ongoing management objectives for the reserves. The plan of management is a statutory document under the NPW Act which will be available for public comment. NPWS will also encourage the community to contribute to the ongoing conservation of the reserves by promoting and raising public awareness of their special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of these reserves or this statement, contact the NPWS Nelson Bay Office on (02) 4984 8200 or Level 1, 12B Teramby Road, or Locked Mail Bag 99, Nelson Bay NSW 2315.

Disclaimer: This is a statement of intent to guide the management of the reserves prior to the development of a plan of management. Any statements made in this publication are made in good faith and do not render the Office of Environment and Heritage liable for any loss or damage. Provisions in the final plan of management may vary from those identified in this document as a result of new information and community consultation. The maps in this statement are intended to show the reserves' location and basic features only, and are not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within parks.

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