



**Office of  
Environment & Heritage**  
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service



**Amendments to the**

**MYALL LAKES NATIONAL PARK, LITTLE BROUGHTON  
ISLAND AND STORMPETREL NATURE RESERVES**

**PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

**in relation to**

**Broughton Island**

**NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service**

**Part of the Office of Environment and Heritage**

**December 2012**

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**OEH 2013/0066**

## INTRODUCTION

Broughton Island, which was gazetted as part of Myall Lakes National Park in 1972, is a 114 hectare island that lies approximately 3 kilometres offshore from Dark Point and 16 kilometres north-east of the entrance to Port Stephens.

When the *Myall Lakes National Park, Little Broughton Island and Stormpetrel Nature Reserves Plan of Management* was developed in 2001-2002, the NPWS were negotiating with the Broughton Island Conservation Society Incorporated (BICSI) for one of the existing huts on Broughton Island to be allocated for NPWS use and storage. The outcome of the negotiations was that NPWS could use a hut for maintenance when one was available with notice to BICSI. At the time this was sufficient for NPWS management needs.

In recent years the management regime on the island has changed substantially. Increased public visitation, improved camping facilities, increasing commercial tours, a significant population of the endangered Green and Golden Bell Frog, and an active pest control programme, all require management effort on the island. As a result, the NPWS needs to undertake work on the island more frequently, including over the busy summer period when existing huts are typically fully occupied by BICSI members. Essential NPWS works include maintenance, pest species control, research and monitoring, fire management and law enforcement. The work regularly involves groups of 6-8 people including volunteers, researchers and staff.

The existing arrangement for NPWS hut use is insufficient for the work required, and is limiting the ability of NPWS to manage the island. Providing a NPWS management hut and a storage container on the island would allow greater flexibility to fit in with sea and weather conditions, and significantly reduce the amount of equipment taken to and from the island each trip. This would subsequently reduce the Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) risks associated with manually handling equipment from vessels, and increase time available for management activities.

The management hut would be designed to provide basic accommodation for up to eight people, with a small kitchen, amenities, furniture and an outside covered area. The demountable structure would be designed to be transported to the island via helicopter. The proposed facility would be located adjacent to the existing huts at the northern end of Esmeralda Beach to limit visual impacts and disturbance and to improve site security. It is also proposed to provide a shaded area for day visitors at the southern end of the hut, incorporating visitor information. The remaining grassed area at the northern end of Esmeralda Beach, between the management hut and the other huts, would then be designated day use only.

A half sized (10ft) portable shipping container has been used to form the storage facility. It is located in a cleared site west of the walking track to North Beach which is surrounded by tall shrubs. The storage facility provides secure storage for tools and equipment and small amounts of fuel and chemicals.

The NPWS have commenced formalising camp site management at Broughton Island, including the introduction of a booking system, in line with the existing plan of management. However, given the unique situation at Broughton Island and the

limited number of sites, it is envisaged that demand for sites will exceed supply during peak holiday periods. It is proposed to develop a camping strategy for Broughton Island to maximise access to the limited number of sites and ensure equity. This may include limiting the maximum length of stay for campers during peak holiday periods and/or introducing ballot bookings.

**These amendments were adopted by the Minister for the Environment on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012.**

## **WORDING OF THE AMENDMENTS**

1. *In Part B Management Strategies, 4.2 Camping, Guidelines and Actions, page 57, replace first sentence of 4.2.12 with (new words underlined):*

'Restrict camping at any one site in the park (not including Broughton Island) to 28 consecutive days, except for Shelly Beach, Johnsons Beach and all camping areas with a maximum number of six campsites or less (refer to table 1) where the duration will be limited to 14 consecutive days.'

2. *In Part B Management Strategies, 4.2 Camping, Guidelines and Actions, page 57, add the following action:*

'4.2.19 Develop and implement a camping strategy for Broughton Island to maximise access to the limited number of sites and ensure equity. In the interim, limit the maximum length of stay for campers at Broughton Island to 14 consecutive days.'

3. *In Part B Management Strategies, 5.1 Management Operations and Alien Uses, Background, page 89, in Park management, insert the following after the second paragraph:*

'It is proposed to construct a management hut and storage facility on Broughton Island to facilitate NPWS management of the Island. The proposed management hut would be located adjacent to the existing huts at the northern end of Esmeralda Beach. It would provide basic accommodation for up to eight people, with a small kitchen, amenities, furniture and an outside covered area. A shaded area and visitor information would also be provided for day visitors at the southern end of the hut. The remaining grassed area at the northern end of Esmeralda Beach would then be designated day use only.'

It is proposed to locate a storage container at a cleared site west of the walking track to North Beach which is surrounded by tall shrubs (see attached Map).'

4. *In Part B Management Strategies, 5.1 Management Operations and Alien Uses, Guidelines and Actions, page 91, add the following actions:*

'5.1.13 Subject to a satisfactory environmental assessment, construct a management hut adjacent to the existing huts on Broughton Island to provide basic accommodation for up to eight people and a shaded area for day visitors at the southern end of the hut, incorporating visitor information. Ensure the hut is designed to minimise its visual intrusion, require low maintenance and provide only basic facilities. Sympathetically upgrade the track up the hill from the huts,

and remove exotic vegetation from around the huts and track as part of the Broughton Island weed control programme. Designate the remaining grassed area at the northern end of Esmeralda Beach as day use only.'

'5.1.14 Subject to a satisfactory environmental assessment, locate a storage container at the cleared site west of the walking track to North Beach.'

5. *In Part C Implementation, Plan Implementation, Implementation, Table 4, High priority, beginning on page 101, add the following actions:*

'5.1.13 Subject to a satisfactory environmental assessment, construct a management hut adjacent to the existing huts on Broughton Island to provide basic accommodation for up to eight people and a shaded area for day visitors at the southern end of the hut, incorporating visitor information. Ensure the hut is designed to minimise its visual intrusion, require low maintenance and provide only basic facilities. Sympathetically upgrade the track up the hill from the huts, and remove exotic vegetation from around the huts and track as part of the Broughton Island weed control programme. Designate the remaining grassed area at the northern end of Esmeralda Beach as day use only.'

'5.1.14 Subject to a satisfactory environmental assessment, locate a storage container at the cleared site west of the walking track to North Beach.'

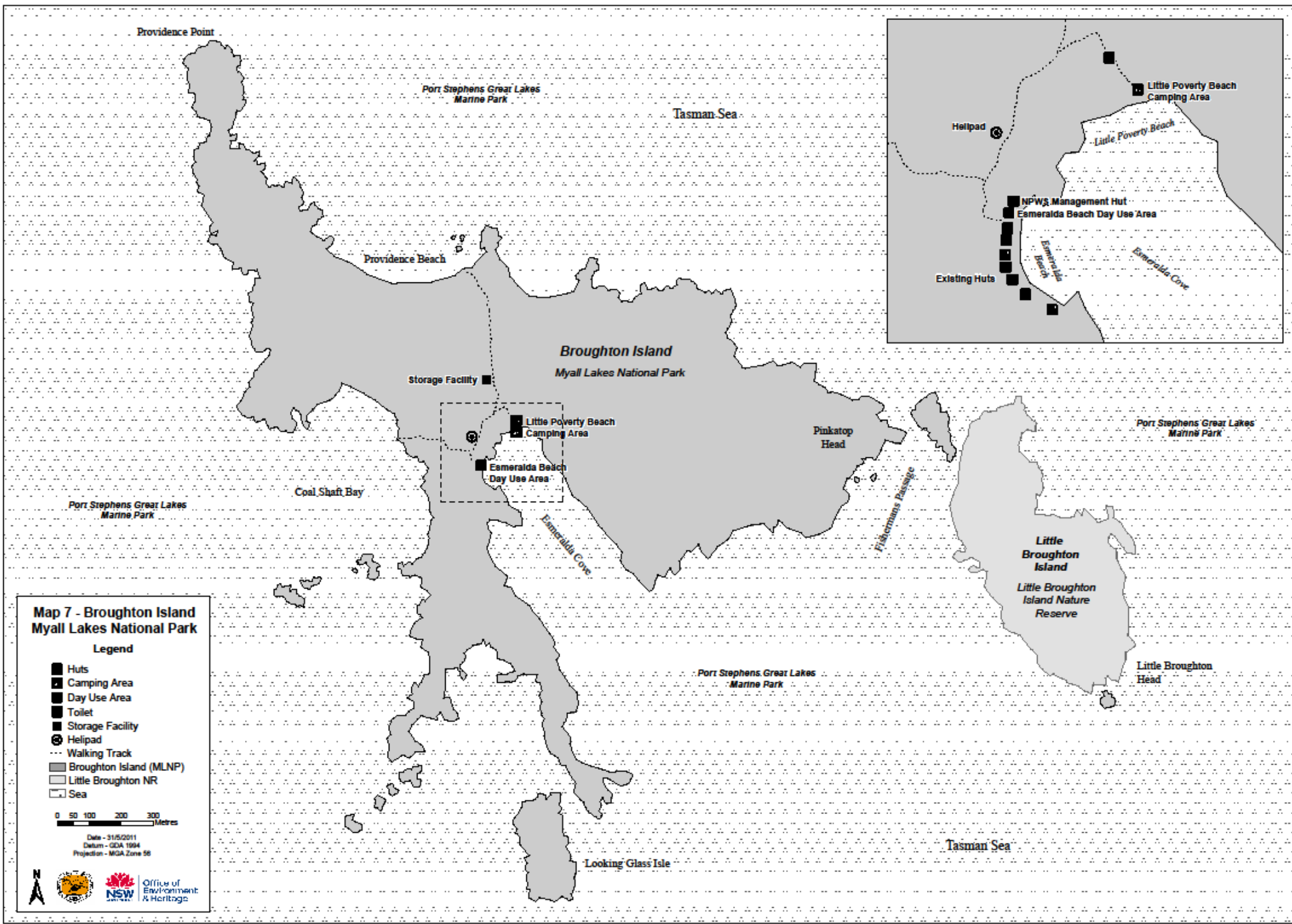
6. *In Part C Implementation, Plan Implementation, Implementation, Table 4, Medium priority, beginning on page 106, add the following action:*

'4.2.19 Develop and implement a camping strategy for Broughton Island to maximise access to the limited number of sites and ensure equity. In the interim, limit the maximum length of stay for campers at Broughton Island to 14 consecutive days.'

7. *In Part C Implementation, Plan Implementation, Implementation, Table 5, page 115, replace first sentence of 4.2.12 with (new words underlined):*

'Restrict camping at any one site in the park (not including Broughton Island) to 28 consecutive days, except for Shelly Beach, Johnsons Beach and all camping areas with a maximum number of six campsites or less (refer to table 1) where the duration will be limited to 14 consecutive days.'

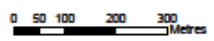
8. *Insert Map (attached) to show the location of the proposed management hut and storage facility on Broughton Island.*



**Map 7 - Broughton Island Myall Lakes National Park**

**Legend**

- Huts
- Camping Area
- Day Use Area
- Toilet
- Storage Facility
- Helipad
- Walking Track
- Broughton Island (MLNP)
- Little Broughton NR
- Sea



Date - 31/5/2011  
 Datum - GDA 1994  
 Projection - MGA Zone 56



