About this performance report

This report covers the performance of the Marine Estate Management Authority (Authority) and the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel (Knowledge Panel) during the period 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2019.

The report outlines compliance with the Authority’s establishment under the Marine Estate Management Act 2014, including its functions, membership and meetings. The report also summarises key achievements, strategic priorities and future directions for the Authority as set out in the marine estate schedule of works.
Message from the Chair

Marine Estate Management Authority

The Authority’s vision for the NSW marine estate is for a healthy coast and sea, managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community, now and into the future.

The Authority has been tasked with an ambitious marine estate reform agenda and has achieved a number of significant milestones during the past 18 months, including the release of the Marine Estate Management Strategy and securing $45.7 million in funding to support Stage 1 implementation of the Strategy. Our achievements are reported in further detail in this report. Notable deliverables include:

- the release of the 10-year Marine Estate Management Strategy to improve coordinated management of the NSW marine estate
- developed an implementation plan for the Marine Estate Management Strategy, a critical step in the delivery of transparent and evidence-based management for the NSW marine estate
- developing a marine integrated monitoring program which will assess the effectiveness and performance of the Marine Estate Management Strategy; monitor the condition and trend of the marine estate; and fill key knowledge gaps.
- commencing a marine park management planning pilot at Batemans Marine Park
- rezoning of 10 ocean beach and headland sites to allow shore-based recreational fishing across four marine parks
- consulting with the community on a proposal for a marine park for the Newcastle-Sydney-Wollongong area

My role as the independent Chair, and that of the Authority who are an advisory body to the NSW Government, is to guide the Government’s reforms for the NSW marine estate. The Authority member agencies have worked closely with key stakeholders and the broader community to implement a new approach and promote real and lasting change to marine estate management across NSW.

Engagement from our stakeholders in response to our requests for feedback has been comprehensive, and their willingness to assist us in the development of management initiatives that will improve the health of the marine estate and the wellbeing of those who benefit from it is welcomed, acknowledged and appreciated. Similarly their feedback on the marine park proposal for the Newcastle-Sydney-Wollongong area will help to inform future marine park planning and community engagement processes undertaken in NSW.

I’d like to thank those who supported us and who provided frank and comprehensive feedback during community consultation on key projects this period.

We will continue to strive for improved outcomes for the NSW marine estate and our stakeholders – now and into the future.

Dr Russell Reichelt
1 December 2019
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Key deliverables

Creating change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marine Estate Management Strategy</th>
<th>release of the 10-year Marine Estate Management Strategy to improve coordinated management of the NSW marine estate $45.7 million in funding (Stage 1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategy implementation plan</td>
<td>developing an implementation plan for the Marine Estate Management Strategy, a critical step in the delivery of transparent and evidence-based management of the NSW marine estate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine integrated monitoring program</td>
<td>developing a monitoring program that will evaluate the success of the Marine Estate Management Strategy; monitor condition and trends in the marine estate; and fill key knowledge gaps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine park management planning pilots</td>
<td>commenced a pilot at Batemans Marine Park, to develop a new approach to marine park management planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rezoning to allow recreational fishing</td>
<td>10 ocean beach and headland sites across four marine parks were rezoned to continue to allow shore-based recreational line fishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion assessment</td>
<td>consulted with the community on a proposal for a marine park for the Newcastle-Sydney-Wollongong area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About us

The Marine Estate Management Authority (Authority) advises the NSW Government on the management of the marine estate consistent with the objects of the Marine Estate Management Act 2014. Key functions include undertaking threat and risk assessments, development of management strategies, promoting collaboration and coordination between public authorities in their exercise of functions, and fostering consultation with the community in relation to the management of the marine estate.

The Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel (Knowledge Panel) provides independent expert advice to the Authority on matters referred to it by the Authority including environmental, social and economic considerations.

**OUR VISION**

A healthy coast and sea, managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community, now and into the future.

**OUR ROLE**

Ensure that policies and programs address priority issues, are well-coordinated, efficient, evidence-based and result in positive outcomes.

**OUR PRINCIPLES**

1. effective community engagement to identify and prioritise benefits and threats
2. identification of priority actions will be based on threat and risk assessment
3. values will be assigned to enable trade-off decisions between alternative uses of the marine estate
4. best available information will be used in trade-off decisions, but judgement will still be required
5. the wellbeing of future generations will be considered
6. existing access arrangements will be respected
7. the precautionary principle will be applied
8. efficient and cost-effective management to achieve community outcomes
9. management decisions will be transparent and adjust in response to new information
10. management performance will be measured, monitored and reported and information pursued to fill critical knowledge gaps.
# NSW marine estate - at a glance

One of our State’s greatest natural assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>OUR MARINE ESTATE IS VAST</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong> marine parks</td>
<td>which cover around one-third of the NSW marine estate (approximately 345,000 hectares)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **11** artificial reefs        | **6 offshore reefs**: Sydney (South Head), Port Hacking, Port Macquarie, Shoalhaven Heads, Merimbula Bay & Wollongong  
**5 estuarine reefs**: Lake Macquarie, Botany Bay, Lake Conjola, St Georges Basin & Merimbula Lake |
| **11** coastal Aboriginal nations | Sea Country is vital to Aboriginal cultural wellbeing in NSW supporting spiritual and cultural connection to Country and sustenance via locally caught seafood. |
| **12** aquatic reserves        | which cover around 2,000 hectares of the NSW marine estate |
| **185** rivers, estuaries & coastal lakes | 185 rivers, estuaries and coastal lakes in the NSW marine estate |
| **826** beaches                | 826 beaches, which includes 755 ocean beaches along the NSW coastline |
| **6,500 km** estuarine & coastal lake foreshores & coastline | including 1,750 km of ocean coastline |
| **1,000,000** hectares of estuary and ocean | it incorporates estuaries and coastal foreshores, and extends seaward out to 3 nautical miles between the Queensland to the Victorian border |
Our key programs and projects

Following is a summary of key marine estate reform projects captured in this report.

**Marine Estate Management Strategy**

The NSW Premier unveiled $45.7 million for the first stage of implementation of the new 10-year Marine Estate Management Strategy (MEMS) (2018-2028) on 16 August 2018. The investment will help improve coordination and management of the entire NSW marine estate and focus on addressing the priority threats, including pollution and litter identified in the statewide threat and risk assessment. The MEMS is the first of its kind for NSW.

The Strategy is a first for NSW and is a key element of the marine estate reforms that coordinates many aspects of marine estate management under the one framework and sets the strategic direction for marine estate management over the next decade.

**Implementation**

The MEMS is being implemented in stages and commenced in August 2018. Stage 1 (2018 - 2020) focuses on addressing the most severe threats to the health of the marine estate from pollution and marine litter. Other initiatives to deliver healthy coastal habitats and sustainable land use, plan for climate change, protect Aboriginal cultural values of the marine estate, reduce impacts on marine life, deliver sustainable boating and fishing, enhance social, cultural and economic benefits and deliver effective governance are also underway.

The MEMS is being delivered through 53 actions under nine initiatives. Progress on the delivery of actions between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2019 is included in Appendix A - MEMS Implementation annual report.

**Strategy Implementation Plan**

The Authority developed a Marine Estate Management Strategy implementation plan in consultation with key partners. The implementation plan details how and where the Authority delivers on the actions within the Marine Estate Management Strategy, timeframes and partnerships to achieve intended outcomes. A key focus of the plan is to coordinate functions and responsibilities within and across government, including local government, as well as partnerships with industry and the community.

Key performance indicators and measures of success relevant to implementation of actions are included in the Marine Integrated Monitoring Program.

The Strategy and implementation plan facilitate the delivery of transparent and evidence-based management of the NSW marine estate.

**Marine Integrated Monitoring Program**

A monitoring and evaluation framework is being developed, in consultation with the independent Knowledge Panel, to underpin the broader Marine Integrated Monitoring Program. It links directly to the Marine Estate Management Strategy (and Implementation Plan) to ensure its success can be measured and to guide
adaptive management through integrating social, cultural, economic and environmental elements into the program delivery.

Importantly, the program will also monitor the condition and trend of environmental assets and community benefits (building upon some already established projects) and fill key knowledge gaps identified in the [statewide threat and risk assessment](#), in preparation for a five year health check.

### Statewide Threat and Risk Assessment

The [statewide threat and risk assessment](#) (TARA) published in 2017, continues to support and underpin key pieces of work undertaken by the Authority during 2018 and 2019. The statewide TARA has enabled us to focus management on reducing the most important threats and associated risks in NSW to maximise the environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits we all derive from the marine estate.

This evidence-based assessment sets a new national benchmark by identifying and prioritising threats and risk to the environmental assets as well as to social, cultural and economic benefits derived from the marine estate.

The purpose of the statewide TARA, as set out in the [Marine Estate Management Act 2014](#) is to:

- identify threats to the environmental, economic and social values (benefits) of the marine estate
- assess the risks associated with those identified threats
- inform marine estate management decisions by prioritising threats and risks according to the level of impact on the values derived from the marine estate.

### Marine park management plan pilots

A new approach to managing NSW marine parks commenced in June 2018 with a pilot project under way in Batemans Marine Park. A new approach to marine park management planning is being developed in accordance with the requirements of the [Marine Estate Management Act 2014](#). For the first time the plan will identify environmental, social, cultural and economic values to be managed in the marine park, as well as ways to address threats to those values.

The new draft management plan and associated management rules (regulations) will replace the existing zoning and operational plans.

Information previously collected from the community through the [Marine Estate Community Survey](#), the [statewide Threat and Risk Assessment](#) and the [Marine Estate Management Strategy](#) will inform the pilot, as well as local information.

Community engagement is an essential part of the process to ensure local issues are addressed. Stage one workshops with local and State government agencies, the Batemans Marine Park Advisory Committee and Aboriginal community groups were held during the period. Further community engagement is planned and will provide essential input into the development of a draft management plan to be released for consultation.

### Marine park advisory committee handbook

A review of the Marine Park Advisory Committee Handbook is currently under way. The review will consider representation by persons with skills and knowledge of recreational boating and the maritime industry on marine park advisory committees. Current advisory committees do not directly represent interests of the boating public.
Water Quality Working Group

The Water Quality Working Group (WQWG), with membership consisting of state agencies responsible for water management in NSW, was established to assist the Authority to explore opportunities to achieve catchment-based water quality outcomes that will benefit the NSW marine estate and fulfil commitments under Initiative 1 of the Marine Estate Management Strategy.

During 2018/19 the WQWG has mapped water management roles and responsibilities across NSW.

Links to other government reforms

This Authority supports related NSW Government reform processes. It integrates processes and outputs where relevant to meet the NSW Government’s directive to set an overarching framework that will coordinate the management of the marine estate now and into the future.

Ongoing links have been established between the Authority and the NSW Coastal Council, with two members of the Knowledge Panel also members on the NSW Coastal Council.

During the period the Authority worked with government agencies on multiple reform agendas across the marine estate, including (but not limited to):

- coastal reforms and related land use planning changes
- Aboriginal cultural heritage reforms
- Aboriginal cultural fishing reforms
- commercial fisheries business adjustment program
- climate change policy framework
- biosecurity reforms
- land management and biodiversity reforms
- Crown land reforms
- Regional Ports Strategy
- NSW Boating Now
- Moorings review
- Maritime Infrastructure Plan.

Ocean beaches and headlands

Ten ocean beach and headland sites across four marine parks were rezoned in June to continue to allow shore-based recreational line fishing.

The decision to rezone 10 sites from sanctuary zone to habitat protection zone in June 2018 to make shore-based recreational line fishing lawful, means that recreational line fishing from the shore will continue to be allowed along 44 kilometres of coastline in the Cape Byron, Solitary Islands, Port Stephens-Great Lakes and Batemans marine parks.

Over 6,600 submissions were received about this proposal. The Authority acknowledges that there are a range of passionate views amongst those that use and value ocean beaches and headlands.

Following a five year amnesty on compliance action with regard to recreational line fishing from ocean beaches and headlands zoned sanctuary, these changes are now delivering certainty for our State’s fishers.

In providing their advice, the independent Knowledge Panel used a threat and risk-based approach to assess a range of factors relating to the impacts of recreational line fishing on ocean beaches and headlands, as well as consideration of the social values recreational fishing provides to the community.

A total of 43 km of the NSW coastline will remain in sanctuary zones. The zone will extend out to 100 metres from shore.
The economic, social, cultural and ecological values of these areas will be further considered in developing new management plans for each marine park.

**Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion assessment**

In August 2018 a proposal for a new marine park in the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion was released for community consultation. The proposal included a network of 25 distinct sites between Newcastle and Wollongong, rather than a single large marine park.

A discussion paper was released (Part 1 - Executive summary, context and approach and Part 2 – Site proposals), outlining the Authority’s approach to enhancing the conservation of marine biodiversity in the bioregion while allowing for a range of benefits and uses the NSW community derives from the marine estate.

The Authority sought the community’s views during a six week consultation period finishing on 27 September 2018. Feedback on the proposal was received through 22 community information booths, targeted stakeholder engagement and an online submission portal. Meetings were also held with key stakeholders from State and local government, fishing, environmental, boating and other community groups. During this consultation period, the NSW Government announced there would be no loss of fishing rights or access following extensive feedback from both local communities and anglers.

The Authority has assessed submissions and the community’s feedback which will inform the future management of the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion. Existing management rules remain in place, and none of the proposals will be implemented until the NSW Government announces the outcome.
Fast facts

The NSW marine estate is integral to the State’s coastal-based lifestyle and economy.

| **6,225** | NSW is the largest cruise vessel destination in Australia, at an estimated industry value of $2.9 billion for the NSW economy. |
|------------|
| vessel visits to NSW ports annually | 1 |

| **850,000** | There are 850,000 licensed recreational fishers in NSW, the majority of whom fish in the marine estate, generating an economic benefit of $3.4 billion annually and revenue to NSW of approximately $15 million per annum via recreational fishing licence sales. The industry also creates the equivalent of about 14,000 full-time jobs. |
|------------|
| licensed recreational fishers | 2 |

| **1.8 million** | An estimated 1.8 million people go recreational boating in the NSW marine estate each year. There are approximately 232,000 registered vessels in NSW and more than 489,000 people hold a boat or personal water craft driving licence, the majority of which are used on the coast. |
|----------------|
| recreational boating | 3 |

| **6.3 million** | 82% of the NSW population live along the NSW coastline. |
|----------------|
| people live along the coast | 4 |

| **$90 million** | NSW is well known as a safe source of locally caught seafood, with millions generated each year via international and national tourism focused on seafood consumption via the Sydney Fish Markets and regional fisheries co-operatives and retail outlets. The estimated value at first point of sale of wild caught commercial fisheries in NSW is nearly $90 million annually and $70 million for marine and estuarine aquaculture (with likely direct and indirect outputs of between $662 million added value each year), supporting around 5,600 full-time jobs across NSW. |
|----------------|
| wild caught commercial fisheries | 5 |

| **$70 million** |  |
|----------------|
| aquaculture |  |

| **$6.5 billion** | $6.5 billion is contributed annually to the NSW economy from the major ports via trade and tourism. |
|----------------|
| trade & tourism |  |

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1 Port Authority of New South Wales, Annual Report 2017/18
3 Marine Estate Management Strategy (MEMA) 2018
Schedule of works

The marine estate schedule of works identifies priority areas of work for the Authority and the Knowledge Panel as part of the strategic, holistic, evidence-based approach to managing the NSW marine estate – marine waters, coast and estuaries, including marine parks.

In forming advice for the Ministers for the marine estate, the Authority has direct access to independent expertise across economic, social and ecological sciences through the Knowledge Panel. The Authority and the Knowledge Panel are helping the NSW Government to focus their programs on priority issues and will oversee implementation of appropriate, innovative, cost-effective management responses to the biggest threats and risks.

The schedule is updated periodically as the marine estate reform program progresses and is publicly available on the marine estate website at www.marine.nsw.gov.au.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicative completion</th>
<th>PRIORITY PROJECTS</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion assessment - explore mechanisms to enhance conservation of marine biodiversity in the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion (Newcastle - Sydney - Wollongong).</td>
<td>Discussion paper released August-September 2018. Pending final announcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Pilot new approach to marine park management planning at Batemans Marine Park and then progress this to other marine parks</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Input relating to the marine estate provided to NSW planning system and coastal reforms.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Marine Estate Management Authority’s performance report published.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2028</td>
<td>Marine Estate Management Strategy implementation</td>
<td>Ten year strategy in progress (2018 – 2028)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2028</td>
<td>Marine Integrated Monitoring Program</td>
<td>Developed by 2019 and implemented until 2028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicative completion</td>
<td>FUTURE PROJECTS</td>
<td>STATUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Following completion &amp; evaluation of Hawkesbury assessment</td>
<td>Explore mechanisms to enhance conservation of marine biodiversity in the Twofold Shelf marine bioregion (Far South Coast).</td>
<td>Pending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Following completion &amp; evaluation of pilot</td>
<td>Timetable for reviewing management and zoning in other marine parks</td>
<td>Pending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td><em>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</em> five year statutory review</td>
<td>Pending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td><em>Statewide Threat and Risk Assessment</em> five year review</td>
<td>Pending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td><em>Marine Estate Management Strategy implementation</em> five year review</td>
<td>Pending</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Our achievements since establishment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Marine Estate Management Strategy</td>
<td>Developed a Marine Estate Management Strategy Implementation Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Marine Estate Management Strategy</td>
<td>Published 10-year Marine Estate Management Strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Rezoning to allow recreational fishing</td>
<td>10 ocean beach and headland sites across four marine parks were rezoned to continue to allow shore-based recreational line fishing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Marine Estate Management Regulation</td>
<td>Review, update and remake of the regulation completed leading to better management and protection of marine parks and aquatic reserves, and a regulation that is easier to understand and implement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Statewide Threat &amp; Risk Assessment</td>
<td>Completed an evidence-based statewide Threat and Risk Assessment to identify the threats and risks to environmental assets and community benefits derived from the NSW marine estate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Marine Protected Areas Policy Statement</td>
<td>Release of a new Marine Protected Areas Policy Statement outlining the role and purpose of marine protected areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion assessment</td>
<td>Completed a comprehensive assessment of the Hawkesbury Shelf (Greater Sydney) marine bioregion. Discussion paper released for community and stakeholder engagement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Threat &amp; Risk Assessment Framework</td>
<td>Release of new guidelines on assessing the threats and risk to our marine environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Recreational fishing assessment</td>
<td>Assessment of recreational line fishing from ocean beaches and headlands in marine park sanctuary zones and progressing consultation on the proposed rezoning of 10 sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Marine Estate Management Act</td>
<td>Landmark Bill passes NSW Parliament and heralds a new era in the management of the marine estate in NSW.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Community Survey</td>
<td>Survey indicating the importance and value the community and coastal visitors place on the NSW marine estate. Over 1,700 people across NSW surveyed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Ocean beaches and headlands</td>
<td>Advice provided to Government on an assessment of recreational fishing access on ocean beaches and headlands in NSW marine park sanctuary zones by the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Engagement and communications

Maximising our connection and strengthening our collaboration and networks with communities, stakeholders and people.

Being open and transparent is important to the Authority and the Knowledge Panel. All key marine estate documents and information are made available on the marine estate website at [www.marine.nsw.gov.au](http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au).

The *Marine Estate Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy* details the approach the Authority and the Knowledge Panel take towards stakeholder engagement, Aboriginal and community participation and communication activities. The engagement strategy outlines seven overarching principles for engagement and recognises that consultation, comprises a number of steps with a range of different engagement techniques.

**COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

- participation
- communication
- proportionate
- evaluation
- early involvement
- accessibility
- transparency

**7 OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES**

**KEY ENGAGEMENT GROUPS**

- Aboriginal communities
- tourism & recreation interests
- state & local government agencies & authorities
- environmental organisations
- boating, shipping & ports
- aquaculture, recreational, cultural & commercial fishers
- NSW communities
Authority website

www.marine.nsw.gov.au

139,025

PAGE VIEWS

the number of users who accessed our website over the period

WEB ENGAGEMENT

on average, users stayed 2 mins 31 secs on each page

Authority newsletters and emails

The Authority released four emails/newsletters during the period to over 1,032 community members and stakeholders. The updates aim to educate, inform and increase awareness of progress with the Authority’s schedule of works including updates on marine estate reforms and projects.

Have your say

Stay informed and up to date on all things marine estate - community and stakeholders can subscribe to the Authority's online newsletter to receive news about marine estate projects or can email the Authority directly. Further information is available on the marine estate website www.marine.nsw.gov.au/contact-us:

- subscribe to the Authority’s newsletter
- email the Authority at contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au.

Stakeholder engagement

Engagement with a wide variety of stakeholders and the community was undertaken on marine estate reforms during the period. The Authority held meetings with Members of Parliament and Ministers to progress marine estate reforms and priorities. In addition to the summary of engagement below, targeted, multifaceted engagement was undertaken by government agencies on a number of projects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY STAKEHOLDERS</th>
<th>ENGAGEMENT DATES</th>
<th>ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community and marine estate stakeholders</td>
<td>February – June 2019</td>
<td>Marine estate reforms – newsletter distributed to over 1,000 community and marine estate stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community and marine estate stakeholders</td>
<td>February – June 2019</td>
<td>Liaison with multiple key stakeholder groups and government agencies to finalise the MEMS Implementation Plan, negotiate partnerships and discuss synergies with other reforms (i.e. coastal reform links with local government).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW coastal councils</td>
<td>January 2019</td>
<td>Newsletter update on implementation of the Marine Estate Management Strategy and opportunities for local government involvement into the future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW coastal councils workshop</td>
<td>November 2018</td>
<td>Aligning local coastal management programs with the Marine Estate Management Strategy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
August – September 2018

Community and marine estate stakeholders

Hawkesbury Shelf marine park proposal commenced six week consultation on the marine park proposal for 25 sites from Newcastle to Wollongong finished on 27 September.

Community information booths, workshops and meetings were held with key stakeholders from fishing, environmental, boating and other community groups.

August 2018

Sydney Coastal Councils Group

Presentations and update on Marine Estate Management Strategy and coastal reforms

July 2018

Batemans Marine Park Advisory Committee

Commenced a marine park management planning pilot. Meetings & workshops held with park advisory committee, community & key marine estate stakeholders

February 2018

Recurrent Investor Assurance Framework Panel

Consolidate Marine Estate Management Strategy business case and Treasury bid for funding

Governance

Organisational structure

The Authority provides advice to the Ministers jointly responsible for the marine estate.

The Authority brings together the heads of government agencies with key marine responsibilities to provide advice to the NSW Government on strategic, evidence-based management of the marine estate.

The Authority is supported by the independent Knowledge Panel which provides independent expert advice spanning ecological, economic and social sciences and an Agency Steering Committee of senior executives, who in turn receive technical support from project specific interagency working groups.

The marine estate governance structure fosters interagency collaboration. Improved linkages between NSW Government agencies and the NSW Coastal Council is intended to lead to better outcomes for the community, industry and the environment by ensuring integrated management that focuses on addressing priority threats and opportunities to achieve the vision for the marine estate.
Marine Estate Management Authority

Establishment

The Authority is an advisory body established under section 7 of the Marine Estate Management Act 2014 (Act), which commenced on 19 December 2014.

Functions

Statutory functions of the Authority under the Act are to:

- advise the relevant Ministers on management of the marine estate in line with the principles of ecologically sustainable management
- undertake assessments of threats and risks to the marine estate
- prepare a draft Marine Estate Management Strategy for submission to Ministers and advise Ministers of its implementation by public authorities
- promote collaboration and coordination between public authorities in the management of the marine estate
- foster consultation with the community in management of the marine estate.

The Authority and Knowledge Panel do not have any statutory decision-making powers or direct regulatory functions.

Schedule 1 of the Act sets out the constitution and procedures of the Authority.

During the period the Authority and Knowledge Panel operated in accordance with schedule 1 of the Act, Department Premier and Cabinet’s Guidelines for NSW Boards and Committees and the Authority’s Protocol Manual. The Protocol Manual covers the operations of both the Authority and the Knowledge Panel.
Ministers for the marine estate

NSW Ministers jointly responsible for marine estate matters are:

- Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales, Hon Adam Marshall MP
- Minister for Energy and Environment, Hon. Matthew Kean MP.

Funding

The Authority has no annual budget allocation. All costs associated with the establishment and ongoing operations of the Authority and the Knowledge Panel are funded by the Department of Primary Industries within the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment cluster and other agencies by agreement.

Staffing

The Authority does not employ staff, but drives reforms by drawing on existing resources of agencies. The Department of Primary Industries, under the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment cluster, provides support to the Authority and the Knowledge Panel through the marine estate secretariat, including administrative support.

Meetings and attendance

Five Authority meetings were held during report period, with a quorum achieved at all meetings. Meeting summaries are available on the marine estate website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBER</th>
<th>ATTENDANCE ±</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authority Chair</td>
<td>5/5†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair Expert Knowledge Panel</td>
<td>5/5‡</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Primary Industries</td>
<td>5/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Environment &amp; Heritage</td>
<td>5/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Planning &amp; Environment</td>
<td>4/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Transport</td>
<td>5/5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† Number of meetings attended/meetings held
‡ MEMA Chair attendance: outgoing Chair Wendy Craik 4/5, acting Chair Anthea Tinney 1/5 meetings

# MEEKP Chair attendance: outgoing Chair Quentin Grafton 1/5, incoming Chair Anthea Tinney 3/5, acting Chair Kate Brooks 1/5 meetings
Membership
The Authority comprises the following members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERS</th>
<th>TERM OF APPOINTMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Wendy Craik, AM B Sci (Hons), PhD Zoology, Grad Dip Management</td>
<td>15/02/13 to 22/03/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthea Tinney, PSM, B Econ, MAICD</td>
<td>15/11/18 to 31/08/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex-officio member, Secretary, NSW Department of Industry (delegated to Director General, Department of Primary Industries)</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex-officio member, Chief Executive, Office of Environment and Heritage</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex-officio member, Secretary, Department of Planning and Environment (delegated to Deputy Secretary, Policy &amp; Strategy)</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex-officio member, Secretary, Transport for NSW (delegated to Executive Director, Centres for Road Safety &amp; Maritime Safety)</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Appointments
Dr Craik stepped down as Chair of the Authority in March 2019. Dr Craik led the most significant marine estate reforms in NSW since she was appointed six years ago. Anthea Tinney has been acting Chair of the Authority since 23 March 2019 for the remainder of the reporting period.

Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel

Establishment
The Knowledge Panel is an advisory body established under section 9 of the Marine Estate Management Act 2014.

The Knowledge Panel is tasked by and reports directly to the Authority. Knowledge Panel effectiveness and performance is monitored by the Authority and is also reported in this annual report.

Membership
Knowledge Panel comprises a Chair and five members who are appointed for a period up to four years.
Appointments

The Authority was pleased to announce the appointment of Ms Anthea Tinney as the new Chair of the Knowledge Panel during 2018. Ms Tinney has extensive executive and senior leadership experience, and as the new Chair will guide the Knowledge Panel in their program of works to assist the Authority in the delivery of the NSW Government’s significant package of reforms for the NSW marine estate. Cabinet also recommended the reappointment of Dr Kate Brooks and Mr Peter McGinnity to the Knowledge Panel, both have provided considerable expertise in their respective fields and have provided excellent support to the Knowledge Panel to date. The Authority acknowledges outgoing Chair, Professor Quentin Grafton, for his considerable contribution and leadership to the Knowledge Panel since 2014.

Meetings and attendance

Five Knowledge Panel meetings were held during the report period, with a quorum achieved at all meetings. Significantly, pre-meetings and additional out of session meetings and teleconferences enable the Knowledge Panel to collectively discuss preliminary views relating to agenda items, negotiate a consolidated position and provide an opportunity to identify and discuss strategic and governance issues.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBER</th>
<th>ATTENDANCE ±</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prof Quentin Grafton (outgoing Chair)</td>
<td>2/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthea Tinney (incoming Chair)</td>
<td>3/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Kate Brooks</td>
<td>5/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Peter McGinnity</td>
<td>5/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Kate Barclay</td>
<td>5/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor William Glamore</td>
<td>5/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Peter Steinberg</td>
<td>5/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Wendy Craik AM (Authority observer)</td>
<td>3/3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

± Number of meetings attended/meetings held