

Glossary of terms

Marine Estate Management Authority

These terms are used consistently by the Authority in the delivery of their priority actions and initiatives with the [Schedule of Works](#).

Term	Notes
activity	something occurring in the marine estate. This may be a community benefit and/or a threat to an environmental asset or social, cultural or economic values, for example, boating, fishing, dredging or shipping.
asset	<p>the physical features of the marine estate, but does not include people. There are three main types of assets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environmental assets – the natural attributes, components and living resources of the marine estate for example habitat (e.g. beaches or rocky shores) or threatened species • cultural assets – structures, places or associations that form or contribute to cultural identity • infrastructure assets – functional structures installed for people to use and interact with the marine estate.
benefit	see 'community benefit'.
community benefit	<p>anything that contributes to the wellbeing of the community. There are three separate categories of community benefits: economic, social and environmental benefits. Many community benefits are based on what people think is important (what they value). A community benefit of the marine estate could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • swimming at the beach • boating in an estuary • doing something as a hobby (e.g. fishing, kayaking, surfing, bird watching, etc.) • running a business (e.g. whale watching business, charter fishing, commercial fishing, etc.) • clean waters and marine biodiversity • intrinsic values i.e. valuing the environment regardless of direct

Term	Notes
	benefits. The <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> uses the term 'community value' for this.
community wellbeing	the overall aggregate of economic, social and environmental benefits.
community wellbeing lens	this is considering the benefits and costs to the community as a whole rather than a particular user group, sector or industry.
consequence	the result of something happening, including a change in circumstances affecting objectives. It can be certain or uncertain and have positive or negative effects on objectives. A consequence can be expressed qualitatively or quantitatively.
cumulative impact, threats or risks	the impact (positive or negative) resulting from the effects of one or more impacts, and the interactions between those impacts, added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future pressures.
cultural use	the use of the marine estate to demonstrate or perform skills, arts, beliefs and customs and to pass these on from one generation to the next.
ecological	the relationship between organisms and their environment.
economic	the production, distribution, and use of income, wealth, and commodities.
economic benefits	benefits derived by the community from the marine estate that are of an economic or financial nature.
effect	a deviation from the measured status. Effects can be positive or negative.
environmental benefit	benefits derived by the community from an environmental asset.
evidence	relevant and credible information sources relating to threats and risks (environmental, social or economic) such as scientific research or reports, unpublished data/research or supporting background reports.
impact	the outcome of the direct or indirect effect of activities and natural events on the assets or values of the environmental, social or economic components (i.e. pressure + response).
key stressors	these are stressors that are responsible for impacts on environmental assets and related risks to community benefits e.g. an activity such as storm water discharge can adversely impact environmental assets through several key stressors, such as water pollution, marine debris and sediment contamination.
likelihood	the chance of something happening.
marine estate	as defined in the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the coastal waters of New South Wales within the meaning of Part 10 of the <i>Interpretation Act 1987</i> • estuaries (being any part of a river whose level is periodically or intermittently affected by coastal tides) up to the highest astronomical tide • lakes, lagoons and other partially enclosed bodies of water that are permanently, periodically or intermittently open to the sea

Term	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coastal wetlands (including saltmarsh, mangroves and seagrass), lands immediately adjacent to, or in the immediate proximity of, the coastal waters of New South Wales that are subject to oceanic processes (including beaches, dunes, headlands and rock platforms) • any other place or thing declared by the regulations to be the marine estate • but does not include any place or thing declared by the regulations not to be the marine estate.
open access resource	resources that can be accessed by anyone at any time.
opportunity	a time, set of circumstances or activity that makes it possible to improve community wellbeing.
over-exploitation	harvesting species or resources at rates faster than natural populations or resources can recover.
priority threat	those threats that have the greatest risk of producing adverse effects on the flow of benefits from the marine estate. A threat was considered to be a statewide priority if it had a high or moderate risk level for each of the three regions across the state (i.e. north, central and south). Risk levels of high or moderate in only one or two regions lead to those threats being identified as regional priorities.
priority risk	is a term used in the NSW Marine Estate Threat and Risk Assessment Draft Report and refers to a risk level of high or moderate.
quality of evidence	a rating of the quality of available evidence e.g. adequate, limited or inferred to convey the level of confidence in the knowledge and deal with uncertainty and/or absence of evidence.
region	the section of NSW that the TARA has been applied to. North region is from Tweed Heads to Stockton, Central region from Stockton to Shellharbour and South region from Shellharbour to NSW/Victorian border.
residual risk	the risk remaining after taking current management efforts into account (these efforts are called risk treatment or risk management).
resilience	<p>the maximum change (or disturbance) that can occur before a population or system can no longer resist it or recover from it. The change (or disturbance) can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “pulse” – an acute, short-term change that results in a temporary response • “press” – a sustained or chronic change that could cause a long-term response • “catastrophic” – a major, long-term change from which a population or system is unlikely to recover.
resource use	resource uses and activities resulting in stressors to environmental assets arising from these activities e.g. recreational fishing.
resource use conflict	disagreements and disputes over access to and control of natural resources.

Term	Notes
risk	the chance of something happening that will have an impact on achieving environmental, social or economic objectives.
risk analysis	a process to comprehend the nature or level of risk.
risk assessment	overall process of risk identification, risk analysis and risk evaluation.
risk context	the internal and external environment in which the government and broader community seek to achieve their objectives.
risk criteria	terms of reference against which the significance of a risk is evaluated. They are based on objectives and risk context and can be derived from standards, laws, policies and other requirements.
risk evaluation	the process for deciding whether the risk and its magnitude are acceptable or tolerable. The evaluation does this by comparing the results of risk analysis to agreed criteria.
risk identification	process of finding, recognising and describing risks. It involves the identification of risk sources, events, their causes and potential consequences. It can draw on historical data, analysis, informed and expert opinions, and surveys of stakeholder needs.
risk level	magnitude of a risk or combination of risks, generally expressed in terms of the combination of consequences and their likelihood e.g. high, moderate, low or minimal.
risk management	coordinated activities to direct and control threats with regard to risk.
risk management framework	– a set of components that provides the foundations and management arrangements for designing, implementing, monitoring, reviewing and continually improving risk management.
risk owner	the agency or stakeholder with the accountability and authority to manage a risk.
risk perception	a stakeholder's view on a risk.
risk treatment	a process to modify the risk (e.g. avoiding it, removing the source, changing the likelihood or consequences, sharing the risk or retaining and managing the risk by informed decisions). Management controls introduced by government are examples of risk treatments.
social	of or relating to the life and relations of people in a community.
social benefits	the social and relational benefits the community derives from the marine estate.
social and economic benefit	also called community benefit, this is anything that contributes to the wellbeing of the community.
spatial extent	the scale of the risk of the threat to a benefit being realised e.g. local, regional or statewide.
stakeholder	a person, organisation (including agencies) that can affect, be affected by, or perceive themselves to be affected by a decision or activity.
stressor	a consequence of an activity (e.g. water pollution, overcrowding) that causes an effect on an environmental asset (e.g. clean waters) or social and

Term	Notes
	economic benefit (e.g. recreation and tourism activities at a local beach or waterway). Different activities may lead to the same stressors (e.g. foreshore development and dredging activities can produce different forms of water pollution if not managed effectively).
temporal scale	the timeframe in which the risk of the threat being realised will occur e.g. 1-2 years, 10 years or 20 years.
threat	a broad activity, event or process that poses a potential level of risk to an environmental asset or social or economic benefit. Threats often affect multiple assets/benefits and similarly, an asset/benefit may be affected by multiple threats.
threat and risk assessment	a process that identifies, assesses and prioritises threats and their associated risks to the marine estate. It also highlights areas where information is lacking and research is needed.
trade-off	the relinquishment of one benefit or value for another that is regarded as more desirable or of greater importance.
trend	how a threat varies over time e.g. increasing, decreasing or stable.
value	the term used by the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> for 'community benefit'.

© State of New South Wales through Department of Industry 2017.

This publication is copyright. You may download, display, print and reproduce this material provided that the wording is reproduced exactly, the source is acknowledged, and the copyright, update address and disclaimer notice are retained. To copy, adapt, publish, distribute or commercialise any of this publication you will need to seek permission from the Department of Primary Industries.

Published by NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent advisor.

INT16/122764 – May 2017 – V3.