



MARINE ESTATE EXPERT KNOWLEDGE PANEL

Terms of Reference

MEEKP

MARINE ESTATE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



Contents

Background	1
Strategic functions	1
Terms of reference.....	2
The Chair.....	2

Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel - Terms of Reference

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Background

The Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel (Knowledge Panel) is established under section 9 of the [Marine Estate Management Act 2014](#).

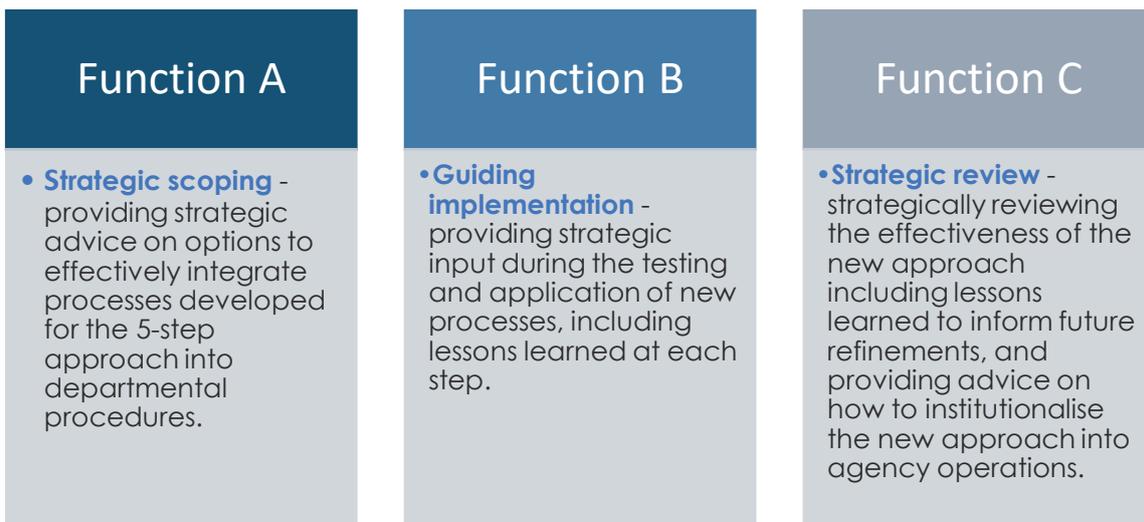
The Knowledge Panel helps deliver a strategic, evidence-based approach to managing NSW marine and coastal waters and estuaries. It does this by assisting the Marine Estate Management Authority (Authority) formulate advice for the Ministers responsible for the marine estate. The Knowledge Panel is tasked by and reports directly to the Authority.

Strategic functions

The role of the Knowledge Panel is to provide independent expert advice on matters referred to it by the Authority that considers ecological, economic, cultural and social sciences.

The Knowledge Panel assists with identifying and filling key knowledge gaps and supports evidence based decision-making, value-adds ecological, economic, cultural or social expertise and provides strategic insights into the work of NSW Government on the management of the marine estate. It will do this by focusing on the following strategic functions.

Figure 1. Knowledge Panel strategic functions

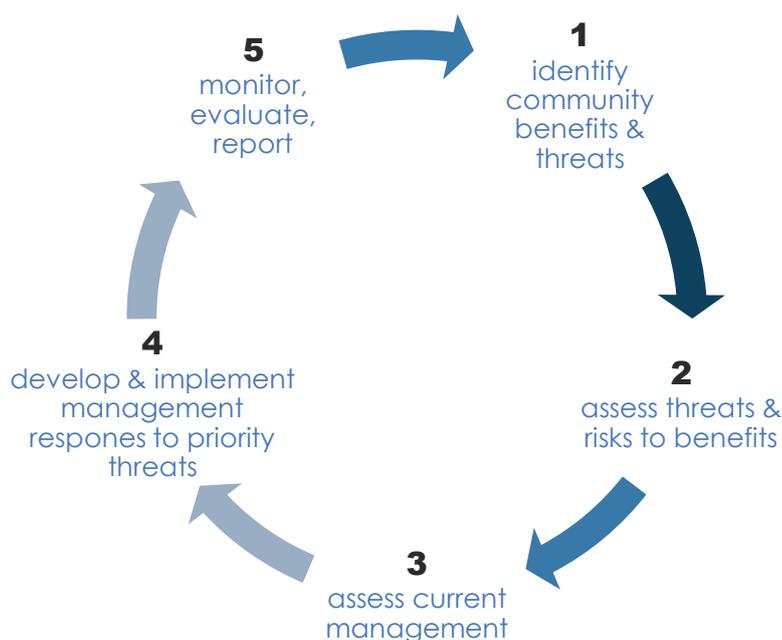


The Knowledge Panel may provide advice on marine estate matters including, the implementation of the Marine Integrated Monitoring Program and Marine Estate Management Strategy, as well as threat and risk assessments, marine planning and community engagement.

The Knowledge Panel will contribute to the Authority’s vision of:

“a healthy coast and sea,
managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community,
now and into the future”

by applying a holistic, evidence based 5-step decision-making approach to NSW Government policies and programs.

Figure 2: MEEKP's 5-step decision-making approach¹

Terms of reference

The Knowledge Panel will operate according to the following terms of reference as agreed with the Authority Chair.

1. the Knowledge Panel will be tasked by and report directly to the Authority.
2. as requested by the Authority, the Knowledge Panel is to provide independent expert advice on the policies and programs that influence the management of the NSW marine estate.
3. the advice provided by the Knowledge Panel may encompass strategic, operational scientific and technical advice spanning ecological, economic, cultural and social science disciplines, including coastal land use planning.
4. the Knowledge Panel can:
 - a. engage and utilise additional specialist expertise as required for specific tasks.
 - b. draw on Authority member agencies knowledge and skills as appropriate.
5. the Knowledge Panel will support reviews by the Authority, as required, of Knowledge Panel effectiveness and performance, to be reported on to Ministers and publicly.

The Chair

6. the Chair will provide direction to Knowledge Panel members in an efficient and effective manner in order to provide the Authority with advice as required.
7. the Chair is also a member of the Authority, so that the Authority has direct access to independent scientific expertise.
8. the Chair will act as media spokesperson for the work of the Knowledge Panel only when called on to do so by Ministers or the Authority Chair.

¹ [Managing the NSW Marine Estate: Purpose, underpinning principles and priority setting](#) (p8-9).