



## OVERVIEW OF THE DRAFT STRATEGY

# Draft Marine Estate Management Strategy

## WHAT ARE WE ARE DOING?

The State's estuaries, coastline and waters collectively form our marine estate, one of our greatest natural assets. It provides recreation and enjoyment, contributes to our quality of life and is of social, economic, cultural and ecological importance to the people of NSW.

The NSW Government is investing in actions that will help manage the threats to the marine estate. This draft Marine Estate Management Strategy (draft Strategy) provides the framework for the NSW Government to coordinate the management of the marine estate in a way that balances economic growth, use and conservation of the marine estate over the next decade.

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**Our vision is a healthy coast and sea, managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community, now and into the future. The draft Strategy includes eight initiatives to help us achieve this vision.**

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### 1. IMPROVING WATER QUALITY AND REDUCING LITTER

We will improve water quality and reduce marine litter by:

- working with local councils to improve the quality of stormwater
- restoring habitats to reduce water pollution caused by erosion and land degradation
- extending the 'Hey Tossler!' litter campaign to focus on marine litter
- training compliance officers in best practice management of urban and rural sources of pollution.

### 2. SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT FOR HEALTHY HABITATS

We will limit the impacts of foreshore development and use on the marine estate by:

- improving how coastal development activities are assessed and promoting best practice design in coastal urban environments
- improving the resilience of coastal floodplains
- supporting improvements to coastal infrastructure
- reducing the complexity of approvals associated with works in intertidal habitats to address impacts on estuaries
- providing fish passage at priority barriers
- improving protection of the coastal environment and its benefits.

### 3. PLANNING FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

We will prepare for the impacts of a changing climate on the marine estate by:

- improving our understanding of impacts on marine wildlife, fish and coastal habitats
- developing maps to assist mangrove and saltmarsh management
- supporting regional resilience by carrying out adaptation planning and decision making.

### 4. PROTECTING THE CULTURAL VALUES OF THE MARINE ESTATE

We will increase Aboriginal participation in managing the cultural values of 'Sea Country' by:

- building capacity in Aboriginal communities for involvement in fisheries and marine estate governance arrangements

- promoting Aboriginal tourism businesses in marine parks
- funding a pilot program for local Aboriginal communities to undertake management works on land and Sea Country
- working with local communities on the protection of middens from the impacts of climate change
- facilitating Aboriginal communities to prepare Sea Country Plans that identify and document cultural values.

## 5. REDUCING IMPACTS ON WILDLIFE

We will better protect marine wildlife by:

- improving responses to marine wildlife incidents, like freeing whales from nets, by ensuring effective documentation and monitoring of all incidents
- helping the community to report wildlife incidents
- mapping species distributions and associated threats, such as dog walking, four-wheel driving and foreshore development
- expanding programs to prevent marine wildlife disease outbreaks
- reducing threats to wildlife caused by boating through education, research and compliance planning.

## 6. SUSTAINABLE FISHING AND AQUACULTURE

We will ensure fishing and aquaculture provides for sustainable use by:

- expanding the commercial fishing observer program to better understand the effects of harvest and bycatch on the variety and abundance of fish species
- revising fishery management strategies to include harvest strategies and ecological risks
- increasing education and compliance programs for recreational fishing including a review of rules
- implementing projects to build social licence
- examining possible spatial management options to protect species and habitat.

## 7. ENABLING SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE BOATING

We will balance the protection of coastal and marine habitats with access for safe and sustainable boating by:

- reducing the threat of physical disturbance to sensitive seagrass while seeking solutions to respond to growing demand for boat storage

- running a pilot program to reduce water pollution at marinas
- improving reporting of vessel collisions with wildlife
- increasing awareness of threats to wildlife through education and compliance programs
- running an education campaign on recreational vessel cleaning to reduce water pollution.

## 8. IMPROVING GOVERNANCE AND ENHANCING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

We will improve public access to the marine estate, reduce user conflicts and improve governance by:

- improving coordination and implementation of marine estate management programs
- identifying and mapping current and future use of the marine estate
- running school and community education awareness programs on the marine estate
- providing incentives for improvements in sustainable tourism and recreational use of the marine estate
- establishing a monitoring program that includes social, cultural and economic components
- providing incentives to promote safe use of marine estate.

## MONITORING THESE ACTIONS

A Marine Integrated Monitoring Program will be established as part of the Strategy. This will allow us to assess how effective the actions are in reducing threats and to fill key information gaps.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

The Marine Estate Management Authority is seeking your feedback on the draft Strategy. You can submit your feedback via an electronic submission form on the marine estate reforms website [www.marine.nsw.gov.au](http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au).

More information on consultation and opportunities to provide feedback can be found at [www.marine.nsw.gov.au](http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au).

If you have any queries or would like to register for marine estate reform updates you can email us at [contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au](mailto:contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au).

