

# Terms of Reference

## Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel

### BACKGROUND

The NSW Government established the independent Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel (Expert Knowledge Panel) in 2013 to guide the Marine Estate Management Authority (Authority). The Authority is advising the NSW Government as it delivers a strategic new approach to managing the NSW marine estate.

### STRATEGIC FUNCTIONS

The Expert Knowledge Panel represents an opportunity to value-add expert, strategic insights to the work of NSW Government agencies on the Authority and Ministers. The Expert Knowledge Panel can also most usefully value-add in relation to the gathering, analysis and consideration of community views. It will do this by focusing on the following strategic functions.

The goal is to deliver on the vision of a NSW marine estate managed for the greatest well-being of the community by integrating the 5-step new holistic, evidence-based approach into NSW government policies and programs. The 5-step new approach is explained on pages 8 and 9 of [Managing the NSW Marine Estate: Purpose, underpinning principles and priority setting](#) available at [www.marine.nsw.gov.au](http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au).

- ➔ **FUNCTION A. Strategic scoping** - providing strategic advice on options to effectively integrate processes developed for the 5-step approach into departmental procedures
- ➔ **FUNCTION B. Guiding implementation** - providing strategic input during the testing and application of new processes, including lessons learned at each step
- ➔ **FUNCTION C. Strategic review** - strategically reviewing the effectiveness of the new approach including lessons learned to inform future refinements, and providing advice on how to institutionalise the new approach into agency operations

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference of the Expert Knowledge Panel are set out below. The Expert Knowledge Panel will operate according to these, as agreed with the Authority Chair.

1. The Expert Knowledge Panel will be tasked by and report directly to the Authority.

2. As requested by the Authority, the Expert Knowledge Panel is to provide independent expert advice on the NSW marine estate.
3. The advice provided by the Expert Knowledge Panel may encompass strategic and operational scientific and technical advice spanning ecological, economic and social science disciplines, including Aboriginal interests and coastal land use planning.
4. The Expert Knowledge Panel can:
  - a. Engage and utilise additional specialist expertise as required for specific tasks.
  - b. Draw on departmental knowledge and skills as appropriate.
5. The Expert Knowledge Panel will support an annual review by the Authority of Panel effectiveness and performance, to be reported on to Ministers and publicly.

## THE CHAIR

6. The Chair will provide direction to Expert 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 Expert Knowledge Panel when called on to do so by Ministers or the Authority.