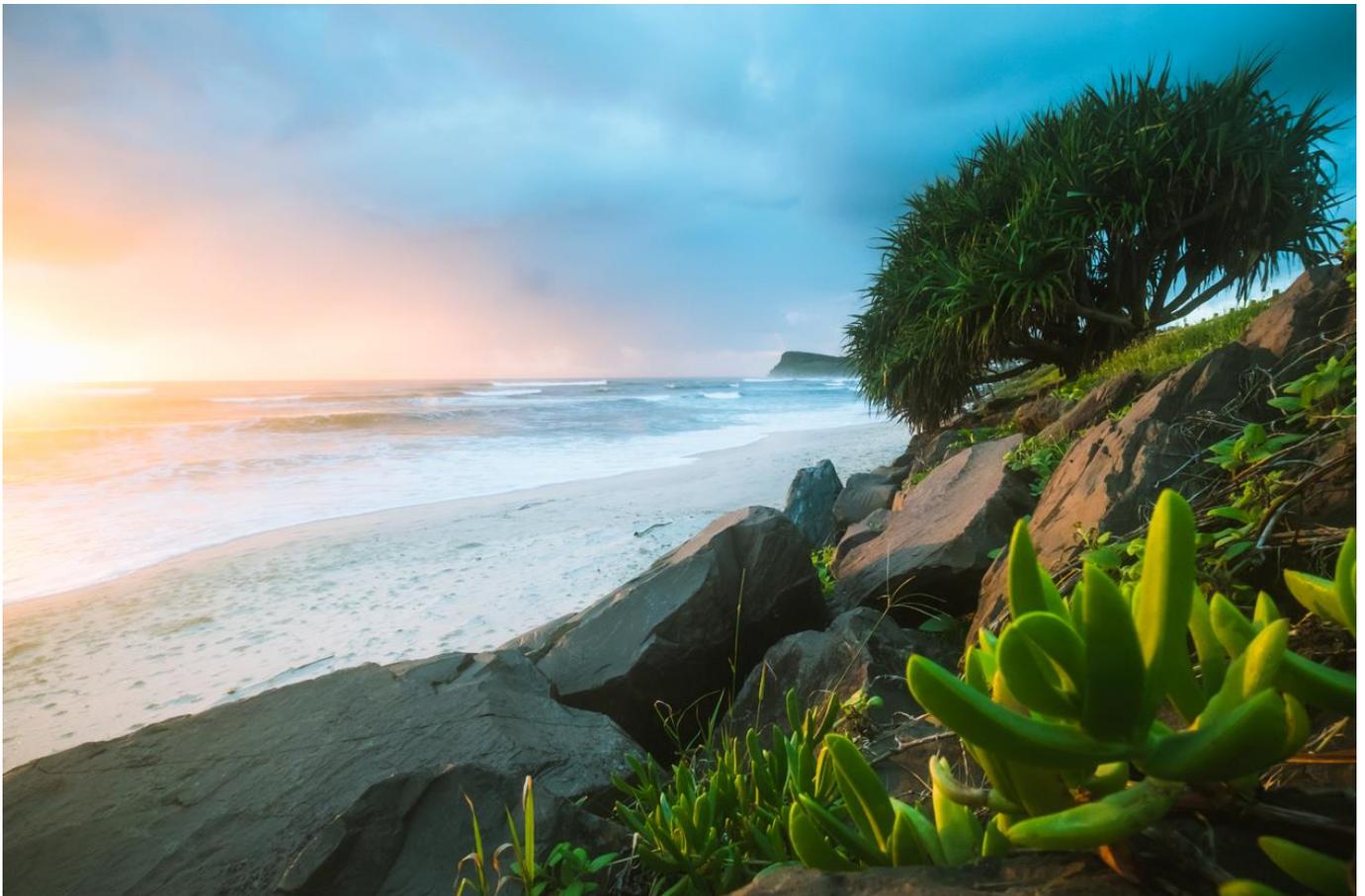


Marine Estate Management Authority

Annual Report 2021–2022

December 2022



www.marine.nsw.gov.au

Published by the Department of Regional NSW

Marine Estate Management Authority Annual Report 2021-2022

Published December 2022

ISBN: 978-1-76058-664-5

PUB22/960

More information

This report is a supplementary report to the Marine Estate Management Strategy Implementation Annual Report 2021-2022

This report covers the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

Marine Estate Management Authority www.marine.nsw.gov.au

Acknowledgements

The Authority acknowledges ministers, government agencies, organisations and individual whose support, collaboration and input has made our work possible. Key contributors include:

- Marine Estate Management Authority
- Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel
- officers from the following agencies in preparing this report:
 - Department of Planning and Environment
 - Department of Primary Industries
 - Transport for NSW.

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Acknowledgement of Aboriginal people

The Marine Estate Management Authority acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we live and work, and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Aboriginal people hold deep cultural and spiritual connections to the sea. They have cared for Sea Country for thousands of years, passing on their knowledge and tradition to each new generation. The Authority seeks to work collaboratively with Aboriginal people to maintain their social, cultural, economic and spiritual connections to the marine estate, now and into the future.



© Bindarray Maagun (River Feast) by Gumbaynggirr artist Lavinnia Inglis

Message from the Chair



The Marine Estate Management Authority is facilitating effective collaboration across NSW government agencies, and with our many partners. Collectively we manage the NSW marine estate and our programs are reducing key threats and improving the health of estuarine, coastal and offshore environments. We have had a very productive year in 2021-22 despite significant impacts to the NSW marine estate from extreme weather events.

This year the NSW Government approved long-term funding for the Marine Estate Management Strategy, which guides the Authority's work and delivers better water quality and coastal habitat health, a response to climate change and assists the recovery of threatened and protected species. The Strategy also includes enhancing opportunities for sustainable use and appreciation of the marine estate by the community.

The investment of \$182 million in the Strategy over six years, approximately \$30 million each year, reaffirms the NSW Government's commitment to future-proofing our marine estate, which is an iconic and world class natural resource.

The Marine Estate Management Strategy drives over 100 projects being delivered state-wide that build on the social and economic benefits already realised in the first four years of the Strategy.

Our First Nations community are now working on Sea Country management via the Marine Estate Management Strategy. This 6-year budget commitment ensures ongoing work to protect cultural values, grow Aboriginal employment and deliver social and economic benefits.

The Authority's Marine Integrated Monitoring Program (Monitoring Program) continued this year to develop the systems that will provide transparent reporting on what is happening 'out on the water' as the Marine Estate Management Strategy progresses.

The Monitoring Program facilitates centralised and efficient coordination of monitoring, evaluation, reporting to support the Strategy, and thanks to the securing of long-term funding for the Strategy, capacity for the program is increasing. The focus this year has been to develop and refine a data management strategy and reporting materials, along with a communications and engagement strategy. Technical reports outlining monitoring of community wellbeing and environmental condition are currently being finalised. Looking ahead, we will focus on reviewing new information on the condition of the marine estate, the benefits gained by the community, and the threats to these values, as well as evaluating the progress of the Strategy in achieving its outcomes, to support a responsive adaptive management and, ultimately, ensure success of the Strategy.

In late 2021 and early 2022 we sought to understand community views on the values and challenges facing our mainland marine park network during consultation on the draft NSW Mainland Marine Park Network Management Plan (2021-2031). Management plans are a requirement of the Marine Estate Management Act 2014 and the draft Plan aims to enhance the values of the marine park network, by addressing threats to marine park values, establishing park management objectives and delivering actions and programs to achieve those objectives. The draft plan includes strong linkages to related marine estate management programs, including the delivery of the Strategy and local government Coastal Management Programs. The Authority has considered the views of the NSW community and provided advice for the Government to consider in finalising the draft plan.

The Authority acknowledges that a healthy and productive marine estate is critical to the health, wellbeing and prosperity of the 6.9 million people of NSW who live within 50 kilometres of the marine estate. We will continue to respond to the threats from increased severe weather events we are experiencing in a changing climate, such as the devastating floods we witnessed this year. A healthy marine estate is important in the recovery of these impacted communities. For some this

means a return to employment in the range of marine industries that are the lifeblood of coastal communities. For others it may be restoring the enjoyment for those recreational activities on-water or reassuring those who care that the marine environment and its species will be in good health for future generations.

I thank the members of the Authority, the MEMA Secretariat, those working directly on improving how we manage the marine estate, and all those who supported us and who provided frank and comprehensive feedback during community consultation on key projects this year. I look forward to another productive year ahead, while we work together to improve outcomes for the NSW marine estate and the people of NSW – now and into the future.



Russell Reichelt
Chair, Marine Estate Management Authority

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CREATING CHANGE



Marine Estate Management Strategy

\$30.7 million allocated to support the continued delivery of the Strategy in 2021-22

The Strategy addresses priority threats to the environmental assets and social, cultural and economic benefits derived from the NSW marine estate



Marine park management planning

continued to progress the delivery of a new approach to marine park management planning in consultation with key stakeholders, marine park advisory committees and relevant agencies. Development of a separate management plan for Lord Howe Island marine park is progressing



Marine Integrated Monitoring Program

work continues with the development of report cards and prioritising and filling key knowledge gaps, in cooperation with our partners

Introduction

This report provides an annual summary of key marine estate programs that are being delivered by the Marine Estate Management Authority (the Authority).

The vision is to deliver ‘a healthy coast and sea, managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community, now and into the future’

Who we are

The **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 conducting threat and risk assessments, developing management strategies, promoting collaboration and coordination between public authorities in their exercise of functions, and fostering consultation with the community to manage the marine estate.

The **Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel** (Knowledge Panel) provides independent expert advice to the Authority on request. Matters can include environmental, social, cultural and economic considerations.

Four **NSW Government agencies** have key responsibilities for managing the marine estate. All are members of the Authority (Authority agencies):

- Department of Regional NSW - Department of Primary Industries (DPI)
- Department of Planning and Environment – Environment and Heritage Group
- Department of Planning and Environment – Planning
- Transport for NSW.

Our role is to 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.

The NSW marine estate at a glance

The NSW marine estate is one of our greatest natural assets. It is integral to our coastal-based lifestyle and economy

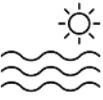
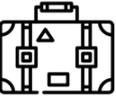
OUR MARINE ESTATE		
	6.9 million people live along NSW coastline	85% of the state's population lives within 50 kilometres of the marine estate. People choose to live, work and recreate near the coast because of the condition of the marine estate, and this is seen in the high value of coastal real estate prices.
	11 coastal Aboriginal nations	Sea Country is vital to Aboriginal cultural wellbeing in NSW. The marine estate supports spiritual and cultural connection to Country. It also supports sustenance via locally caught seafood.
	6 marine parks	Marine parks help to conserve marine biodiversity, while at the same time providing for activities such as diving, boating, fishing and tourism. Marine parks cover around a third of the NSW marine estate (approximately 345,000 hectares)
	14 artificial reefs	Artificial reefs enhance fishing opportunities for recreational fishers by creating additional habitat for fish and other marine organisms. There are 8 offshore reefs and 6 estuarine reefs in NSW.
	12 aquatic reserves	Aquatic reserves are places to enjoy a range of marine activities such as boating, scuba diving, snorkelling and swimming. These reserves cover around 2,000 hectares of the NSW marine estate.
	1,750 km coastline 826 beaches 185 estuaries	The state's beaches and coastal waterways are the focus of international, national and regional tourism. They support coastal events, accommodation, restaurants, retail, and recreational opportunities.
	1 million hectares of estuary and ocean	The NSW marine estate incorporates estuaries and coastal foreshores, and extends seaward out to 3 nautical miles from the Queensland to the Victorian border
	\$10 billion tourism	More than \$10 billion annual income is generated by tourism and it supports over 55,000 jobs in NSW.
	1.8 million recreational boating	1.8 million people go recreational boating in the NSW marine estate each year. There are about 232,000 registered vessels in NSW. Most of the 489,000 people who hold a boat or personal watercraft driving licence use it for coastal boating.
	1 million licensed recreational fishers	There are 1 million licensed recreational fishers in NSW, generating an economic benefit of \$757 million per year and revenue to the state of about \$16 million a year from recreational fishing licence sales. Most recreational fishing activity is in the marine estate.
	\$141 million wild-caught commercial fisheries	NSW is famous as a safe source of locally caught seafood and is a focus of international and national tourism focused on seafood consumption. The estimated total value of wild-caught commercial fisheries in NSW is \$141 million annually, supporting around 680 jobs. Marine and estuarine aquaculture is worth around \$65 million annually and supports more than 300 jobs in regional NSW.

Figure 1. The marine estate at a glance



Figure 2. Map of the NSW marine estate

Our achievements in 2021–22

The Authority has managed several key programs in 2021-22, including the development of a Strategic Business Case to secure long-term funding for the [Marine Estate Management Strategy \(2018-2028\)](#) (Strategy) and consultation on the [Draft management plan for the NSW Mainland Marine Park Network 2021–2031](#).

Marine Estate Management Strategy

The 10-year Strategy is the first whole-of-government approach to providing an overarching framework for coordinated management of the marine estate. It is in response to the NSW Independent Scientific Audit of NSW Marine Parks in 2012.

The Strategy is the centrepiece of the NSW Government’s response to the need to establish a coordinated, holistic, quadruple bottom-line approach to the management of the NSW marine estate.

It addresses the priority threats to the social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits informed by a comprehensive, evidence-based statewide Threat and Risk Assessment (statewide TARA). It includes over 100 projects actions across 9 interlinked initiatives that aim to reduce priority threats by:

- Improving water quality and reducing litter
- enhancing coastal habitats
- planning for climate change
- protecting Aboriginal cultural values of the marine estate
- reducing impacts on threatened and protected species
- delivering sustainable fishing
- enabling safe and sustainable boating
- enhancing social, cultural and economic benefits
- delivering effective governance.

It ensures continued access and enjoyment to a healthier marine estate for the community who rely on it for work, recreation, health and wellbeing. Good governance and collaboration underpin the implementation of the Strategy. In 2021–22, staff from each of the Authority’s affiliated agencies worked together cohesively. This collaboration has expanded to other partner agencies, industry and key stakeholder groups. Detailed progress on the implementation of the 100+ projects in the Strategy for 2021-22, and expenditure of \$30.7 million, is reported in the [Strategy Implementation Annual Report 2021–2022](#).

On 17 June 2022 the NSW Government announced a record investment of \$182 million in new funding over the final 6 years of the Strategy’s implementation to 2028. The funding supports continuing projects and several new projects that protect the state’s iconic coast and estuaries and support stronger coastal communities and industries, building on the \$105 million committed over the first 4 years. Many coastal industries are still overcoming the effects of recent natural disasters, and this funding will help coastal businesses to recover, boost their productivity and strengthen regional employment.

For more information about the range of projects and key achievements in the Strategy, visit the [Strategy webpage](#).

Marine Estate Management Strategy evaluation (2018-2020)

An independent baseline evaluation of the Strategy's implementation over its first 2 years (2018–2020) was completed in September 2021. It focused on 2 components: process and outcomes. The baseline evaluation report found that during the first 2 years of implementation, the Strategy has:

- built strong foundations for future success
- established and consolidated robust project management systems and governance arrangements
- improved coordination and collaboration among stakeholders, which was recognised as especially important enablers of successful implementation.

The report acknowledges the Strategy has experienced several significant challenges that led to re-scoping of some projects and unavoidable delays. These challenges included the 'Black Summer' bushfires, floods, the COVID 19 pandemic, a number of Machinery of Government changes and long-term funding uncertainty.

The final evaluation report has 13 recommendations for: the need for long-term funding, improved reporting and approvals processes, managing stakeholder expectations, enhancing the Marine Integrated Monitoring Plan (MIMP) and advice for the upcoming statewide TARA review. The Authority agreed to review, assign actions and report on the progress of recommendations. The evaluation report is on the [marine estate website](#).

The requirements for periodic evaluation to measure success are outlined in the MIMP [Monitoring and Evaluation Framework](#).

Marine park management planning

Public consultation on the NSW Government's [Draft management plan for the NSW Mainland Marine Park Network 2021–2031](#) closed on 31 January 2022, after 3 months of consultation. Once it has been finalised, the plan will guide the management of the state's 5 existing mainland marine parks.

Comprehensive feedback was provided by the 5 mainland marine park advisory committees, 10 government agencies, the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel, and the broader community.

As part of the consultation, the community provided feedback on the future management of the state's 5 mainland marine parks – Cape Byron, Solitary Islands, Port Stephens-Great Lakes, Jervis Bay and Batemans marine parks. The parks provide a range of biodiversity conservation, cultural, commercial and recreational benefits. A management plan for Lord Howe Island Marine Park is being developed separately.

An independent external consultant has analysed community and stakeholder feedback and has reviewed all submissions received. This feedback has been used to improve the development of the final Management Plan for the NSW Mainland Marine Park Network 2021–2031 as it nears completion. A report summarising engagement with Aboriginal communities has also been prepared by an independent consultant. Both reports have been now considered by the Authority, which will submit the reports, a summary of community and stakeholder findings and a final plan to the Ministers responsible for the NSW marine estate for consideration.

The plan does not include any specific proposals around changes to marine park rules or zones. The detail of any proposed changes to rules or zones will be developed in stage 2 and will be subject to further community consultation.

For more information visit www.marine.nsw.gov.au/yoursay.

Marine Integrated Monitoring Program (MIMP)

The MIMP monitors condition and trend of environmental assets and community benefits, guides data collection to assess management effectiveness and contributes to filling key knowledge gaps.

Work continues on developing report cards, filling key knowledge gaps, developing a communications and engagement plan, and a review of new and emerging threats to the marine estate to inform the 5-year health check of the Strategy in 2023.

A MIMP database is being developed and tested, including a linked threat and risk assessment database. Data collection and management have been a key focus this year.

Authority Chair meetings with Ministers

Dr Russell Reichelt, Chair of the Authority, met with the new joint Ministers for the marine estate:

- the Hon. James Griffin, Minister for Environment and Heritage
- the Hon. Dugald Saunders, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW.

Both Ministers were briefed separately on the Authority's key priorities for 2022, including the next stages of the Strategy, progress on marine park planning, and development of draft management rules for marine parks.

Schedule of works

The Authority's Schedule of Works identifies priority areas of work as part of the strategic, holistic, evidence-based approach to managing the NSW marine estate – the marine waters, coast and estuaries, including marine parks. It is updated as the marine estate reform program progresses and is publicly available on the marine estate website at www.marine.nsw.gov.au.

In forming advice for the Ministers responsible for the marine estate, the Authority accesses independent expertise through the Knowledge Panel. The Knowledge Panel provides advice about economic, social and ecological sciences as well as cultural management of Sea Country, so that the NSW Government is able to focus its program on priority issues. In 2021-22 the Authority guided implementation of appropriate, innovative, cost-effective management responses to the biggest threats and risks to the NSW marine estate, and monitor progress and outcomes.

Table 1. Schedule of works for the Authority in 2021-22

Indicative completion	Priority programs	Status
2022	Prepare a network management plan (NMP) for 5 mainland marine parks	In progress
2022	Finalise the Community Wellbeing Framework and the Environmental Condition Framework to guide monitoring and fill knowledge gaps for the MIMP	In progress
2023	Develop management rules to implement the final NMP	In progress
2023	Conduct a threat and risk assessment for Lord Howe Island Marine Park	In progress – scoping
2023	Identify new and emerging threats to the marine estate since 2016 to inform the 5-year health check of the Strategy	In progress – agency consultation commenced
2023	Review Strategy governance and processes, to ensure they are fit for purpose for the remaining 6 years of the Strategy	In progress - agency consultation commenced
2024	Prepare a management plan for Lord Howe Island Marine Park	Pending finalisation of NMP and TARA
2024	Conduct the 5-year health check for the Strategy, including an independent evaluation of progress against outcomes	In progress – planning scope of health check
2024	Conduct the statutory review of management rules for marine parks and aquatic reserves	Pending marine park management plans and management rules
2025	Develop management rules to implement the final management plan for Lord Howe Island Marine Park	Pending finalisation of management plan for Lord Howe Island Marine Park
2027	10-year review of the statewide TARA	Commence 2026
2028	10-year review of the Strategy	Commence 2027

Key Authority achievements since establishment

Completed projects	Status
<u>Baseline evaluation of the Marine Estate Management Strategy (Independent review by Aither)</u>	Published September 2021
Strategy <u>Implementation Plan</u> 2020–2021	Published March 2021
<i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> – <u>5-year statutory review</u>	Tabled in Parliament 17 December 2020
MIMP <u>Evaluation Framework</u>	Published December 2019
Strategy <u>Implementation Plan</u> 2018–2020	Published October 2019
<u>Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion assessment</u> – explore mechanisms to enhance conservation of marine biodiversity in the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion (Newcastle – Sydney – Wollongong)	Discussion paper released August–September 2018
<u>Marine Estate Management Strategy (2018–2028)</u>	Published 16 Aug 2018
Marine Estate Management (Management Rules) Regulation 1999 amended to implement decision regarding <u>10 ocean beach and headland sanctuary zones</u> sites in 4 marine parks in relation to shore-based recreational line fishing	Gazetted June 2018
<u>Guidelines for assessing management options for the NSW marine estate</u>	Published October 2017
<u>NSW Marine Protected Areas Policy Statement</u>	Published October 2017
<u>Marine Estate Management Regulation 1999</u>	Remade September 2017
<u>Statewide TARA</u>	Published October 2017
Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel evaluation of processes and role in NSW marine estate management	Published 2016 in <u>MEMA’s annual report</u>
<u>Threat and risk assessment framework</u>	Published June 2015
<u>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</u>	Commenced Dec 2014
Social research, through a statewide survey to capture NSW community views on the marine estate	Published July 2014
The <u>Authority’s vision and principles</u> determined, to guide management of the marine estate	Published November 2013
Moratorium provisions in <i>Marine Parks Act 1997</i> amended to allow for <u>changes to zoning</u> including alteration of sanctuary zones	Passed Parliament August 2013

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, including summary meeting minutes are published on the marine estate website at 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.

Our approach

The engagement strategy outlines 7 overarching principles for engagement and recognises that consultation comprises a number of steps with a range of different engagement techniques.



Figure 3. Seven overarching principles

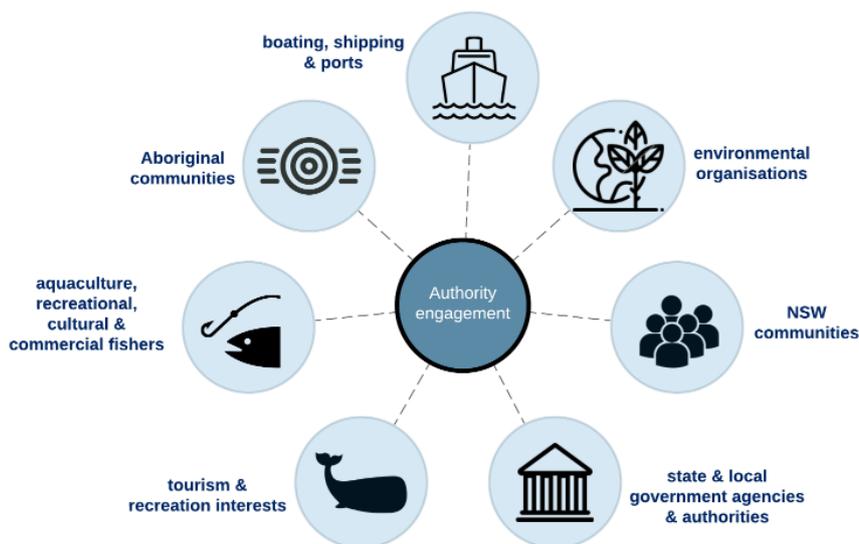


Figure 4. Key engagement groups

Summary of Strategy communication and engagement

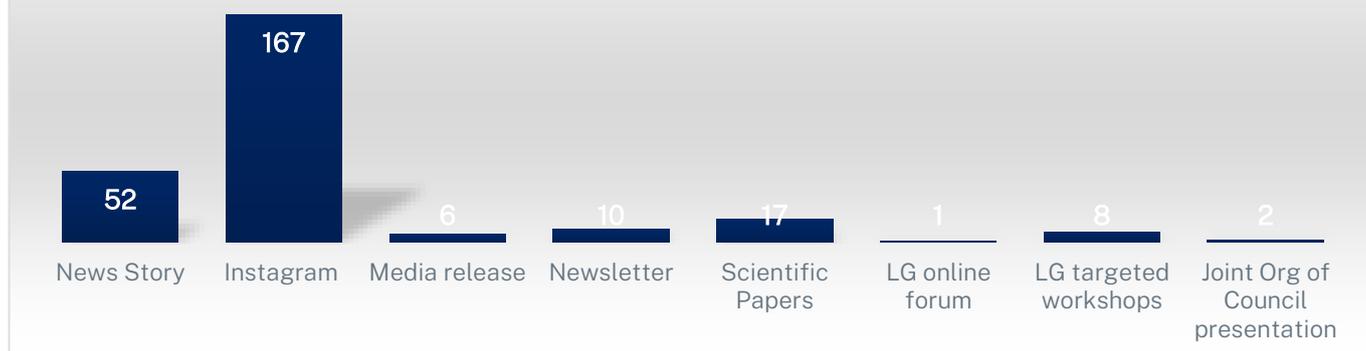


Figure 5. Summary of communications in 2021-22

Have your say

Community and stakeholders can subscribe to the Authority's online newsletter to receive news about marine estate projects or can email the Authority directly. More information is available on the marine estate website www.marine.nsw.gov.au/connect-with-us.

	Stay informed	Connect with us
HAVE YOUR SAY	 <p>STAY INFORMED AND UP TO DATE ON ALL THINGS MARINE ESTATE <u>subscribe to the Authority's newsletter</u></p>	 <p>EMAIL THE AUTHORITY <u>contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au</u></p>

Figure 6. Summary of communications in 2021-22

Stakeholder engagement

Authority agencies have engaged extensively with stakeholders and the community on marine estate reforms during the year, including targeted, multifaceted engagement for many projects. This year, the focus has been on improving engagement with local government and strengthening links with the NSW Coastal Council.

The impact of COVID-19 had a significant effect on the Authority's capacity to engage and on the partnerships that are a key part of the work. It will continue to influence engagement in 2021-22. Despite these challenges, staff have adapted and are working towards new approaches to best manage Strategy projects and engagement with stakeholders.

For a full list of communications and engagement with stakeholders, see the [Marine Estate Management Strategy Annual Implementation Report for 2021-2022](#).



Figure 7. Marine estate website visitors to www.marine.nsw.gov.au

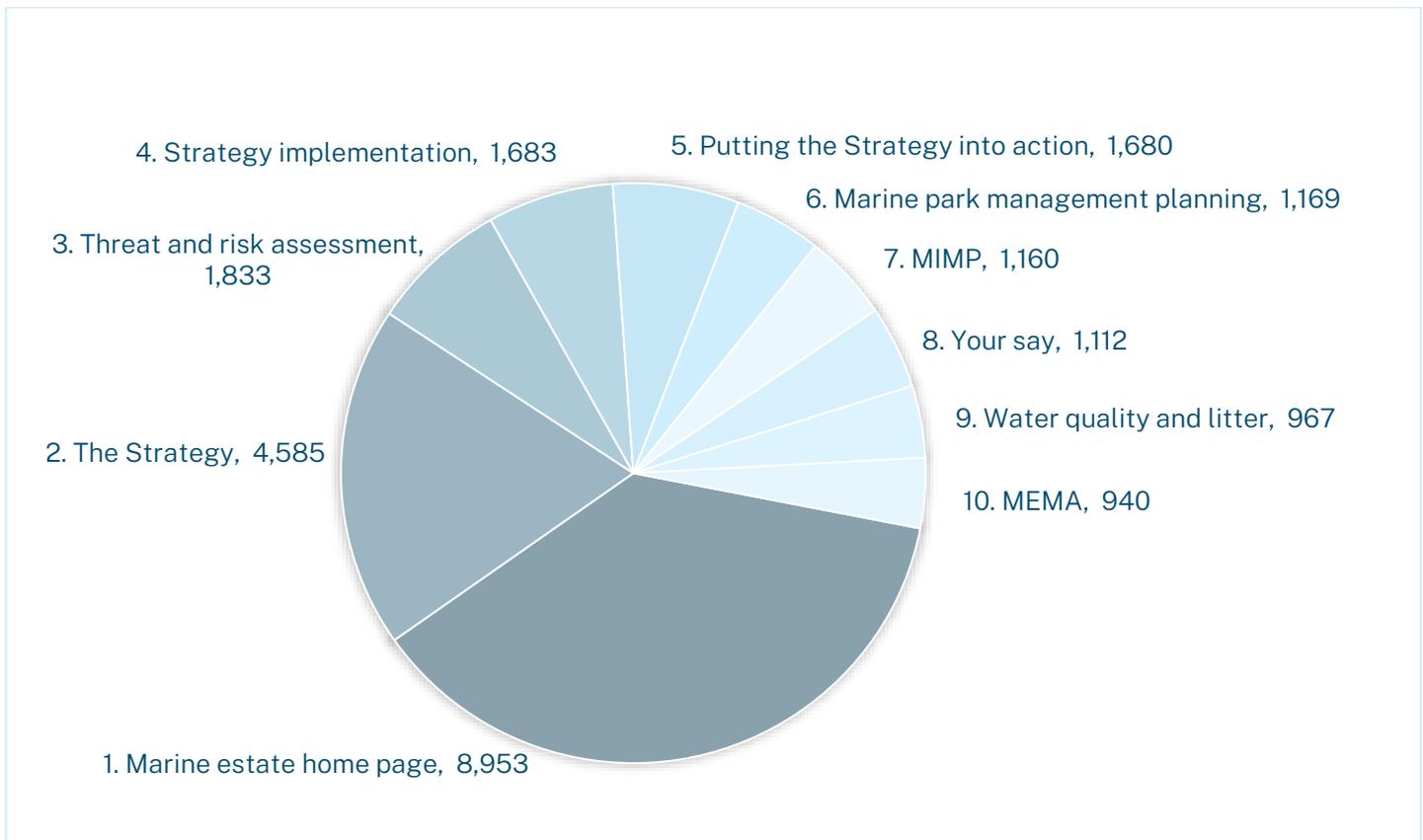


Figure 8. Marine estate website top 10 web pages visited and numbers of page views

Authority advice

Table 2. Summary of key Authority advice during the year

Date	From	To	Subject
21/09/21	Authority Chair	Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW and Minister for Energy and Environment	Technical papers and a summary document to support the draft Management Plan for the NSW Mainland Marine Park Network (2021-2031) (OUT12151)
21/12/21	Authority Chair	Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW and Minister for Energy and Environment	Delivering results under the Marine Estate Management Strategy – The Economic Contribution of the NSW Marine Estate report (OUT21/18480)
25/01/22	Authority Chair	Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW and Minister for Energy and Environment	Blue Carbon Prioritisation Report and the Fish Friendly Breakwater Audit and Maintenance Guidelines (OUT21/18423)
18/03/22	Authority Chair	Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW and Minister for Energy and Environment	NSW Marine Estate Education Strategy (OUT22/1281)
22/04/22	Authority Chair	Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW and Minister for Energy and Environment	Staged release of Water Research Laboratory (WRL) Coastal Floodplain Prioritisation Studies (OUT22/2512)

Authority advice can be found on the marine estate website under [Authority minutes and advice](#).

Governance

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, an Agency Steering Committee of senior executives and the MIMP Steering Committee, who in turn receive technical support from project specific interagency working groups.

The marine estate governance structure fosters interagency collaboration ensuring management is coordinated, transparent and takes account of across the diverse range of agency interests and responsibilities. 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.

Organisational structure

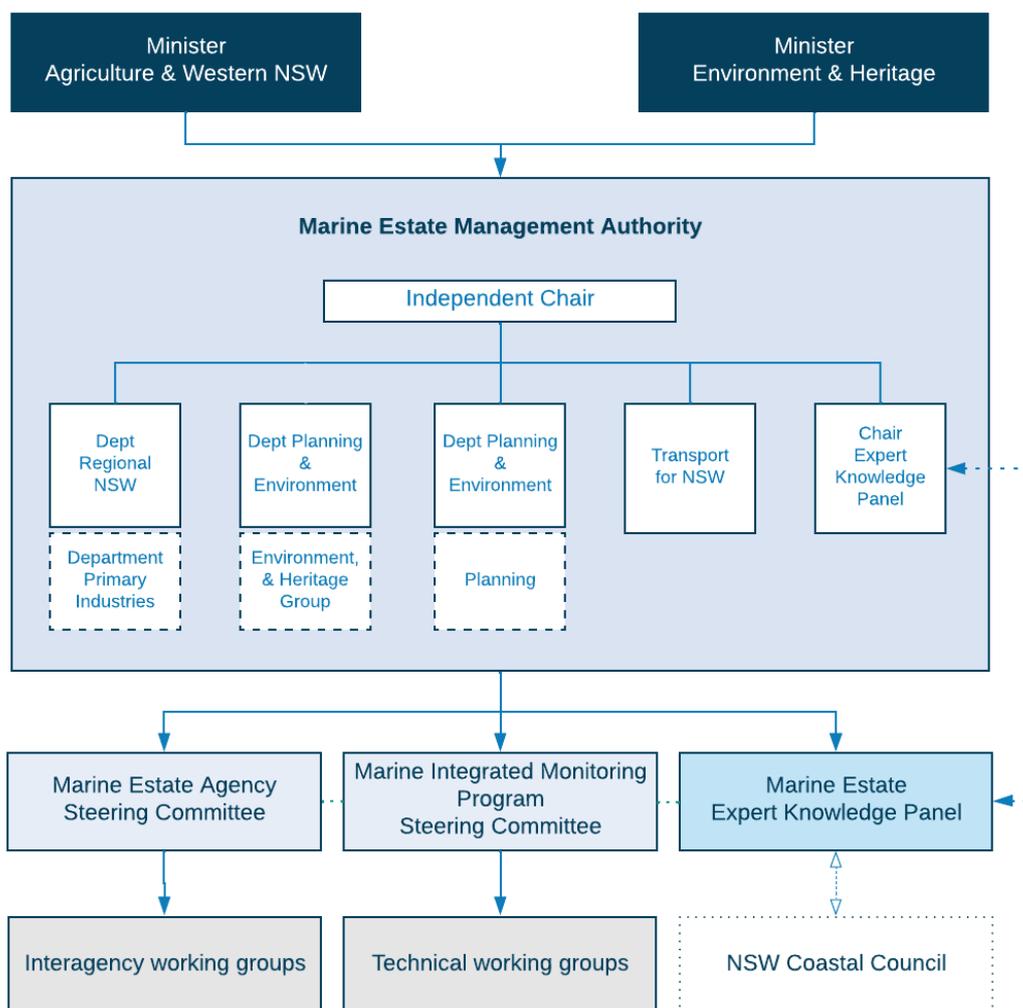


Figure 9. Marine estate organisational structure

Marine Estate Management Authority

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

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.

The Authority and Knowledge Panel operate in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Act, the Department of 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 the NSW marine estate matters are in the table below.

Table 3. Ministers for the marine estate

Ministers for the marine estate	
 <p>Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW the Hon. Dugald Saunders MP</p>	 <p>Minister for Energy and Environment the Hon. James Griffin MP</p>

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 and other agencies by agreement.

Membership and staffing

The Authority does not employ staff but drives reforms by drawing on existing resources of agencies. The Department of Primary Industries provides support to the Authority and the Knowledge Panel through the marine estate secretariat, including administrative support. Authority membership is listed in Table 4.

Table 4. The Authority membership for 2021–2022

Member photo	Member details	Term of appointment
	Dr Russell Reichelt, BSc (Phd) FTSE FIMarEST FAICD Chair, Marine Estate Management Authority	16/09/2019 to 15/09/23
	Anthea Tinney, PSM, B (Econ), MAICD Chair, Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel	15/11/18 to 31/08/22
Ex-officio member	Secretary, Department of Regional NSW (delegated to deputy member, Director-General, Department of Primary Industries)	ongoing
Ex-officio member	Deputy Secretary, Biodiversity, Conservation and Science, Department of Planning and Environment – Environment and Heritage Group	ongoing
Ex-officio member	Deputy Secretary, State Policies and Strategic Advice, Department of Planning and Environment – Planning	ongoing
Ex-officio member	Secretary, Transport for NSW (delegated to Executive Director, Centres for Road Safety & Maritime Safety)	ongoing

Meetings and attendance

Four Authority meetings were held during report period. A quorum was achieved at all meetings. Meeting summaries are available on the [marine estate website](#).

Table 5. Number of meetings attended / meetings held

Member	Attendance in 2021–22
Authority Chair	4/4
Knowledge Panel Chair	4/4
Department of Primary Industries	4/4
Department of Planning and Environment – Planning	4/4
Department of Planning and Environment – Environment and Heritage Group	4/4
Transport for NSW	4/4

Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel

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

The Knowledge Panel comprises a Chair and 5 members, who are appointed for up to 4 years.

Table 6. The Knowledge Panel membership for 2021–2022

Member photo	Member details	Term of appointment
	Ms Anthea Tinney PSM, B (Econ), MAICD Chair, Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel	15/11/18 to 31/08/22
	Dr Kate Brooks BA, Dip Mktg, M.Litt (Soc), PhD, FARLP Social science expert in natural resource management	15/11/18 to 31/08/22
	Mr Peter McGinnity BSc (Hons) Env Studies Ecological expert in natural resource management	15/11/18 to 31/08/22 (resigned 13/12/21)
	Professor Peter Steinberg BSc (Hons), PhD Biology (Marine Science) Ecological expert in marine biological science	13/12/21 to 12/12/24 (second term - first term commenced 01/05/17)
	Ms Chels Marshall MMarineSci, MMgt, BSc, AssocDegAppSc Aboriginal expert in Sea Country management	13/12/21 to 12/12/24
	Ms Sevaly Sen MSc (Econ), LLB (Hons) Economic expert in natural resource management	13/12/21 to 12/12/24
	Mr Grahame Byron BASC (Ecology), MSc Ecological expert in natural resource management	13/12/21 to 12/12/24

The terms of appointment for 3 Knowledge Panel members expired during 2021. An expression of interest was advertised to fill vacancies. Appointment of new members was finalised on 13 December 2021.

To supplement the 3 identified areas of expertise under the Marine Estate Management Act, 2 additional areas of expertise were included in the expression of interest:

- a member with Aboriginal expertise in Sea Country management
- a member with ecological expertise in marine biological science, in addition to the current member position of ecological expertise in natural resource management.

Meetings and attendance

Four Knowledge Panel meetings were held during the reporting period.

Pre-meetings, additional out of session meetings and videoconferences enable the Knowledge Panel to collectively discuss preliminary views about agenda items, negotiate a consolidated position, and identify and discuss strategic and governance issues.

Table 7. Number of meetings attended/meetings invited to attend

Member	Attendance in 2021-22*
Ms Anthea Tinney (Chair)	4/4
Dr Kate Brooks	4/4
Mr Peter McGinnity (resigned 13/12/21)	2/2
Professor Peter Steinberg (reappointment 13/12/21)	2/2
Ms Chels Marshall (appointed 13/12/21)	1/2
Ms Sevaly Sen (appointed 13/12/21)	2/2
Mr Grahame Byron (appointed 13/12/21)	2/2
Dr Russell Reichelt (Authority observer)	4/4

Abbreviations and acronyms

DPI	Department of Primary Industry
MEMA	Marine Estate Management Authority
MIMP	Marine Integrated Monitoring Program
NMP	Network Management Plan
NSW	New South Wales
TARA	Threat and risk assessment
WRL	Water Research Laboratory

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