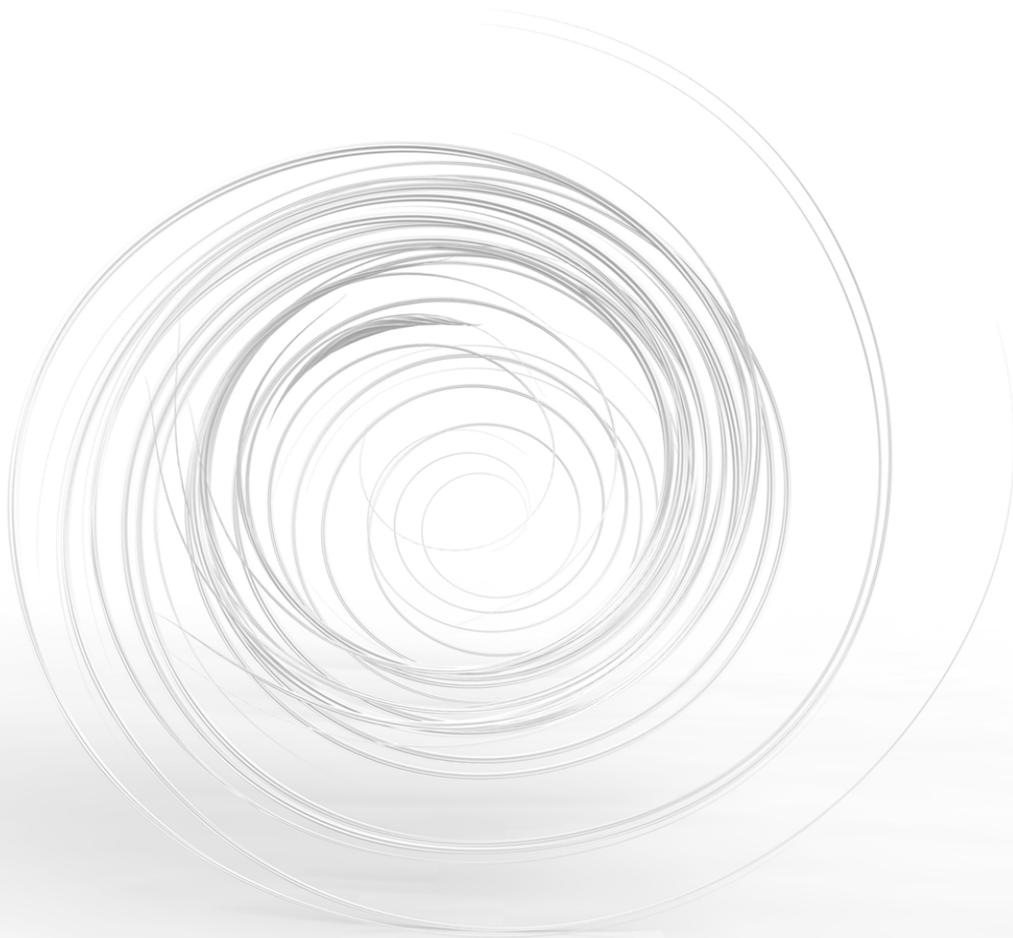




MARINE ESTATE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Annual Report 2019-2020



Acknowledgement of Aboriginal people

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 NSW Government acknowledges their continuing social, cultural, economic and spiritual connections to the marine estate and through meaningful engagement continues to seek opportunities to work collaboratively to ensure a healthy Sea Country now and into the future.

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More information

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

Acknowledgments

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

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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 information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the author or the user's independent adviser.



Message from the Chair

Marine Estate Management Authority

The Authority's vision for the NSW marine estate is for a healthy coast and sea, managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community, now and into the future.

The Marine Estate Management Authority (Authority) delivered strong results during 2019-2020 despite the unprecedented events across NSW of severe drought, devastating fish kills, catastrophic fires, floods and the global COVID-19 pandemic, which presented multiple and significant impacts on project delivery and challenges for Authority agencies.

Extraordinary efforts were made to ensure that Authority agencies maintained their business operations across the State during the peak of the crisis. Staff resources were reassigned to support front line efforts to assist with the bushfire and COVID-19 response resulting in impacts to on-ground works, field-based research, stakeholder engagement and community and Aboriginal survey workshops. Despite these challenges, staff have adapted projects often using novel approaches to enable the continuation of work, minimising impacts of these events. I would like to thank Authority agency staff for their enduring dedication to continuing to support our partners and stakeholders, while they also experienced their own challenges of isolation working from home and the radical changes to their working arrangements.

These events have also adversely affected the NSW economy and the social and cultural wellbeing of all its people and communities. The marine estate, a treasured place for both locals and visitors, will play an integral part of the long road to recovery for the people of NSW.

This year the Authority reports on the completion of the first stage of the Marine Estate Management Strategy (Strategy) for 2018-2020, with \$45.7 million funding received to implement 41 actions across multiple agencies and partners across the State. It is an ambitious program of works that spans many government agencies and partners. Detailed progress on the delivery of Strategy for the year is reported separately in the [Strategy Implementation Annual Report 2019-2020](#).

The Strategy's achievements were recognised through an independent review, receiving a 'high' confidence rating (highest possible rating) in relation to the Strategy delivering in accordance with Government objectives in the Recurrent Expenditure Assurance Framework health check report. This was due to strong performance in four of the seven key areas under review – service delivery, sustainability, governance and risk management.

Our achievements and deliverables are reported in further detail in this report. Notable outcomes include:

- the continued delivery of the Implementation Plan for the Marine Estate Management Strategy (2018-2028), a critical step in the delivery of transparent and evidence-based management of the NSW marine estate
- the NSW Government announced \$28 million under the NSW Boating Now Program for maritime infrastructure and facilities needed across NSW for safe, accessible and enjoyable recreational and commercial boating
- finalisation of the Marine Integrated Monitoring Program and framework that will evaluate the success of the Strategy; monitor condition and trends in the marine estate; and fill key knowledge gaps
- continued to progress the delivery of a new approach to marine park management planning
- commenced preparations for the five-year statutory review of the *Marine Estate Management Act*

- the NSW Government committed \$5 million of funding to support local councils to implement post fire environmental remedial actions to minimise and mitigate the impacts of bushfires on sensitive estuary and coastal ecosystems
- the NSW Government delivered critical relief to the State's commercial fishing, aquaculture and charter boat industries announcing \$9 million in direct industry support.
- vacant positions were filled across all marine park advisory committees and the committees continue to provide advice on marine estate and marine park management.

I'd like to thank those who supported us and who provided frank and comprehensive feedback during community consultation on key projects this period.

We will continue to strive for improved outcomes for the NSW marine estate and our stakeholders – now and into the future.



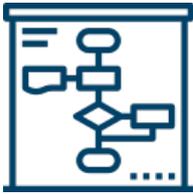
Russell Reichelt
Chair
Marine Estate Management Authority

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Key deliverables

CREATING CHANGE



Marine Estate Management Strategy

Continued to deliver the Implementation Plan for the Marine Estate Management Strategy, a critical step in the delivery of transparent and evidence-based management of the NSW marine estate.



Marine Integrated Monitoring Program

Finalised of the Marine Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (MIMP) that will guide the evaluation of the success of the MEMS and outlines the approach to monitoring condition and trends in the marine estate and to filling key knowledge gaps



Marine park management planning pilots

Continued to progress the delivery of a new approach to marine park management planning in consultation with marine park advisory committees and relevant agencies.



Marine Park Advisory Committees

Vacant positions filled across all marine park advisory committees and committees continue to provide advice on marine estate and marine park management.

About us

The **Marine Estate Management Authority** (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 undertaking threat and risk assessments, development of management strategies, promoting collaboration and coordination between public authorities in their exercise of functions, and fostering consultation with the community in relation to the management of the marine estate.

The **Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel** (Knowledge Panel) provides independent expert advice to the Authority on matters referred to it by the Authority including environmental, social and economic considerations.

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

- Department of Regional NSW - Department of Primary Industries
- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Environment, Energy and Science
- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Planning and Assessment
- Transport for NSW.

OUR VISION

A healthy coast and sea, managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community, now and into the future.

OUR ROLE

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.

NSW marine estate - at a glance

One of our State's greatest natural assets

OUR MARINE ESTATE IS VAST

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | 6 marine parks | which cover around one-third of the NSW marine estate (approximately 345,000 hectares) |
|  | 13 artificial reefs | 8 offshore reefs: Merimbula Bay, Newcastle, Sydney (South Head), Port Hacking, Port Macquarie, Shoalhaven Heads, Tweed Heads & Wollongong 5 estuarine reefs: Botany Bay, Lake Conjola, Lake Macquarie, Merimbula Lake & St Georges Basin |
|  | 11 coastal Aboriginal nations | Sea Country is vital to Aboriginal cultural wellbeing in NSW supporting spiritual and cultural connection to Country and sustenance via locally caught seafood |
|  | 12 aquatic reserves | which cover around 2,000 hectares of the NSW marine estate |
|  | 185 rivers, estuaries & coastal lakes | 185 rivers, estuaries and coastal lakes in the NSW marine estate |
|  | 826 beaches | 826 beaches, which includes 755 ocean beaches along the NSW coastline |
|  | 6,500 km estuarine & coastal lake foreshores & coastline | including 1,750 km of ocean coastline |
|  | 1,000,000 hectares of estuary and ocean | it incorporates estuaries and coastal foreshores, and extends seaward out to 3 nautical miles between the Queensland to the Victorian border |

NSW marine estate map



Our key programs and projects

Following is a summary of key marine estate reform projects captured in this report.

Marine Estate Management Strategy

The NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy's nine initiatives aim to reduce the priority threats to the NSW marine estate by reducing pollution and protecting coastal habitats, planning for climate change, protecting Aboriginal cultural values of the marine estate, reducing impacts on marine wildlife, delivering sustainable fishing and boating, enhancing social, cultural and economic benefits and delivering effective governance.

Over the last two years, the NSW Government has invested \$45.7M on addressing the most severe threats to the health of the marine estate, particularly water pollution, which was identified as the greatest threat to the marine estate by the NSW community and through an evidence-based threat and risk assessment in 2017.

The NSW Government's 10-year Marine Estate Management Strategy is a whole of government collaborative program and the centrepiece of the NSW marine estate reforms program.

The Strategy implementation annual report provides an overview of the progress of the Strategy with a focus on achievements during the 2019/2020 financial year. It also highlights the positive impacts the program has made for the benefit of stakeholders and the community.

One of the greatest achievements has been collaboration. Over the last year the Authority has seen staff from each MEMA affiliated agency work together cohesively and expanded this to other partner agencies, industry and key stakeholder groups.

Detailed progress on the delivery of Strategy for the year is reported separately in the [Strategy Implementation Annual Report 2019-2020](#).

Strategy Implementation Plan

The Authority released the Marine Estate Management Strategy [Implementation Plan](#) in consultation with key partners. The Implementation Plan details how and where the Authority delivers on the actions within the [Marine Estate Management Strategy](#), timeframes and partnerships to achieve outcomes. A key focus of the plan is to coordinate functions and responsibilities within and across government, including local government, as well as partnerships with industry and the community.

Key performance indicators that track progress in achieving Strategy outcomes are included in the Marine Integrated Monitoring Program. The Authority will report and communicate its progress and achievements regularly, on the [marine estate web site](#), as well as in the Authority's annual report on Strategy implementation.

\$28 million to ramp up boating facilities

The NSW Government announced \$28 million under Round 3 of the NSW Boating Now Program for maritime infrastructure and facilities needed across NSW for safe, accessible and enjoyable recreational and commercial boating.

This investment builds on the \$70 million program in 2015 which has already resulted in significant improvements to the boating experience across NSW.

\$2 million has also been set aside to ensure boating infrastructure can continue to be repaired quickly following damage caused by severe weather events such as storms and bushfires.

Boating Now funding comes from boating licence and registration fees. The Program is part of the NSW [Maritime Infrastructure Plan 2019 – 2024](#), an initiative under the Marine Estate Management Strategy, which sets out the approach to the NSW Government's investment in maritime infrastructure.

Assessment of applications received for Round 3 of the Program has been completed. More than 200 projects have been delivered since the program was launched.

Marine Integrated Monitoring Program

The [Marine Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Framework](#) was completed in 2019, this is a major milestone for the Authority as it underpins the broader [Marine Integrated Monitoring Program](#). A [technical document](#) is now available, as well as a [short summary](#) explaining the key points of the Framework and Program. The Program links directly to the Marine Estate Management Strategy and the Implementation Plan, to ensure the Strategy's success can be measured and to guide adaptive management through integrating social, cultural, economic and environmental elements into the program delivery.

This Framework was developed in collaboration with Authority agencies and the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel.

Importantly, the program will monitor the condition and trend of environmental assets and community benefits (building upon existing established projects) evaluate the effectiveness of management initiatives and actions that aim to reduce priority threats and risks and fill key knowledge gaps identified in the [statewide threat and risk assessment](#), in preparation for a five-year health check.

Marine park management planning

A new approach to managing NSW marine parks commenced in 2018 with a pilot project under way in Batemans Marine Park in accordance with the requirements of the [Marine Estate Management Act 2014](#). This approach was expanded to the other four marine mainland marine parks in 2019-2020. The new plan will identify environmental, social, cultural and economic values to be managed in each marine park, as well as ways to address threats to those values. It will also outline management objectives, actions and programs to conserve values and reduce threats.

The new draft management plan and associated management rules (regulations) will replace the existing zoning and operational plans.

Information previously collected from the community through the [Marine Estate Community Survey](#), the [statewide threat and risk assessment](#) and the [Marine Estate Management Strategy](#) is informing the new plan. This will be supplemented by additional local information which is being gathered to ensure that local marine park values and threats are addressed.

Community engagement is an essential part of the process to ensure local issues are addressed. A series of workshops and meetings with local and State government agencies, Marine Park Advisory Committees and Aboriginal community groups have been held. Further community engagement is planned and will provide essential input into the development of a draft management plan to be released for consultation.

Marine Estate Management Act review

Authority agency staff have commenced preparations of the five-year statutory review of the [Marine Estate Management Act 2014](#) (the Act).

The Act enables and delivers a range of marine estate, marine park and aquatic reserve programs. It provides for the strategic and integrated management of the marine estate by the NSW Government, this includes marine waters, coasts and estuaries and the declaration and management of marine parks and aquatic reserves.

Under Section 84 of the Act, the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales and the Minister for Energy and Environment are required to undertake a review of the Act as soon as possible after five years of the Act commencing. The review is to determine whether the policy objectives of the Act remain valid and whether the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing those objectives. Targeted consultation is planned for 2020. A report on the outcomes of the review is planned to be tabled in Parliament before the end of 2020.

Long Reef Aquatic Reserve anniversary

2020 marks the [40th anniversary](#) of the State's first aquatic reserve, the [Long Reef Aquatic Reserve](#), in Sydney's northern beaches. The reserve extends over 80 hectares, along the shore from Collaroy rock baths south to Long Reef Surf Lifesaving Club and out to 100 metres offshore.

The Long Reef rocky shore is uncommon as it has a wide range of exposed and sheltered habitats around a large headland, including one of the most extensive intertidal rock platforms in NSW.

The reserve was declared in 1980, to protect rocky shore plants and animals after marine life became seriously depleted due to intensive collection for food and bait.

Four decades later, we are fortunate the area was protected for educational and scientific purposes.

Importantly, this spectacular area is valued by the community for a variety of activities including walking, exploring the rock platform, swimming, fishing, snorkelling, scuba diving, surfing and boating.

The area plays an important role marine conservation, with dedicated Fishcare, Reefcare and other volunteers all involved in its ongoing protection.

[Long reef aquatic reserve – here for everyone to share](#)

Statewide threat and risk assessment

The [statewide threat and risk assessment](#), (TARA) published in 2017, continues to support and underpin key pieces of work undertaken by the Authority during 2019-2020. The statewide TARA has enabled us to focus management on reducing the most important threats and associated risks in NSW to maximise the environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits we all derive from the marine estate.

[This evidence-based assessment sets a new national benchmark by identifying and prioritising threats and risk to the environmental assets as well as to social, cultural and economic benefits derived from the marine estate.](#)

The purpose of the statewide TARA, as set out in the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014* is to:

- identify threats to the environmental, economic and social values (benefits) of the marine estate
- assess the risks associated with those identified threats
- inform marine estate management decisions by prioritising threats and risks according to the level of impact on the values derived from the marine estate.

\$9 million to support NSW Seafood Industries

The NSW Government delivered critical relief to the State's commercial fishing, aquaculture and charter boat industries announcing \$9 million in direct industry support. 2019/2020 has been a challenging year for the State's seafood sector, with devastating bushfires and COVID-19 taking a toll on industry, with many operators experiencing disruptions to business as well as reduced demand for products due to the closure of restaurants and a reduction in tourism.

NSW's seafood industries play a key role in coastal economies and the NSW Government is committed to providing the best support possible to not only see them through these difficult times, but to see them flourish once again when circumstances improve. A key component of this support has been assisting industry to develop technologies that will help them be more resilient to change and provide greater business flexibility along the supply chain. The State's seafood industries will be crucial to the recovery of our regional communities up and down the coastline, generating over half a billion dollars in economic activity each year and employing more than 4000 people.

The \$9 million support package included:

- \$4 million in fee waivers for commercial fishers
- \$2.1 million in fee waivers and rent relief for the aquaculture industry
- \$200,000 in fee waivers for the charter boat fishing sector
- \$500,000 in rent relief for fishing cooperatives located on Crown land
- \$2.2 million in industry stimulus programs.

\$5 million for bushfire affected coastal waterways

The NSW Government committed \$5 million of funding to assist councils and to establish a comprehensive bushfire recovery process following the unprecedented NSW 2019/2020 summer bushfire season under the NSW Bushfire Affected Coastal Waterways Program. Bushfires have the potential to degrade coastal waterways by impacting water quality and sensitive estuary ecosystems, in turn affecting local industries such as tourism and aquaculture. This funding allowed coastal councils to move quickly to mitigate these impacts.

Recipient councils included:

- Bega Valley Shire Council - \$1,149,000 for the Bega Valley catchment stabilisation and estuarine ecological health protection works
- Eurobodalla Shire Council - \$1,105,000 for the Eurobodalla coastal waterway bushfire impact mitigation project
- Shoalhaven City Council - \$1,000,000 for the Shoalhaven local government area catchment stabilisation and ecological monitoring works and \$427,281 for the south east catchment and waterways bushfire recovery plan
- MidCoast Council - \$913,719 for the MidCoast Council coastal reserves bushfire recovery project
- Port Macquarie-Hastings Council - \$265,000 for the sensitive receptors catchment management project
- Richmond Valley Council - \$140,000 for the restoration of burnt riparian areas within the Richmond River tributaries.

Marine Park Advisory Committees

Nominations were sought from interested local community members for membership of four Marine Park Advisory Committees along the NSW coast - Solitary Islands, Port Stephens-Great Lakes, Jervis Bay and Batemans.

The advisory committees include up to 12 members and alternates with skills, expertise and knowledge in areas such as Aboriginal culture, fishing, local government, boating, tourism, marine conservation, marine science, recreational water use and the maritime industry to ensure the wide range of community values can

be considered. The NSW Government's marine estate reforms are committed to revitalising local marine park advisory committees to give local communities a better say in decision-making and to improve consideration of social and economic values. The committees are not decision-making bodies but provide important local advice to the NSW Government on marine park management, including local values, threats, issues and opportunities. The six marine park advisory committees have met regularly. The membership of the committees and minutes of meetings are available at <https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/advisory-bodies/marine-park-advisory-committees>

Links to coastal management

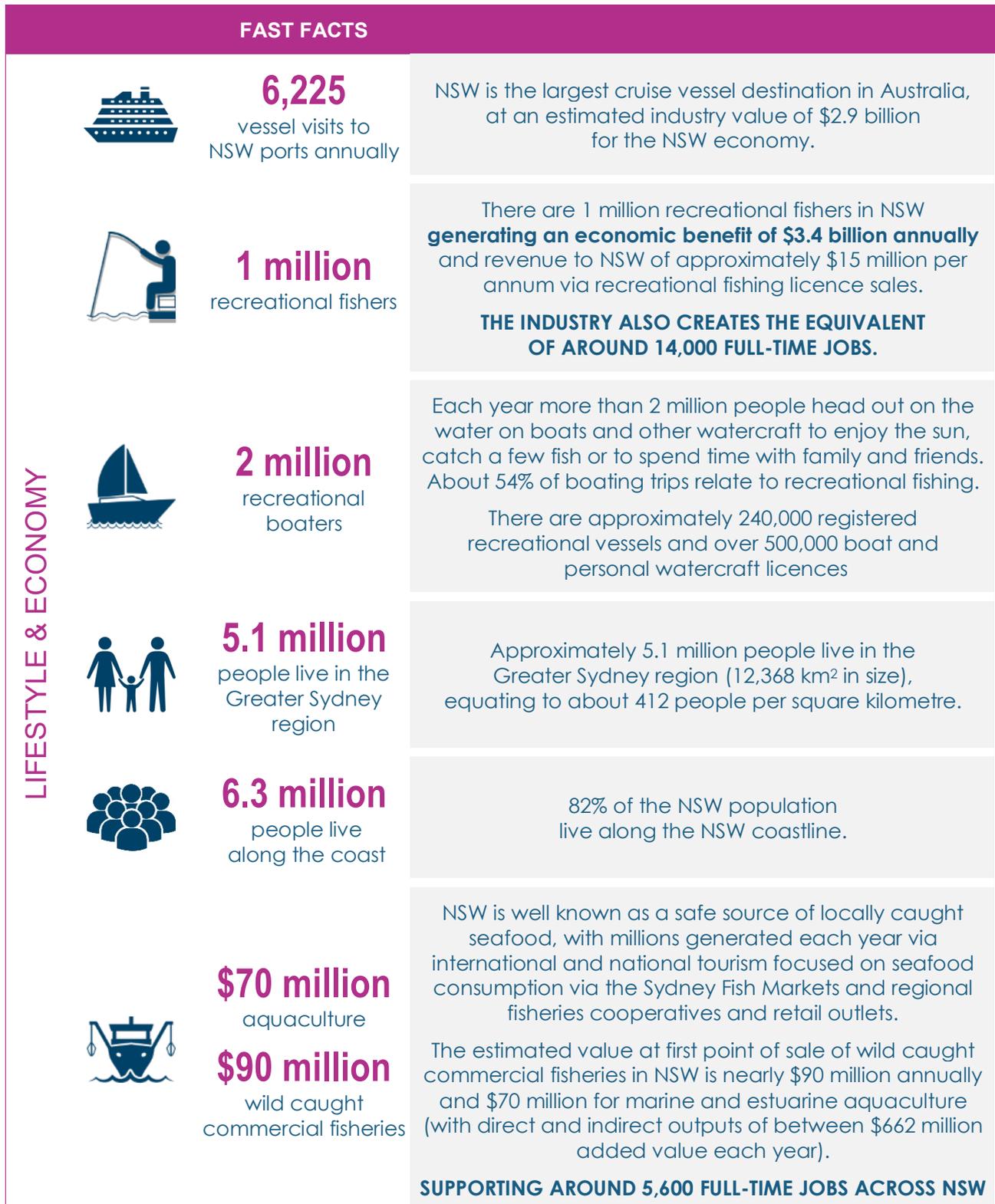
This Authority supports related NSW Government reform processes. It integrates processes and outputs where relevant to meet the NSW Government's directive to set an overarching framework that will coordinate the management of the marine estate now and into the future.

Ongoing links have been established between the Authority and the NSW Coastal Council, with Dr Kate Brooks, member of the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel who is also member on the NSW Coastal Council.

During the year the Authority worked with the NSW Coastal Council and marine estate agencies to supporting local councils preparing Coastal Management Programs. The Authority also assisted in funding a [video](#) to support the Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program increase awareness of the importance of catchment influences on urban water quality and links with the Strategy.

Fast facts

The NSW marine estate is integral to the State's coastal-based lifestyle and economy



FAST FACTS



\$2.7 billion
coastal economy

The health of the marine estate underpins a \$2.75 billion coastal economy.



\$6.5 billion
trade & tourism

\$6.5 billion is contributed annually to the NSW economy from the major ports via trade and tourism.

Schedule of works

The Marine Estate Management 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 – marine waters, coast and estuaries, including marine parks.

In forming advice for the Ministers responsible for the marine estate, the Marine Estate Management Authority (Authority) has direct access to independent expertise across economic, social and ecological sciences through the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel (Knowledge Panel). The Authority and the Knowledge Panel are helping the NSW Government to focus their programs on priority issues and will oversee implementation of appropriate, innovative, cost-effective management responses to the biggest threats and risks to the NSW marine estate, and to monitor progress and outcomes

The schedule is updated periodically as the marine estate reform program progresses and is publicly available on the marine estate website at www.marine.nsw.gov.au.

| Indicative completion | PRIORITY PROJECTS | STATUS |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2028 | Marine Estate Management Strategy (2018-2028) implementation | ▶ Ten-year Strategy being implemented |
| 2028 | Marine Integrated Monitoring Program implementation | ▶ Being implemented |
| 2021 | Marine park management planning - pilot new approach at Batemans Marine Park and Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park | ▶ In progress |
| 2020 | <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> – five-year statutory review | ▶ Targeted stakeholder consultation mid 2020 – finalisation of review end of 2020 |

| Indicative completion | FUTURE PROJECTS | STATUS |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 2022 | Statewide threat and risk assessment – five-year review | pending |
| 2023 | Marine Estate Management Strategy implementation – five-year review | pending |

Our achievements since establishment

| ACHIEVEMENTS | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2020 | Marine park advisory committees | Vacant positions filled across all marine park advisory committees |
| 2019 | Marine Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Framework | Developed a framework to assess the effectiveness of the Marine Estate Management Strategy in reducing priority threats and risks to the marine estate |
| 2019 | Marine Estate Management Strategy | Developed a Marine Estate Management Strategy Implementation Plan |
| 2018 | Maritime Infrastructure Plan 2019-2024 | Published a strategic plan guiding future investment in maritime infrastructure, to deliver the greatest benefits to recreational boaters, commercial fishers and the tourism industry |
| 2018 | Marine Estate Management Strategy | Published 10-year Marine Estate Management Strategy. |
| 2018 | Rezoning to allow recreational fishing | 10 ocean beach and headland sites across four marine parks were rezoned to continue to allow shore-based recreational line fishing. |
| 2017 | Marine Estate Management Regulation | Review, update and remake of the regulation completed leading to better management and protection of marine parks and aquatic reserves, and a regulation that is easier to understand and implement. |

ACHIEVEMENTS

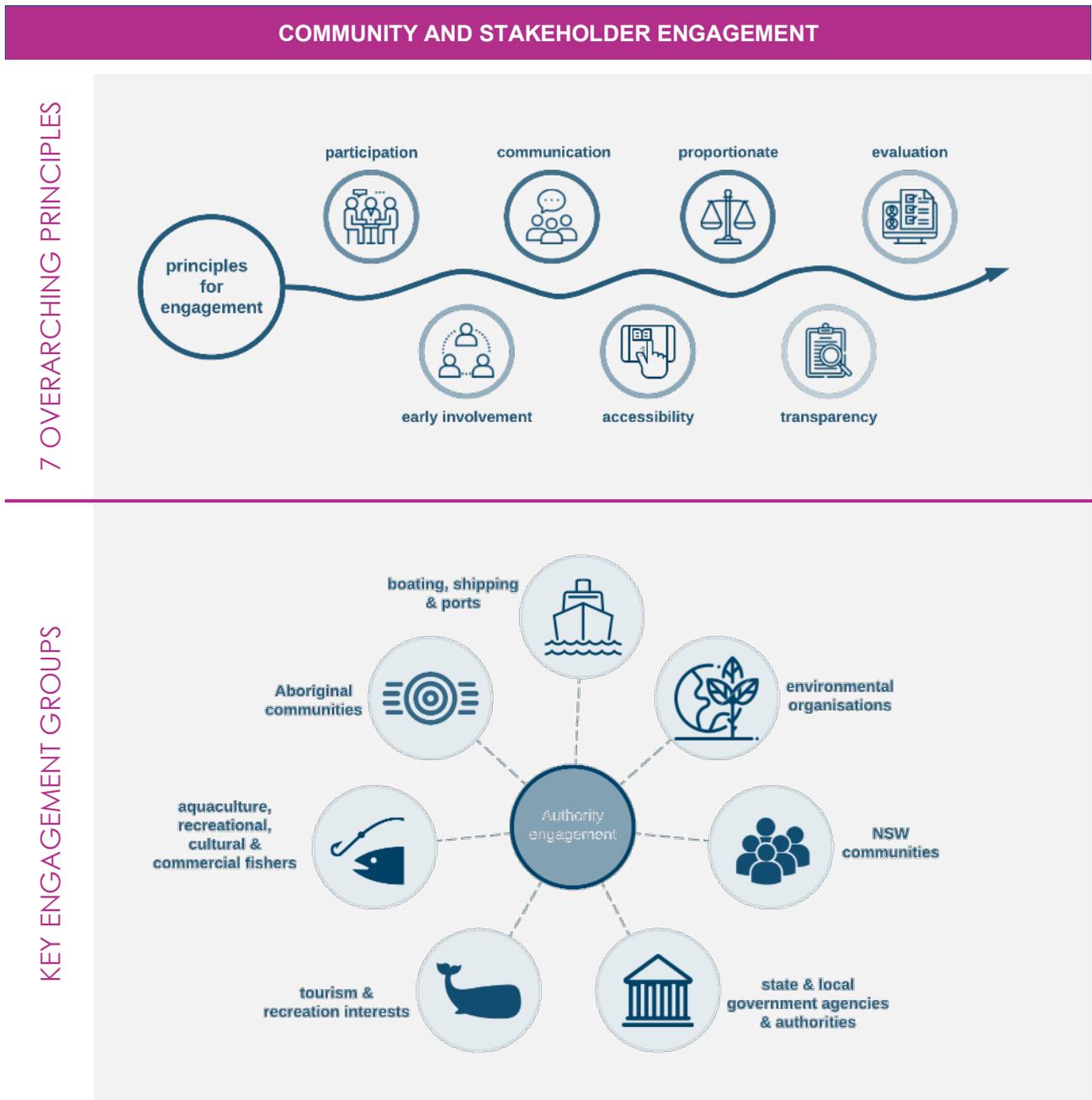
| | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2017 | Statewide Threat & Risk Assessment | ▶ | Completed an evidence-based statewide threat and risk assessment to identify the threats and risks to environmental assets and community benefits derived from the NSW marine estate. |
| 2017 | Marine Protected Areas Policy Statement | ▶ | Release of a new Marine Protected Areas Policy Statement outlining the role and purpose of marine protected areas. |
| 2016 | Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion assessment | ▶ | Completed a comprehensive assessment of the Hawkesbury Shelf (Greater Sydney) marine bioregion. Discussion paper released for community and stakeholder engagement. |
| 2015 | Threat & Risk Assessment Framework | ▶ | Release of new guidelines on assessing the threats and risk to our marine environment. |
| 2014 | Recreational fishing assessment | ▶ | Assessment of recreational line fishing from ocean beaches and headlands in marine park sanctuary zones and progressing consultation on the proposed rezoning of 10 sites. |
| 2014 | Marine Estate Management Act | ▶ | Landmark Bill passes NSW Parliament and heralds a new era in the management of the marine estate in NSW. |
| 2014 | Community Survey | ▶ | Survey indicating the importance and value the community and coastal visitors place on the NSW marine estate. Over 1,700 people across NSW surveyed. |
| 2013 | Ocean beaches and headlands | ▶ | Advice provided to Government on an assessment of recreational fishing access on ocean beaches and headlands in NSW marine park sanctuary zones by the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel. |

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 are made available 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. The engagement strategy outlines seven overarching principles for engagement and recognises that consultation, comprises a number of steps with a range of different engagement techniques.



Authority website

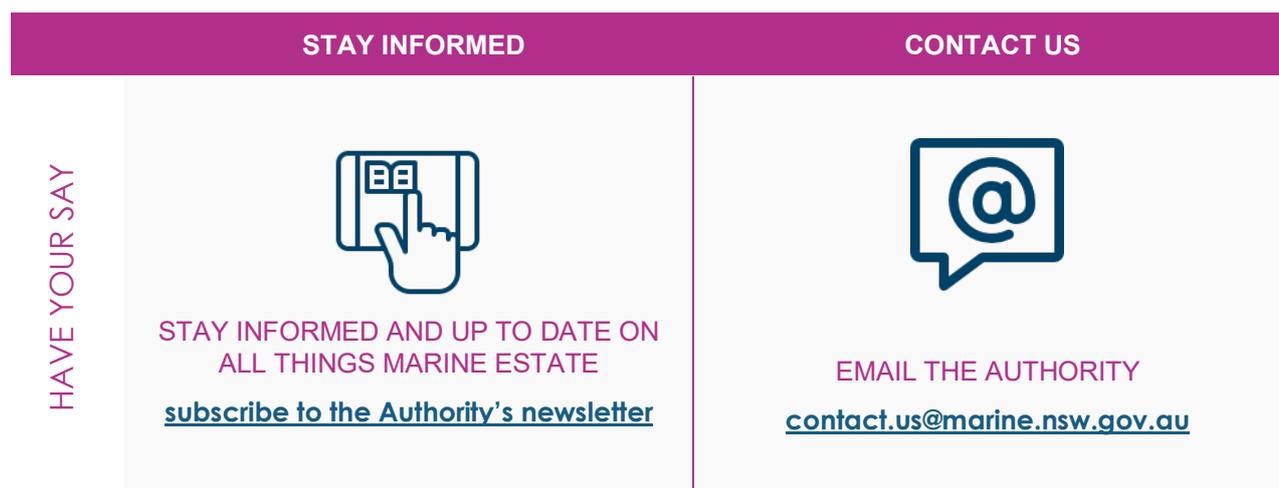


Authority newsletters and emails

The Authority released three newsletters during the year to over 1,210 community members and stakeholders. The updates aim to educate, inform and increase awareness of progress with the Authority's schedule of works including updates on marine estate reforms and projects.

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. Further information is available on the marine estate website www.marine.nsw.gov.au/contact-us.



Stakeholder engagement

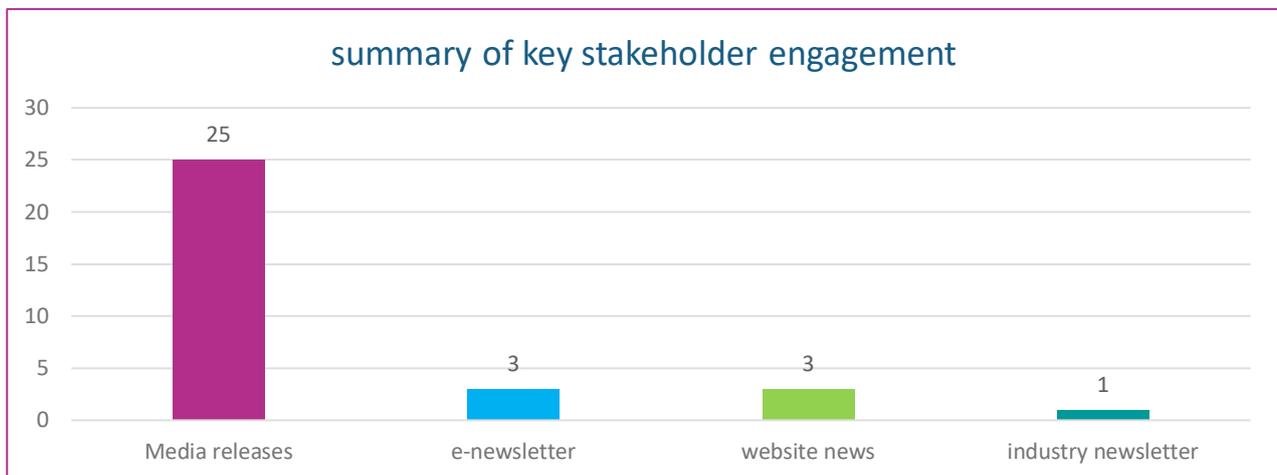
The impact of COVID-19 had a significant impact on our stakeholder engagement and our partnerships that are a key part of our work, and will continue to influence our engagement in 2020/21.

Despite the challenges, staff have adapted and are working towards new approaches to best manage our projects and engagement with stakeholders.



Engagement with a wide variety of stakeholders and the community was undertaken on marine estate reforms during the year. Targeted, multifaceted engagement was undertaken by Authority agencies on numerous projects. This year Authority agencies focused on improving engagement with local government and strengthening links with the NSW Coastal Council.

For a full list of communications and engagement with our stakeholders see the [Marine Estate Management Strategy Annual Implementation Report for 2019-2020](#) - Appendix A.



Governance

Organisational structure

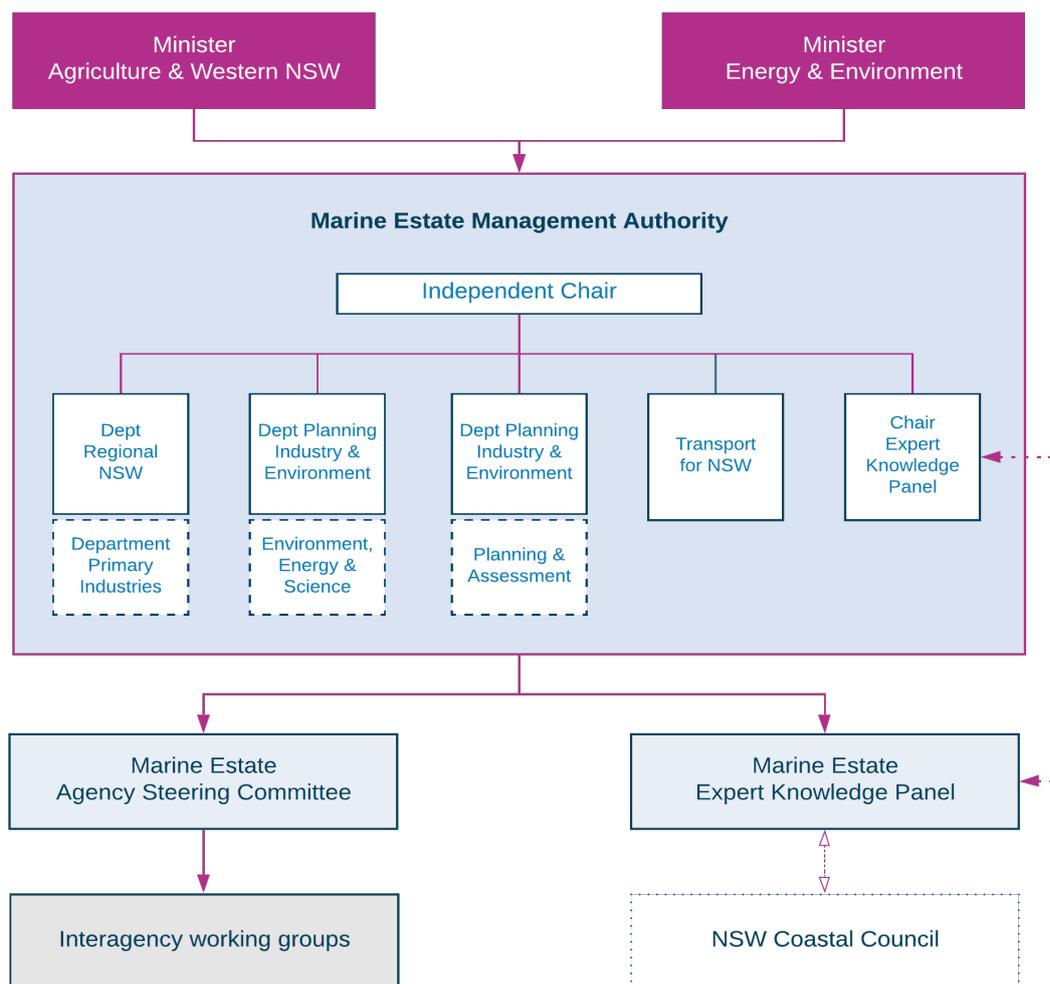
The Authority provides advice to the Ministers jointly responsible for the marine estate.

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 and an Agency Steering Committee of senior executives, 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.

Figure 1. Marine estate organisational structure



Marine Estate Management Authority

Establishment

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

Functions

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.

During the year the Authority and Knowledge Panel operated 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:

| MINISTERS FOR THE MARINE ESTATE | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW the Hon. Adam Marshall MP</p> |  <p>Minister for Energy and Environment the Hon. Matthew Kean 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.

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.

Meetings and attendance

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

| MEMBER | | ATTENDANCE [±] |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| MEETINGS 2019/2020 | Authority Chair | 5/5 |
| | Chair Expert Knowledge Panel | 5/5 |
| | Department of Primary Industries | 5/5 |
| | Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Planning and Assessment | 4/5 |
| | Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Environment, Energy and Science | 5/5 |
| | Department of Transport | 5/5 |

[±] Number of meetings attended/meetings held

Membership

The Authority comprises the following members:

| MEMBERS | | TERM OF APPOINTMENT | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| MARINE ESTATE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY |  <p>Dr Russell Reichelt, B Sci (Phd) FTSE FIMarEST FAICD Chair, Marine Estate Management Authority</p> | 16/09/2019 to 15/09/23 | |
| |  <p>Anthea Tinney, PSM, B Econ, MAICD Chair, Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel</p> | 15/11/18 to 31/08/22 | |
| | Ex-officio member | Secretary, Department of Regional NSW (delegated to Director General, Department of Primary Industries) | ongoing |
| | Ex-officio member | Secretary, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Environment, Energy and Science (delegated to Deputy Secretary, Policy, Strategy and Science) | ongoing |
| | Ex-officio member | Secretary, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Planning and Assessment (delegated to Deputy Secretary, Policy & Strategy) | ongoing |
| | Ex-officio member | Secretary, Transport for NSW (delegated to Executive Director, Centres for Road Safety & Maritime Safety). | ongoing |

Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel

Establishment

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

Knowledge Panel comprises a Chair and five members who are appointed for a period up to four years.

| MEMBERS | | TERM OF APPOINTMENT |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
|  | 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 | 15/11/18 to 31/08/22 |
|  | Mr Peter McGinnity B Sci (Hons) Env Studies | 15/11/18 to 31/08/22 |
|  | Professor Kate Barclay BA, MA, PhD Social Science | 01/05/17 to 31/01/21 |
|  | Associate Professor William Glamore B Env Studies, PhD (Environmental / Civil Engineering) | 01/05/17 to 31/01/21 |
|  | Professor Peter Steinberg B Sci (Hons), PhD Biology (Marine Science) | 01/05/17 to 31/01/21 |

KNOWLEDGE PANEL

Meetings and attendance

Four Knowledge Panel meetings were held during the report period, with a quorum achieved at all meetings.

Significantly, pre-meetings and additional out of session meetings and teleconferences enable the Knowledge Panel to collectively discuss preliminary views relating to agenda items, negotiate a consolidated position and provide an opportunity to identify and discuss strategic and governance issues.

| | MEMBER | ATTENDANCE [±] |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| PANEL MEETINGS 2019/2020 | Anthea Tinney (Chair) | 4/4 |
| | Dr Kate Brooks | 4/4 |
| | Mr Peter McGinnity | 4/4 |
| | Professor Kate Barclay | 2/4 [≠] |
| | Associate Professor William Glamore | 4/4 |
| | Professor Peter Steinberg | 4/4 |
| | Dr Russell Reichelt (Authority observer) | 3/4 |

[±] Number of meetings attended/meetings held

[≠] Professor Barclay was unable to attend two meetings during the year, however provided input and comments to the Chair on all meeting papers.