



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Draft Marine Estate Management Strategy

FAQ #5 – HEALTHY HABITATS & MARINE WILDLIFE IN OUR MARINE ESTATE

The Marine Estate Management Authority (the Authority) has released a Draft Marine Estate Management Strategy (draft Strategy), setting out the proposed approach to manage the statewide priority threats to the marine estate.

This fact sheet outlines how the draft Strategy intends to support healthy and diverse habitats and wildlife in our NSW marine estate. We welcome your feedback on this draft Strategy.

WHY IS THE DRAFT STRATEGY NEEDED?

The marine estate includes some of NSW's most valued assets – its coastline, estuaries and marine waters. It provides a range of environmental, cultural, social and economic benefits to the NSW community.

The Strategy is a requirement of the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014*. It must set out the vision and priorities for management of the marine estate.

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

The draft Strategy proposes eight management initiatives to address priority and cumulative threats to the marine estate over the next decade in order to deliver on the

vision for the marine estate.

WHY IS HEALTHY HABITAT & MARINE WILDLIFE IMPORTANT?

During the NSW Marine Estate Community Survey in 2014, over 1,700 people in NSW identified healthy and diverse marine habitats and wildlife as two of the core values of the NSW marine estate, underpinning many of the social, cultural and economic benefits derived from the marine estate. The biodiversity, health and resilience of our marine plants and wildlife depend on healthy habitats. NSW boasts unique marine wildlife that plays an important role in maintaining a balanced ecosystem. It is also home to threatened and protected species (e.g. humpback whales, Grey Nurse sharks and green turtles) that require healthy habitats for their recovery.



The recent statewide Threat and Risk Assessment (statewide TARA) identified statewide priority threats to our marine estate.

The draft Strategy aims to address the priority threats to water quality and estuarine and coastal habitats that support marine biodiversity. Initiatives 1 and 2 specifically target the reduction of threats from pollution and management of habitats. Initiative 5 addresses threats to marine wildlife.

HOW WILL THE DRAFT STRATEGY ENSURE HEALTHY HABITATS AND WILDLIFE?

Management Initiative 1 aims to *improve water quality and reduce marine litter for the benefit for marine habitats, wildlife and the community.*

Proposed management actions include:

- rehabilitating a range of coastal habitats including coastal wetlands, natural oyster reefs and riparian zones
- reducing marine litter which is a recognised as a threat to marine wildlife.

Management Initiative 2 aims to *protect coastal habitats and enhance the health of estuarine and coastal waterways by improving the quality and ongoing management of foreshore development, use and waterways infrastructure.*

Proposed management actions include:

- developing estuary specific intertidal and foreshore management plans for estuary bank protection, approval of foreshore structures, marine vegetation management, rehabilitation opportunities, beach grooming, collection of beach wrack, and management of recreational users (e.g. four wheel driving on saltmarsh, mudflats and beaches)
- re-establishment of more natural flows and connectivity to coastal floodplains to reduce their impact of on coastal habitats and water quality
- ensuring coastal development and urban renewal projects adequately consider coastal processes and habitat protection requirements.

Management initiative 5 aims to *better understand and mitigate threats to marine wildlife in NSW.*

Proposed management actions include:

- developing a statewide framework to improve strategic planning for wildlife programs across NSW to ensure effective wildlife management
- mapping key habitat areas and developing best practice planning guidelines for rehabilitation and conservation of habitats
- addressing key knowledge gaps identified in the statewide TARA including threats to marine wildlife, trends in threats and the health and condition of wildlife in their habitats.



HAVE YOUR SAY

The Authority is interested in 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.

More information on consultation and opportunities to provide feedback can be found at 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.

© State of New South Wales through Department of Industry, 2017. You may copy, distribute and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute the NSW Marine Estate Management Authority as the owner.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (October 2017). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the author or the user's independent advisor. Published by the Department of Primary Industries.

Images: DPI/David Harasti,
PUB17/630