



Photo: Destination NSW

Newsletter no.5

YOUR COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK ARE BEING USED TO FINALISE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES FOR THE HAWKESBURY SHELF MARINE BIOREGION

In **Newsletter 4** we provided an overview of community engagement undertaken during Feb–May 2016.

This newsletter provides an update on the next steps towards finalising the Assessment and providing recommendations on the final management initiatives to the NSW Government.

ENTRIES AND SUBMISSIONS

Public consultation on the **discussion paper** closed in early May. We received over 3,400 online entries and submissions and have been carefully assessing these for information on:

- » the eight suggested management initiatives – strengths, weaknesses and potential changes
- » any ideas for new initiatives that would address the priority threats
- » new evidence for the threat and risk assessment
- » the assessment process itself

FEEDBACK ON SUGGESTED MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

As noted in Newsletter 4, five workshops and 15 meetings were held with key marine estate stakeholder groups during February to May 2016. MEMA agencies have used this feedback as an input to the evaluation and assessment of the initiatives. This work aims to ensure the final recommended management initiatives are the most cost effective and efficient in maximising community benefits and reducing the priority threats and stressors.

THREAT AND RISK ASSESSMENT (TARA)

Additional evidence submitted for the Hawkesbury TARA has been reviewed and changes to some categories and risk ratings have occurred. These changes will be reflected in the draft statewide TARA, due for community engagement in late 2016. A summary of the changes to the TARA for the bioregion will be made publicly available.

MARINE ESTATE EXPERT KNOWLEDGE PANEL

The Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel is reviewing comments submitted on the Assessment process itself. The Panel will use these comments as a key input to determine how to improve the overall 5-step decision making process for future marine estate projects. The Panel will provide advice to the Authority on suggested changes or improvements to the 5-step process in late 2016.

NEXT STEPS

MEMA will be submitting its advice on the outcomes of the Assessment, including the final recommended management initiatives, to the NSW Government in late 2016.

The Authority will also publicly release a community engagement report summarising feedback from the community and key stakeholders during the Feb – May 2016 consultation period and changes to the TARA for the bioregion. We will advise when this occurs.

FURTHER COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Some of the final recommended initiatives, if supported by Government, will require another stage of community and stakeholder engagement to further refine the detail. For example, any proposals for spatial management will need to be further discussed with the community and key stakeholders to inform the final advice to the Government.

HOW CAN I GET FURTHER UPDATES?

If someone you know would also like to receive updates on the Hawkesbury Shelf project or other marine estate projects please advise them to email contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au and provide their postcode and email address.

We would appreciate feedback on this newsletter. Please email your comments to contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au



Photo: Renata Pronk NSW DPI