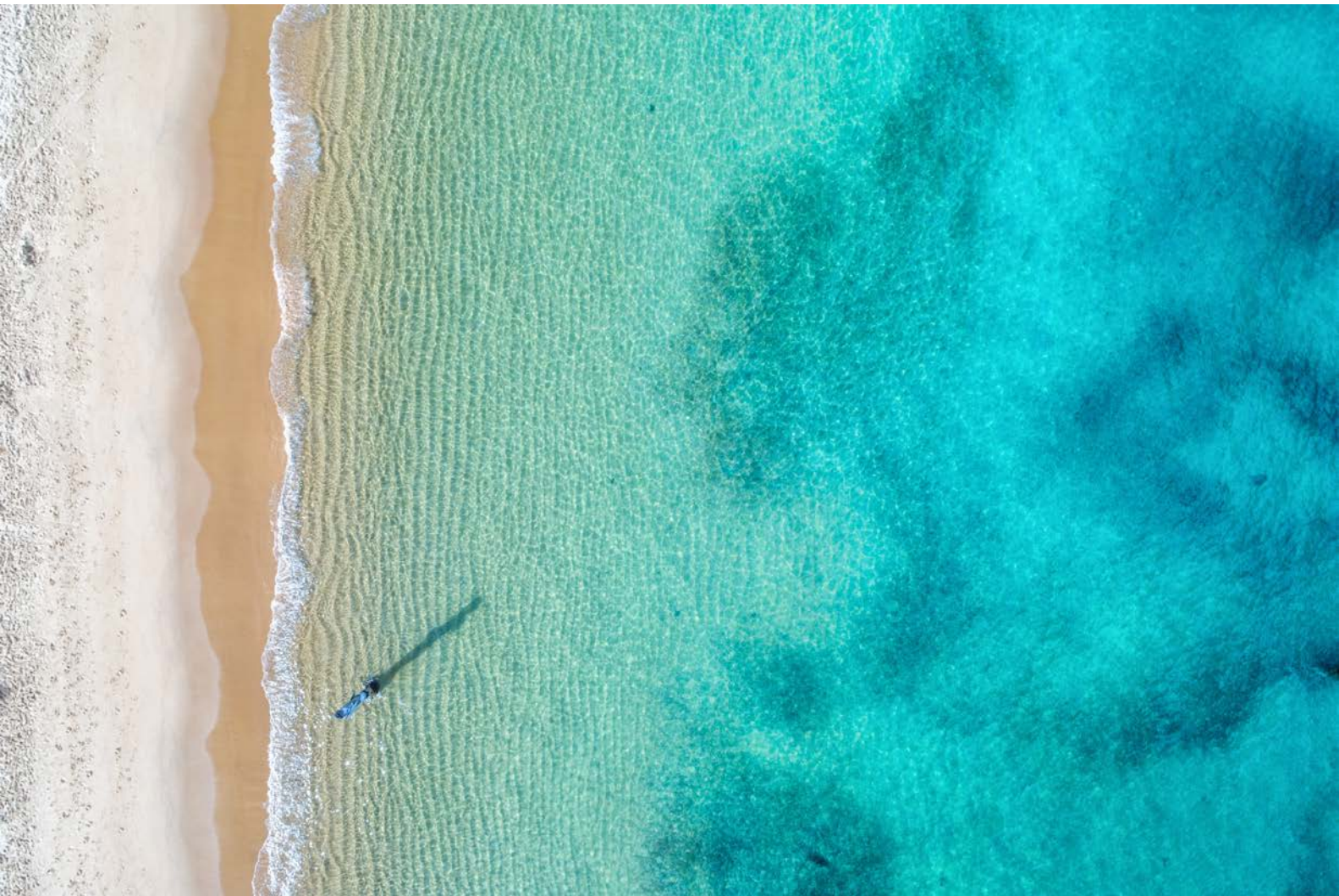


Marine Estate Management Authority

Annual Report 2022–2023

December 2023



Published by NSW Department of Primary Industries

Title: Annual Report 2022–2023

First published November 2023

ISSN: 2981-9547 (Online)

PUB23/1195

More information

Marine Estate Management Authority

www.marine.nsw.gov.au

Acknowledgments

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

1. Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel
2. Officers from the following agencies in preparing this report:
3. Department of Planning and Environment
4. Department of Primary Industries
5. Transport for NSW.

Cover image: Sydney beach aerial. Photo: Shutterstock/Szilard Toth ©

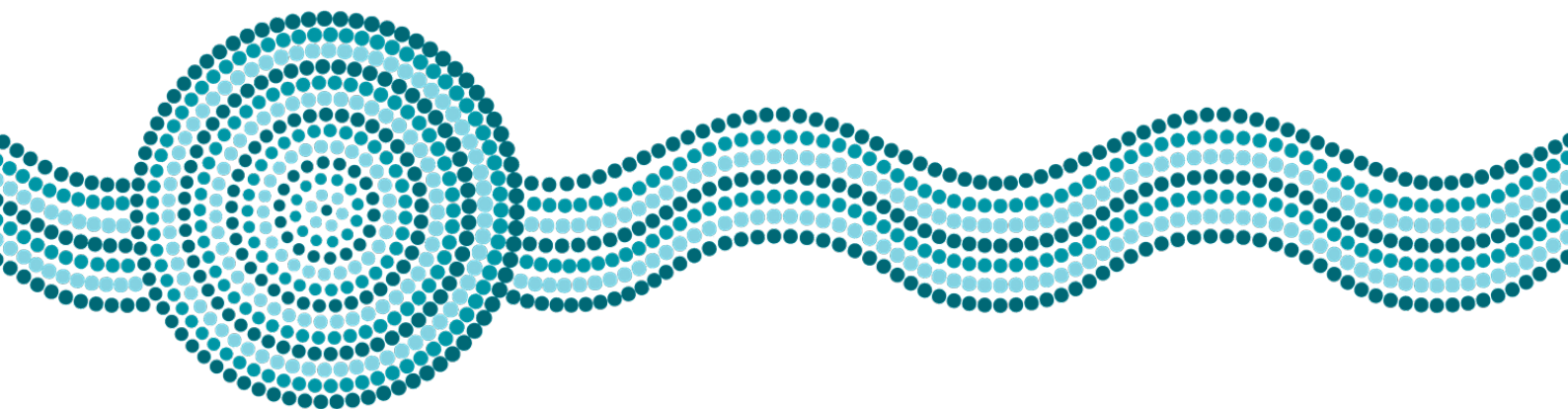
© State of New South Wales through Regional NSW 2023. You may copy, distribute, display, download and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute the Regional NSW as the owner. However, you must obtain permission if you wish to charge others for access to the publication (other than at cost); include the publication in advertising or a product for sale; modify the publication; or republish the publication on a website. You may freely link to the publication on a departmental website.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing ([December 2023]) and may not be accurate, current or complete. The State of New South Wales (including the Regional NSW), the author and the publisher take no responsibility, and will accept no liability, for the accuracy, currency, reliability or correctness of any information included in the document (including material provided by third parties). Readers should make their own inquiries and rely on their own advice when making decisions related to material contained in this publication.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Marine Estate Management Authority (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.



Artwork: Marina Riley ©

Message from the Chair



The 2022–23 year has been a strong year of progress for the Marine Estate Management Authority. Our flagship programs have gained momentum after the disruptions of the COVID years and flooding in coastal communities, and our work with the community and partners in our communities has recommenced.

Our role is to facilitate collaboration across NSW government agencies and with our many partners to manage the NSW marine estate. Our programs are reducing key threats and improving the health of estuarine, coastal and offshore environments.

This year, \$30 million was allocated to the implementation of the Marine Estate Management Strategy (the Strategy). The program of works spans many government agencies and partners to implement about 100 projects throughout NSW.

We have developed a new approach to managing the NSW mainland marine park network while we were developing the draft Management Plan for Mainland Marine Parks. This involved collaboration across agencies and consultation with the community.

The update of NSW Planning Portal supports the community's efforts to maintain the marine estate as it allows easier access to standard conditions of development consent for local councils. Consultation with the community and stakeholders has also continued, including a review into Coastal Design Guidelines and the End-of Life vessel policy options paper.

The Marine Integrated Monitoring Program (MIMP) continued to develop the systems that will provide transparent reporting on what is happening 'out on the water' as the Strategy progresses. A review to assess new and emerging threats has been a focus during the year in preparation for a mid-term evaluation of the Strategy.

A highlight for the year was the launch of the Blue Carbon Strategy 2022–2027 and the pilot project at Duck Creek and Everlasting Swamp. This work starts our investment into the Blue Carbon economy, realising social, environmental and economic benefits by managing marine vegetation. The first NSW oyster reef with native flat Angasi oysters was another key achievement.

We and our partners also released the following significant publications:

- the Maritime Safety Plan 2022–2026
- Fish-friendly breakwall audit and maintenance guidelines
- the Marine Estate Education Strategy
- the Domestic Waterfront Structure Strategies
- Health of Estuaries updates for 2021–22 North Coast estuaries
- best practice handling and health assessment techniques for marine turtles
- ongoing implementation of the Environmentally Friendly Mooring (EFM) Research Program

We continued our investment into First Nations communities through the Sea Country Rangers program. We also launched the Aboriginal business development program.

Detailed progress on the delivery of the Strategy for the year is reported separately in the accompanying report to this document, the Marine Estate Management Strategy Implementation Annual Report 2022–23.

I thank the members of the Authority, the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel, the agencies, other partners and the community for your diligent work and I look forward to another productive year ahead.

Russell Reichelt Chair, Marine Estate Management Authority

Contents

Key deliverables.....	4
Introduction.....	5
Our achievements in 2022–23.....	9
Schedule of works.....	13
Engagement and communications.....	15
Governance	18
Abbreviations and acronyms.....	23

Key deliverables

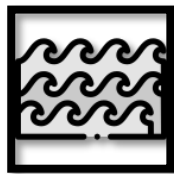
CREATING CHANGE



Marine Estate Management Strategy

\$30 million allocated to support the continued delivery of the Strategy in 2022–23

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



Marine Protected Area planning and management

continued to progress marine park management planning and improved management of aquatic reserves



Marine Integrated Monitoring Program

work continues with the development of report cards, filling key knowledge gaps and reviewing new information since 2015 to identify emerging threats to the marine estate

Figure 1. Key deliverables in 2022–23 for the NSW marine estate

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 Authority was established in 2013 response to the Independent Scientific Audit of Marine Parks in NSW, which recommended establishing a single authority to oversee management of the marine estate and a single scientific body to support evidence-based decision-making.

Our role is to ensure that policies and programs address priority issues, are well-coordinated, efficient, evidence-based and result in positive outcomes.

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

The Authority brings together senior executives of the 4 NSW Government agencies with key marine responsibilities to provide advice to the Government on strategic, evidence-based management of the marine estate and its functions are overseen by an independent Chair. 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 (EHG)
- Department of Planning and Environment – Planning (Planning)
- Transport for NSW (TfNSW).

Machinery for government changes will see several departments change their name in 2024.

Improved linkages between NSW Government agencies and the NSW Coastal Council are intended to lead to better outcomes for the community, industry and the environment. Interagency collaboration is central to supporting the Authority and the Knowledge Panel in their oversight of marine estate management.

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

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








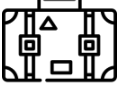



OUR MARINE ESTATE		
	6.9 million people live along NSW coastline	85% of the state’s population lives within 50 kilometres of the marine estate. People choose to live, work and recreate near the coast because of the condition of the marine estate, and this is seen in the high value of coastal real estate 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 providing for activities such as diving, boating, fishing and tourism. Marine parks cover around a third of the NSW marine estate (approximately 345,000 ha).
	15 artificial reefs	Artificial reefs enhance fishing opportunities for recreational fishers by creating more habitat for fish and other marine organisms. There are 9 offshore reefs, 6 estuarine reefs, with plans for 2 more.
	12 aquatic reserves	Aquatic reserves conserve marine biodiversity at particular sites and are places to enjoy a range of marine activities such as scuba diving, snorkelling, swimming and education. 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 each 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. 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 2. The marine estate at a glance



Figure 3. Map of the NSW marine estate

Our achievements in 2022–23

The NSW Government has invested a total of \$135 million in the Strategy since it started 5 years ago. The funding has been critical to maintain the momentum of projects, continue partnerships, provide regional jobs, and help with the recovery of flood-affected regions.

We have largely recovered from the disruptions of the COVID years and flooding in coastal communities. After the NSW election in March 2023, we developed briefings for the incoming Government highlighting the work of the Authority and the importance of the marine estate.

Marine Estate Management Strategy implementation

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 a key part of the response to the NSW Independent Scientific Audit of NSW Marine Parks in 2012.

More than \$30 million was allocated in 2022–23 to support ongoing projects as well as several new projects such as Blue Economy, Blue Carbon and Values Mapping. This builds on the investment of \$105 million that was committed by the NSW Government for the first 4 years of implementation. These new projects put NSW at the forefront of planning for a changing climate and building resilience in natural, social, cultural and economic systems.

Good governance and collaboration underpin the implementation of the Strategy. In 2022–23, 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.

The Strategy establishes a coordinated, holistic, quadruple bottom-line approach to the management of the NSW marine estate.

The Strategy 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 100 projects 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.

The Strategy ensures continued access and enjoyment to a healthier marine estate for the community who rely on it for work, recreation, health and wellbeing.

Strategy progress and implementation reports

Three triennial reports provide a snapshot of progress on the 100 projects that are part of the Strategy. As the projects mature, reporting is shifting to be more outcomes focused (Figure 4),

This annual report and the 3 triennial snapshot reports complement the annual Strategy Implementation Annual Report 2022–2023.

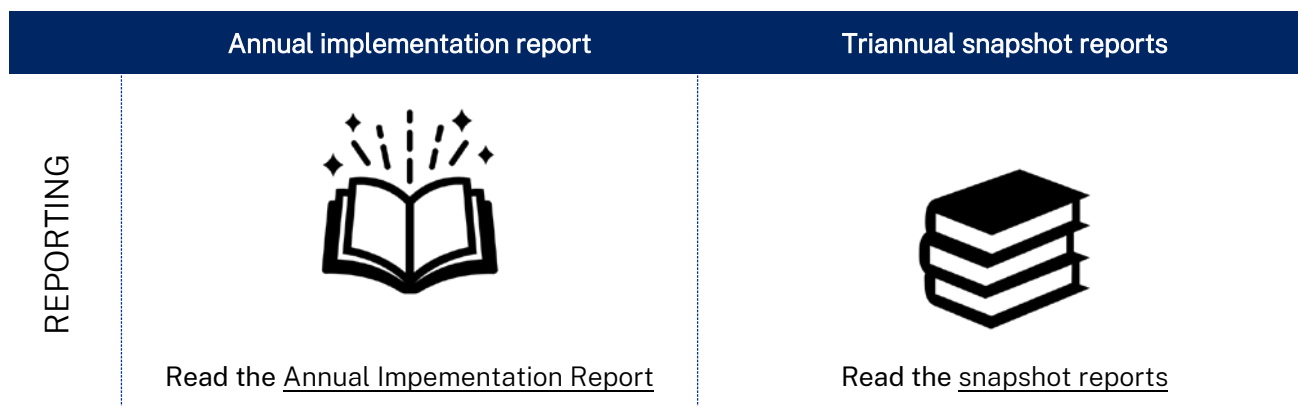


Figure 4. Implementation reporting for the NSW marine estate

Marine protected area planning and management

We continued our work to improve the planning and management of marine parks and aquatic reserves in 2022–23.

All marine parks in NSW require a management plan. This year, key areas of work included providing the Government with the draft Mainland Marine Park Network Management Plan and the associated community and stakeholder submissions.

The draft Mainland Marine Park Network Management Plan covers the 5 mainland marine parks: Cape Byron, Solitary Islands, Port Stephens-Great Lakes, Jervis Bay and Batemans marine parks. It identifies:

- the environmental, social, cultural and economic values to be conserved by these marine parks
- the threats to those values, management objectives and actions.

It provides a 10-year road map for marine park management by setting out a simpler and more consistent approach to managing the network of marine parks along the coast of mainland NSW while also taking into account their unique issues and needs.

We also started management planning at Lord Howe Island Marine Park. This work included 2 literature reviews:

- the environmental values of the Lord Howe Island Marine Park (endorsed by the Authority in September 2023)
- the social, economic and cultural information for Lord Howe Island Marine Park (endorsed in June 2023).

Subsequent work focused on a community survey to identify environmental, economic, social and cultural values held by the community and stakeholders, and also the threats to those values.

Community celebrations were held for 20-year and 40-year anniversaries of several aquatic reserves in partnerships with Northern Beaches Council and Shellharbour City Council:

- Narrabeen Head Aquatic Reserve – 20th anniversary celebrated at the Coastal Environment Centre open day in September 2022
- North Harbour Aquatic Reserve – 40th anniversary celebrated on site in December 2022
- Barrenjoey Head, Narrabeen Head, Long Reef, Cabbage Tree Bay and North Harbour aquatic reserves – collectively as part of the Northern Beaches Council Ocean Festival 2022, with various events including an underwater photography competition
- Bushrangers Bay Aquatic Reserve – celebrating more than 40 years at a World Oceans Day event on 8 June 2023 hosted by Shellharbour City Council.

These events encourage conservation and stewardship of marine life at these reserves recognising the value they bring to the marine estate.

Marine Integrated Monitoring Program (MIMP)

The MIMP continued to implement projects that monitor condition and trend of environmental assets and community benefits, guide data collection to assess management effectiveness and contribute to filling key knowledge gaps.

The statewide Threat and Risk Assessment 2017 (statewide TARA) continues to support our efforts to reduce the most important threats and associated risks in NSW to maximise the environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits we derive from the marine estate.

A review of the statewide TARA started in 2022–23. Its purpose was to:

- review progress in filling key knowledge gaps
- investigate new information since 2015 (when the TARA was being drafted)
- identify new and emerging threats that management may need to respond to for the remaining years of the Strategy.

A workshop in June 2023 consolidated the new information collated through the review. The findings were subjected to expert analysis and discussion between the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel, agency executives, research staff and initiative leads. The final report is due in 2023–24. It will inform the 5-year health check of the Strategy, which will start in 2023–24.

Other key areas of work in 2022–23 included producing technical reports outlining:

- the monitoring of community wellbeing (Community Wellbeing Framework – completed)
- and environmental condition (Environmental Condition Framework – close to completion).

We also developed a database and data support systems for monitoring and reporting. And we prepared for the collection and collation of outcome monitoring data for the mid-term evaluation of the Strategy (outcomes monitoring).

Authority Chair meetings

The Chair represented the Authority at the following meetings:

- MEMS Stage 3 Improvement Planning led by Aither and Change Synergy – an interview to provide insights into Stages 1 and 2 of the Strategy and lessons learnt
- Australian Saltmarsh and Mangrove Network Conference – keynote address
- Ocean Business Leaders Summit – to contribute insights from the NSW model of integrated coast and ocean management
- threat and risk assessment of new and emerging threats workshop.

Fast facts

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

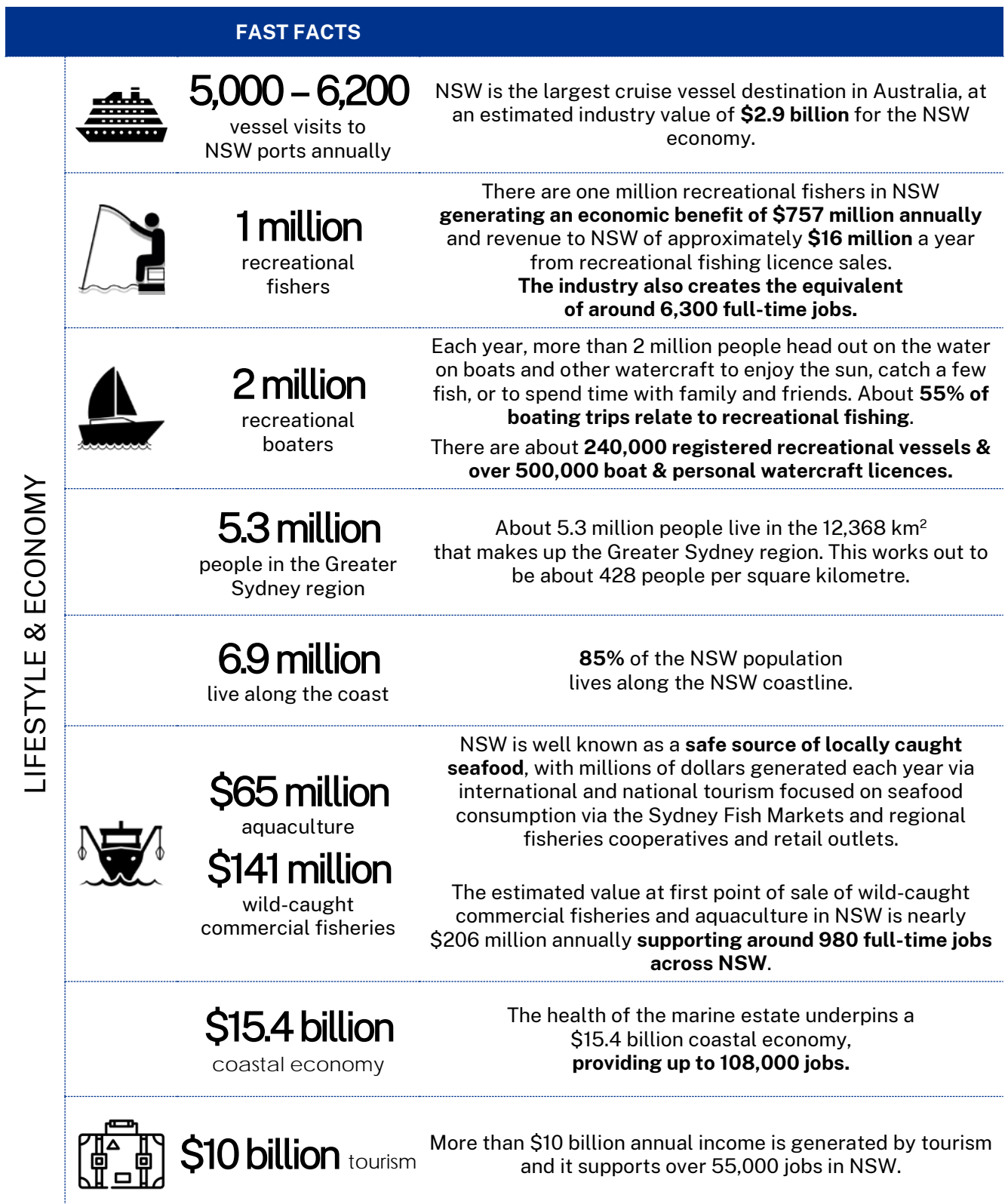


Figure 5. Fast facts on the NSW marine estate

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.

In forming advice for the Ministers responsible for the marine estate, the Authority has direct access to independent expertise through the Knowledge Panel. The Knowledge Panel provides advice about economic, social and ecological sciences, as well as Sea Country management. Together, the Authority and the Knowledge Panel support the NSW Government in focusing its programs on priority issues. It oversees 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 as the marine estate reform program progresses and is publicly available on the marine estate website at www.marine.nsw.gov.au.

Table 1. Schedule of works in progress for the NSW marine estate

Indicative completion	Priority programs	Status
2022	Prepare a Network Management Plan (NMP) for 5 mainland marine parks	In progress
2023	Marine Integrated Monitoring Program – finalise framework documents to guide monitoring and fill knowledge gaps (Community Wellbeing Framework and Environmental Condition Framework)	In progress
2023	Development of management rules to implement the final NMP	In progress
2023	Threat and Risk Assessment for Lord Howe Island Marine Park	In progress – scoping
2023	Statewide Threat and Risk Assessment – 5-year review	In progress – new evidence reviewed and agency consultation completed
2024	Preparation of a management plan for Lord Howe Island Marine Park	Pending finalisation of NMP and Threat and Risk Assessment for Lord Howe Island marine estate
2024	Marine Estate Management Strategy implementation – 5-year health check	In progress – planning scope of health check
2024	Statutory review of management rules for marine parks	Pending marine park management plans and associated development of management rules
2025	Development of 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	Statewide TARA review	Not commenced
2028	Marine Estate Management Strategy (2018–2028) evaluation	Not commenced

Table 2. Schedule of completed works for the NSW marine estate

Completed projects	Status
Marine Estate Management Strategy <u>Implementation Plan 2022–2024</u>	Published 2022
Marine Estate Management Strategy <u>Implementation Plan 2020–2021</u>	Published March 2021
<i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> , <u>5-year statutory review</u>	Completed 2020 (tabled in Parliament 17 December)
Marine Integrated Monitoring Program <u>Evaluation Framework</u>	Published December 2019
Marine Estate Management Strategy <u>Implementation Plan 2018–2020</u>	Published October 2019
<u>Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion assessment</u> to 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 final 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</u>	Remade September 2017
<u>Statewide Threat and Risk Assessment</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
<i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i>	Commenced December 2014
Social research, through a <u>statewide survey</u> 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 6. Seven overarching principles

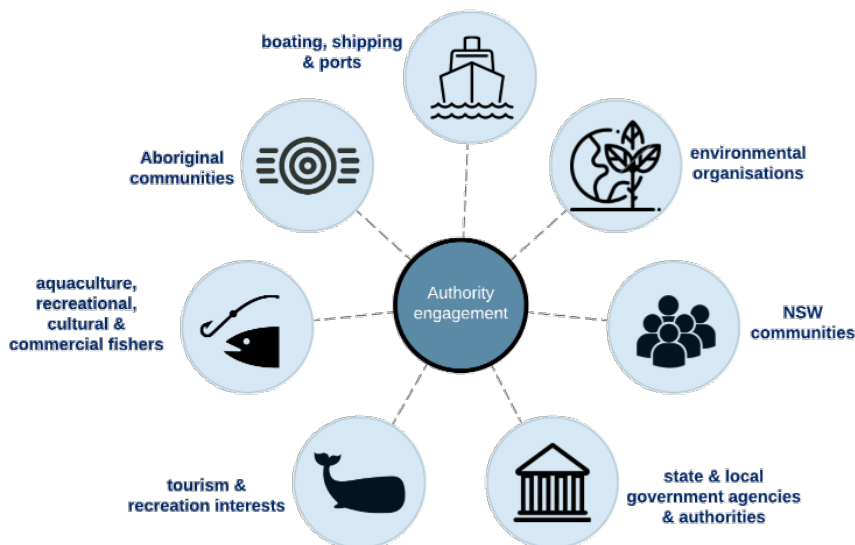


Figure 7. Key engagement groups

Social media

The marine estate Instagram following has grown during the year. The account has increased its following by 18.3%. The social media profile has grown, whereas website traffic has decreased.

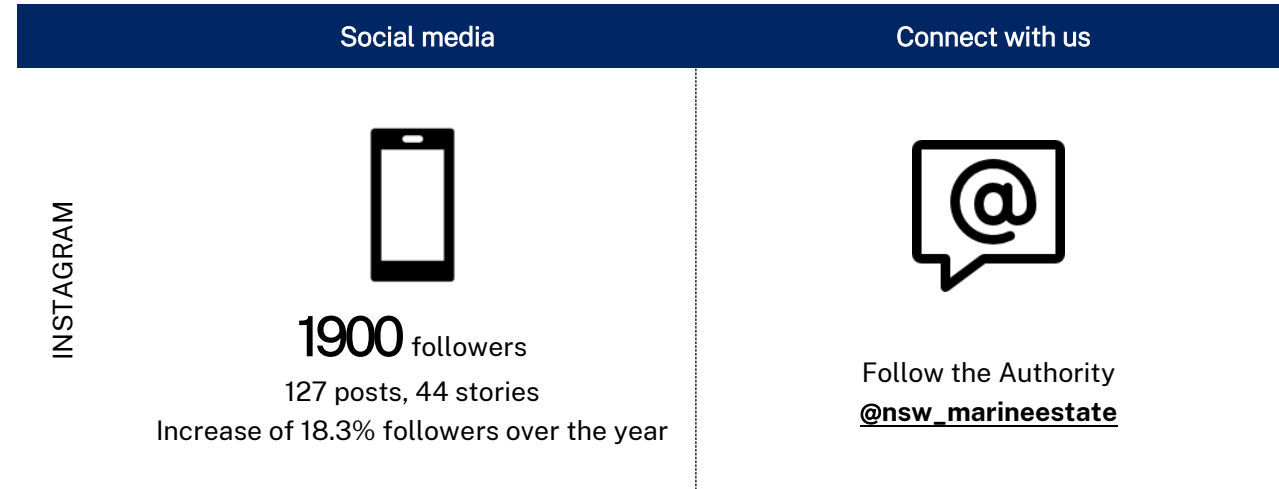


Figure 8. Marine estate social media followers

Website

Website traffic has decreased 15% over the year, reflecting the increase in community use of social media. We are reviewing the website to ensure it meets community expectations and needs into the future.

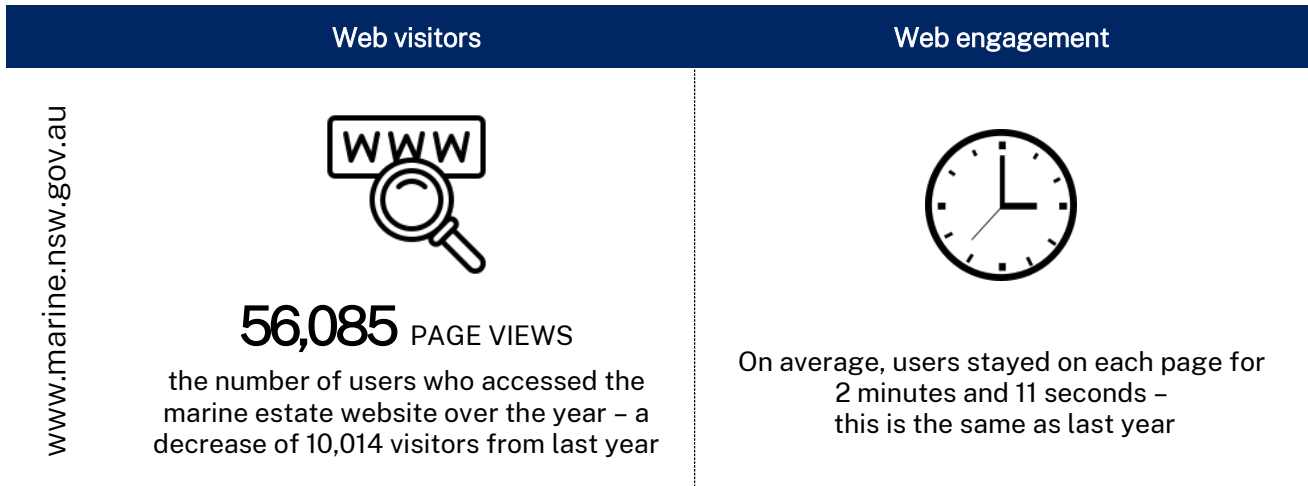


Figure 9. Marine estate website visitors to www.marine.nsw.gov.au

Newsletter

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.

The regular newsletter has increased in popularity. The number of subscribers has risen 16.3% over the year. Six editions were published in 2022–23.



Figure 2. Marine estate newsletter subscribers

Have your say

Community and stakeholders can engage directly with NSW Government on issues that matter. [Have your Say](#). The marine estate can be contacted at any time through our email.

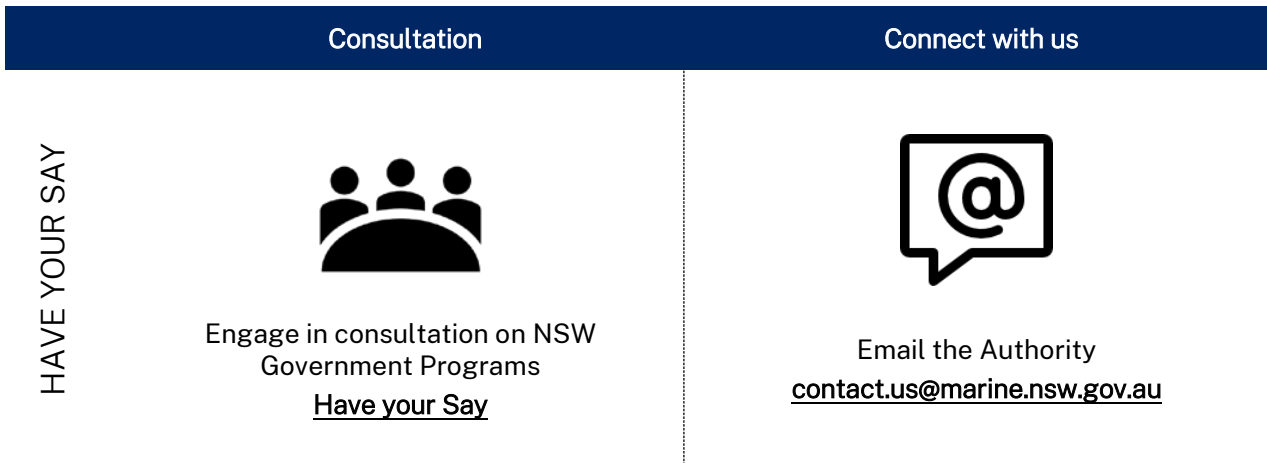


Figure 3. Marine estate consultation

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.

For a full list of communications and engagement with stakeholders, see the [Marine Estate Management Strategy Annual Implementation Report for 2022–2023](#).

Authority advice

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. Following the 2023 NSW election, ministerial and departmental responsibilities are being updated. The organisational structure represents the status as at 30 June 2023.

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

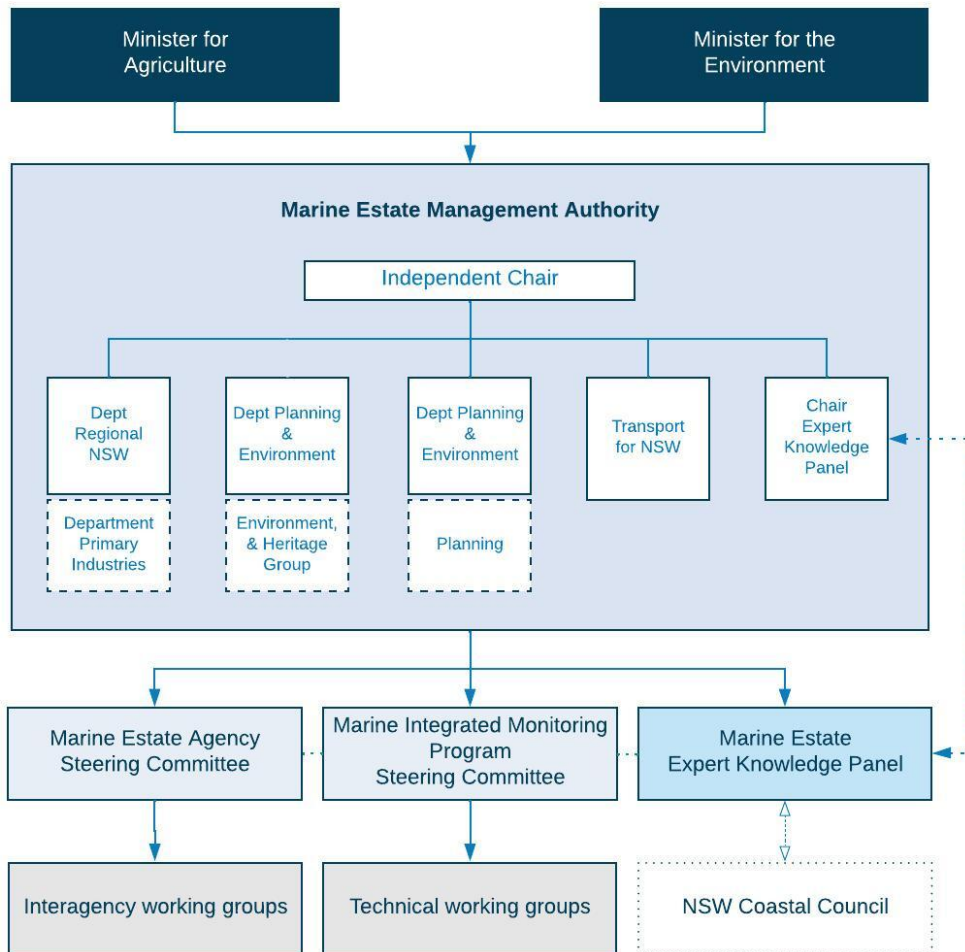


Figure 4. Marine estate organisational structure

Ministers for the marine estate

NSW Ministers jointly responsible for the NSW marine estate matters are as follows.

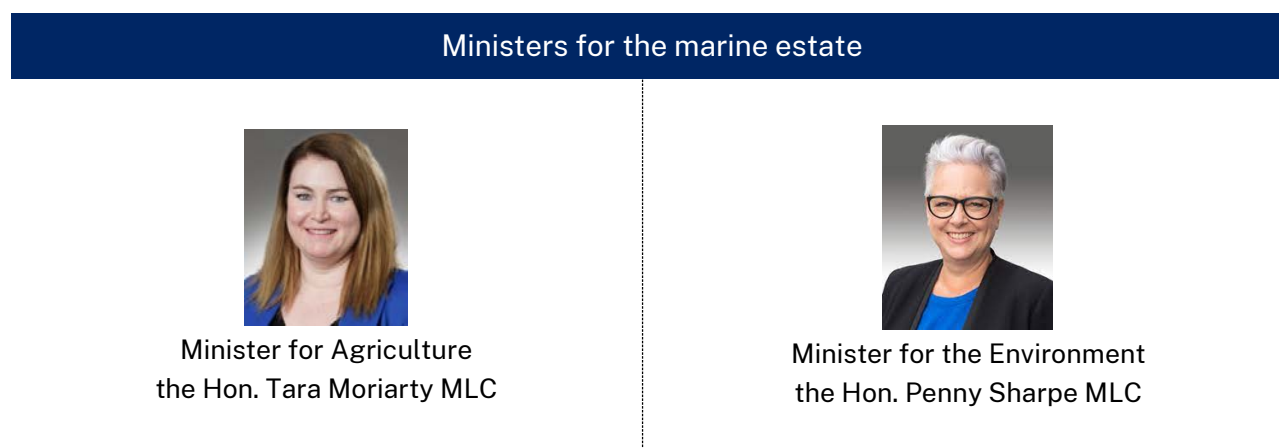


Figure 5. Joint Ministers for the NSW marine estate

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.



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 3.

Table 3. The Authority membership for 2022–23

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	10/10/22 to 09/10/26
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 4. Authority meeting attendance for 2022–23

Member	Attendance / Meetings held
Authority Chair	4/4
Knowledge Panel Chair	2/3
Department of Primary Industries	4/4
Department of Planning and Environment – Planning	3/4
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 4).

Table 5. The Knowledge Panel membership for 2022–23

Member photo	Member details	Term of appointment
	Ms Anthea Tinney PSM, B (Econ), MAICD Chair, Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel	10/10/22 to 09/10/26
	Dr Kate Brooks BA, Dip Mktg, M.Litt (Soc), PhD, FARLP Social science expert in natural resource management	15/11/18 to term finished 31/08/22
	Professor Melissa Nursey-Bray BA hons, MSc, PhD, Grad Dip University Learning and Teaching Social science expert in natural resource management	10/10/22 to 09/10/26
	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 01/09/23
	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 one Knowledge Panel member and the Chair expired during 2022. The Chair was reappointed for an additional term, and an expression of interest was advertised to fill the vacancy. The appointments were finalised on 10 October 2022.

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 6. Number of meetings attended in 2022–23

Member	Attendance / meetings invited to attend
Ms Anthea Tinney (Chair) (reappointed 10/10/22)	4/4
Dr Kate Brooks (term ended 31/8/22)	1/1
Professor Melissa Nursey-Bray (appointed 10/10/22)	3/3
Professor Peter Steinberg	3/4
Ms Chels Marshall	3/4
Ms Sevaly Sen	4/4
Mr Grahame Byron	2/4
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

© State of New South Wales through Regional NSW November 2022. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing November 2022. 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 appropriate officer of the Regional NSW or the user's independent adviser.