

A new approach to managing the NSW marine estate

FAQs 4 – Marine Estate Management Strategy

March 2013

A **Marine Estate Management Strategy** (Strategy) will be developed in response to the *Report of the Independent Scientific Audit of Marine Parks in NSW*. It will define the NSW Government's policy objectives for management of the NSW marine estate and guide the actions of service delivery agencies over the next decade.

What will the Strategy cover?

The government's broad vision is for a 'clean, safe, healthy, biologically diverse and productive marine estate, enjoyed, valued and sustainably managed to balance economic growth and environmental protection and deliver long term benefits to NSW, its people, regions and industries'.

The Marine Estate Management Strategy will establish the means by which the government's vision can be achieved and reform delivered. The Strategy will balance economic growth, use and conservation of the marine estate by better coordinating and prioritising agency program activities.

The Strategy will do this by identifying:

- high level social, economic and ecological objectives and performance measures for use and management of the marine estate
- strategic actions in pursuit of these objectives, to balance multiple use, including economic development and environmental protection, and related service delivery agency roles and responsibilities
- priority information and knowledge needs for marine estate research and monitoring programs
- a communications, education and stakeholder engagement framework to promote voluntary compliance with marine estate regulation
- governance systems for Strategy implementation, reporting and evaluation
- ways to promote regulatory best practice and provide for appropriate access
- the need for consolidation of relevant legislation to achieve the vision and reduce red tape.

The Strategy will also be the means through which delivery agencies commit to action and coordinate government marine estate management programs.

A threat and risk assessment framework will inform marine estate management priorities and strategic actions developed to respond to them.

The government considers that development of the Strategy will serve as a considered and effective process for further addressing key findings and recommendations of the Audit and supporting other related government initiatives and policies.

The proposed new planning policy on 'Coastal Management' foreshadowed in the Green Paper, *A New Planning System for NSW*, and the proposed Marine Estate Management Strategy will in combination supersede the 1997 NSW Coastal Policy.

Who will develop the Strategy?

The Marine Estate Management Authority will develop a draft Strategy for public exhibition with input from the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel and the community.

The Marine Estate Management Authority will have a clear role in overseeing and reporting on delivery agency implementation of the Strategy following approval.

What consultation and timeframes apply to the Strategy?

Targeted stakeholder consultation will occur during the preparation of the draft Strategy, commencing mid 2014.

The draft Strategy will be publicly exhibited on the NSW Government's 'Have Your Say' website for a minimum of four weeks.

It is envisaged the Strategy will be finalised and approved by Ministers in 2015 taking into account expert feedback and public submissions.

How have public submissions influenced our response?

Some submissions made by organisations made reference to taking a broader perspective that incorporates both conservation and use, now and into the future, and managing for these. In response, the development and implementation of the Strategy will be a key driver of a much more strategic, new statewide approach to managing the NSW marine estate.

More information

More information is available at www.marine.nsw.gov.au

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Published by the Department of Primary Industries, a division of NSW Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services.

OUT13/5847