

# Marine Estate Management Strategy

## Port Stephens Shellfish Reef Restoration

### Delivering the first large-scale shellfish reef restoration project in NSW

Located in two remote parts of the Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park in the traditional lands of the Worimi people, the shellfish reef restoration project aims to restore natural shellfish reef habitat, enhance water quality and boost local fish numbers.

Nearly  
**\$1.5M\***  
total project  
delivery



**7.5** ha or **11** soccer pitches of  
SYDNEY ROCK OYSTER REEF  
created



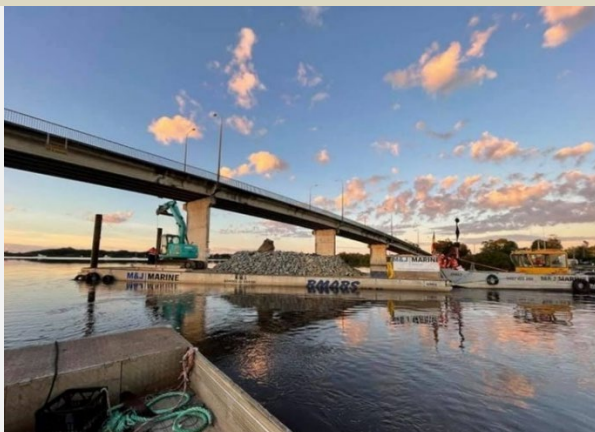
**7,500** tonnes of ROCK and **180** m<sup>3</sup> of RECYCLED  
PORT STEPHENS OYSTER SHELL used to create reef bases



**159** days reef  
construction



**5+** LOCAL  
construction  
positions created  
by the project



**35+** STAKEHOLDERS DIRECTLY  
and **75,000+** INDIRECTLY  
ENGAGED in the project



**3,215+** hours of MONITORING the  
new reefs and analysing the results





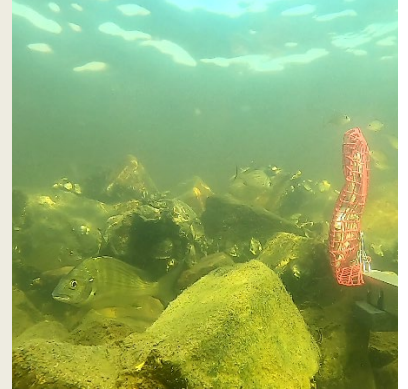
Over **55 Million** BABY OYSTERS naturally recruited in the first **2** years

Oyster recruits **3/4** the size of wild adult oysters after only **22** months

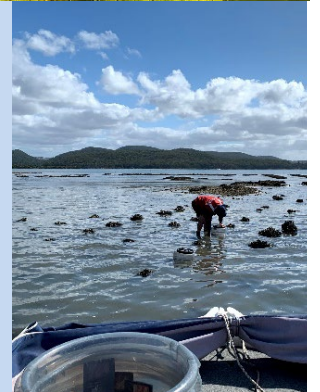
**34** DIFFERENT FISH SPECIES



**Equal** to that seen at natural reefs



Reefs filtering ~ **7.5 million litres** or **3 Olympic-sized swimming pools** of water AN HOUR



**50 x** more JUVENILE FISH at NEW REEFS compared to bare sand habitat



New habitat for over **8 Million** snails and other invertebrates



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment



*\*This shellfish reef restoration project was funded by the NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy in partnership with the Australian Government's Reef Builder initiative which aims to protect and restore 13 shellfish reefs across Australia.*

*Barge and Bridge image: Jay Maartensz. All other images, football and pool icon: NSW DPI. All other icons: flaticon.com  
Reference: OUT22/3294*