

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

# Marine Estate Management Strategy FAQ for local government

### Marine Estate Management Authority

#### WHAT IS THE MARINE ESTATE?

The marine estate is all coastal waters of NSW from the Queensland border to the Victorian border and out to three nautical miles. It includes estuaries to their tidal limits, coastal wetlands and lands immediately adjacent to, or in the immediate proximity of NSW coastal waters including beaches, dunes, headlands and rock platforms.

#### WHAT IS THE MARINE ESTATE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY?

The [Marine Estate Management Strategy](#) (Strategy) is a framework for the NSW Government to coordinate the management of the marine estate over the next ten years. The Strategy identifies actions to address [statewide priority threats](#) to the marine estate. The NSW Government has allocated \$45.7 million to implement Stage 1 of the Strategy in the first two years.

The Marine Estate Management Authority (the Authority) is comprised of four agencies with responsibilities in marine estate management: Department of Primary Industries (DPI); Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Energy, Environment and Science (DPIE-EES); Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Planning and Assessment (DPIE-PA); and Transport for NSW (TfNSW).

The Authority developed the Strategy following significant input from stakeholders, including local government, peak interest groups and the broader community. Some MEMS actions will occur in specific locations along the coast such as natural oyster reef restoration in Port Stephens. Other actions will have benefits across NSW, such as a Marine Estate Education Strategy or the application of a risk-based framework for water quality in estuaries.

#### HOW HAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT BEEN INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY?

The Authority has engaged with local councils since the early stages of the development of the Strategy. Many councils are also actively engaged in delivering the actions. The Authority sought feedback from councils in:

- 2014 - to inform the draft statewide threat and risk assessment (TARA) and potential management responses in the Strategy
- early 2017 - on the draft TARA itself
- mid-2017 - on the development of the draft Strategy
- late 2017 - on the draft Strategy itself.

Since its release in August 2018, staff implementing the Strategy, have been liaising with council staff to identify partnerships, plan projects and ensure they are relevant to, and complement council programs where possible.

#### DOES THE STRATEGY HAVE FUNDING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECTS?

The Strategy Stage 1 is not a grants program and therefore local councils cannot apply directly for funding under the Strategy actions (the exception is the Boating Now Program in Initiative 7, as Transport for NSW provides funding to Councils for the delivery of maritime infrastructure via a grants program).

Council input into the development of the Strategy has helped the Authority identify actions to address the statewide priority threats. These actions are included in the Strategy, and are being delivered, or will be delivered, in partnership with local government.

The Authority will work with councils to identify how each council's future work programs (via Coastal Management Programs currently under development) aligns with the Strategy. This will help the Authority to develop and implement collaborative projects for the Strategy in Stage 2.

## HOW AND WHERE IS THE STRATEGY BEING IMPLEMENTED?

The [Implementation Plan](#) for Stage 1 (to June 2020) outlines how the NSW Government will deliver the initiatives and actions in a coordinated and streamlined way. You can also view a [map](#) of current projects in each local government area.

## HOW DOES THE STRATEGY AND TARA LINK WITH COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS?

Council Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) are strongly aligned with improving outcomes for the marine estate. CMPs are required to support the objectives of the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014*. The development and implementation of the Strategy and CMPs are bound by legislation and both rely on a risk-based approach (Figure 1). As councils develop their CMPs through their five stages (Figure 2), they should consider:

- the [TARA](#) - which is a key resource for considering priority threats on estuaries and coastal and marine areas during preparation of CMP Scoping Studies

- aligning CMP actions with the initiatives and actions in the Strategy
- outcomes and key learnings from projects piloted in Strategy Stage 1 to help inform the design and implementation of local management actions (including those in CMPs)
- data collected to monitor and evaluate Strategy outcomes (for example water quality data) which can inform CMP delivery.

## WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Authority agency representatives are located in four coastal regions along the NSW coast. For more information on how to integrate Strategy actions into CMPs your first point of contact is your nearest regional Authority agency representative (Figure 3).

If you require information, please contact the program leaders:

- Nicola Johnstone, DPI (Strategy)  
[nicola.johnstone@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nicola.johnstone@dpi.nsw.gov.au)
- Louisa Clark, DPIE – EES (Strategy)  
[louisa.clark@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:louisa.clark@environment.nsw.gov.au)
- Michelle Fletcher, DPIE – EES (CMPs)  
[michelle.fletcher@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:michelle.fletcher@environment.nsw.gov.au)

## Strategy and CMPs are bound by legislation

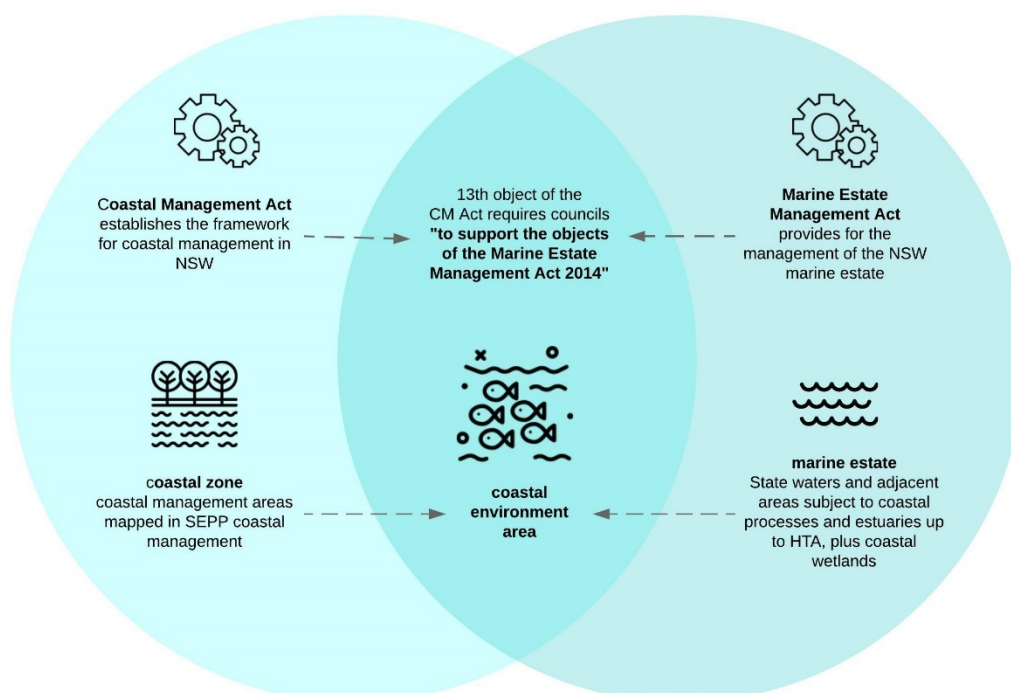


Figure 1. The Strategy and CMPs are bound by legislation



## Ideas for integrating the NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy with your Coastal Management Program



### 1. Scoping

- Consider regional priority threats from the TARA in first pass risk assessment
- Refer to TARA evidence base and background reports to inform knowledge gaps
- Include MEMA public authorities in your stakeholder engagement strategy
- Link with relevant pilot studies / initiatives



### 2. Determine risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities

- Where sensible, use consistent terminology for threat, value and benefit categories to the TARA
- Consider using / modifying likelihood, consequence and tolerance tables adopted in the TARA
- Link with relevant pilot studies / initiatives (see, for example: [this infographic](#))



### 3. Identify and evaluate options

- Consider feasibility, viability and acceptability of MEM Strategy actions for inclusion in your CMP
- Review progress and outcomes of pilot studies undertaken elsewhere that relate to your priority threats
- Look for other opportunities to integrate with MEM Strategy



### 4. Prepare, exhibit, finalise and adopt the CMP

- Document partnerships with MEMA Agencies
- Submit CMP for certification (Minister may seek advice by NSW Coastal Council that includes MEEKP Reps)



### 5. Implement, monitor, evaluate and report

- Integrate with MEM Strategy monitoring happening in your area
- Public Authorities (including those represented on MEMA) to have regard to certified CMPs
- MEM strategy actions that also are included in CMPs may be eligible for coastal program grants



### Acronyms and Links

**CMP** - Coastal Management Program  
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/coasts/coastal-management/framework>

**MEEKP** - Marine Estate Knowledge Panel

**MEMA** - Marine Estate Management Authority

**TARA** - Threat and Risk Assessment  
<https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/key-initiatives/threat-and-risk-assessment>

Figure 2. Integrating the Strategy with CMPs

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (May 2019). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

## Strategy and CMP integration

Figure 3. Strategy and CMP integration and contacts

