

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** m³ 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



**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
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