



# The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

## Minister for Primary Industries

## Minister for Small Business

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### **NSW HOOKS ITS FIRST OFFSHORE ARTIFICIAL REEF**

The State's first offshore artificial reef is set to reel in recreational fishers from across NSW with work on the large structure to begin in the next few weeks, Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson said.

A construction contract for the artificial reef has been awarded to a Sydney-based company that specialises in major maritime infrastructure projects.

"This purpose-built offshore reef will be the first and largest artificial reef structure to be designed and constructed in Australia," Katrina Hodgkinson said.

"We expect the artificial reef will not only attract fish species such as snapper and yellowtail kingfish but avid fishers from near and far.

"This is the first of the three offshore artificial reefs planned for NSW over the next five years and is expected to vastly improve recreational fishing opportunities off the coast of Sydney."

The reef will be located approximately 1.2 kilometres off The Gap at Vaucluse and 1.9 kilometres off South Head.

Waterway Constructions Pty Ltd, in a joint venture with Haejoo Pty Ltd, was selected as the tenderers for the construction of the reef. A detailed design of the reef has been completed by Worley Parsons.

"The construction of the reef will begin this month and is expected to be completed prior to Christmas. This is great news for those hoping to do a spot of fishing offshore during the summer months," Ms Hodgkinson said.

The reef structures will have a lifespan of more than 30 years and have been specially designed to withstand NSW coastal conditions while minimising ecological impacts.

"The artificial reef unit is made of steel, stands 12 metres high, weighs approximately 42 tonnes and is designed to provide a complex habitat for a range of marine species.

"Funds from the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust will be used to construct the offshore artificial reefs and are a great example of how recreational licence fees are being invested back into the fishing community," Ms Hodgkinson said.

For more information on the offshore artificial reefs visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries)