



Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Small Business

Robyn Parker MP
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 31 July 2013

MARINE ESTATE EXPERT KNOWLEDGE PANEL APPOINTED

The Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel has been appointed as part of the NSW Government's new approach to managing the NSW marine estate, Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson and Minister for the Environment Robyn Parker announced today.

Ms Hodgkinson said the Expert Knowledge Panel will provide independent expert advice spanning ecological, economic and social sciences to the Marine Estate Management Authority.

"Today is an important milestone in ensuring that one of our greatest natural assets, the NSW marine estate, is sustainably managed by balancing resource use and conservation to provide economic growth and social benefits for the communities now and into the future," Ms Hodgkinson said.

Minister Parker said the establishment of the Expert Knowledge Panel directly addresses the principal recommendation of the Independent Scientific Audit of Marine Parks report.

"The Expert Knowledge Panel will be chaired by Dr Andrew Stoeckel and will report directly to the Marine Estate Management Authority. The members of the Panel have been selected for their extensive and diverse range of skills and expertise," Ms Parker said.

The Expert Knowledge Panel is scheduled to conduct its first meeting next month.

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is committed to making decisions based on science and in the long term interests of the community.

The Expert Knowledge Panel will start by collecting data on line fishing on beaches and headlands in the Marine Estate, including community feedback.

"All Panel members are regarded as experts in their fields and the credibility of their advice will be an asset to the development and implementation of the Government's marine estate program," said Dr Wendy Craik, Chair of Marine Estate Management Authority.

"I am looking forward to leading this outstanding team of professionals in providing expertise to the Authority to underpin the management of the marine estate and to provide

advice on managing the NSW coasts and seas for the long term,” Dr Andrew Stoeckel Chair of the Expert Panel said.

Members of the Expert Knowledge Panel

- Chair - Dr Andrew Stoeckel is a Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University at the Centre for Applied Macroeconomic Analysis and is a specialist in trade policy analysis and the international economy.
- Dr Kate Brooks is a specialist in social science research, social impact assessment, community capacity, community networking and government and community interactions.
- Dr Neil Byron has a national and international reputation as an environmental economist and is experienced in applying economics and policy analysis to natural resources management.
- Dr Rick Fletcher has a long history with fisheries management and his technical expertise in ecology, risk assessment and the development of practical governance frameworks will be highly valuable.
- Associate Professor Emma Johnston has a wealth of knowledge of NSW waters and specialises in estuarine systems, including pollution. She also brings with her unique insights having been a member of the expert panel that undertook the Independent Scientific Audit of Marine Parks in NSW.
- Mr Peter McGinnity brings more than 30 years of experience leading marine and integrated coastal planning and management reforms for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

For further information visit www.marine.nsw.gov.au