



**Niall Blair**

Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Lands and Water

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **TENDERS OPEN FOR PORT MACQUARIE ARTIFICIAL REEF**

Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair has announced tenders are now open for the design and installation of the Port Macquarie offshore artificial reef.

“We’ve listened to the region’s recreational and commercial fishermen and we have determined the best place for the \$900,000 reef – 6.3 kilometres east of the Hasting River Bar,” Mr Blair said.

“Fishing is one of Port Macquarie’s most popular recreational activities – that is why it is so important we invest in infrastructure and programs to support this crucial sector.”

Member for Port Macquarie Leslie Williams said building infrastructure like the reef supports the region’s booming tourism industry.

“This reef is an exciting project which is great news for the region’s fishers – but just importantly it is recreational infrastructure like this that makes Port Macquarie one of the state’s best places to visit,” Mrs Williams said.

Within a short time the reef should attract many iconic fish species including Spanish mackerel, cobia, pearl perch and snapper.

The project is another example of how money from the Recreational Fishing Trusts is being redirected into important projects that benefit recreational fishers in NSW.

The \$900,000 artificial reef will be the State’s third and follows the deployment of artificial reefs off Sydney and Shoalhaven Heads on the South Coast.

An environmental assessment on the project is now finalised and has assessed all potential impacts of the installation and long-term operation of the reef.

The reef will be constructed using purpose-built concrete and will be self-weighted with no requirement for additional anchoring and will have a total volume of approximately 1600 cubic metres.

The exact coordinates of the centre point for the new artificial reef are 31°25.044’ S (Latitude) and 152°58.950’E (Longitude) (WGS84 datum).

Tenders will close on at 2pm on 27 August.

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