



OCEANWATCH OYSTER SHELL & PLASTIC RECYCLING PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

1 Background – The NSW Government's \$80 million Storm and Flood Industry Recovery Program provides support to NSW primary industries as they recover and rebuild from the February and March 2021 storm and flood events. The Sector Recovery and Resilience Grants, co-funded by the Australian and NSW governments, fund medium to longer-term projects that support industry-wide recovery, with a focus on building resilience and preparedness for future natural disasters.

The project objectives are:

- Quantify the main waste streams of the NSW Oyster Industry.
- Identify barriers/opportunities in recycling cultivation gear and shell waste products.
- Identify and set up regional hubs to collect & process recyclable waste.
- Promote and support the principles of a circular economy approach within the NSW oyster industry.

Creating a program to reduce stockpiling of old plastic oyster baskets and discarded oyster shells that eventually end up in landfill or at sea, this project will involve a feasibility study of statewide (regionalised) recycling opportunities for plastic oyster infrastructure and oyster shells, to identify cost-effective recycling solutions for these byproducts and waste materials. These future waste management opportunities are in line with the NSW Parliamentary Counsel [Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021 No31](#), which aims to protect the environment and human health, promote & support the principles of a circular economy, to support material circularity through design, production, use, re-use, collection, recycling, reprocessing, and end-of-life management.

2 The Role of the Steering Committee

- Provide advice and input to maximise the effective delivery of the Project.
- Support project access to industry, government, and research channels for communication and engagement activities.
- Review and approve procurement of items greater in value than \$150,000. A procurement strategy will be completed & submitted to this committee in this event.
- Endorse progress of the project, as required by the Department of Regional NSW.
- The steering committee does not provide further financial governance.

3 Membership - The steering committee will be chaired and administered by OceanWatch Australia and includes representatives from various sectors:

- Oyster Farming Industry Members – North & South Coast, NSW
- Oyster Industry Body – NSW Farmers Association
- NSW Government Agencies – Department of Regional NSW, NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries and Aquatic Biosecurity), NSW Food Authority, NSW Local Land Services, NSW Environmental Protection Authority
- Academic Research – University of New South Wales
- Industrial Recycling - Plastic Hub, Integrated Recycling

Members are encouraged to suggest observers to meetings, with the approval of the Chair to present relevant information to the Steering Committee. The committee provides advice only and is non-voting.

4 Conflict of Interest- Committee members will disclose any potential conflict of interest regarding funded project activities.

5 Confidentiality – If any member of the steering committee is not employed by one of the parties or otherwise under an obligation to maintain confidence, either party may require that person to sign a Confidentiality Deed Poll prior to receiving any confidential information.

6 Meeting Schedule -The steering committee will meet every six months for the duration of the project via teleconference, until completion in December 2024. The quorum will be a minimum of three members, including an Ocean Watch representative, one representative of the Department of Regional NSW, and a third member. Endorsements will be by majority with dissenting positions reported. The secretary will ensure that agendas and minutes are circulated to members.

7 Facilitation - It will be the responsibility of OceanWatch Australia to facilitate, arrange, and coordinate the meetings, prepare actions, and cover any costs such as the meeting venue and administration.



This program is jointly funded by the Australian and NSW governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Although funding for this product has been provided by both Australian and NSW governments, the material contained herein does not necessarily represent the views of either Government.