

# 30 years: from a crossroad to leading the NSW seafood sector

May 2026



**Ian Lyall**  
Director Aquaculture

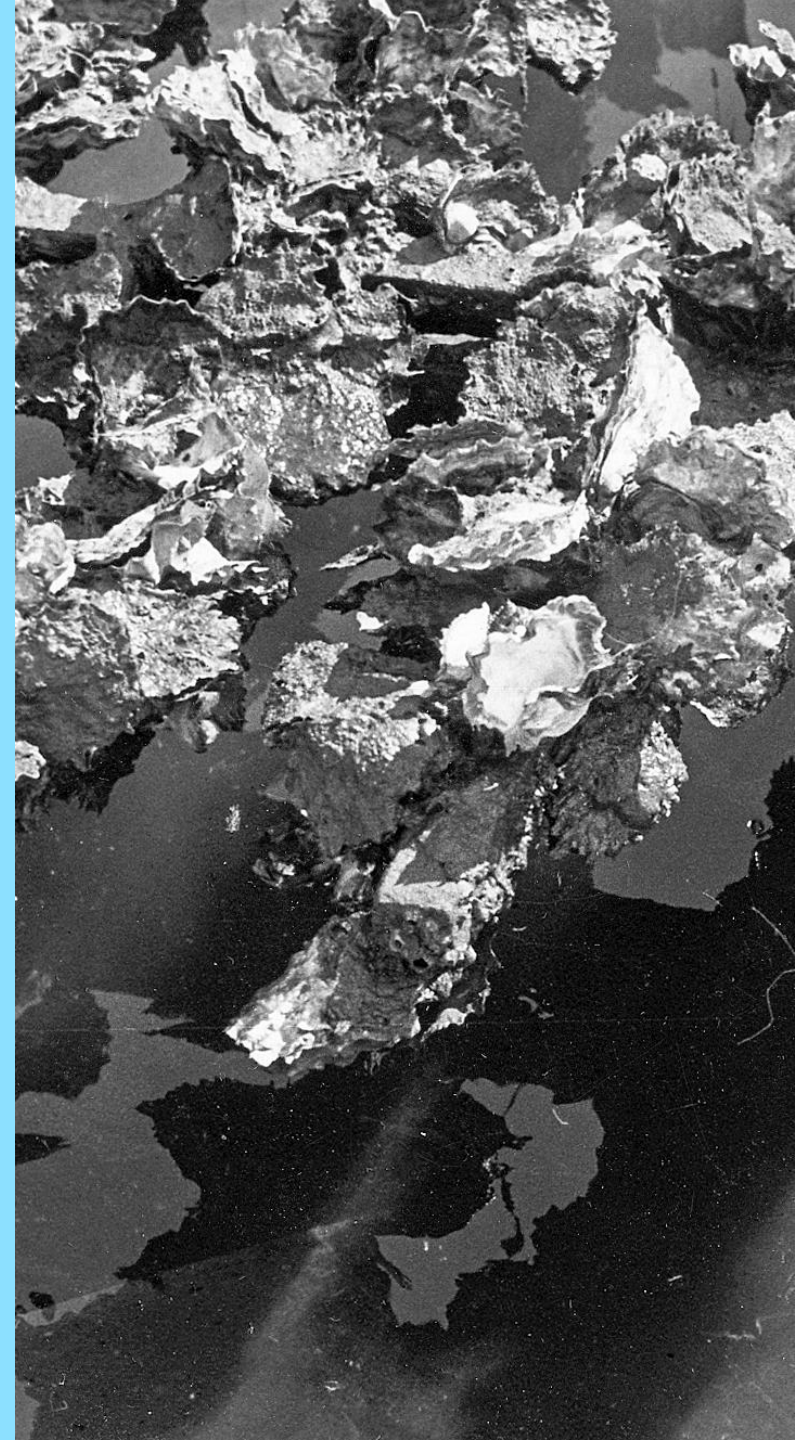
**Emma Wilkie**  
Program Leader  
Aquaculture

[dpird.nsw.gov.au](http://dpird.nsw.gov.au)

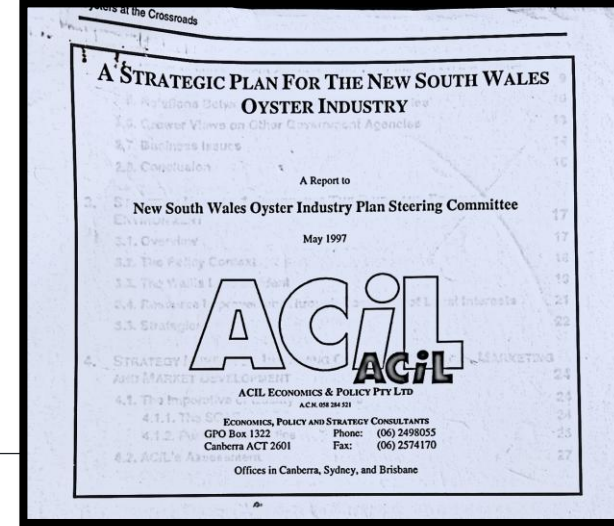


The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development New South Wales acknowledges that it stands on Country which always was and always will be Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging. We are committed to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work.

# Where we are and how we got here



# 1997 “Oysters at the Crossroads” Strategic Plan, ACiL



Water quality, Port Stephens, 70% small growers

- ❖ EMS, clean up, OceanWatch, developments, rehab.
- ❖ QA & Marketing – Health, SQAP, branding
- ❖ Admin – levies, policy, data, CFDP, compliance
- ❖ Profits – R+D, Bond, zero producers, self help

# 2015 NSW Oyster Strategy, Acil Allen

ACIL ALLEN CONSULTING

REPORT TO  
NSW OYSTER STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

1 JUNE 2015

## NSW OYSTER INDUSTRY STRATEGY

## NSW OYSTER INDUSTRY STRATEGY

NSW Oyster Industry Strategic Plan  
Ongoing Actions - November 2023

- Technology – training, Extension Officer
- Ongoing RD+E
- Viable breeding/hatchery/nursery
- Develop marketing skills, standards
- Harvest zones open, translocation
- Finance, governance, reviews

# 2019 Oyster Industry Management Review, DPIRD



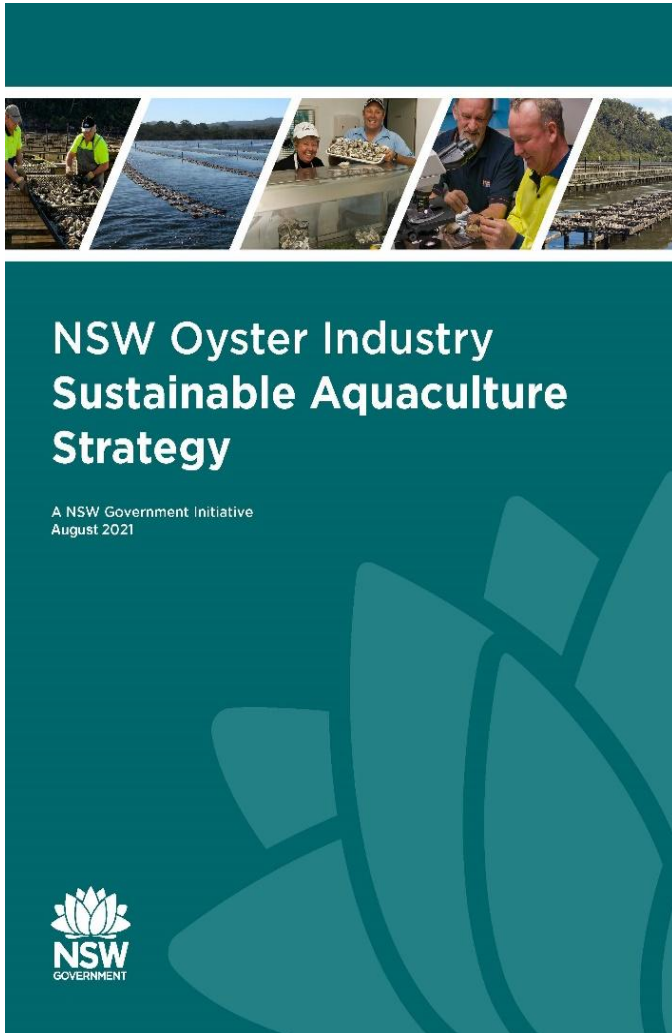
Department of  
Primary Industries

Aquaculture Reform Project  
Oyster Industry Management  
2019

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

- Entry standards, CFDP, BRMP
- Keep non-transferable permits
- Lease tenure increase
- Tiered bond
- CPI on fees
- Implementation Group

# 2021 NSW Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy



Aquaculture Industry Development Plan  
Whole of government  
Best practice & mandatory standards  
Reviewed 2014, 2016, 2021  
Update for 2027  
Vision

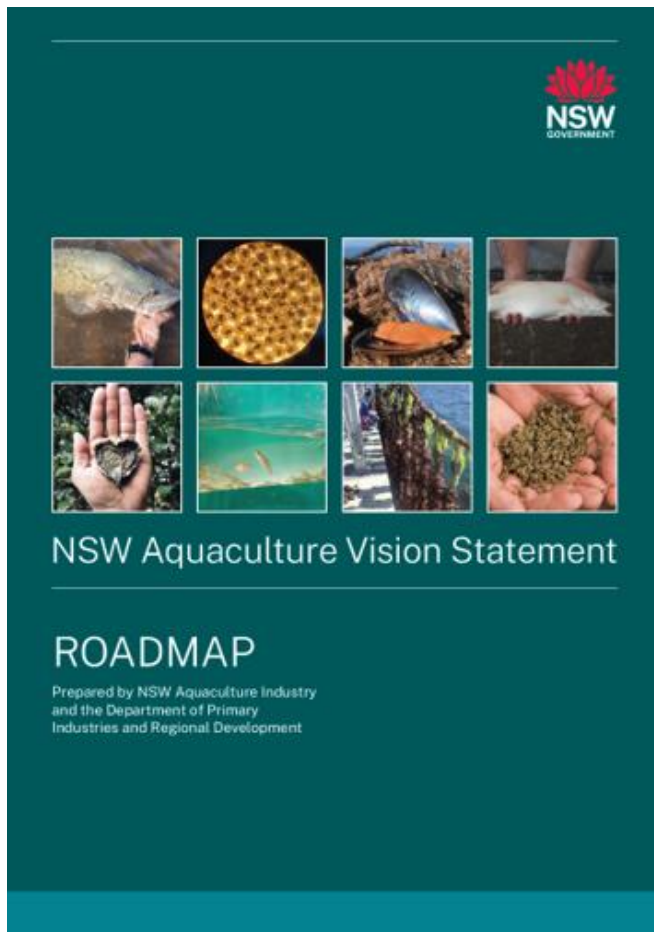
# Where we are going

## Aquaculture Vision Statement

*To grow farmgate production to \$300 million by 2030 for food security, bioproducts and climate change solutions*



# 2025 Roadmap



**NSW Aquaculture Vision Statement**

**ROADMAP**

Prepared by NSW Aquaculture Industry and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Aquaculture steering committee</b></p> <p>Whole of government approach to implementing the Roadmap</p>  | <p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Streamlined administration</b></p> <p>A modern online customer experience that is consistent with farmer expectations</p>   |
| <p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Marine aquaculture investment</b></p> <p>Marine waters aquaculture lease zoning and pre-approvals to increase investor confidence</p>   | <p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>Water quality</b></p> <p>Address water quality impacts on shellfish harvest areas and increase direct harvest leases to 70% of the NSW Shellfish Program area</p>                         |
| <p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Closing the gap targets</b></p> <p>Develop streamlined pathways to increase the number of Aboriginal participants in the aquaculture industry</p>   | <p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Business security</b></p> <p>Streamline aquatic biosecurity translocation protocols and legislation</p>   |
| <p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Oyster industry risk management</b></p> <p>Industry uptake of the Sydney Rock Oyster breeding program, establishment of emergency relay areas, and increasing shellfish harvest areas</p> | <p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Industry expansion</b></p> <p>Diversify the industry and manage risk by supporting the aquaculture of a variety of species.</p>  |
| <p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Environmental benefits</b></p> <p>Undertake economic and environmental services research to determine the value and ecological benefits of NSW aquaculture</p>                            | <p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Social licence</b></p> <p>Promote aquaculture, increasing the communities' and industry's understanding of the economic, social and environmental benefits and risks of aquaculture.</p> |
| <p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Institutional investment</b></p> <p>Improve investor certainty in the tenure of aquaculture leases and Crown Land oyster depots</p>   | <p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Innovative research</b></p> <p>Provide targeted research to support sustainable industry development, and address potential environmental impacts.</p>                                   |

## 12 STRATEGIC GOALS

**Government + industry collaboration**

# Very high priority initiatives

- |   |   |
|---|---|
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Establish a NSW Aquaculture Advisory Group  
 Reinvigorate Aquaculture Steering Committee  
 Aboriginal business development Extension Manager  
 Water Quality EPA/DPIRD/MEMS and Industry  
 30-year lease tenure & Crown Land depot security  
 SRO Breeding Program  
 Marine Park Regulations  
 Marine hatchery/nursery infrastructure  
 Zoning of marine waters

# High priority initiatives

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**1 Aquaculture steering committee**  
Whole of government approach to implementing the Roadmap
- 

**2 Marine aquaculture investment**  
Marine waters aquaculture lease zoning and pre-approvals to increase investor confidence
- 

**3 Closing the gap targets**  
Develop streamlined pathways to increase the number of Aboriginal participants in the aquaculture industry
- 

**4 Oyster industry risk management**  
Industry uptake of the Sydney Rock Oyster breeding program, establishment of emergency relay areas, and increasing shellfish harvest areas
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**7 Streamlined administration**  
A modern online customer experience that is consistent with farmer expectations
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**10 Industry expansion**  
Diversify the industry and manage risk by supporting the aquaculture of a variety of species.
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**11 Social licence**  
Promote aquaculture, increasing the communities' and industry's understanding of the economic, social and environmental benefits and risks of aquaculture.
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**12 Innovative research**  
Provide targeted research to support sustainable industry development, and address potential environmental impacts.

Aboriginal aquaculture policy

Training

New POAA and review in direct harvest zones

Emergency relay areas

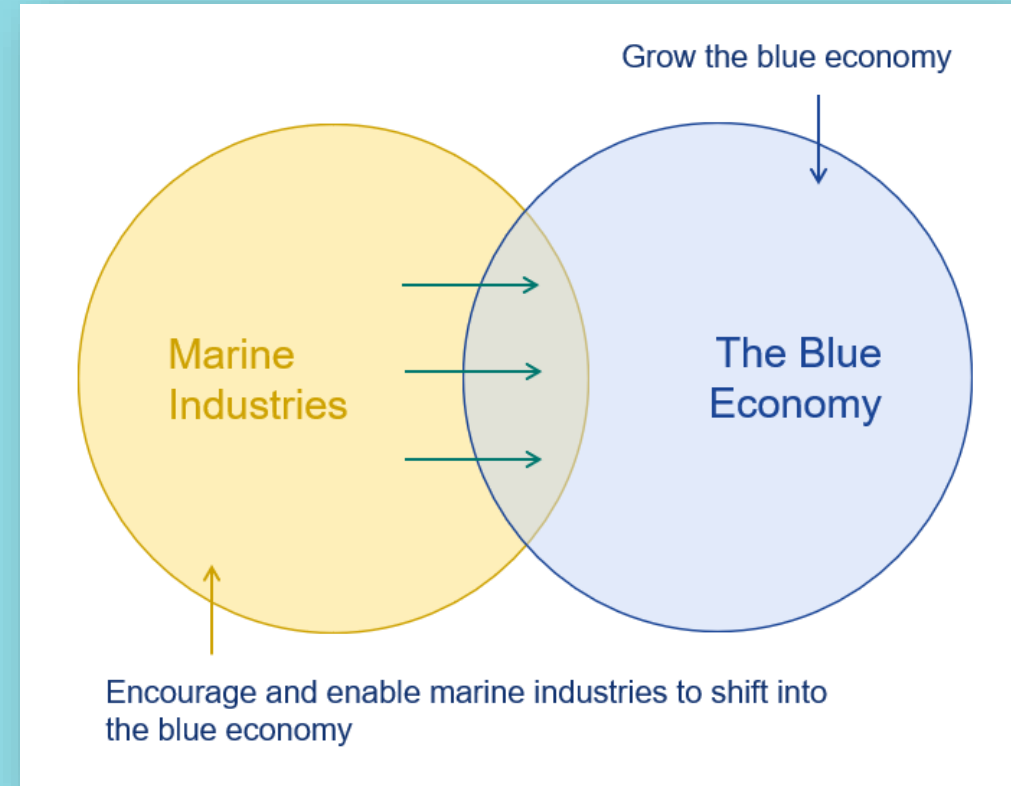
Seagrass best practice

Riparian vegetation protection from grazing

Alternative bivalve species on POAA

# Blue Growth Strategy Project

The strategy will set a framework and provide a vision and direction for cross government coordination, providing the right policy settings to guide the development a sustainable Blue Economy for NSW.



**PHASE 1**  
Laying the foundations

**PHASE 2**  
Blue Growth industry engagement

**PHASE 3**  
Blue Growth Strategy development

# How can you contribute?

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Aquaculture Industry  
Development Program

Keep informed

Know your channels

Social licence

Engage and support

See you at the trade night!

Thank you

