



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

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SOUTH COAST FISHERIES OFFICIALLY OPEN

Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson today officially opened the new South Coast Fisheries office and declared Nowra is now the hub for recreational & indigenous fisheries management in NSW.

Ms Hodgkinson said this new office is a huge boost to the South Coast with employment, economic and social benefits to increase.

“The NSW Government is bringing more than 30 Fisheries jobs to the Shoalhaven and some jobs to Wollongong,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“I am proud to see our policy of a decade of decentralisation achievements come to fruition.

“This Nowra office will process the State’s 500,000 recreational fishing licences each year and manage around 1,100 commercial fishing licences, including licence transfers, renewals and the collection of charges and penalties.”

Other functions include:

- the artificial reef program;
- setting of bag and size limits;
- education programs;
- fish stocking; and
- Aboriginal cultural fishing.

“This new office will make services more accessible and relevant to our stakeholders,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“In addition, we have equipped the Nowra office with the necessary resources to be the nucleus of NSW for recreational and indigenous fisheries and fishing licence management.

“For the first time licencing employees will be housed in one modern facility, which will generate much greater efficiencies. At the previous site employees were in three different offices.

“Once fully operational, South Coast Fisheries will be the second largest Fisheries NSW office behind the Port Stephens Fisheries Institute and Research Centre of Excellence.

“Having the South Coast as the State’s recreational fisheries management hub brings employees closer to where the majority of the State’s recreational fishing havens are based.

“It also enables greater collaboration with the University of Wollongong’s Shoalhaven Marine & Freshwater Centre, so projects like developing commercial shellfish leases can be delivered,” Ms Hodgkinson said.