

Kamay Ferry Wharves



Update on seagrass monitoring and seahorse hotels

The NSW Government is replacing the previous ferry wharves at La Perouse and Kurnell as part of the Kamay Botany Bay National Park, Kurnell Master Plan.

New homes for seahorses

As part of our Marine Biodiversity Offset Strategy (MBOS), we are providing artificial habitat for endangered White's Seahorse, called seahorse hotels.

Hippocampus whitei (or White's Seahorse), is a medium-sized seahorse species that is known to live in seagrasses, including *Posidonia australis*. We have been lucky to see several during project dives (see image below).

This year, we plan to install 60 seahorse hotels at four sites within Kamay Botany Bay.

The [artificial seahorse habitat implementation plan](#) (from pdf page 215 within the MBOS) is now available on our [project documents website](#) (scroll to: 'marine biodiversity offsets and reporting' and then 'Marine Biodiversity Offset Strategy'). We've also updated our [seagrass and seahorse infosheet](#) (scroll to: 'other documents' and then 'information sheets').

Image below: a White's Seahorse spotted clinging to a *Posidonia australis* restoration plot marker in Scar C within the seagrass restoration site at Kurnell (image by UNSW).



Seagrass monitoring update

There are two kinds of seagrass monitoring taking place as part of the project and the latest round of reports are now available on the [project documents webpage](#).

1: Construction seagrass monitoring [survey 2 report](#)

- Construction monitoring has been carried out to identify any significant changes in seagrass composition and area during construction of both wharves.

- In the latest monitoring survey, two areas of seagrass disturbance (also known as scours) were identified within the project boundary, one at La Perouse and one at Kurnell.
- At Kurnell, the disturbance appears to be from an unmanned private vessel when, during a storm, it broke its moorings and entered the project area.
- At La Perouse, the exact cause was unable to be determined. It is possible that propeller wash from nearby marine activities and rough weather conditions contributed to this seabed and seagrass disturbance.
- Once discovered, Transport moved quickly to work with the Marine Biodiversity Offset Strategy (MBOS) Panel to stabilise the sites, which included adding additional sand and pinning loose seagrass shoots. At Kurnell, this also included collecting the detached shoots for storing and re-planting.
- These sites are being closely monitored and we will continue to work with the MBOS Panel to provide adaptive management solutions.

2: Seagrass translocation, rehabilitation and monitoring [report 4](#)

- Ongoing MBOS monitoring has been carried out to assess the *Posidonia australis* seagrass rehabilitation work at Kurnell.
- The latest Seagrass Translocation, Rehabilitation and Monitoring Report (round 4) results conclude that:
 - the short-term offset strategy targets for restored area and shoot density were met
 - rehabilitation work has achieved over 250 hours of shoot collection around the shorelines of Kamay, contributing to over 4300 shoots successfully planted at Kurnell
 - the seagrass translocation and shoot planting effort has achieved 408m² of seagrass restoration, which exceeds the short-term restoration target of 268m².
- This is a long-term program, and we will continue to monitor closely and provide updates.

You can view the seagrass monitoring reports on the [project documents website](#) (scroll to: 'Marine biodiversity offsets and reporting' and then 'Seagrass monitoring reports').

Image below: an octopus spotted putting on a show in Trench East within the seagrass restoration site at Kurnell (image by UNSW).



Contact us

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If you need help understanding this information, please contact the **Translating and Interpreting Service** on **131 450** and ask them to call us on: **1800 718 556**.