

## NRM Forum

The oyster industry is inextricably linked to the environment, with environmental improvements in the estuary and surrounding catchment enhancing ecosystem health and benefiting multiple users.

Throughout the state, oyster farmers have been involved in numerous projects linked to the sustainable use of natural resources. Just a few of these include:

- developing Environmental Management Systems;
- improving oyster cultivation practices;
- working with land-owners to improve land management activities;
- undertaking pest control works; and
- developing local industry association.

On Wednesday 26th November 2014, a workshop was held in Sydney to encourage the exchange of ideas about natural resource management initiatives and programs of particular relevance to the NSW oyster industry. By sharing knowledge and information, and improving communication across stakeholders, the forum was designed to foster stronger partnerships, and projects that deliver better outcomes for industry and the environment.

[The workshop discussion notes can be downloaded here.](#)

A range of presentations provided fuel for conversations on the following topics:

- dollar for dollar industry environmental levy
- disaster bucket / assistance
- 50% in-kind contribution to NRM projects
- state-wide consistency in the EMS development and review
- scale of EMS implementation support – people on ground vs. efficiency
- simplified EMS model to communicate to broader community
- clean-up funds – public vs. private benefit
- Memorandums of Understanding between oyster industry and council
- houseboats & pump-outs
- RMS – compliance on pollution
- waste management – shell / tar