

GREATER DEPTH OF MARINE RESOURCES IN NSW

RPS is pleased to advise of our growing team based in New South Wales.

Our recent additions add extra depth to the planning and approvals team of nearly 50 staff across New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, Queensland. The team comprises offshore and onshore approvals specialists, environmental advisors and marine biologists to provide strategic advice and technical expertise to support positive environmental outcomes for your offshore project.

New key personnel include:



Dr Rachel Przeslawski, NSW Marine Lead

Rachel has extensive experience through her employment with Commonwealth and NSW state government and strong collaborations with universities. Prior to joining RPS, she was the Marine Ecosystems Research Leader at NSW Department of Primary Industries and the President of the Australian Marine Sciences Association, leading teams to develop, implement, and communicate marine research to support state and national priorities.

Rachel is a benthic ecologist with expertise in the design and implementation of offshore, coastal, and intertidal surveys. She has directed major research advisory programs on marine seismic impacts and marine biodiversity baselines, as well as leading a collaboration of over 220 scientists to develop national standards for marine sampling.



Jon Williamson, Technical Director – Environmental Approvals

With qualifications in Marine Science and Environmental Science, Jon has over 24 years' experience across complex environmental approvals, major project management, community and stakeholder engagement, and post-approval environmental management. He has valuable cross-sector experience including renewables, ports and marine, airports, and roads.

Jon's expertise lies in complex renewable energy generation and major transport infrastructure projects having delivered significant projects up to \$24M in fees, with teams of up to 47 specialists, and cross-government interface. More recently he has overseen a variety of state significant wind, solar and BESS approval projects throughout NSW including Valley of the Winds and Orana Wind Farm and BESS.



Dr Maggie Watson, Senior Marine Scientist

Maggie has over 30 years of experience in zoology, over 20 years' experience as an ornithologist, and is a subject matter expert in the fields of seabirds, parasitology, genetics and conservation biology. She has worked with seabirds, shorebirds, parrots, lice, fleas, flies, ticks, freshwater crayfish, small mammals, frogs and reptiles.

An educator in science, Maggie was also a Senior Lecturer in Ornithology at Charles Sturt University. More recently, she has been supporting the seabird and shorebird project EIAs for a port development in Victoria and a large offshore wind development in Commonwealth waters.



Chris Wellington, Ecology Manager

Chris has over 20 years' experience in the environment field in both the public and private sectors, complemented with qualifications in Marine & Terrestrial Ecology. As RPS' NSW Ecology Manager, he manages a team of 15 ecologists in Newcastle and Sydney offices, including accredited Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) assessors.

Chris' areas of expertise include aquatic and terrestrial ecological impact assessment, waterway health assessment and rehabilitation, foreshore infrastructure management, stormwater treatment, water sensitive urban design, environmental management, environmental approvals, ecological restoration, environmental monitoring, and vegetation management plans. Chris also has experience in scientific studies in benthic ecology and seagrass mapping in coastal lakes.



Tambalyn Durney, Environmental Scientist

Based in Newcastle, Tam has experience in a diverse range of fields including environmental management and planning, ecology, maritime heritage surveys, and water management, with a recent focus on renewables. He has been the lead author and contributor on a variety of reports including Environmental Impact Statements (EIS’).

In parallel with RPS projects, Tam pursues his passion of marine sciences through various photogrammetry projects, with a dedication to ocean exploration and conservation. Recent projects include mapping under water wrecks to aid in identification and to monitor degradation over time and mapping coastal reefs to aid in measuring reef health and changes in species composition.



Annie Pinnock, Senior Environmental Consultant

Annie’s experience in environmental consulting includes large-scale renewable energy projects such as offshore and onshore wind farms, hydrogen hubs and clean energy precincts. Her core strengths lie in environmental consulting, project management, environmental impact statements (EIS), environmental legislation (NSW and Commonwealth), ecology and marine science.

Annie has authored scoping reports and Commonwealth EPBC referrals for two proposed offshore wind farms in Victoria, the Port of Newcastle Clean Energy Precinct, and a NSW onshore Wind farm. She has also assisted in authoring the Project Delivery Plan for a confidential client for an offshore wind farm in the Hunter Region of NSW.

Our resources pool



A balance of local knowledge with offshore wind experience

Our team of experienced offshore wind experts in Melbourne, Perth and the UK, complement the strength of local environmental practitioners located in Newcastle and Sydney and the broader Tetra Tech ecology and approvals staff in offices across NSW.



A team of industry-leading Subject Matter Experts

Our SMEs bring experience in the delivery of complex approvals, offshore wind and hold in-depth knowledge of the rapidly evolving environmental regulatory regime that will underpin the approvals process.



NSW state regulator relationships

As leaders in NSW State approvals, RPS have been heading up leadership meetings with NSW government agencies to discuss potential approvals frameworks for offshore wind in NSW.



Expert offshore advice

Advisors on the rapidly evolving legislative and policy environment such as implementing the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021*; providing advice to DCCEEW on critical technical issues affecting offshore wind approvals.

Contact us

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