



SIMS STRATEGY 2021 - 2031

JUNE 2021 // SYDNEY INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE

SIMS 2021 - 2030 STRATEGY

The Sydney Institute of Marine Science is the leading marine research institute in New South Wales.

There is increasing government, public and private sector interest and investment in oceans and ocean health, as awareness grows of the implications of our rapidly changing oceans – from sea level rise, marine debris, declining fish stocks, acidification, marine heat waves and degrading marine habitats.

As the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (UNDOS) and United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (UNDER) gets underway (2021-2030), the Sydney Institute of Marine Science is refocusing and intensifying its commitment to secure the future health of our oceans, their multiple benefits and the wellbeing of the people that work in and depend on them.

Our strategy for the decade 2021-2030 has a stronger focus on impact and value creation, alignment with the objectives and principles of UNDOS and UNDER, service delivery and greater revenue diversity, based on world-leading science and research.

We aim to broaden our network of stakeholders and partners, strengthen our relationships with each of our member universities and the SIMS Foundation and our philanthropic community, and sustain and extend our diversity of programs.





Our VISION

Our world leading marine science and research makes a significant contribution to ensuring our coastal and marine environments are healthy, resilient and effectively managed.

Our Mission:

To provide the scientific knowledge, tools and novel multidisciplinary solutions to help address the impacts of urbanisation and climate change and secure the future health of our coasts and oceans, their multiple benefits and the wellbeing of the people that work in and depend on them.

Our major research and innovation themes:

- Understanding and ameliorating the impacts of urbanisation on estuaries and coasts
- Understanding, mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change on marine and coastal systems, including marine protected areas
- Providing ocean observations and information products for evidence-based decision-making
- Restoration and remediation of damaged and degraded marine and coastal systems

Emerging themes:

- Mitigating the impacts of catastrophic events and major developments
- Bioinnovation, fisheries and aquaculture, food safety and security, and human health
- Partnerships with indigenous communities and traditional knowledge holders
- Catchment to coast integrated management

We will:

- 1.** Focus on research excellence and projects with short, medium and long-term practical impacts that generate economic, social and environmental value, aligning and positioning our work with local, state and federal government priorities, the Sustainable Development Goals, and UNDOs and UNDER objectives and principles
- 2.** Co-design, develop and deliver signature projects with our partners, strengthening and extending our networks, including donors and research (and service) end-users
- 3.** Draw on the capacities of our member universities, Sydney-based and regional associates, including the NSW Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, and the Australian Museum, as well as other partners, to increase the environmental, social and economic value and impact of our projects
- 4.** Leverage our capabilities and facilities on Sydney harbour to support a range of research, training and teaching programs, and practical harbour/port-based projects with local benefits and wider potential application, optimising the use and application of our facilities to support research innovation and generate new revenue sources
- 5.** Build enduring relationships with donors and sponsors of projects to generate a sustained funding stream, in close collaboration with the SIMS Foundation
- 6.** Foster an inclusive, creative and entrepreneurial environment for our staff, students, early career and more senior researchers and visitors to inspire and encourage the next generation of marine researchers
- 7.** Deliver a high quality marine science education program for schools and an active community outreach program
- 8.** Review, reflect, refresh this strategy annually

Our
STRATEGY



Indicators of SUCCESS

Monitoring and measuring our strategy

- 1.** We deliver research excellence with practical impact, that aligns and is recognised within the SDGs, UNDOs and UNDER, generating environmental, social and economic value, including a range of harbour/port-based projects that generate local benefits and wider interest and application
- 2.** We have a range of multi-partner signature projects, and new partners, donors and research end-users
- 3.** Our member universities value and utilise SIMS as a platform for collaborative and multidisciplinary projects
- 4.** We have a more sustainable financial footing, with diverse funding streams from government, industry and other sponsors of research and education projects
- 5.** We collaborate with the SIMS Foundation to leverage donations by 1:3
- 6.** We support and facilitate the innovation pathway from ideation to viable product, host a diversity of researchers and projects, and attract Australian and international visitors enhancing collaboration
- 7.** Our schools program is highly-regarded and well-patronised
- 8.** We have reviewed and refreshed this strategy annually



About Us

The Sydney Institute of Marine Science is a company limited by guarantee and an incorporated joint venture between its founding members being Macquarie University, the University of NSW, the University of Sydney and the University of Technology, Sydney. SIMS was established in 2005 and is enhanced by collaborations with local government, the NSW Departments of Primary Industries - Fisheries, and Planning, Industry and Environment, and federal government agencies, the Australian Museum, and the trustee for the Sydney Institute of Marine Science Foundation (SIMS Foundation) and with the philanthropic sector.

SIMS sits on the shores and at the centre of Australia's largest city where over 5 million people live, work and recreate on and around one of the world's great harbours. Our coastline is bathed by the East Australian Current, making Sydney and the coast of New South Wales a global hotspot for ocean warming. Our unique location makes the Institute the ideal location to explore and address the combined impacts of urbanisation and climate change - two of the major challenges facing coastal and ocean sustainability today. Managing and rehabilitating coasts and oceans in the context of urban development and a rapidly changing environment is a global issue, and SIMS scientists collaborate across the world to share and apply their understanding and expertise on the marine environment.

SIMS provides a unique focal point and platform for innovative marine scientific research and its application, delivering products and services for policy makers and managers, research training and teaching in the marine sciences, and an active community outreach program.

There are over 100 scientists and graduate students associated with the Institute, with a broad diversity of skills in marine science. We use our knowledge about the ocean and its ecosystems to develop creative solutions to ocean and coastal challenges. SIMS is a collaborative platform for research where projects are co-designed and co-delivered with partners to deliver tangible benefits with enduring impact.