NSW Invests $14.3Mn to Boost South Coast Aquaculture Sector

16 April 2026 | News

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Australiaâ??s New South Wales Government has announced a A$14.3 million investment in the South Coast aquaculture sector, aimed at boosting production, sustainability and regional employment. The initiative, delivered in partnership with 10 aquaculture businesses, will support oyster, kelp and seafood projects across the Bega Valley and surrounding coastal communities.

The funding forms part of the Minns Labour Governmentâ??s broader strategy to strengthen the stateâ??s aquaculture industry, following the launch of its Aquaculture Vision Statement in September 2024. The plan targets a doubling of the sectorâ??s economic output to A$300 million by 2030, supported by an A$20 million Aquaculture Industry Development Program designed to drive innovation and productivity.

In the first round, the government is contributing A$7.4 million, with industry partners co-investing A$6.9 million. Projects include expanding marine waste recovery capabilities, modernising oyster farming through automation and solar-powered systems, and advancing kelp farming with specialised offshore research vessels. Several initiatives also focus on improving cold-chain logistics, upgrading processing infrastructure, and increasing resilience through new technologies such as floating bag systems and automated grading equipment.

Sustainability is a central focus of the programme. Investments in electrification, renewable energy integration and waste valorisation aim to reduce environmental impact while supporting a circular marine economy. These measures are expected to enhance product quality, reduce carbon footprints and ensure a more reliable, year-round seafood supply for domestic and international markets.

According to Minister for Agriculture Tara Moriarty, the funding represents a significant step towards unlocking the economic potential of coastal communities while safeguarding environmental assets. She emphasised that the programme will not only expand production capacity but also strengthen supply chain efficiency and create new jobs.

Further funding announcements under the Aquaculture Industry Development Program are expected in the coming weeks as the government continues to support long-term growth in the sector.