



## State of the Blue Economy Forum 2022 - Summary

### Background

The blue economy includes human activities that are in, with, for, or dependent on, the ocean. In WA these activities are estimated to employ 60,000 people, contribute \$25 billion to WA economy, are on-track to double in the decade 2020-2030 at three times the rate of growth in Australia's GDP.

Each year For Blue brings together diverse ocean stakeholders united by their shared use of ocean resources to generate economic value, improve livelihoods, create meaningful work and enrich ocean ecosystem health.

### Forum

The third State of the Blue Economy Forum was held at the WA Maritime Museum in Fremantle on 8 December 2022.

More than 120 participants from 69 ocean organisations<sup>1</sup> came together to review significant events from the past year and identify trends and priorities for 2023.

The forum format focused on generating insights, facilitating connections and aligning priorities through:

- expert keynotes and panel discussions about the significant events, trends and drivers;
- facilitated discussion of the top opportunities or challenges across the blue economy;
- recommendations for priorities and reflections from elders, advocates and leaders; and
- voting on the top priorities, using digital technology.

### Outcomes

The top priorities for advancing the vision of a leading, sustainable blue economy in 2023 are:

1. Collaboration on science, planning, industry operations to maximise synergies across industries and ensure net environment benefit,
2. Making a conceptual change to prioritise the bigger picture: ocean health is human health,
3. Using a science-driven approach, communicated to communities with their participation.

The diversity of participants makes consensus on these priorities even more significant. There is a strong commitment from For Blue and leading representatives of the major sectors of the blue economy to collaborate on progressing these priorities in 2023<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The organisations include the leading advocates, industry associations, convenors and facilitators from the breadth of the blue economy: City of Fremantle (including Marine and Engineering Committee); City of Cockburn (including Blue Economy Advisory Committee); Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation; Australian International Marine Export Group; National Energy Resources Australia; Superyacht Australia; Subsea Innovation Cluster Australia; WA Fishing Industry Council; WA Coastal and Marine Community Network; WA Marine Science Institution; and leaders from other sectors including: offshore wave and wind energy, boating industry, superyacht builders, seaweed aquaculture, natural resource management, marine conservation, and academia.

<sup>2</sup> Organisations and individuals wanting to contribute to advancing and growing WA as a leading blue economy can connect with other stakeholders via [kaya@forblue.io](mailto:kaya@forblue.io)