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HALIFAX POINT DIVE SITE SAVED

Work has been completed on a project aimed at saving the nationally significant Halifax Point dive site.

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, said the Land and Property Management Authority had worked closely with Port Stephens Council, the Marine Parks Authority and the Department of Environment and Climate Change to ensure urgent sand removal works were carried out in the Port Stephens Great Lakes Marine Park.

“The LPMA allocated $50,000 to the $150,000 project at Shoal Bay Beach which is managed by Port Stephens Council and had experienced severe erosion.

“The Halifax Point dive site had accumulated unprecedented sand build-up which was inundating environmentally significant sponge beds in a Marine Park Sanctuary Zone.

“The funding enabled council to coordinate the relocation of 15,000 cubic metres of marine sand from Halifax Point to nourish the Shoal Bay Beach area, protect valuable infrastructure and restore beach amenity.

Labor MLC for Port Stephens, Sophie Cotsis, welcomed the news the work had been successfully completed.

“This is proof the NSW Government is committed to protecting the state’s significant environmental and tourism assets,” Ms Cotsis said.