

Index of Marine Surveys for Assessments (IMSA)



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Marine Surveys
for Assessments

What is IMSA?

The Index of Marine Surveys for Assessments (IMSA) is a Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (the department) project, implemented in partnership with the Western Australian Marine Science Institution.

IMSA complements the Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessments (IBSA) – the department's online portal to information about land-based biodiversity surveys in Western Australia (WA).

IMSA is the first platform of its kind to deliver systematic capture and sharing of marine data taken as part of an environmental impact assessment (EIA).

With an estimated \$50 million spent annually undertaking marine surveys for EIAs in WA, IMSA has been developed to centralise this data and make it publicly available. The free and easy-to-use platform provides access to marine surveyed reports, metadata and map layers through the department's BioCollect online portal (provided by Atlas of Living Australia), as well as processed data products and raw data packages (hosted at the Pawsey Supercomputing Centre).

IMSA captures all marine survey data generated through an EIA process including oceanographic, hydrodynamic, benthic habitat, marine environmental quality, and marine fauna data.

Why IMSA?

IMSA answers long-standing calls to change the way environmental information is managed in the state and further supports the WA Government's commitment to strengthen data sharing.

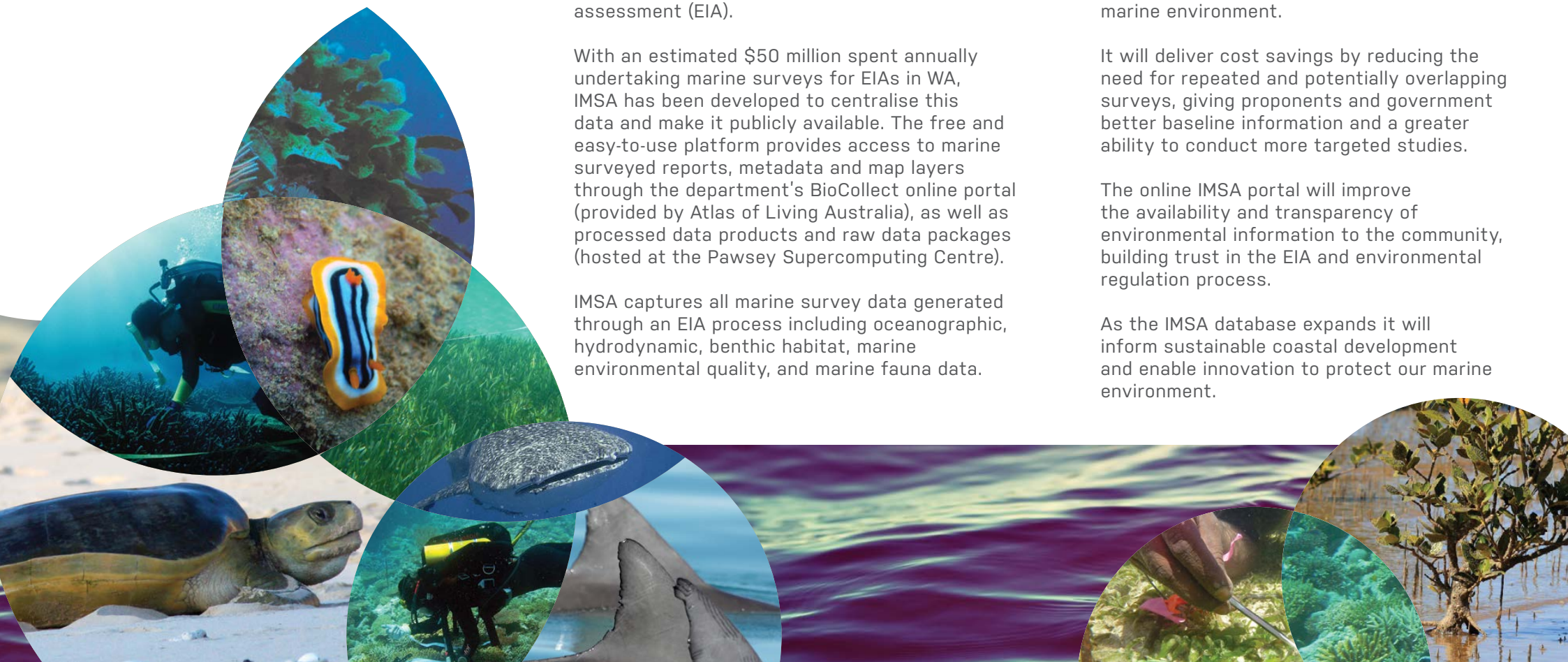
IMSA is set to be a game changer for the EIA process, taking a big step towards its digital enhancement – with data at your fingertips whenever you need it.

By collating and providing access to existing data it will lead to lasting environmental benefits for WA, including more efficient EIAs and an expanded knowledge base of its vast marine environment.

It will deliver cost savings by reducing the need for repeated and potentially overlapping surveys, giving proponents and government better baseline information and a greater ability to conduct more targeted studies.

The online IMSA portal will improve the availability and transparency of environmental information to the community, building trust in the EIA and environmental regulation process.

As the IMSA database expands it will inform sustainable coastal development and enable innovation to protect our marine environment.





What does IMSA mean for me?

IMSA can be implemented with minimal effort, yet delivers large-scale capability by linking users with survey data for WA marine waters that was previously inaccessible.

Everybody who conducts or utilises marine-based surveys to support EIAs under parts IV and V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* will be required to submit data to IMSA as part of these processes.

The IMSA project follows consultation with industry and peak environmental bodies. It is procedurally simple and allows flexibility for proponents on how data is accessed and shared.

How can I learn more?

The department will be conducting mail-outs to stakeholders and publishing updated information on its website.

For further information, please contact the IMSA team by phoning 08 6364 6497 or via email at imsa@dwer.wa.gov.au



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