

# ORRCA: *for the rescue, research, conservation, protection, and welfare of whales, dolphins, seals, and dugongs.*

## 2021 NWC REHABILITATOR AND EQUIPMENT GRANT

Upon receiving the NWC Rehabilitator & Equipment Grant, ORRCA purchased 1 custom made, bespoke, dolphin rescue mat. This rescue resource is to be used by our emergency response rescue volunteers in NSW. The mat is a custom-made rescue resource made by a specialist local manufacturer who has supported ORRCA over the years. It was made and delivered ahead of the start of the peak migration season and our spring rescue training season in 2021.

The rescue mat will be housed with an active ORRCA rescue member who is willing to travel as needed to attend rescues and mass strandings. The mat is located in a central location supporting 2 ORRCA rescue pods (teams):

Newcastle and Central Coast

This new rescue resource is a valuable asset in ORRCA's overall rescue equipment tool kit. It will help to ensure we meet our goal of having available rescue equipment at key locations up and down the NSW coast. This will also allow our team to be ready and prepared ahead of any marine mammal mass stranding disasters taking place in NSW.

This wonderful grant program not only lessens the burden on volunteers fundraising for such unique resources, but also increases our ability to respond to a marine mammal incident in a timely and professional fashion.

ORRCA is very appreciative to the NWC for awarding our members this grant. It has allowed our team to be able to acquire this valuable rescue resource for our organisation, supporting us with our vision; dedicated to the rescue, research, conservation, protection, and welfare of whales, dolphins, seals, and dugongs in Australian waters.



New ORRCA rescue mat, road tested at an ORRCA training workshop



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