

Reef Builder — Restoring Australia's Shellfish Reefs at Gippsland Lakes and Beyond

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Australia

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Australia's AU\$20m Reef Builder programme rebuilt over 60 hectares of near-extinct shellfish reefs at 13 sites nationwide; a 2025 survey of its Gippsland Lakes site found mussels, oysters and fish thriving three years on, winning the country's first UN Restoration Flagship award.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	3/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	2/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-09

[The Nature Conservancy Australia](#) — accessed 2026-09-09

[The Nature Conservancy Australia - Reef Builder](#) — accessed 2026-09-09

[Gippsland Lakes 2025 survey coverage](#) — accessed 2026-09-09

[UN World Restoration Flagship announcement](#) — accessed 2026-09-09

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