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EX-HMAS ADELAIDE DEPARTS SYDNEY FOR CENTRAL COAST

Today's departure of the EX-HMAS ADELAIDE is a historic farewell for the former Australian Navy frigate that will be scuttled on the Central Coast this week, NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, said.

"This morning will be the ship's final voyage, being towed from Sydney Harbour through Sydney Heads to her resting place off the Central Coast where she will be scuttled to create an artificial reef," the Minister said.

"Subject to favourable weather she will begin the 7-8 hour trip to Avoca on the Central Coast at about 5.30am.

"Today has been about 10 years in the making. A lot of work has gone into preparing the ship for its new life as the State's first former warship dive site similar to others in Victoria and Western Australia.

"The reef is expected to draw tourists and divers from overseas and inject \$4.5 million into the local economy annually.

"The ship is 138.1 metres long, with a beam of 14.3 metres and an original weight of 4,200 tonnes."

Months of preparations of the EX-HMAS ADELAIDE, co-ordinated by Crown Lands, have included the removal of:

- All fuels, oils and greases and other hazardous materials; such as heavy metals, batteries and PCBs;
- The main mast so not to pose a navigation hazard;
- Machinery, non-structural partitions, hatches/doors, floatable material and other items that could create a diver hazard, entanglement or risk;
- Over 75 tonnes of electrical cabling.

Minister Hodgkinson said the Commonwealth Government issued an Artificial Reef Permit under the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981* for the scuttling.

"The EX-HMAS ADELAIDE was a long-range escort frigate (Adelaide Class) with roles including area air defence, anti-submarine warfare, surveillance, reconnaissance, and interdiction," the Minister said.



It will be towed under Police and Maritime escort to the Central Coast in preparation for its planned scuttling on Wednesday.

The EX-HMAS ADELAIDE will be anchored approximately 1.8 km off Avoca Beach where final preparations will be made for its scheduled scuttling at 10.30am on Wednesday, 13 April.

Details of the scuttling event, including traffic and transport messages, maritime directions and other important information are available at www.hmasadelaide.com

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