



# The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

## Minister for Primary Industries

## Minister for Small Business

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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5 May 2011

#### EX-HMAS ADELAIDE OPEN FOR BOOKINGS

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson announced divers will be able to book dives on the Ex-HMAS Adelaide from today.

Katrina Hodgkinson said that bookings are available through Central Coast Tourism and commercial dive operators with diving starting this Saturday, subject to suitable weather conditions.

“Divers around Australia and the world have been eagerly awaiting the chance to dive on the Ex-HMAS Adelaide after she was scuttled last month.

“This has been a long-awaited project supported by the Central Coast Artificial Reef Project and many members of the local community.

“I am pleased to report the artificial reef is already attracting a wide variety of marine life, including bannerfish, blennies, yellowtail, and cuttlefish.

“The Ex-HMAS Adelaide Artificial Reef will be a premier tourist attraction for the Central Coast as an exciting new dive site, the first of its kind in NSW.

“The dive site will make a significant contribution to the region’s economy.”

Anyone wishing to dive or snorkel at the site will need to purchase a permit. Divers will be able to book complete dive packages through commercial dive operators, or make their own booking for a club or private mooring through Central Coast Tourism.

Diving costs will vary - if you have your own boat and diving gear, the minimum cost will be \$18 per diver plus a \$60 mooring fee. With a commercial dive company it could cost around \$80 if you have your own gear or \$140 if you need to hire dive gear.

Further information and bookings for diving the Ex-HMAS Adelaide is available through the official website [www.hmasadelaide.com](http://www.hmasadelaide.com)

The Ex-HMAS Adelaide was successfully scuttled on 13 April 2011 and is located approximately 1.4km south of the Skillion at Terrigal and 1.8km off Avoca Beach in 32m of water.

**Media contact:** Tracey Prescott 0404 474 657