



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **CLARITY OBTAINED FROM TRIBUNAL ON HMAS ADELAIDE DECISION**

The Administrative Appeals Tribunal today clarified the meaning of one of the five new conditions that the Tribunal added to the Permit that allows the Ex-HMAS Adelaide to be scuttled as an artificial reef and dive site off the Central Coast.

The Land and Property Management Authority (LPMA) had asked the Tribunal for clarity to ensure the conditions were fully understood before the State proceeds with the final stages of the project.

“This was not an appeal of the Tribunal’s decision, it was merely a request for clarity supported by the Commonwealth Department of Environment Water Heritage and the Arts,” said LPMA Chief Executive Warwick Watkins.

“We have been working closely with the contractor engaged to prepare and scuttle the ship to determine what needs to be done to implement the Tribunal’s decision, how long it will take and what it will cost,” Mr Watkins said.

“As the work is expected to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, the LPMA was acting responsibly to clear up any uncertainties in the conditions set by the Tribunal.

“We understood the other conditions, but went back to the Tribunal to ensure we correctly understood the new condition regarding removal of canvas and insulation.

“The Tribunal’s ‘Reasons for Decision’ were written in the context of a precautionary approach to removing the insulation so that the paint behind it could be inspected and any loose or flaking lead paint could be removed.

“Since lead paint was only used in some areas of the ship to protect steel from marine corrosion, the NSW Government was seeking clarification on whether the Tribunal intended the condition to apply to the aluminium superstructure of the ship, where all parties at the July hearings had agreed lead paint was not used.

“Now the Tribunal has clarified canvas and insulation must be removed from all sections of the ship, the LPMA will be able to determine a program for the rest of the work and set a date for the long-awaited scuttling, probably early next year.”

**ENDS**

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