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Ex-HMAS ADELAIDE PREPARATION ON TRACK SAYS PREMIER

NSW Premier and Minister for the Central Coast Nathan Rees said the creation of the first military dive site in NSW was a step closer with preparation of the ex-HMAS Adelaide reaching an important milestone.

“When it is sunk, the Adelaide will rest in around 32 metres of water off Avoca Beach,” said Mr Rees.

“Given that the Adelaide’s mast reached to around 39 metres, a large portion of the mast is being removed to ensure the safety of divers.

“I understand that work on preparing the 138 metre long ex-HMAS Adelaide is approaching the half-way point and the removal of a 13.5 metre section of the mast is a major part of that work .”

The ex-HMAS Adelaide was gifted to the NSW Government to create an artificial reef and dive site on the NSW Central Coast.

Member for the Entrance, Grant McBride, said plans for the mast’s future were currently being considered.

“There is a desire in the local community to turn the mast into a monument for the Central Coast. We are currently looking at how this might be achieved.”

NSW Minister for Lands Tony Kelly said that Federal agencies and the Land and Property Management Authority were working with McMahan Services Australia, which is preparing the ex-HMAS Adelaide for sinking, to ensure the project is environmentally safe.

“During the preparation process a great deal of material needs to be removed from the ship to ensure it is safe for both divers and the marine environment,” said Mr Kelly.

“McMahon Services Australia is making every effort to recycle or reuse material being removed and the project may be entered in the prestigious Banksia environmental awards next year.”

Mr McBride said he was also proud to launch the new project website as the official communication channel for the project.

“The community will be able to go to the site to find out more about the project and get the latest news and updates. I encourage everyone to look at the site and be a part of this wonderful initiative,” said Mr McBride.

“This is an exciting time for the project and to be living on the Central Coast.

“The dive site will be the first attraction of its kind in NSW and a world class recreation facility.”

The new website address is www.hmasadelaide.com