

**The Hon Chris Hartcher**  
Minister for Resources and Energy  
Special Minister of State  
Minister for the Central Coast

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday 13 April 2011

### **EX-HMAS ADELAIDE - BOOST TO CENTRAL COAST ECONOMY**

Minister for the Central Coast, Chris Hartcher, said the scuttling of the EX-HMAS ADELAIDE off Avoca Beach today will generate millions of dollars in tourism and follow-on revenue for the Central Coast economy.

“The former Australian Navy frigate will serve as a unique dive site, the first of its kind in NSW and a world class recreational facility,” Mr Hartcher said.

“Divers from all over Australia and the world will be visiting the Central Coast, many for the first time.

“This will deliver significant recreational, tourism and economic benefits to the region, as well as educational and scientific research opportunities.”

The EX-HMAS ADELAIDE Artificial Reef Project has enjoyed bi-partisan support with both the Commonwealth and State Government recognising the rewards that an artificial reef will deliver to the region.

“This provides the Central Coast with a great opportunity to market the many other attractions we enjoy here,” Mr Hartcher said.

“We now have a unique tourist attraction that will encourage visitors for years to come.”

The scuttling of the EX-HMAS ADELAIDE was also an opportunity to celebrate the ship’s defence service.

Whilst in service, the EX-HMAS ADELAIDE participated in the 1990-1991 Gulf War, in peace keeping operations in East Timor in 1999 and 2006 and was deployed to the Arabian Gulf in 2001 and 2004.

Speaking at the event, Mr Hartcher thanked those who had served on the EX-HMAS ADELAIDE and had come to witness the scuttling.

“The ex-HMAS Adelaide has a wonderful history. Although we are gaining benefits from her as an artificial reef, we also respect the service she gave Australia as a ship in our defence service, as well as those who served on her,” Mr Hartcher said.

“Today the Adelaide finds her final resting place and begins a new life.”

Mr Hartcher was joined at the ship’s scuttling event by newly elected Liberal MPs Chris Spence (The Entrance), Chris Holstein (Gosford) and Darren Webber (Wyong).

**ENDS**

**MEDIA: Caroline Hutcherson 0405 455 991**