



Hon Tony Kelly MLC
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MEDIA RELEASE

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APRIL DATE FOR HMAS ADELAIDE SCUTTLING

April 13 has been set as the proposed date for the scuttling of the former HMAS Adelaide off the Central Coast.

NSW Minister Lands, Tony Kelly, made the announcement during a visit to what's been its temporary home at Glebe Island Wharf, with Member for The Entrance, Grant McBride.

"The Land and Property Management Authority (LPMA) has been working closely with the contractor engaged to prepare the ship, to meet the conditions set by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal," the Minister said.

"That work is scheduled for completion next month.

"The Tribunal upheld the permit issued by the then Federal Department of Environment Water Heritage and the Arts, while adding some extra conditions as a precautionary measure.

"In addition to the extensive preparation already undertaken, the extra conditions involved removing canvas and insulation from the ship and then any loose or flaking paint found behind it.

"This requires an extensive amount of work on all decks of the ship which is almost finished.

"This has enabled detailed planning for the proposed **April 13** scuttling to commence.

"The scuttling is highly dependent on favourable weather conditions, so alternate dates will also be determined."

The vessel was gifted to NSW by the Australian Government to create an artificial reef and dive site in waters off the Central Coast.

Mr McBride said the NSW Government recognises the important contribution and support of local community members, including the Central Coast Artificial Reef Project, which has worked tirelessly for more than a decade on this project.

"The dive site will be the first attraction of its kind in NSW and a world class recreational facility, delivering environmental, economic and educational benefits to the region," Mr McBride said.