HARBOUR PROJECT HEATS UP

The NSW Government has called for tenders for the design of a heat exchange system for Sydney Harbour.

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, said this sophisticated system will provide water cooling and heating for the air conditioning and refrigeration services of some of the State’s most valuable heritage assets in The Rocks.

“The Harbour Heat Exchange project has substantial environmental, social and economic benefits that will significantly reduce a building’s energy and resource use and improve its Australian Building Greenhouse Ratings,” the Minister said.

“The system would allow the water consumption of the buildings and the maintenance costs of the heat rejection equipment to be reduced by 70-90%.

“The system’s key feature is a battery of submerged heat exchange coils that would be located within the harbour, which would remove the need for cooling towers and boilers on heritage buildings in The Rocks.

“In total, the heat exchange system could deliver savings of at least 23% in energy consumption compared with conventional cooling towers or boilers.”

Following extensive research, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority found the most feasible location for the coils is adjacent to the Overseas Passenger Terminal which is owned and managed by Sydney Ports Corporation.

Mr Kelly said the Authority has its in-principle cooperation for the project.

“The project is part of the NSW Government’s commitment to increasing the long-term sustainability of its precincts, including reducing carbon emissions in The Rocks by 8% by 2020,” the Minister said.

“Tenders close on 16 December 2010 with a contract awarded early next year.”