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WOLLONGONG HARBOUR CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Conservation Management Strategy for Wollongong Harbour has been completed after six months intensive investigation and research.

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, made the announcement today during an inspection of the harbour with Member for Wollongong, Noreen Hay.

Plans to prepare the strategy were announced by the Minister in June last year following the listing of the harbour on the State’s Heritage Register.

“This strategy, was prepared following guidelines provided by the NSW Heritage Council, and is an important document that will guide all future decisions in relation to both maintenance and new construction in the harbour,” Mr Kelly said.

“It is one of the most comprehensive I have seen and I congratulate specialist heritage architect Jean Rice on her work.”

The report tells the story of how the harbour was progressively developed from the early 19th century, through the convict era up, until recent activity such as the breakwater lighthouse refurbishment in 1999 and the Brighton Lawn upgrades in 2008.

Minister Kelly also released the final version of ‘Development Guidelines for Wollongong Harbour’, which was made available for community comment in late 2008, and describes where future development may be permitted in Wollongong Harbour and what form it should take.

“The CMS and the Development Guidelines have shown us where limited development can take place to revitalise the harbour area in a way that is sympathetic to its heritage values,” Mr Kelly said.

Ms Hay welcomed today’s announcement.

“Now the Government has completed these important guiding documents, the Land and Property Management Authority will shortly call for Expressions of Interest from individuals and commercial organisations to submit their proposals,” Ms Hay said.

Copies of the Conservation Management Strategy have been provided to Wollongong City Council and members of the Harbour Consultative Committee established by Minister Kelly in 2008.

Apart from copies that will be provided to local libraries, a CD version of the report can be purchased from the LPMA at its Wollongong office.