17 February, 2011

OPEN DAY AT WHITE BAY POWER STATION

Sydneysiders will get the chance to take a look inside one of the inner west’s most important heritage buildings next week.

NSW Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, today announced the historic White Bay Power Station in Rozelle will open its gates to the public for free on Saturday, February 26.

“Gates open at 11am and close at 3pm,” the Minister said.

“Visitors can explore the historic site and hear about the story of power generation when the facility was operational.

“Seeing the size and scale of the building will also help the community provide further suggestions for adapting the old power station for new uses.”

The power plant was the longest serving of Sydney’s metropolitan power stations and operated as the lynchpin to the city’s growing rail network for 71 years.

Member for Balmain, Verity Firth, said heritage experts will be offering tours inside some of the plant’s main buildings including the coal handling shed, boiler house and turbine hall.

“Visitors will also have the opportunity to learn about the recent release of the Bays Precinct Stage 1 consultation report, including an update of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority’s conservation management plan for the site,” Ms Firth said.

“The report identifies some important principles for the precinct including retaining public ownership and encouraging public access to the foreshore.

“The Authority is keen to hear from people on their ideas for this valuable area of our harbour foreshore.

“This is a unique opportunity for visitors of all ages to take a journey through the White Bay power station and learn about the important role it played in Sydney’s history.”

More information about the day or to book your place on a tour visit www.shfa.nsw.gov.au or call 02 9240 8500.