



## **\$23 Million for NSW Waterways**

19 June 2007

The NSW Government has committed \$23 million in capital expenditure to deliver services and provide safe ports and waterways across the State, Ports and Waterways Minister Joe Tripodi said today.

Mr Tripodi said today's State budget of \$23 million for NSW Maritime was about meeting commitments such as the refurbishment of Sydney commuter wharves in Sydney Harbour and the upgrade of Circular Quay Wharf No.1.

"The State Government is meeting its commitments by providing \$5.7 million this year to upgrade and maintain commuter ferry wharves, many of which were previously the responsibility local councils," Mr Tripodi said.

"We're getting on with the job of vital wharf maintenance and upgrading these wharves to include access for the disabled.

"In addition, \$2.4 million is allocated to upgrade charter vessel infrastructure used by Sydney's growing charter vessel fleet such as at Wharf No.1 at Circular Quay.," he said.

"More than 440,000 people hold a powerboat licence in NSW, more than 1.5 million people enjoy recreational boating each year and many millions more use the State's commercial vessels such a ferries, watertaxis and charter boats," he said.

"NSW Maritime remains focused on their safety, undertaking recreational and commercial boating programs providing safety and environmental protection on the water, on-water patrols and compliance and enforcement on our waterways.

Mr Tripodi said the lemma Government was meeting it's commitment to provide \$2 million over the next three years for the new Better Boating Program, announced in March.

"The State Government committed to upgrading the existing boating access facilities in Sydney Harbour by offering councils 100 per cent funding for approved upgrades and we are meeting that commitment," Mr Tripodi said.

"This program works well with the Maritime Infrastructure Program which offers dollar-for-dollar funding grants for new and improved boating facilities state-wide.

"Last year, the Government allocated \$1.54 million in Maritime Infrastructure Program grants for 39 projects across NSW, including grants to the Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program.

"This brings the total number of projects supported under the program since 1998 to 330, worth more than \$12.4 million in NSW Maritime grants."

**Contact:**

**Adam Wallace**

**0438 719 440**