

\$40 MILLION RE-DEVELOPMENT OF SYDNEY FISH MARKET

Wednesday 7 April, 2010

The iconic Sydney Fish Market is set for a \$40 million facelift to secure its future as the premier seafood marketplace, under a new partnership between the NSW Government and Sydney Fish Market Pty Ltd.

This was announced by Premier Kristina Keneally, State Development Minister Ian Macdonald, Primary Industries Minister Steve Whan, and Member for Balmain, Verity Firth.

The Sydney Fish Market, located in Pyrmont, is a key commercial part of NSW's fishing industry and a key tourist attraction on the fringe of the Sydney CBD.

The NSW Government will contribute up to \$20 million towards the redevelopment, which will include funding for a new harbour side foreshore park.

Last financial year alone, the Sydney Fish Market traded 13,600 tonnes of seafood, generating \$152 million in retail sales, and contributing \$106 million to the economy.

Currently, the Sydney Fish Market attracts 3.5 million visitors a year, with more than 30 per cent coming from interstate or overseas.

The redevelopment projects to boost visitor numbers by 30 per cent and retail business by 20 per cent. Construction will generate 160 jobs, and the redevelopment will result in space for up to 12 extra retailers - supporting up to 200 extra workers.

The redevelopment will deliver:

- A 36 per cent increase in wholesale and retail space, from 9,812 square metres to 13,369 square metres;
- A new boardwalk across the water frontage of the site, new parkland, outdoor dining and public foreshore access;
- Redesigned buildings, car parks, landscaping, sea wall improvements; and
- Measures to reduce odour, wastewater, stormwater and drainage impacts.

"The Fish Market has been an icon since the mid 1960s, and has become synonymous with Christmas and Easter in Sydney," Ms Keneally said.

Minister for State Development, Ian Macdonald, said the redevelopment will improve the Fish Market's appearance as well as its performance and safety.

"This partnership will bring this cultural icon up to world class standards," Mr Macdonald said.

"The site will be significantly improved though better transport links, better pedestrian access, reduced odour, foreshore access and open space," Mr Macdonald said.

Minister for Primary Industries, Steve Whan, said the upgrade will significantly improve efficiency, productivity and occupational health and safety for seafood suppliers and buyers.

"The redevelopment will significantly improve the Fish Market, delivering economic, social, tourism and environmental benefits," Mr Whan said.

Member for Balmain, Verity Firth, said the local community has long called for improvements to the Sydney Fish Market.

“The Fish Market is an integral part of Sydney's foreshore history, and thanks to this upgrade, its future,” Ms Firth said.

“Today's announcement is a great win for the community, achieved through a sensible partnership between the NSW Government and the Fish Market owners.

“The Sydney Fish Market is a unique tourist drawcard and, importantly, a fantastic meeting place for local families.

“As a local resident, I often walk to the fish markets on weekends with my family – it's a great way to enjoy both our local parks and the harbour foreshore.

“The upgrade we are announcing today will mean that experience is more enjoyable for more local families, and I absolutely welcome that.”

The redevelopment will be planned and coordinated to avoid major disruption of the fish market's business.

The Department of Planning will work with the Sydney Fish Market to develop a concept plan for the entire site so that a development application can be lodged this financial year.

Background notes

- The NSW Government will invest up to \$20 million towards a joint \$40 million redevelopment with Sydney Fish Market Pty Ltd, with the Government's contribution focusing on foreshore improvements and public domain areas. Costs will be matched on a dollar for dollar basis with the private operators. The upgrade will deliver:
 - A 36% increase in space for wholesale and retail operations, (from 9,812 square metres to 13,369 square metres) including an expanded retail presence (9,951 square metres compared with the current 5,706 square metres)
 - A new boardwalk across the water frontage of the site, repaired seawall and refurbished wharf structures
 - Two upper levels of car parking accommodating 357 spaces plus the retention of onground parking to give capacity of 502 vehicles (compared with current 452)
Redevelopment of the existing car park delivering significant improvements to open space, outdoor dining and public foreshore access
 - Redesigned buildings and landscaping to make the precinct more appealing and functional
 - Environmental improvements including reduced odour and wastewater impacts, and improved stormwater, drainage and sewerage
 - Improved public access to Blackwattle Bay from Glebe, Darling Harbour, Pyrmont-Ultimo and the Sydney CBD, and greater provision for cyclists.