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Dive deep to plan for reef future

DENICE BARNES

THE decommissioned HMAS *Adelaide* is closer to its final resting place off Terrigal following the release of a draft plan of management.

Premier and Central Coast Minister Nathan Rees announced the plan's release on Tuesday.

"Before the HMAS *Adelaide* can be brought up to the Central Coast and sunk as an artificial reef and dive wreck, we need to have a plan in place that covers all the issues around preparation and management," Mr Rees said.

"Weather permitting, scuttling of the HMAS *Adelaide* is expected to occur in April next year and it is important we hear from the community about how to manage this tourism asset before that happens.

"The project is the first of its kind in NSW and will really put the Central Coast on the map as a drawcard for divers," he said.

Issues for the management plan include ensuring diver safety, protecting the marine environment and making sure the reef is pro-



Nathan Rees.

ected and maintained.

"Exhibition of the draft plan gives everyone on the coast the opportunity to have their say on these issues," Mr Rees said.

"The HMAS *Adelaide* is going to be a terrific asset and we want to make sure we get its future management right," he said.

The draft plan of management will be on exhibition until October 18 at Gosford Council's customer service centres at Erina, Kincumber and Woy Woy, Gosford City library and the council's office at Mann St, Gosford.

It can also be viewed online at www.lpma.nsw.gov.au



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What do you think should be in the management plan?

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