



16 March 2006

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Woolwich Dock Back in the Water and Working**

Federal Member for North Sydney, Joe Hockey, today launched a new chapter in the life of the historic Woolwich Dock as a revitalised maritime precinct and an addition to Sydney's publicly accessible Harbour foreshores.

Mr Hockey officially announced the members of a consortium selected by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust to take up a 25 year lease on buildings and facilities at the dock.

'This is a great outcome for marine industry in Sydney Harbour, the local community and the people of Sydney. The operations at Woolwich Dock will be a significant addition to the harbour's stock of boat repair and maintenance services. At the same time, this beautiful foreshore area will be open to the public and be serviced by a café and function centre,' Mr Hockey said.

'These uses follow the development of a management plan for the site by the Harbour Trust and the community and I want to thank all those local residents who participated in a process that has secured this wonderful outcome.

The successful consortium is a partnership of Murlan, a property management business, Noakes Boat and Shipyards and the Oatley family.

Mr Hockey said the consortium members were well known maritime personalities with strong business credentials and a commitment to run sailing schools and boat training for young people on site.

'Iain Murray, Murlan's director, is a world champion sailor and won the right to defend the America's Cup in 1987. More recently, he led the first Australian team to win the Admiral's Cup in 20 years. Murlan is a property development and management company.

'Sean Langman, Director of Noakes, has been around boats and Sydney Harbour since boyhood. His boatyard operations at Berrys Bay, Newcastle and Nelsons Bay house shipwrights and an array of marine industry specialists.

'The Oatley family's most recent claim to fame is winning the Sydney to Hobart yacht race with Wild Oats XI. For many years the family was prominent in winemaking in the Hunter Valley. Since 2003, the Oatleys have operated Hamilton Island resort on the Great Barrier Reef.'

Mr Hockey congratulated the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust for reviving the Woolwich Dock precinct and ensuring public access. The precinct will continue to serve the Trust as an embarkation point for Cockatoo Island.

'The plan to use the site for maritime activities and at the same time maximise public access will create a superb foreshore precinct. It will exemplify the compatibility of the working harbour and recreational pursuits,' Mr Hockey said.

'The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has conducted a rigorous Expressions of Interest and Request for Proposal process to select the Murlan Noakes consortium from a strong field of applicants.

'Over the next few years, the precinct will be further improved both for maritime- related activities and public access. The construction of a public wharf, a lookout, reconfiguration of the entrance road, increased car parking and landscaping will bolster the amenity of this wonderful piece of Sydney Harbour.'

**Where:** Woolwich Dock – Clarke Road, Hunters Hill  
**When:** 11am – Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2006  
**Contact:** Mark Coure - 0417 255 999 (Joe Hockey's Office)  
Craig Easdown – 0413 008 256 (Harbour Trust)