The NSW Government will provide $15,000 for an historical archaeological survey of the underwater battlefield of ANZAC Cove, Gallipoli, in Turkey.

Project Beneath Gallipoli will survey and record cultural relics of the unique and partly forgotten underwater landscape of Anzac Cove, North Beach and Suvla Bay.

Premier Kristina Keneally and Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, today joined a team of skilled volunteers who will go underwater to document the archaeological remains of the famous battlefield. The team have previously been involved in the survey of the famous Australian submarine AE2 - lost in the Dardanelles Straight on 30 April, 1915.

Among the team of volunteers who have given up their time to participate in Project Beneath Gallipoli – NSW dentist Dr Mark Spencer, orthopaedic surgeon Dr Jeff Hughes, and school teacher Merv Maher.

The dive will be led by Tim Smith, the NSW Government’s Maritime Archaeologist and Deputy Director of the Heritage Branch, NSW Department of Planning. Mr Smith is a respected underwater archaeologist who has coordinated archaeological work at AE2.

The team expect to locate new archaeological features including:
- the remains of smaller watercraft;
- stores and ammunition; and
- mapping the remains of the famous jetties such as Watson’s and William’s Piers which are reminders of the 1915 battlefield landscape.

“This independent survey is so important to Australia’s military and cultural heritage,” Ms Keneally said.

“For the first time the surviving cultural relics of Anzac Cove, North Beach and Suvla Bay will be comprehensively documented.

“Gallipoli has immense significance to the people of NSW and Australia who remember the sacrifices of our fallen heroes.”

“I am proud to provide $15,000 to this initiative and acknowledge the support of the Turkish Government, the Returned & Services League of Australia, Army, and the UK-based Gallipoli Association,” she said.

Mr Kelly said ANZAC Cove was transformed in 1915 into a bustling harbour with a complex series of jetties and piers, ships sunk as breakwaters, and others lost to Turkish gunfire.

“It is important the historic remains underwater at ANZAC Cove are properly identified and managed because of their significance to the history of our State and the nation,” Mr Kelly said.
The team will operate within Turkish cultural heritage controls and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage 2001.