22 March, 2010

**WRECK BAY CONVICT SHIPWRECK HERITAGE LISTED**

The historic shipwreck *Hive* in Wreck Bay is to be protected for future generations, after being listed on the State Heritage Register.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, made the announcement during a visit to Wreck Bay today, which gained its name following the loss of the *Hive* and another 10 subsequent shipwrecks.

“The remains of the *Hive* were located by the Heritage Branch in 1994 and is the only example of an early 1800’s convict prison ship wrecked in NSW and must therefore be protected,” the Minister said.

“It has considerable heritage significance as it meets all seven Heritage Council criteria for listing on the State Heritage Register.”

The *Hive* was on its second voyage to Australia in 1835 when it ran aground with 250 Irish male prisoners, military guards of the 28th Regiment, ship’s crew, women, children and a cargo of coinage for the Government worth £10,000.

A crew member, the Boatswain, drowned while convicts and passengers were being transported from the foundering ship to shore.

The crew established a bush camp in the adjacent sand hills of Bherwerre Beach, in Wreck Bay, to await rescue while they stripped the vessel of anything they could salvage.

Mr Kelly said the events surrounding the loss of the *Hive* demonstrate early contact with local Aboriginal communities.

“The co-operation and support of the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community members and other Aboriginal peoples in assisting the survivors and in passing word to distant Sydney is a key element of the site’s significance,” the Minister said.

"I am advised Federal Heritage Minister, Peter Garrett, has asked the Australian Heritage Council to add the Survivors’ Camp to its list of places to assess for possible inclusion on the Commonwealth Heritage List.

“The camp, which is on Commonwealth land, is a very important part of the *Hive’s* story and history, including the role the Aboriginal community played in helping to rescue the survivors of the wreck.”

Because the *Hive* is buried under sand, an important sonar survey of the shipwreck was undertaken today by maritime archaeologists from the Heritage Branch and the Commonwealth’s *GeoScience Australia*, to determine the amount of buried hull timbers remaining.

The archaeological remains are protected by the NSW *Heritage Act* and the Commonwealth *Historic Shipwrecks Act* 1976, and there are severe penalties for disturbing the remains.