



**Premier of New South Wales
Australia**

NEWS RELEASE

**EDEN WHARF GETS STATE GOVERNMENT GO AHEAD AND A \$5 MILLION
MULTI-PURPOSE BONUS**

The Premier of NSW, Mr Bob Carr today announced the State Government has given planning approval for the construction of the \$43 million Eden Defence Wharf and Naval ammunition storage facility at Twofold Bay in South East NSW.

Mr. Carr also announced \$5 million in State government funding to develop the wharf into a multi-purpose facility to attract more jobs and investment to the southeast region.

“With the Australian Navy only requiring the wharf for up to 60 days a year, it presented a real opportunity for the wharf to be used on a commercial basis for the remaining 300 days,” Mr. Carr said.

“I am pleased the NSW Government is part of this long-term job-generating project for the Eden area.

This is great news for the families of Eden especially after the Heinz Watties cannery closure in 1999.

Everyone remembers the Heinz Watties closure two years ago, which hit 145 workers. The State Government moved into action and set up the \$500,000 Eden Development Fund.

This fund has been an overwhelming success, attracting 14 companies creating 220 new jobs and securing another 23,” Mr. Carr said.

The Eden wharf would provide 70 jobs in construction phase and another 20 full-time positions when it is in operation.

In addition, local companies would see jobs flow as they have the opportunity to tender for capital works on the wharf project.

The \$5 million from the State government would be used to develop a cargo storage facility and to help adapt the Navy wharf to commercial requirements.

The wharf would accommodate larger ships than the present wharf at Eden and provide greater flexibility for cargo handling, enabling exporters of timber and other primary producers to increase sales within the Asia-Pacific region.

It is expected the main cargoes to use the facility initially will be the various forms of softwood products from the Eden, Bombala and East Gippsland regions.

It would have the capabilities of handling vessels in the 20,000 to 30,000 tonnes range.

Construction of the facility is expected to commence in the first half of 2001 and will be completed in 2002.

The cargo storage area will be about 10 hectares and will provide short-term storage for cargo prior to export.

The \$5 million will also go towards the construction of: -

- A stockpile area,
- Administration building,
- Internal road network,
- Parking area,
- Security fencing and lighting, and
- Service infrastructure and surface water drainage.

This important regional infrastructure project would make it more attractive for export industries to locate in the region, particularly in the timber and related industries.

The Commonwealth Department of Defence and the NSW Waterway Authority are currently negotiating an agreement on commercial access to the wharf.

The approval is subject to conditions to protect local, Aboriginal and Marine Environments.

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