

Paul McLeay MP

Minister for Ports and Waterways
Minister for the Illawarra



M E D I A R E L E A S E

Friday, May 13 2010

NEW PILOT BOAT FOR PORT KEMBLA

Port Kembla Port Corporation today launched its port's new Pilot Boat "MV Shearwater".

Minister for Ports, Waterways and the Illawarra, Paul McLeay and Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Minister for State and Regional Development and Member for Wollongong, Noreen Hay said the new boat would replace the "MV Alvina" which has been working hard for over 20 years.

"Pilot boats like Alvina and Shearwater are extremely important to everyday operations at the Port, as they ensure the safe navigation of large vessels in and out of the harbour," Mr McLeay said.

"The new boat is faster, more fuel efficient and will help to ensure smooth operation at the Port while minimising output of Green House Gasses."

Mr McLeay said the boat's name "MV Shearwater" was inspired by a local species of seabird. The boat was officially named in a competition held last year which involved the local community.

"Port Kembla Port Corporation asked the community what they thought would be a good name for their new pilot boat and received hundreds of suggestions from students of the local Kemblawarra, Port Kembla, Cringila and St Patricks primary schools" Mr McLeay said.

Mr McLeay and Ms Hay today presented a \$1000 cheque to the principal of Port Kembla Public School for providing the winning entry.

"The name MV Shearwater was chosen by a handful of students from Port Kembla Public School," Ms Hay

"I'd like to congratulate to all those who got involved and participated in the competition."

"This competition gave students an opportunity to engage with the Port and learn more about its role in the local community."

Further Information:

- Shearwaters are medium sized long winged [seabirds](#).
- The wedge tailed Shearwater is one of the most common species found in the local area and breeds on the five island nature reserve.

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