

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Monday, 13 July 2009

### **Heritage Council allows more time for *Baragoola* alternatives**

The Heritage Council of NSW will postpone a final recommendation on the State Heritage Register status of the MV *Baragoola* until its October 2009 meeting, Chair of the Heritage Council Ms Gabrielle Kibble announced today.

Ms Kibble said the decision on whether or not to de-list the former Manly ferry had been put back to allow more time for the *Baragoola*'s supporters to come up with workable economic options for the vessel's future.

"The Heritage Council has a delicate balancing act to perform with considerations such as the *Baragoola*'s heritage status," Ms Kibble said.

"On the one hand, we have received many submissions from maritime heritage enthusiasts and members of the wider community concerned about the *Baragoola*'s future and on the other we must consider the relevant independent engineering advice.

"This advice, which was subsequently endorsed by a peer review, indicates that the *Baragoola* is in such a poor structural condition that it presents a serious risk to the item and to the marine environment.

"Given the historic, aesthetic and social significance of the vessel and, at the same time, the potential risk posed by its current state, the Heritage Council will offer supporters of the *Baragoola* a period of three months to come up with a blueprint for its future.

"This window will allow those interested in saving the vessel an opportunity to develop a viable business and management plan.

"This plan must provide evidence that the vessel can be rendered safe, that environmental risks will be mitigated and that the vessel has a sound economic future."

Ms Kibble said the time frame given also acknowledges advice received that the *Baragoola* is likely to undergo complete structural hull failure if a solution is not found soon.

"A critical consideration is the confirmed poor structural condition of the vessel which potentially undermines its heritage listed values", Ms Kibble said.

"Advice suggests that the vessel would require substantial rebuilding which could render its heritage listing in doubt on integrity grounds."

The Heritage Branch, Department of Planning, has also been instructed to update the Heritage Council regularly throughout this period on the physical status of the *Baragoola*.

**For more information: Tim Smith, Deputy Director Heritage Branch – 0411 405 092**