



## **Ex-HMAS Canberra Artificial Reef Project**

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

### **Update**

The Victorian Artificial Reef Society (VARs) is pleased to provide an update on the progress of the Ex-HMAS Canberra.

VARs understands that the Project Manager, Tourism Victoria, is in the final stages of budget planning with the contractor, to prepare the vessel for sinking.

The vessel remains at anchor at Fleet Base West, Stirling WA.

When all budgets have been finalised and signed off, the gifting deed will then be signed, allowing for the vessel to be towed from WA to Melbourne.

Whilst the tow time is around 14 days, it has not been determined who will have responsibility for the towing contract.

It is most likely the Canadian Artificial Reef Consortium (CARC) will be contracted to scuttle the vessel in Victorian waters. Roy Gabriel from CARC, who has been responsible for the successful scuttling of all ex Navy vessels in Australian waters has been in discussion with the Project Manager and the contractor, and has visited the vessel in WA.

The scuttling site has yet to be finalised.

Plans for a mass gathering on both sides of the entrance to Port Phillip Bay to greet the Canberra are underway.

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