



Anthony Roberts

Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy

Niall Blair

Minister for Primary Industries

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 16 November 2015

DISCOVER THE UNDERWATER WORLD OF SYDNEY HARBOUR

The Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) is now home to one of the nation's most high-tech educational discovery centres.

Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy, Anthony Roberts, today officially opened the new SIMS Discovery Centre at Chowder Bay.

Mr Roberts said innovative digital 3D technology immerses visitors below the surface of Sydney Harbour in a truly captivating marine experience.

"A virtual reality dive tour of a local kelp forest, the most prominent ecosystem on our rocky shores, is one of the brilliant experiences to enjoy at the Discovery Centre," Mr Roberts said.

"Until now this was impossible without scuba equipment, or at least a snorkel.

"The Discovery Centre will be a major attraction for school children across the state and indeed the nation."

SIMS was founded in 2005 as a partnership between the University of Sydney, Macquarie University, UNSW Australia, and the University of Technology Sydney, supported by several agencies, including the NSW Government.

The Discovery Centre showcases the wide range of research projects underway at SIMS, featuring the estuarine environment of Sydney Harbour and the NSW coastline.

Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair, said the official opening coincided with the release of a new report prepared by SIMS, *Our Harbour, Our Asset*, which has assessed the economic value of Sydney Harbour.

"The NSW Government, through the Department of Primary Industries, has a long standing partnership with SIMS, including key collaboration between world-leading Departmental and university scientists," Mr Blair said.

“This work includes ground-breaking research into rock lobster larvae as well as internationally renowned shark research and ongoing assessments of the status of valuable harvested fish, such as mulloway and snapper.

“Another must see feature is the series of fascinating stories on the management of NSW fisheries resources in changing climate.”

The Discovery Centre at Chowder Bay will be open to the public on the second Sunday of each month from 10.00am until 2.00pm. Bookings are essential and can be made through sims@sims.org.au