

SUBJ: HMAS SYDNEY DECOMMISSIONING 7 NOV 2015

1. HMAS SYDNEY IV WILL DECOMMISSION ON SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2015 AFTER 32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NATION. DURING THE CONDUCT OF MARITIME OPERATIONS SPANNING THE GLOBE SHE HAS STEAMED 959,627 NAUTICAL MILES AND BEEN INVOLVED IN OPERATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, EAST TIMOR, FIJI AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS; EARNING A MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION DURING THE FIRST GULF WAR IN 1991. MORE RECENTLY SHE HAS BEEN TASKED IN BORDER PROTECTION OPERATIONS, SEVERAL MAJOR COALITION EXERCISES AND EMBEDS, AND HER IMPORTANT HARBOUR TRAINING SHIP (HTS) ROLE IN SUPPORT OF FLAG ORDER ONE. ALTHOUGH SYDNEY WILL DECOMMISSION 7 NOV 2015, SHE WILL CONTINUE IN THE HTS ROLE UNTIL THE FINAL ME/WE TECHNICAL COURSE COMPLETES IN DEC 2015. SYDNEY IV HAS CARRIED THE PROUD NAME OF HER PREDECESSORS WITH DISTINCTION, AND WILL BE REPLACED BY SYDNEY V, THE THIRD DESTROYER IN THE HOBART CLASS.

2. THE NAVY WILL PAY TRIBUTE TO HER SERVICE, AND THOSE MEMBERS OF HER SHIPS COMPANY PAST AND PRESENT, AT GARDEN ISLAND ON SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER. IN CONJUNCTION WITH DECOMMISSIONING, THE FOLLOWING OFFICIAL EVENTS ARE BEING PLANNED:

A. FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER - (AM) IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE SHIPS COMPANY OF SYDNEY IV WILL EXERCISE THEIR FINAL FREEDOM OF ENTRY INTO THE CITY OF SYDNEY. (PM) A SYDNEY-EMDEN MESS DINNER FOR FORMER SYDNEY COMMANDING OFFICERS WILL BE HELD, HOSTED BY WARDROOM HMAS WATSON.

B. SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER - (AM) SYDNEY DECOMMISSIONING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT GARDEN ISLAND. (PM) SYDNEY IV DECOMMISSIONING SHIPS BALL

3. MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION FROM FORMER CREW OF BOTH SYDNEY-IV AND SYDNEY-III IN THESE HISTORIC EVENTS IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED. IN PARTICULAR, IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE FREEDOM OF ENTRY WILL INCLUDE A PLATOON OF FORMER MEMBERS OF SHIP'S COMPANY, BOTH CURRENT AND FORMER SERVING, WHO WISH TO MARCH.

4. DUE TO EXPECTED DEMAND, ANY PERSON WISHING TO ATTEND AN EVENT IS INVITED TO PROVIDE THEIR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SPECIFYING NAMES AND REQUESTED GUESTS BY COB 7 OCTOBER VIA EMAIL TO:

SYDNEY.DECOMMISSIONING@FLEET.DEFENCE.GOV.AU. IF NUMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO BE CAPPED FOR THE DECOMMISSIONING CEREMONY OR BALL, THESE WILL BE ADVISED UPON FINAL RECEIPT OF BIDS.

5. OTHER DETAILS OF EVENTS AND MERCHANDISE WILL BE PROVIDED IN DUE COURSE AND VIA THE HMAS SYDNEY - IV FACEBOOK PAGE.