



THE AUDIT OFFICE  
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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## MEDIA RELEASE AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

### Call for improvements in waterfront tenancy administration

The Auditor-General, Mr Peter Achterstraat, today called for improvements in how rents for leases and licences of private jetties, slipways, and boatsheds are administered.

'NSW Maritime and the Lands Authority are separately administering domestic waterfront tenancies broadly in line with government policy. But a lack of collaboration is resulting in different practices and variations in rents and conditions between the two agencies', Mr Achterstraat explained.

'The audit also found that agencies have been slow in responding to criticism by tenants about the review of the market based components of the rental formula, especially the rate of return', he added.

'In the past rents were significantly lower and had not changed for 15 years. From 2004 the rents increased as they aligned to market values. But there have been a number of complaints from owners saying that they have increased too much, in fact, some have more than tripled in that time', Mr Achterstraat said.

These were some of the findings that were released today by the NSW Audit Office in a report into 'Administering Domestic Waterfront Tenancies. This report discusses the administration of the more than 8,000 domestic waterfront tenancies in NSW.

Mr Achterstraat had three main recommendations.

'I recommend that there needs to be a memorandum of understanding between NSW Maritime and the Lands Authority which agrees on overall strategy and the way that they administer the tenancies'.

'I am also recommending that the agencies jointly review the net rate of return in an open and consultative manner by December 2009'.

'And most importantly, improve communications with waterfront tenants', Mr Achterstraat stated.

#### Further Information

For further information or to arrange interviews please contact:  
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