MEDIA RELEASE

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ROADS AND MARITIME TO LEAD MARINE POLLUTION EXERCISE AT BERMAGUI

Bega MP Andrew Constance today advised that Roads and Maritime Services will lead a marine pollution training exercise in Bermagui on Wednesday 16 September to enhance response capabilities around managing marine pollution incidents in offshore waters on the NSW south coast.

Mr Constance said about 35 officers from Roads and Maritime and partner agencies will be involved, with groups carrying out a range of activities designed to enhance preparedness for a marine pollution response in the area.

“These activities will include mock shoreline assessments on the surf beach, harbour and river bank and mock sea-surface assessments on board Roads and Maritime and NSW Marine Area Command vessels.

“Participants will need to carry out a shoreline equipment test and demonstrate how to set up an incident control centre at a local venue, use pumps and portable water tanks and deploy a containment boom.

“Roads and Maritime is the designated combat agency responsible for a marine pollution incident in offshore waters along most of the NSW south coast.

“Ensuring we maintain knowledge and skills in how to manage all aspects of a potential pollution response is crucial to protect community safety and the natural environment,” Mr Constance said.

For more information on the Marine Oil and Chemical Contingency Plan for the South Coast, see: http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/about/environment/oil-spill-contingency-plan-south-coast.pdf

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