

## Malcolm Turnbull attacks Sydney Harbour heliport decision

WENTWORTH federal Liberal MP Malcolm Turnbull has slammed the O'Farrell Government for its handling of the Sydney Harbour heliport saga, calling for the approval to be revoked.

Mr Turnbull's scathing attack came as the maritime authority confirmed it was reviewing the approval process for aquatic licences.

A spokesman for Ports Minister Duncan Gay confirmed Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) had launched the review to ensure "similar operations going forward include thorough community consultation".

Mr Turnbull took to Twitter yesterday to label the approval of the heliport without public consultation as "reckless and undemocratic" and called on Premier Barry O'Farrell to rescind it.

Speaking to the Courier, Mr Turnbull said the use of the harbour for "helicopter joy rides" would alienate residents and recreational users.

Mr Turnbull said he was advised by a state MP that RMS granted Newcastle Helicopters approval to operate the heliport without ministerial or Cabinet consultation.

"What disappointed me is that the state government campaigned on the basis that Labor had inadequately consulted with local communities," he said.

"Here is this decision that affects a large number of local government areas and thousands of people who use the harbour, and there has been no consultation at all."