

NAVY LEAGUE of AUSTRALIA

Submission to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

Inquiry into Flag of Convenience shipping in Australia

The Navy League of Australia is an Australia wide, non-profit, volunteer organization whose principal objectives include:
Keeping before the Australian people the fact that we are a maritime nation and that a strong navy and a sound maritime industry are indispensable elements of our national well-being and vital for the freedom of Australia: and
Promoting defence self reliance by actively supporting manufacturing, shipping and transport industries

The Navy League is concerned at the extent to which foreign shipping has been able to take over Australian coastal shipping.

Today there are few Australian ships involved in coastal trade. Foreign vessels take a significant proportion of the available coastal trade.

The League believes that the standard of foreign vessels trading on the Australian coast ought to be regularly monitored.

The League considers that compliance with Australian standards ought to be strictly enforced by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, and where relevant and appropriate, border control agencies, Customs and the Australian Federal Police.

The League does not object to foreign vessels competing for coastal trade, provided it is done on fair terms.

The League believes that the best response to the seeming domination of coastal shipping by foreign vessels is the revival of an active, prosperous Australian coastal shipping industry.

In a submission made 21 August 2015 to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee the League has proposed an up to date shipping policy.

The Navy League proposal for a “Motorways of the Sea” will if implemented revive our coastal shipping trade and provide to Australia very necessary economic, skills, employment, environmental and defence benefits.