



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure and Transport

Secretary

Ms Julie Dennett
Committee Secretary
The Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Dennett

Inquiry into the Maritime Powers Bill 2012 and the Maritime Powers (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2012

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs in relation to the Inquiry into the Maritime Powers Bill 2012 and the Maritime Powers (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2012 (the Bills).

The Department of Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) remains supportive of the standardisation and alignment of maritime enforcement legislation to better support enforcement agencies through the Bills. The Bills would be complementary to the preventive security and safety legislation administered by the Department.

In addition, the Department welcomes the undertakings by the Attorney General's Department to ensure that the Bills will not affect the the operation of preventive security legislation administered by the Office of Transport Security (OTS) within the Department of Infrastructure and Transport, in particular: *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003*; *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Regulations 2003*; *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004*; and *Aviation Transport Security Regulations 2005*.

This would ensure that maritime enforcement legislation does not affect the operation of preventive security legislation. Specifically, the Attorney-General's Department has undertaken to prescribe the above legislation in regulations to be made under draft section ^8 of the Bill, when enacted, to exclude them from the operation of the Bill

Yours sincerely

Mike Mrdak
13 July 2012