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Submission No. 2

(AIMS)

SL

Date: 27/10/09

Senator the Hon Jan McLucas
Chair
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
c/o Committee Secretary
Department of House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator McLucas

Proposed Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) Tropical Marine Research Facilities – submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

I am writing to you to express support for the submission made by the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works in regard to the Tropical Marine Research Facilities project funded under the Super Science Initiative announced in the May 2009 Budget.

The Super Science Initiative is managed by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and provides a \$1.1 billion boost for critical areas of scientific endeavour, including space science and astronomy, climate change, marine and life sciences, biotechnology and nanotechnology. These investments in research infrastructure involve collaboration between universities, government research agencies, independent research institutes and business.

The Super Science Initiative includes an investment of \$55.0 million to construct new tropical marine research facilities at AIMS in Townsville and Darwin. The project will greatly enhance capacity to investigate the mechanisms controlling health and resilience in tropical marine ecosystems, through supporting cutting edge research in relation to the impact of global change, climate adaptation and mitigations issues.

This project is integral to the Government's approach to marine and climate science policy, which is critical for the sustainable development and management of Australia's terrestrial and ocean resources and the viability of our major commercial enterprises such as mineral and energy industries, aquaculture and fisheries, agriculture, livestock and tourism. This initiative will target key marine science and climate change priorities identified in the *Review of the National Innovation System* and the *2008 Strategic Roadmap for Australian Research Infrastructure*. These investments also support key infrastructure needs identified in the Government's *Australian Climate Change Science Framework*.

It is the Department's view that the project represents robust value for money. This investment builds on the unique and world-class research undertaken by AIMS at Cape Ferguson. The proposed facilities will be integrated with existing facilities to create significant national

infrastructure to support cutting edge research. Furthermore, the investment will improve energy efficiency at AIMS and the reliability of critical systems for marine research.

The Department is confident of AIMS' capacity to effectively and efficiently implement the project and will monitor the implementation of the project under the terms of a funding agreement with AIMS. This agreement was executed on 15 October 2009.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 6213 6279 should you require any additional information or advice in relation to the project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Evans', written in a cursive style.

Julia Evans
General Manager
Research Infrastructure Branch
Science & Infrastructure Division

20 October 2009
