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Mr Bob Charles Chairman
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

5 September 2002

Dear Mr Charles

I am writing in response to your letter inviting the South Australian Government to make a submission to the Commonwealth's Review of Australia's Quarantine Function. The Government will not be making a full submission, however, the following points on marine and fishing concerns me provided.

There is a need to expand the existing Ballast Water Decision Support System to include other vectors such as hull fouling, contamination of internal waterways and a larger range of pests.

There is also a need to integrate international arrangements with coastal voyages to develop a single national management regime for all vessel based marine pest vectors. This will require development through the National Introduced Marine Pest Coordination Group but should be considered in a review of quarantine function.

The value of South Australia's aquaculture industry is considerable and growing, and it is an industry that is potentially more susceptible to disease incursions given the nature of the aquatic environment. Quarantine controls should be fully discussed with the aquaculture/fisheries authority in each state.

South Australia is presently acting to eradicate an Introduced Marine Pest, the seaweed *Caulerpa tarifolia* from West Lakes - a residential waterway- and the adjacent Port Adelaide River. This weed poses a severe risk to the State's marine environment and the eradication is a costly exercise. While the source of the introduction remains unknown it is likely to be related to either a vessel or to the aquarium trade.

The South Australian Government would therefore welcome investigation by the Commonwealth of measures that support better ballast water and aquarium management.

The South Australian Department of Primary Industries and Resources would also welcome a review of controls on ornamental fish imports with a view to making them easier to enforce and more difficult to circumvent thereby. providing for better management of the aquarium trade. Mr Vic Neverauskas; Program Manager Fish Habitat; can be contacted for further information (ph: 08 8226 2873).

I hope this information will be useful to the inquiry and I look forward to receiving a copy of the final report.

Yours sincerely

MIKE RANN
Premier