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Submission to the Coastal Shipping Policy and Regulation Inquiry

Visy Industries is one of the nation's largest shippers of containerized freight and is pleased to have the opportunity to submit information and opinion on the subject of Coastal Shipping in Australia.

Our group moves significant amounts of freight by sea, both international and coastal equivalent to 125000 TEU's p.a. (11000 of which are coastal) and we are confident of further growth in these volumes. As an example, we are constructing an extension of our Tumut Paper Mill to more than double current production.

We believe coastal sea freight is not only commercially vital for Australia's economy but also environmentally sensible. We at Visy consider ourselves leaders in environmental responsibility and have a very robust sustainability policy across our businesses.

We believe that any reduction of heavy freight from the nation's roads is desirable from both a personal safety and environmental view.

Whilst we generally support the sustainability of coastal shipping, it must have a competitive platform from both industrial and regulatory inputs. The current system of permit and licensing would seem to promote market competitiveness and receive our support.

The question of Australian manned ships has been a long and well documented debate and unless there is real action (including regulatory ease) to create international viability, this question will never be answered satisfactorily.

Continued investment in streamlining port infrastructure and interfacing land-based logistics (particularly rail corridors) is also a key driver in maintaining viability, in our opinion.

We are also interested in keeping the Trans-Tasman trade lane competitive with any regulatory assistance and inter-government cooperation.

Should the government consider a second register, tax incentives and any other assistance, Visy may well consider investment in assets in this sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this inquiry.

Kind Regards,

Doug Lukin

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