

## **Submission to *Inquiry into Coastal shipping policy and regulation.***

*Robert Smart*  
*Seagull Winds Pty Ltd*

### **Shipping and peak oil**

Minister Martin Ferguson said on *Insiders* "Australia is gas and coal rich but oil poor". Oil dominates transport, and shipping is by far the most fuel efficient form of transport. Worldwide demand for oil is not being met by supply, with the historical peak of world oil production in May 2005 (if you don't count petroleum liquids that are not used for fuel such as butane). Since oil is a finite resource, this might have been the peak that must inevitably come. So this is a very important moment to start preparing for much greater use of shipping around Australia.

### **Compressed Natural Gas for shipping**

I urge the Inquiry to investigate the possibility of creating an Australian shipping industry powered by compressed natural gas. We should also be prepared to quantify the advantages and disadvantages of other non-oil derived energy sources such as: coal, nuclear and even sail.

### **Technology for shipping and integrated transport**

In a world where every ship should know and can report exactly where it is, it should be easier to create the sort of integrated transportation system we will need when rail and shipping replace trucks for long distance transport. Trucks simplify by transporting end to end. To use ships, then rail, then trucks requires a more complex system, but that is possible with modern computing and communication technology. It is important that standards are imposed to make interoperation possible.

