



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Inquiry into the Coastal Trading (Revitalising Australian Shipping) Bill 2012

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 24 May 2012

Chair: Nick Champion MP
Deputy Chair: Paul Neville MP

Advisory report on the Coastal Trading (Revitalising Australian Shipping) Bill 2012 and related bills presented today

The House Infrastructure and Communications Committee reported today on the **Coastal Trading (Revitalising Australian Shipping) Bill 2012** and related bills.

This package of bills establishes a new regulatory framework and licensing system for coastal trading in Australia, replacing Part VI of the *Navigation Act 1912*. The bills also establish an Australian International Shipping Register and implement tax reforms, including an income tax exemption and seafarer tax offset.

Revitalising the Australian coastal shipping industry by creating a new policy framework was recommended by the former House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government in its 2008 report on *Rebuilding Australia's Coastal Shipping Industry*.

The Committee received 31 submissions to its inquiry, which included the views of shipping and petroleum companies, union and industry representative bodies, and the Department of Infrastructure and Transport.

The majority of stakeholder concerns related to the operation of the new temporary licences and the requirements for obtaining such a licence. The Committee has outlined in its report the issues raised by stakeholders, and has identified some areas for possible further regulatory reform in relation to the licensing requirements and the development of the mandatory training requirement to access tax incentives.

These bills were also referred to the Senate Economics Legislation Committee, which is due to report on 19 June 2012.

Committee Chair, Nick Champion MP, said 'the Committee acknowledges that the work of its predecessor in the 42nd Parliament provided an important foundation for these reforms. The Committee believes that the stated aims of the bills are desirable and in the national interest. The Committee concludes that the bills will achieve their stated aims and should be passed.'

The report can be accessed at the following link:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=ic/shipping/report.htm

For further details about the inquiry: contact the secretariat on phone (02) 6277 2352; email ic.reps@aph.gov.au; or website <http://www.aph.gov.au/ic>

For media comment only: please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Nick Champion MP, on (02) 6277 4451 (Parliament House) or (08) 8284 2422 (electorate office)