

Thursday, 24 April 2008

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
PO Box 6021
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir

Re: REVIEW ANNOUNCED INTO AUSTRALIA'S SHIPPING FUTURE

On 12 March 2008 the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, asked the Committee to inquire into and report on Coastal shipping policy and regulation by October 2008.

The Committee invites interested persons and organisations to make submissions addressing the terms of reference by **11 April 2008**. However, we only just become aware of this review and would ask that our letter be considered as forming part of the submissions.

In particular, IMarEST is keen to ensure that its views are considered as the professional organisation representing the marine and maritime industry in the Asia Pacific region. Our understanding is that Hunter Institute of TAFE, as a major trainer of marine engineers, has or will be making a submission and in this regard we would like our views communicated to the Committee.

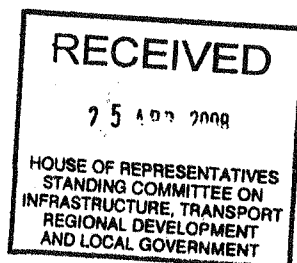
IMarEST is of the view that a significant number of overseas students may be trained in Australia in the future and this will need to be considered by the committee. In addition, we highlight the following:

1. Overseas students gaining certificates in Australia are normally granted Australian certificates of competency by AMSA. Will this influence the migrant intake in the long term?
2. Will this be used to address the present shortage of certificated Engineer Officers and the aging of the present engineers on Australian ships?
3. Will the review result in the increase in number of Australian flagged or manned ships?

IMarEST is prepared to attend any committee hearings should this be necessary. In the meantime, we await your acknowledgement of our correspondence.

Sincerely

Gregory A Bondar
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