



SUBMISSION 1



Mr Quinton Clements  
Inquiry Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital  
and External Territories  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Clements

### **Inquiry into the Australian Antarctic Territory**

I have been requested by Mr Ray McMahon, President of the ANARE Club, to reply to your request to him, and to express to you the considerations of Mr McMahon and of other members of the Council of the ANARE Club.

Firstly we should mention that our opinions on the activities of the organisations involved in Antarctic and Southern Ocean researches have recently been very markedly upgraded. This was brought about by our perusal of an account of their achievements and of their future objectives set out in the Antarctic CRC record – "Southern Quest – A journey of discovery for Australian Antarctic science". The principal agencies in the Antarctic CRC of course being the Australian Antarctic Division, the University of Tasmania and the CSIRO Oceanography Division.

It is remarkable how the objectives of Antarctic researches have been so better defined since the formation of the Antarctic CRC in 1991. Traditionally Antarctic stations were set up to collect data and observations on the natural phenomena, and to contribute this data to theoretical studies on the natural phenomena on a world-wide coverage. However by the 1980's this data was beginning to show up practical problems that are of concern to governments and to the public. These problems include global warming, ozone layer reduction, sea ice reduction and the oceans' currents driving effect by the Southern Ocean. The government agencies and universities' departments came into the CRC and working together, were much more effective in better resolving these problems.

In 2003 the Antarctic CRC was reformed into the ACE CRC – the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre, and its research objectives have been more tightly focussed. This can surely help in resolving some of the World's problems.

A number of on-going problems occur to us which will require increased attention and finances. These are;

1. Greatly increased amount of pirate fishing in Australia's economic marine sectors around Heard Island and along Australian Antarctic Territory. This problem will require greatly increased Royal Australian Navy surveillance.

2. The influence of the Southern Ocean on the currents of the other oceans of the world is very great, yet poorly understood. Oceanographic traverses and frequent satellite monitoring is needed.

3. Inter-relations between the Antarctic ice cap, the sea ice, the Southern ocean and the atmosphere's climate are very complicated. To model this interrelationship will demand the greatest capacity computer available.

We trust that our above suggestions will be placed before your committee.

Yours sincerely  
Malcolm Kirton

(Assistant Editor *Aurora*).