



Tasmania

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DEPARTMENT of  
PREMIER and CABINET

RECEIVED  
15 MAY 2003

BY: Gillian Gould

9 MAY 2003

Ms J Bishop MP  
Committee Chairman  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Bishop

Thank you for your letter of 5 March 2003 inviting comment on various international treaties that are being reviewed by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties.

I understand that officials from the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment have contributed to the preparation of the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, through intergovernmental consultative processes.

The Tasmanian Government notes that the harmful environmental effects of organotin-based compounds, such as tributyltin (TBT) used in anti-fouling paints on vessel hulls and infrastructure have been recognised for some time.

I am advised that steps have been taken by the National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals to deregister tributyltin (TBT) anti-foulant for use on ships from early/mid 2003. TBT is already deregistered for use as an anti-foulant on vessels less than 25 meters in length.

Tasmania believes that the impact on shipowners of adopting the Convention is unlikely to be significant as both international and domestic shipping already use a variety of anti-fouling systems, including non-TBT systems. It should also be noted that as the requirement is based on an International Convention, any additional costs would be incurred for international trading vessels whether or not Australia adopts the Convention.

At this stage, the Tasmanian Government does not wish to make any further comments on issues arising from the other proposed treaties and their National Interest Assessments.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Bacon". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a large loop on the left side. It is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jim Bacon MHA  
*Premier*