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Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development,
Communications and the Arts

Ms Michelle Taylor
Immediate Past President
Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand

Email: michelle.taylor@sparke.com.au

Dear Ms Taylor

Re: United Nations Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sale of Ships

Thank you for your letter of 21 May 2024 concerning the United Nations Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships (the Convention). I understand you have previously been in contact with one of my officers, Louise Bartholomew, regarding the Convention and provided her with some valuable information that had been prepared by Justice Angus Stewart.

Given the work Australia has already contributed to the development of the Convention text, becoming a party to the Convention is a priority for the Department to progress for the consideration of Government.

As raised in your letter, legislative changes are likely required in order to allow implementation and this is a matter that would need to be well progressed before any formal action towards the Convention was taken. Complexity exists in this regard, as the relevant legislation sits across more than one Government portfolio. Additionally, in order for Australia to ratify the Convention we will need to undertake various review and approval processes with the Office of Impact Analysis, the Office of International Law, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Federal Executive Council and the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties.

However, I do note that the *Australian Government Response to the Strategic Fleet Taskforce Final Report* recommended a review of the *Shipping Registration Act 1981*, which may provide an opportunity to consider the Convention as part of possible reforms to this legislation. We will be sure to advise when this review commences and encourage MLAANZ to be involved in the consultation.

I appreciate MLAANZ's advocacy on this matter and have asked that you be kept advised of any updates.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Megan Scott'.

Megan Scott
Assistant Secretary
Maritime and Shipping Branch
Surface Transport and Emissions Policy Division
3 June 2024

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