



26<sup>th</sup> October 2009

**The Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee  
Inquiry into matters relating to the Torres Strait region**

Dear Members of the Committee,

This submission will provide some general information on M.G Kailis Pty Ltd and outline this company's interest in matters relating to Torres Strait, but will not directly address the inquiry terms of reference.

**M.G Kailis Pty Ltd**

M.G Kailis Pty Ltd is a well known Australian marine industry company with various businesses across Australia. It has been operating in the lobster industry since 1960 and in the North of Australia since 1962.

Its Queensland business was established in 1994 and specializes in the Tropical Rock Lobster (TRL) Industry.

Through providing industry expertise, financial support and superior marketing services, M.G Kailis Pty Ltd has become the largest buyer, processor and exporter of Tropical Rock lobster in Australia. Rock Lobster, and especially live rock lobster export, is a business that requires complex management of supply and marketing channels in order to maximize the value of the resource.

The company has a considerable investment in the Torres TRL industry.

Supporting its marketing and industry development activities it holds five Torres Strait lobster fishing licences directly, and has entered into business relationships with numerous Torres Strait TRL companies and operators, both in Australia and in PNG.

The future well-being of the business depends on the economic and overall well-being and prosperity of the Torres Strait region, the Torres Strait community, and the Torres Strait TRL Fishery in particular. The time is right in the Torres region to enter a new period of positive and constructive growth and development.

This inquiry into the administration and management of the Torres Region is therefore a timely one.

We await the outcomes of the inquiry with considerable interest.

**QRLA Submission**

A general TRL industry submission has been provided to this inquiry by the Queensland Rock Lobster Association. The QRLA submission addresses a number of inquiry Terms of

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Reference in more detail. M.G Kailis has provided material and input to this submission as have numerous other QRLA industry members. The submission reflects the immense frustration felt by industry given the lack of progress in recent years. This frustration is particularly strong given that there are existing proven and viable paths open to a cooperative and constructive whole of industry approach.

Although we support and recognise the importance of consultation and consensus building, we also believe that this consultation should be used to inform decision making and not frustrate it. Resolute decision-making is required from Government that has been lacking in the past. A key stumbling block has been the failure to separate and address issues relating to indigenous aspirations from the implementation of good quality management that maximizes the value of the fishery to both the local and broader Australian community.

## **Conclusion**

M.G Kailis Pty Ltd thanks the Senate committee for the opportunity to provide this submission to the Inquiry into matters relating to the Torres Strait region.

If we can be of further assistance please feel free to contact us.

Yours Sincerely,

Brett Arlidge

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cc Alex Kailis, Managing Director, M.G Kailis Group.