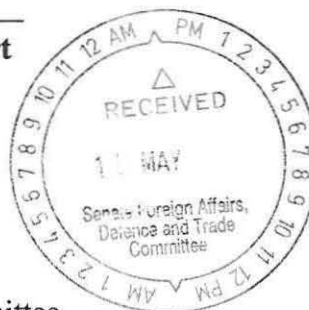




**Australian Government**  
**Department of Infrastructure and Transport**



Reference: 02365-2012

Dr Kathleen Dermody  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dermody

**Inquiry into the Indian Ocean region and Australia's foreign, trade and defence policy**

Thank you for your letter dated 1 May 2012, concerning the inquiry into the Indian Ocean region and Australia's foreign, trade and defence policy.

While my current Inquiry into the Offshore Oil and Gas Resources Sector Security arrangements has no direct relationship to your inquiry, my previous inquiry into International Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Security (the Piracy Inquiry), conducted during 2009-2010 may be of interest to your Committee.

I appreciate that counter piracy strategies have continued to mature since the completion of the Piracy Inquiry, and that for example more merchant shipping is now carrying armed guards onboard as part of their counter piracy defences. However, the findings of the Piracy Inquiry Report remain substantially relevant and may be useful to your considerations.

The Australian Shipping Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Advisory Guidelines (supportive guidelines to the Piracy Inquiry Report) were presented by the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Honourable Anthony Albanese MP, at the International Maritime Organisation General Assembly in London in December 2009, and have been widely supported in the international maritime environment.

I enclose both the Piracy Inquiry Report and the Advisory Guidelines for your information and thank you for your invitation to make a submission to your Committee.

Yours sincerely

Mr Mick Palmer AO APM  
Inspector of Transport Security

10 May 2012

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