Submission 2

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY AUSTRALIAN HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE



LOCKED BAG 8801, WOLLONGONG NSW 2500

2005/2500281 HYDRO 030/06

28th February 2006

The Chairman Joint Standing Committee on Treaties Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

Questions on Notice from the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties Hearing of 27th February 2006, Protocol of Amendments to the Convention on the International Hydrographic Organization

The following additional information is provided in response to questions raised at the Committee hearing.

Q1. Which counties are currently awaiting membership of the International Hydrographic Organization?

A1. Cameroon and Ireland are currently awaiting the required number of approvals in order to become IHO members. Each requires a total of 47 approvals. Cameroon applied for membership in June 2004 and to date has obtained 32 approvals. Ireland applied for membership in 22 November 2004 and has so far obtained 38 approvals.

In addition to the above, Bulgaria, Mauritania, Qatar, Romania and Saudi Arabia have all had their applications for membership approved but are yet to deposit their Instruments of Accession.

Q2. Are there any countries awaiting the ratification of the amendments to the IHO Convention before applying for IHO Membership?

A2. The Australian Hydrographic Service currently has no information relating to the intentions of any other non-member countries.

Since the hearing I have received advice that in addition to the countries listed in the documentation provided to the Committee, Morocco and Cyprus have now ratified the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention.

Yours sincerely

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R. NAIRN Captain, RAN Hydrographer of Australia

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