



**Tasmania
POLICE**

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12 February 2013

Mr Graham Perrett MP
Chair
The House of Representatives Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Perrett

RE: ARRANGEMENTS SURROUNDING CRIMES COMMITTED AT SEA

I refer to your letter dated 21 January 2013 in relation to the above.

Unfortunately, Tasmania Police is not in a position to send a representative to the roundtable of Australian law enforcement agencies scheduled for Friday 15 February 2013.

The question of jurisdiction has always been an issue for offences that occur at sea. A simplifying of the legislation would be of assistance. That stated, in 2009 Tasmania Police along with the remaining States, the Northern Territory and the Australia Federal Police adopted the *National Operating Protocol for the Reporting of Crimes at Sea* (the Protocol).

The Protocol establishes a national standard for the appropriate law enforcement response to reports of crimes at sea. It was developed to prevent delays in commencing investigations into reports made to police of crimes allegedly committed on vessels at sea – such delays sometimes occurring as a result of the complexities associated with determining the jurisdiction in which the crime may have actually been committed. The adoption of this Protocol aims to ensure a cooperative and consistent approach occurs to the receiving and management of all crimes occurring at sea.

A copy of the Protocol is attached for your information. I thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

A P J Cerritelli
COMMANDER

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A P J Cerritelli', written over the printed name.