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Australian Institute of Marine Science Amendment Bill 2004

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I N F O R M A T I O N A N D R E S E A R C H S E R V I C E S

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Australian Institute of Marine Science Amendment Bill
2004

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Australian Institute of Marine Science Amendment Bill 2004

Date Introduced: 3 June 2004

House: House of Representatives

Portfolio: Education, Science and Training

Commencement: Royal Assent

Purpose

The purpose of this Bill is to add a member nominated by James Cook University (JCU) to the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) Council and to change the name for the head of AIMS from 'Director' to 'Chief Executive Officer'.

Background

Representation of JCU on Council

The proposed extra AIMS Council member is an expression of Government policy encouraging increased collaboration between Commonwealth science agencies and universities. While there are already many examples of collaboration at the research level, policies are being designed to encourage even more synergy, in management as well as at laboratory level. In the case of AIMS, the Bill applies the principle of collaboration at the highest level in an important research agency. Especially before the advent of Cooperative Research Centres, there was insufficient Australian collaboration between research agencies and university researchers, for example, in contrast to the collaboration between Germany's Fraunhofer Institutes and German universities.

Coincidentally, AIMS and JCU have recently negotiated a separate cooperative agreement, an initiative known as the AIMS@JCU Joint Venture. Representation of JCU on AIMS' Council will help to facilitate the Joint Venture, although the two moves are not formally linked.

Warning:

This Digest was prepared for debate. It reflects the legislation as introduced and does not canvass subsequent amendments.

This Digest does not have any official legal status. Other sources should be consulted to determine the subsequent official status of the Bill.

Title of the head of AIMS

The second measure in the Bill brings AIMS into line with the common usage designation Chief Executive Officer as used, for example, in CSIRO, the Australian Research Council and the National Health and Medical Research Council. This will assist in developing professional relationships between AIMS and other bodies.¹

Main Provisions

New **paragraph 12(1)(a)** (inserted by **Item 1** of **Schedule 1**) provides that the AIMS Council shall include a member nominated by James Cook University.

New **subsection 16(2)** (inserted by **Item 5** of **Schedule 1**) provides that the member nominated by James Cook University will cease to be a member if his or her nomination is withdrawn.

Item 17 amends **section 21** so as to provide that there shall be a Chief Executive of the Institute (rather than a Director).

Item 19 amends **section 23** so as to provide that the affairs of AIMS shall be managed by the Chief Executive (rather than the Director).

Endnotes

- 1 The Hon Peter McGauran, Minister for Science ‘Second Reading Speech Australian Institute of Marine Science Amendment Bill 2004’, House of Representatives, *Debates*, 3 June 2004 p. 29630.

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