



Australian Institute of Marine Science Amendment Bill 2005

Angus Martyn
Law and Bills Digest Section

Contents

Purpose.	2
Background.	2
Title of the head of AIMS	2
Endnotes.	3

Australian Institute of Marine Science Amendment Bill 2005

Date Introduced: 10 February 2005

House: House of Representatives

Portfolio: Education, Science and Training

Commencement: On 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

This Bill was introduced in June 2004 but not debated before the proroguing of Parliament later that year. The 2005 version has been reintroduced with only one change – a technical correction to a section number.

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.

Title of the head of AIMS

Under the Bill, the title of head of AIMS will be 'Chief Executive Officer' rather than 'Director'. This new title reflects the common designation of the heads of other organisations such as CSIRO, the Australian Research Council and the National Health and Medical Research Council. According to the second reading speech:

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.

This clearly identifies the holder of the office as the head of AIMS, clarity that is important when developing professional relationships and arrangements on behalf of AIMS.¹

Endnotes

- 1 Peter McGauran MP, *House of Representatives Debates*, 10 February 2005, p. 5.

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.

© Copyright Commonwealth of Australia 2005

Except to the extent of the uses permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means including information storage and retrieval systems, without the prior written consent of the Department of Parliamentary Services, other than by senators and members of the Australian Parliament in the course of their official duties.

This brief has been prepared to support the work of the Australian Parliament using information available at the time of production. The views expressed do not reflect an official position of the Information and Research Service, nor do they constitute professional legal opinion.

Members, Senators and Parliamentary staff can obtain further information from the Information and Research Services on (02) 6277 2764.

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.