



Shipping Australia Limited  
ABN 610 96 012 574

Head Office  
Level 6, 131 York Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
PO Box Q388, Sydney NSW 1230

Tel: (02) 9266 9900  
Fax: (02) 9268 0230

[www.shippingaustralia.com.au](http://www.shippingaustralia.com.au)

go/094/migrationbill16mar07

16 March 2007

Ms Jackie Morris  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100, Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

[Legcon.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:Legcon.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Ms Morris

#### **Migration Amendment (Maritime Crew) Bill 2007**

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of Shipping Australia Limited (SAL) regarding the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Maritime Crew) Bill 2007 and wish to thank you for the opportunity to comment on it.

Shipping Australia Ltd (SAL) is a peak shipowner body representing forty one shipping companies and shipping agents, as well as a similar number of corporate associate members established both to promote and advance the interests of ship owners and shipping agents in all matters of shipping policy and safe, secure and environmentally sustainable ship operations. In addition Shipping Australia represents a number of shipping lines that are parties to Agreements registered under Part X of the Australian Trade Practices Act.

SAL's membership covers many of the major Australian and international ship owners, operators and agency companies involved in bulk, tanker, general cargo shipping, container, passenger and tramp trades.

As an organisation which represents 75 shipping lines and corporate associates, in Australia, Shipping Australia Ltd is in a unique position to reflect the views of all shipping companies servicing the Australian trades and to effectively represent their needs, helping shape and promote the policies of the shipping industry in Australia and internationally.

We are in favour of the general thrust of the Bill which amends the migration act to create a new class of temporary visa to be known as a maritime crew visa (MCV).

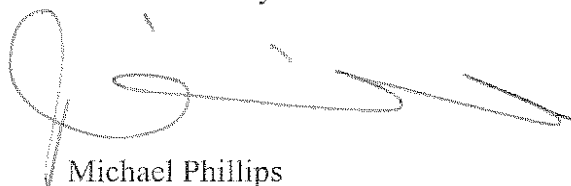
SAL has been working with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) for some time to ensure that the new visa requirements will have a minimum impost and cost to the shipping industry, on which Australia relies heavily to transport its imports and exports, whilst achieving the Government's objectives of strengthening the integrity of Australia borders.

Due to the nature of the maritime industry and the way the shipping companies and crewing agencies operate, it is imperative that the following provisions and flexibility be maintained in the Act/Regulations:

- Internet applications for visas should be permitted.
- The application for a Visa should be able to be made by the applicant (i.e. crew or spouse/dependent child) or a third party authorised by the applicant (e.g. shipping company, crew manning agent, ship's agent) on the basis of information provided to them by the applicant. There are physical and practical constraints that will frequently prevent crew from personally applying for a visa (e.g. the applicant may be serving in a tramp vessel ordered to an Australian port perhaps just an hour or so prior to departing from a remote overseas discharge port or even whilst at sea destined for another country).
- There must be no visa application charge for a MCV.

We believe that DIAC has sufficient safeguards in place to ensure that the security of the proposed system is not compromised.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Phillips', written over a horizontal line.

Michael Phillips  
**Chairman**  
**Shipping Australia Limited**