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Dear Prime Minister,

The Australian Red Ensign is the designated flag of the Australian Merchant Navy. Under John Howard the size of the Australian Merchant Navy decreased significantly. Kevin Rudd promised to re-build the Australian Merchant Navy however the decline has accelerated. The Australian Merchant Navy now comprises fewer than 30 ships over 2,000 tonnes. The fleet is aged and it is shrinking fast. Without decisive action by your Government, Australia will be in a position where we are reliant on foreign shipping to conduct 25% of Australia's domestic transport task – at a cost of billions of dollars to the Balance of Payments.

Restore the Australian Red Ensign.

Rebuild the Australian Merchant Navy.

Yours in solidarity,



Authorised by M Byrne, Australian Institute of Marine & Power Engineers, 52 Buckingham St, Surry Hills 2010

The Hon Julia Gillard MP
Prime Minister
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Canberra ACT 2600

