



AIMPE

Australian Institute of
Marine and Power Engineers
HEAD OFFICE

Hon. M. McCormack
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

24th March 2021

Dear Deputy Prime Minister,

Re: Coastal Tanker Fleet proposal

The AIMPE writes to seek your support for the establishment of an Australian coastal tanker fleet. The proposal is one which AIMPE has raised on a number of occasions over the last year or more. It is a proposal which we believe is practical and capable of implementation over a relatively short span of time. This proposal is also one which has attracted favourable comment from Industry participants and Departmental officials.

Attached is a copy of the submission which we made last year to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Inquiry into the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for Australia's foreign affairs, defence and trade. This submission was made jointly with the Australian Maritime Officers Union. Together our two organisations represent the maritime professionals with command and operational responsibility for Australian commercial trading ships as well as the other sectors of the maritime industry such as offshore oil and gas, research vessels, tugs and ferries.

The Maritime Industry Australia Ltd has previously urged the adoption of a larger strategic fleet proposal. Our proposal is a tighter, more focussed proposal with the specific purpose of improving Australia's fuel security as well as providing a platform for the training of the young maritime professionals of the future - which Australia so desperately needs.

Energy Minister Taylor has championed the improvement of Australia's energy security by implementing a new fuel storage policy for key strategic locations around Australia – but Australia currently lacks a home-grown capability to distribute petroleum fuel products from those key strategic locations to the many other smaller ports around the country.

We seek your urgent support for this proposal and the inclusion of funding in the 2021-22 Budget to be handed down in May to implement the plan in three stages over the next three financial years.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Byrne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Martin Byrne
Federal President.

Att. 1