

14 May 2010

Infrastructure Coordinator
Infrastructure Australia
GPO 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Shipping Australia's contribution to the draft National Ports Strategy

Shipping Australia has been pleased to be an active participant in the development of this strategy both in terms of written submissions and in attending the stakeholder workshops.

Shipping Australia believes that the vision and objectives of this strategy were commendable. We appreciate that it is a high level strategy which does give a clear direction of how to proceed in the future but we do believe that it would have been of assistance if the nationally significant ports could have been identified within the strategy itself. It is also acknowledged that a lot of work still needs to be done in developing a comprehensive strategy that includes action plans that could be implemented in consultation with the state and territory jurisdictions.

Within the strategy, we would strongly recommend the competition elements be developed further and particularly the relative impacts of a privately owned port versus a government owned port. We are referring in particular to the proposed sale of the Port of Brisbane and one of our major concerns is the strong governance arrangements that will need to be put in place in terms of that sale to meet the objectives set out in the strategy given that it really does not compete with Sydney or Melbourne for container traffic. It is in a very strong market position given the vast distances between our major container ports and the fact that they cater for local or regional demand.

It is noted that the strategy proposes a lot of work to be carried within in the umbrella framework of the strategy following its acceptance but Shipping Australia questions whether this could not be an interim report and that both Infrastructure Australia and the National Transport Commission be then charged with the development of the strategy in more detail for a subsequent report to the Council of Australian Governments. We strongly recommend that proposal for consideration.

Overall we are impressed by the approach in the strategy but we also recommend that it look a bit further into the future with the possible development of new trades, new

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ports and what impact the future development and expansion of coastal shipping, for example may have on future port development.

Shipping Australia is happy to continue to participate in the development of this strategy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Llew Russell', written in a cursive style.

Llew Russell AM
Chief Executive Officer
Shipping Australia Limited