

### Maritime Industry Sails into Canberra

Key figures among Australian maritime businesses descended last night upon Parliament House with a strong message for our politicians – the Australian maritime industry is enormously valuable, offers limitless potential for the nation in maritime capability building and deserves focus and support.

David Parmeter, Chairman of Maritime Industry Australia Ltd (MIAL), said “MIAL members have come to Canberra this evening to showcase the enormous value and diversity of maritime businesses that help to drive the Australian economy”.

“All sectors of the maritime industry – offshore, domestic commercial vessels, towage, cruise, research, bluewater and defence support are represented here - and MIAL remain steadfast in our focus on Australia fostering a vibrant and competitive Australian maritime enterprise for the benefit of the nation.” he said.

In introducing Hon. Christopher Pyne MP, Minister for Defence, Vice Admiral Tim Barrett AO, CSC, RAN (retired) reflected that “we are living in the maritime century. Whilst there is uncertainty in our region, and all the challenges that go with it, there are also great opportunities in the maritime arena which are best managed in a deliberate fashion as a national enterprise.”

MIAL welcomed comments made during the reception by Minister Pyne, who recognised the critical value of Australia’s merchant marine in providing ancillary services to ensure a strong maritime defence capability.

Also addressing the MIAL delegation, The Hon. Richard Marles MP, Shadow Minister for Defence highlighted the importance of the maritime industry to the Australian economy and maritime defence capability saying, “we in Labour understand how important our maritime industry is from an economic point of view”.

“But it’s not just about the economy” he said. “Yours is an industry that has a unique and critical part to play in terms of the defence of this nation”

MIAL members were joined at the annual Parliamentary reception by a range of MPs and Senators along with senior officials from key Government departments.

MIAL is holding their SEA18 conference in Canberra today which will highlight the imminent maritime skills crisis facing the nation.

Teresa Lloyd, MIAL CEO said “Australia’s capacity to participate in global trade, meet Australian community safety and environmental protection standards and protect our interests is reliant upon having professional shipping expertise available to fill strategic roles ashore”

“SEA18 will launch the first results of the MIAL Seafaring Skills Census and bring a cross section of key maritime business figures and end users of maritime skills to together, to discuss how this critical skills shortage issue might be addressed” she said.

*End*



Teresa Lloyd  
MIAL, CEO

#### **About Maritime Industry Australia Ltd**

Maritime Industry Australia Ltd (MIAL) is the country's largest representative of maritime businesses, primarily those operating maritime assets or facilities from Australia. MIAL is uniquely positioned to provide dedicated maritime expertise and advice, and is driven to promote a sustainable, vibrant and competitive Australian maritime industry and to expand the Australian maritime cluster.

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For further information: **MIAL** +61 3 9647 6000 or go to [mial.com.au](http://mial.com.au)

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