



ATTORNEY-GENERAL

CANBERRA

MC17-005251

20 JUN 2017

Mr Neil Beadle
President
Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand
PO Box 160
AUCKLAND 1140 NEW ZEALAND

Dear Mr Beadle

Thank you for your letter of 31 May 2017 regarding the Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand's proposal to amend the *Marine Insurance Act 1909* (Cth) (Marine Insurance Act).

I appreciate that your members have concerns arising from the United Kingdom's recent amendments to the *Marine Insurance Act 1906* (UK). As a consequence of these amendments, the laws dealing with marine insurance contracts in the United Kingdom and Australia are no longer so closely aligned. I understand the importance of Australian marine insurance remaining competitive in the international market.

I would like to thank you and your members for your work in contributing your skill and expertise in advocating for change in this area of law. I appreciate the provision of a draft Bill, draft Explanatory Memorandum and a copy of the Marine Insurance Act incorporating the proposed amendments.

My department is aware of the significant work that MLAANZ has undertaken, which follows on from the Australian Law Reform Commission's recommendations in its 2001 Final Report on the *Review of the Marine Insurance Act 1909* (Cth).

I have asked my department to explore these issues. Members of my department are very willing to meet with MLAANZ in the coming months to discuss its marine insurance law reform proposal. The relevant contact officer in my department is Mr Michael Johnson, acting Assistant Secretary, who can be contacted on (02) 6141 3462.

Thank you again for writing on this matter.

Yours faithfully


(George Brandis)