



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



Dual Australian Maritime Legislation Reviews

Reviews of both the Australian Shipping Registration Act 1981 and Coastal Trading (Revitalising Australian Shipping) Act 2012 are being jointly undertaken by Emeritus Professor Nicholas Gaskell and Lynelle Briggs.

In a 20 August announcement, Australian Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Catherine King said her Government was committed to reviewing both Acts as part of its response to the "Strategic Fleet Taskforce Final Report".

"Ensuring the Acts reflect modern regulatory best practice for shipping registration and coastal trading will be critical to supporting the long-term sustainability of Australia's maritime industry and strategic fleet," stated Minister King.

"I welcome both Ms Briggs and Prof Gaskell to the role, and look forward to seeing these reviews unfold as we work to ensure a strong and sustainable maritime industry."

The Minister described Ms Briggs as having "strong" review, maritime and transport experience, most recently leading the review of public sector board appointments in 2023 and as the Royal Commissioner on Aged Care Quality and Safety.

"She was also a Board member for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and chairperson of the Maritime Super Board."

Minister King described Professor Gaskell as a maritime lawyer with "extensive experience" in international shipping practice and in analysing merchant shipping legislation for governments, industry and practitioners.

"He is currently an Emeritus Professor of maritime and commercial law at the University of Queensland."

Timeframes as Stated in the Respective Terms of References

- Shipping Registration Act 1981
 - "The final report and recommendations addressing the scope and purpose of the review are due six months from the commencement of the review."
- Coastal Trading (Revitalising Australian Shipping) Act 2012
 - "The draft interim report of the review will be provided to the Department six months from the commencement of the review addressing phase one of the scope including draft recommendations. A final report and recommendations addressing the full scope and purpose of the review is due 12 months from the commencement of the review."

September 2024

