



Media Release: Immediate Release

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It's agreed - Australia can be a great maritime nation

Parliament House, Canberra: Maritime Industry Australia Ltd (MIAL) hosted a Parliamentary Cocktail Reception showcasing maritime innovation in Mural Hall, Parliament House last Tuesday.

The innovation showcase reflected the breadth of the maritime industry in this country, the importance of maritime activity to the overall prosperity of our nation and the economic benefit derived from maritime activities. This was an industry-led initiative bringing maritime innovation to Canberra.

The Hon Darren Chester MP, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport spoke to the large representation in attendance from parliament and the maritime sector and stated "after many meetings and much feedback, I am acutely aware of the need to work in a bipartisan way to deliver reforms that will boost confidence, provide certainty and deliver the productivity benefits your industry desires."

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Cities & Regional Development and Senator Janet Rice, the Greens spokesperson for Transport and Infrastructure, echoed the sentiments of the importance of maritime to Australia; its ability to contribute so much more to the nation; and the need to find a solution that has broad support.

Australia has the fifth largest shipping task in the world; responsibility for vast Antarctic areas; significant border protection imperatives; the largest growing cruise industry in the world; significant oil and gas activities; over 64 commercial ports to facilitate trade; sizable waterborne transport activities; and marine services activities right around the country and well beyond to our regional neighbours.

Mr Noel Hart, MIAL Chairman, stressed the financial contribution that the maritime industry makes to the Australian economy "At MIAL we represent the broadest cross section of maritime and related businesses – everything that a maritime economic cluster brings with it - which collectively contributes over \$9 billion in GDP, employs over 31,000 people and adds over \$900 million in taxation revenue."

MIAL will continue to work with parliament to identify and develop solutions and opportunities ensuring a strong and vital maritime industry.

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For further information contact: **Alison Saunders – 03 9647 6000 or 0408 675 377**

The full version of Minister Chester's speech is available here:

http://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/chester/speeches/2016/dcs004_2016.aspx

Maritime Industry Australia Ltd (MIAL) is a commercially and politically astute association that reflects our members' requirements domestically and internationally. We represent the collective interests of maritime businesses, primarily those operating maritime assets or facilities from Australia.