



17 February 2009

Media Release: Immediate release

---

## Shipping Policy Advisory Group a lost opportunity

'Shipping Australia members were disappointed that the Shipping Policy Advisory Group established yesterday to assist the government to prepare its official response to the coastal shipping policy report was not more broadly representative of all the stakeholders involved' the SAL CEO, Llew Russell said today.

'There is no representative on that group of a member solely belonging to SAL and yet many of our members are heavily involved in the carriage of coastal cargo on both licensed Australian ships and Coastal Voyage Permits.

'In addition, many of SAL's members could have brought to the group their overseas experience which would have been beneficial for the government to take into account' he said.

Mr Russell advised that he had written to the Minister months ago seeking membership for a number of reasons including the fact that two recommendations of the report referred to a supplementary submission made by SAL to the inquiry.

'By excluding certain groups the government will not have access to all the advice it could have had to make fully informed decisions on the report's recommendations.'

### **For further information:**

Llew Russell, CEO SAL, 0414 958 247