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## Michael Phillips re-elected as SAL Chairman

“I was indeed honoured to be re-elected as Chairman for a further 12 month term at the Annual General meeting of Shipping Australia today” Mr Michael Phillips, Chairman of SAL said today.

“Whilst it has indeed been a challenging year for Shipping Australia I am indeed heartened by the amount of support and active participation of our members in pursuing the interests of the maritime industry in Australia.

“Shipping Australia has responded to many of the requests for submissions and comments on policy proposals from governments and their border agencies. However, SAL has also been proactive in the publication of a study on break bulk shipping, working with Tradegate Australia on the development of port data community systems in Australian ports and working with Infrastructure Australia on the development of infrastructure proposals particularly infrastructure in ports (including cruise shipping terminals) and connections to and from ports.”

Shipping Australia is pleased that the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Services and Local Government is pressing the IMO to increase the limits regarding the Convention for the Limitation of Claims following the oil spill by the *Pacific Adventurer* in March this year. SAL had always advocated an international solution rather than an individual country, like Australia seeking full recovery of clean-up costs from the ship operator and the industry generally over and above those limits.

SAL has also been actively seeking a sensible solution to the desire of the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Julia Gillard that the Fair Work Act apply to all ships regularly engaged in Australia’s coastal trade. SAL has pointed out that ships that are trading internationally but incidentally carrying coastal trade under permit cannot be considered ‘regularly’ engaging in Australia’s coastal trade.

Fair Work Australia has agreed that the modernised Seagoing Award would not apply to permit ships at least for another 12 months during which the issue will be further considered.

“I am looking forward to what is clearly going to be a very challenging year in 2010 as many of the shipping companies serving Australia are still battling the effects of the global financial crisis and a degree of uncertainty regarding the future is clearly apparent” Michael Phillips said.

**Editor’s note**

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