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## **Shipping Australia supports direction of shipping policy reform**

“Shipping believes that the package of reforms released by Minister Albanese today has the potential to lead to a reinvigorated and internationally competitive Australian merchant marine” Llew Russell, Chief Executive Officer of Shipping Australia said today.

“Much will depend on the detail of how the reforms are enacted whether that objective will be achieved. The details of the criteria for the second register and the training packages as the result of the establishment of the forum to develop skills and training in the industry, are some of the issues on which we are waiting further detail.

“The coastal shipping policies appear initially to be of concern but whether this concern is fully justified will depend on further detail being made available to the industry” he said.

“The Minister made reference to increasing productivity of the industry is a result of the industrial compact between the unions and employers particularly in relation to work practices and safety and the deliverance of that package will be essential for a viable merchant marine to be established.

“Shipping Australia looks forward to working closely with the Government on the development of these details and in particular the draft legislation that will give effect to them. We note that the package has been brought forward one year to be introduced in July 2012.”

### **Editor's note**

For more information contact Llew Russell on 0414 958 247.