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For Immediate Release

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**Shipping Australia Limited and Australian Shipowners Association working together for a stronger shipping industry**

Shipping Australia Limited and the Australian Shipowners Association and have agreed to work together to provide a joint approach to promoting the interests of the shipping industry. Collaboration in development of shipping industry policy will provide stronger industry representation to government.

Mr Noel Hart, Chairman of ASA and Mr Ken Fitzpatrick, Chairman of SAL called on key government officials in Canberra today to explain their new co-operative approach.

“It makes sense for our two organisations to speak with one voice on significant matters affecting the shipping industry in Australia,” Noel Hart said.

“Our aim is to promote common national practices and reduce the regulatory burden on shipping. This will lead to more efficient handling of policy issues giving better focus and outcomes for the domestic and international shipping trades,” Ken Fitzpatrick said.

Both Chairmen agreed that this collaboration will benefit the members of both organisations by increasing industry influence whilst stream-lining representation to the many shipping industry related government consultative groups. However, there will still be some areas where ASA and SAL will maintain separate representation. “The finer details of our formal agreement are still to be finalised,” they said.

**Editor’s note:**

For additional information please contact Ken Fitzpatrick, Chairman SAL on 0412 226 930 or Noel Hart, Chairman ASA on 0408 357 421.

*Shipping Australia is a peak national shipping association comprising 35 member shipping lines and shipping agents that would be involved with over 70% of Australia's container and car trade, over 60% of our break bulk and bulk trades and significant cruise ship and tug operations.*

*The Australian Shipowners Association represents Australian companies who own or operate international and/or domestic trading ships, cruise ships, domestic towage and salvage tugs, dredges, scientific research vessels and offshore oil and gas support vessels. The Association also represents employers of the Australian and international maritime labour.*