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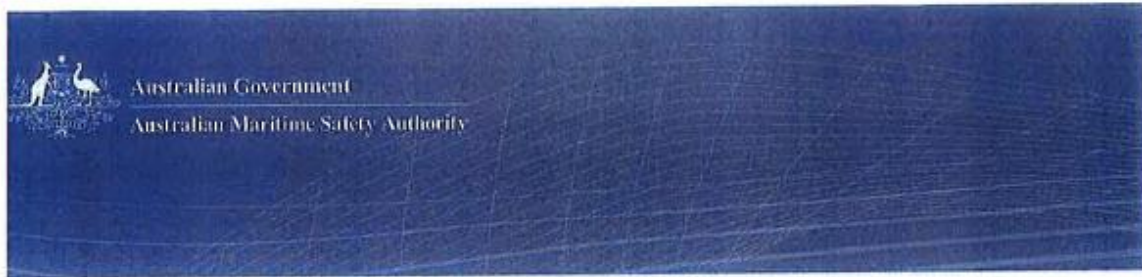
BWM.2/Circ.48
8 August 2013

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT
OF SHIPS' BALLAST WATER AND SEDIMENTS, 2004**

Communication received from the Government of Australia

- 1 A Communication has been received from the Government of Australia regarding reforms being implemented to Australia's biosecurity system.
- 2 At the request of the Government of Australia, the above-mentioned communication annexed hereto is circulated to Member States for their information and future action, as appropriate.

ANNEX



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mr Koji Sekimizu
Secretary-General
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
United Kingdom

Dear Secretary-General

I write to inform the IMO and interested members that Australia, through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), is implementing reforms to its biosecurity system to minimise the threat of the introduction of exotic pests and diseases that can adversely impact on our industries, people and natural environment and to enhance market access for our exports.

Australia is working to provide information on the reforms to international partners, especially those who come into regular contact with our biosecurity system and officers, such as internationally arriving vessels bringing goods in to and out of Australia.

'Biosecurity' is protecting the economy, environment and people's health from pests and diseases. It includes trying to prevent new pests and diseases from arriving in Australia, and helping to control outbreaks when they do arrive. This terminology and the reform agenda represents a move away from the concept of "quarantine" (actions at the border) to a broader "biosecurity" framework of actions taken pre-border, at the border and post-border.

As part of the reform agenda, DAFF is phasing out the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) name and brand. The term AQIS will no longer be used and international partners will see an Australian Government crest followed by the words – Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in its place. It is important to note that as the transition will take time references to AQIS may continue to be seen for some time. The reference directly to DAFF also replaces references to Biosecurity Australia.

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Phasing out the AQIS brand and transitioning to DAFF is largely a visual change. There will be:

- no change to the services provided as a result of the change in identity;
- no change to the biosecurity functions undertaken by the Australian Government;
- no change to systems, processes and people as a result of the new name;
- no change to the level of service provided or a reduction in commitment to managing biosecurity risks; and
- no impact upon the competent authority under which audit, inspections and certifications are undertaken. These services continue to be undertaken by the Australian Government.

More information on the changes to Australia's biosecurity system can be found at <http://www.daff.gov.au/bsg/biosecurity-reform>.

Yours sincerely



MICK KINLEY
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

10 January 2013