

25th October 2011

Dr Allan Hawke AC
c/- Cruise Ship Access Review Secretariat
R1-4-B163 – Russell Offices
Department of Defence
PO Box 7901
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

Via email: CruiseShipAccess.Review@defence.gov.au

Dear Dr Hawke

We provide the following short submission to **support** any recommendations made to enhance and enable a more permanent use by visiting Cruise Ships at the **Royal Australian Navy's Garden Island** facility.

The Australian Federation of Travel Agents Ltd was founded in 1957 to:

- establish professional standards for travel agents;
- stimulate, encourage and promote travel;
- bring together those acting as intermediaries in the distribution of travel services; and
- build strong working relationships with suppliers and consumers of travel related services

AFTA represents approximately 85% of Australia's travel intermediaries that control more than 94% of travel intermediary turnover. It also has a substantial base of associate members, representing non-intermediary sectors of the travel related services industry. Members are bound by AFTA's *Code of Ethics*, which can be found at www.afta.com.au.

We submit to you the following points;

1. It is expected that more than 1 million Australians will take a cruise departing from Australia by the year 2020. Cruising is a growth product in the Australian travel industry and travel agents benefit greatly from these transactions. There are approximately 30,000 Australians directly employed in the travel agency sector. Cruising has the potential to be an underpinning market segment for viable travel agents into the future.
2. In order for Australia to maintain its international attractiveness to cruise ship companies it is imperative that appropriate and fit for purpose facilities are available in Sydney as the key port of Australia and our true international gateway. Both the inbound international visitor wants to come to Sydney and the vast majority of Australians departing want to depart from Sydney. Large and growing Cruise Ships will need appropriate facilities to accommodate these movements into the future. Garden Island is well placed to provide these facilities once an appropriate dual use strategy is developed.

Australian Federation Of Travel Agents Limited

Level 3, 309 Pitt Street Sydney NSW 2000 Australia | ABN: 72 001 444 275

Tel: +61 2 9287 9900 | Fax: +61 2 9264 1085 | Email: afta@afta.com.au | www.afta.com.au


-2-

3. If Australia is to maintain its market share and continued support by Cruise Ship arrivals and departures a viable solution must be found and implemented as soon as possible.
4. If Australia does not find a suitable solution to this challenge, Cruise Ships may alter their plans to send ships to Australia. This will have a significant impact on the Australian travel industry as Australians may then choose to depart on cruises out of other ports around the world which will reduce the economic benefit gained by all parties in the supply chain.

Furthermore we understand that many suggestions have been made by the Cruise Ship companies. AFTA supports any suitable recommendations made in order to find a solution that can be implemented as soon as practicable to provide an appropriate dual use solution to the **Royal Australian Navy's Garden Island** facility.

Should any further information be required or you wish to make contact in relation to this issue please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely



JAYSON WESTBURY
Chief Executive