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Cruise Ship Access Review Secretariat
R1-4-B163
Russell Offices
Department of Defence
PO Box 7902
Canberra BC ACT 2610
By email: CruiseShipAccess.Review@defence.gov.au

To the Review Secretariat,

On behalf of the Committee for Sydney, please find following our submission on the Independent Review of Enhanced Cruise Ship Access to Garden Island.

We appreciate the opportunity to make a contribution to the review and look forward to being involved in further discussions on the Strategy.

A copy of our submission is attached for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Chris Jordan AO
Chairman

The Committee for Sydney is an independent forum of decision makers taking a leading role in shaping public policy to ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for Greater Sydney. Our aim is the enhancement of the economic, social, cultural and environmental conditions that make Sydney a competitive and creative global city

Committee for Sydney Submission on the Independent Review of Enhanced Cruise Ship Access to Garden Island

I write as the newly appointed Chairman of The Committee for Sydney to indicate our firm support for the use of Garden Island for cruise ship related purposes. We believe such a use will ensure continued growth in the cruise ship industry and bring significant benefits for Sydney.

The Committee for Sydney comprises a group of leaders from the private, public and not for profit sectors committed to helping Sydney thrive and prosper as Australia's only global city. The Committee focuses its efforts on identifying and supporting the strategically significant policies or initiatives which will reinforce the city's status and economy. Enhancing the natural assets of our unique Harbour city will be an important element in maintaining Sydney's competitive position – not just in comparison with Australian cities but in the wider region.

Sydney, like any key city, has to compete to win new business and investment so that we achieve stronger economic growth and secure our future viability. Tourism and the cruise line industry contribute significantly to Sydney and Australia's economy. It is estimated that by 2020 the cruise liner industry will contribute \$3 billion annually to the Australian economy. It is essential, in the view of the Committee, that we plan for the future needs of the industry and that Sydney continues to be the highlight of international operators' programs. The port of Sydney is a strategic destination for international tourists - and wider Australian and Pacific itineraries are based on availability of docking space in Sydney.

The industry is changing with the size of liners and the number of passengers they carry increasing. By 2015 it has been estimated that approximately 85% of cruise liners will not be able to travel under the Harbour Bridge and access terminal facilities west of Millers Point. In addition there are operational limitations to the number – and in some cases the size - of vessels that can be docked at the Overseas Passenger Terminal. In 2012, we understand that 8 vessels a year will not be able to be accommodated at the Overseas Passenger Terminal or travel under the bridge. By 2016 this number is expected to increase to up to 40 per year.

The availability of a variety of appropriate docking facilities that accommodate the larger vessels will be essential to driving up the volume of business and ensure that both Sydney and Australia benefit from the increase popularity of cruise travel. Allowing access to Garden Island for cruise ships will provide an ideal opportunity to provide docking facilities for larger vessels east of the bridge in a location that benefits from exceptional views and good proximity to Sydney's key attractions.

Without additional facilities at Garden Island Sydney stands to lose out to other destinations that can accommodate the larger vessels. This would clearly have an impact not only on Sydney's tourist industry but also Australia's.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Review on cruise ship access to Garden Island. For the reasons given, the Committee for Sydney strongly supports cruise ship access to Garden Island: Sydney needs it. Please feel free to contact me at the Committee for Sydney if you would like to discuss our submission further.

Chris Jordan AO
Chairman Committee for Sydney

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