

Dr Allan Hawke
Cruise Ship Access Review Secretariat
R1-4-B163
Russell Offices
Department of Defence
PO Box 7902
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

27th October 2011

Re: Independent Review of Enhanced Cruise Ship Access to Garden Island

Dear Dr Hawke

The Tourism Industry Council NSW welcomes the opportunity to present a submission to this independent review in order to strongly argue the case for improved cruise ship access to Sydney Harbour to cater for the expected growth of this industry over the next decade.

As Sydney is arguably Australia's most internationally recognised tourist destination and the capital for International ship visitation handling 70% of passenger movements, it is critical that our city is able to capitalise on the current and expected growth and demand for cruise shipping over the next decade.

This growth is contingent on Sydney on being ready and available to accommodate the new breed of mega liners, 85% of which are too large to fit under the deck of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The Tourism Industry Council NSW understands that in 2012, Sydney will host eight ships that cannot berth west of the Bridge. Based on the current growth patterns, this number will increase to around 40 mega liners by 2016. If these ships are unable to berth east of the Harbour Bridge or require the use of smaller boats to disembark passengers, the industry' growth pattern will be significantly curtailed.

Clearly, the overseas passenger terminal at Circular Quay is unable to meet the demand moving forward and a new solution is required to cater for this demand.

The Tourism Industry Council believes that the solution to this issue is a permanent shared arrangement with the **Royal Australian Navy facilities at Garden Island**. We believe that the Navy can operate side by side with a commercial facility, as is the case at a range of Airports across Australia such as Newcastle and Darwin.

It is the only suitable facility where mega liners can dock without the need for a considerable and expensive injection of expenditure. Cruise ships unable to fit under the Bridge have successfully used Garden Island in past years and the industry requires certainty from Government in order to fully satisfy the growth demands of an industry that is expected to attract a million Australian travelers by the end of the decade.

It is the strong belief of the Tourism Industry Council NSW that Garden Island offers the best solution for berthing facilities of mega liners over the next decade and that the Government should allow for a permanent shared arrangement at this facility.

Kind regards,



Andrew Jefferies
Executive Officer
Tourism Industry Council NSW

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