ABN: 23 001 345 624

Australian Marine Industries Federation Limited (AMIF)

Suite 2/799 Beaufort Street
Mt LAWLEY WA 6050
Ph: 08 9271 8067 Fax: 08 9271 9057
Email: amif@iinet.net.au

The Productivity Commission
Level 28
35 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

27 March 2003

Dear Sir/Madam

SUBMISSION RE MUTUAL RECOGNITION WITHIN AUSTRALIA AND TRANS-TASMAN

With regard to the mutual recognition policy within Australia, the Australian Marine Industries Federation (AMIF) believes that the existing inter state agreements are satisfactory for the Marine industry of this nation. There do not appear to be any significant compliance costs for marine business involved and, as such, there does not seem to be any need to alter existing policy.

After consultation with my New Zealand colleague, Mr Peter Busfield, CEO of the Boating Industry Association of New Zealand (BIANZ), who makes the following comments,

"Boats and boat fittings and services are increasingly being traded between Australia and New Zealand. The current trade rules are conducive to this business continuing. At this stage, we have no immediate specific requests for any changes but wish to be part of the on-going consultative process."

I wish to support the continuation of the existing Trans-Tasman policy, provided that compliance costs do not become prohibitive for the marine businesses involved.

It may be worth noting, that as the New Zealand Boat Building training sector moves ahead in leaps and bounds through a formalised partnership between the government and the BIANZ, New Zealand may in the future, wish to impose different occupational entry requirements for Australian trained labour in that sector. Without a similar government/AMIF partnership in the Australian marine industry, there is little chance of the relevant Australian labour force maintaining the same standard as their New Zealand counterparts.

I trust that you will find these comments useful and would like to be kept informed of any proposed changes to policy. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 089 271 8067 or Mr Peter Busfield in New Zealand on 001164 9360 0056.

Yours sincerely

Sherry Donaldson
Chief Executive Officer

Cc Ministers Hockey, Mc Farlane and Vaile