Dear Maritime Industry Organisations

The Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority (Seacare Authority) is in the process of developing a strategic plan (Seacare 2015 Strategic Plan) to provide direction to the Seacare Authority and the Seacare scheme towards 2015.

As part of the development of the Seacare 2015 Plan, the Seacare Authority is seeking the views of Seacare scheme participants and other interested parties on a number of issues currently facing the Seacare scheme. To assist this process the Seacare Authority has prepared an issues paper (Seacare 2015 Strategic Plan: Issues Paper) to provide context to the challenges currently before the scheme and to seek the views of stakeholders on how the Authority can address these challenges.

The Seacare 2015 Plan is being developed in the context of the Australian Government’s plans to revitalise the Australian shipping industry. The Seacare Authority’s role in protecting the health, safety and welfare of Australian seafarers, providing injury management and rehabilitation support when they are injured and maintaining a sustainable scheme as the maritime industry grows will ensure that the Seacare Authority supports the Governments’ plans for the shipping industry.

The Seacare Authority cannot fulfil its functions alone and requires the support and assistance of all scheme participants to deliver a safe and cost effective scheme. To this end, the Seacare Authority is seeking the views of stakeholders on how to improve the scheme over the next five years. The Seacare Authority has adopted three broad strategic priorities around which the Seacare 2015 Plan will be developed. The strategies are: injury prevention, injury management and rehabilitation and scheme effectiveness and efficiency. A series of questions has been developed to seek stakeholder views to improve performance and outcomes around these priorities.

I urge all scheme stakeholders to read the issues paper and provide comments on the questions raised. Your views are important to the Authority and will be factored into the Authority’s consideration of the Seacare 2015 Plan.

Yours sincerely

David Sterrett
Chairperson
24 March 2011