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PRESS RELEASE

COASTAL SHIPPING VISION “Oz MoS”

Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss spoke today to the Shipping Australia Industry Group in Sydney about repealing some of Labours ineffective Policies in the hope of improving the fortunes of Coastal Shipping. Amongst the moves was the repeal of Australian wages for foreign crews if the ships are on the coast for under 183 days a year.

At the same time in Adelaide, there was an address to ICHCA Australia about revitalising Australian Coastal Shipping by the CEO of Sea Transport Corporation, Stuart Ballantyne.

This straight talking Scotsman proposed a bold strategy in coastal shipping, the “Oz MoS” - The Australian Motorways of the Sea”, effectively a blue print of the highly successful European Motorways of the Sea, MoS. This system, he told his audience, has been successful in removing millions of truck movements from European roads. In Australia where road accidents, road maintenance and pollution are costing the nation tens of billions of taxpayer dollars annually, a coastal highway is required urgently. The key issue according to Mr Ballantyne was whether the subsidy could be covered by the savings in the road issues and naval capex systems. His considered opinion was that it was an easy task but the costings have to be firmed to move any Treasury department or politicians.



While endorsing the Coalition’s moves to facilitate coastal shipping he called on the Federal and State Governments to facilitate modern Roro ramps throughout the country, each one to have adjacent parking lots for trucks and cars (as pictured). Even the approvals for such a



simple infrastructure he said would be challenged by our over-the-top, regulatory system particularly concerning EPA and coastal planning, and hence why it should be done by the government

He proposed an open tender system for the MoS provider to procure, operate the vessels and source the manning of vessels by a single union only.

Such a system would employ 4 ships on the Melbourne Sydney run for example, to ensure daily sailings and meet the market demand of “just in time” warehousing of the large supermarket freight movers.

In a 3 corridor Brisbane-Sydney-Melbourne-Adelaide-Melbourne-Sydney-Brisbane route, 12 ships would be required and would have a capacity of 540,000 semi-trailers a year. This would require 500-600 seafarers and instigate more intensive marine college courses and job opportunities for school leavers.

MoS extensions to Western Australia and Northern regions would be added on as such a system bedded down.

Ballantyne's speech suggested that the Oz MoS proposed vessels should also address opportunities to use alternative fuels for such ships such as LNG, Methanol or Nuclear as Australia has an abundance of each source. Nuclear in particular he suggested, was ideal for testing on a coastal ship due to the high level of port security already around the country. He cautioned the SA Government to resist the temptation to study and gabfest nuclear possibilities for decades but get into an actual real project such as the nuclear propulsion of a coastal ship. He also suggested that a nuclear engineering faculty should be established in Australia and Adelaide was a prime spot given that the SA Government is undertaking a review of the subject and SA has an abundance of uranium and thorium.

A stuffed economy

"Like it or not" Ballantyne said, "our economy is stuffed and we need visionary projects like this that will enhance our transport system while addressing environmental problems and create jobs. Why is that we cannot replicate a successful European system and continue to lose thousands of lives in road accidents and pay heavily for road maintenance and road congestion? The time for endless talking on Coastal Shipping is over and we need to take action!"

The host industry group ICHCA Company Secretary Ian Lovell said serious attention should be paid to Mr Ballantyne's proposals and said that such an initiative was well overdue.

Chairman of the South Australian Freight Council, Neil Murphy agreed that his members needed to be made aware of such a bold initiative.



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