



# MARINE INDUSTRIES ACTION AGENDA newsletter

ISSUE 1

**Welcome to the First Newsletter of the Marine Industries Action Agenda. In this issue we report on the outcomes of the first meeting of the Strategic Industries Leaders Group, and, invite you to join one or more of the working groups set up to help the Leaders Group carry out its work.**

## TO MAKE THIS WORK – WE NEED YOUR VALUABLE INPUT

### INTRODUCTION

The Federal Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, Ian Macfarlane, announced in January the establishment of a Marine Industries Action Agenda. The Action Agenda is a partnership between our industry and the Federal Government, to assist its growth. This is the ideal opportunity for our industry to have a direct and immediate involvement with government, to identify and address the challenges and opportunities confronting us.

To drive this Action Agenda a Strategic Industry Leaders Group has been established with Mr Peter Hunt as its Chair. The Leaders Group had its inaugural meeting in Brisbane on 19th April with Mr Warren Entsch, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, attending. The meeting was held at Forgacs Cairncross Dockyard in Brisbane, and during the lunch break the Leaders Group received a first-hand feel for the worth of the Australian marine industry, when it toured the Forgacs drydock and ship repair facility.

### MEETING OUTCOMES

During the meeting the Leaders Group set the tone and direction for the Action Agenda. The boundaries for the Action Agenda were discussed with a view that they should be as broad as reasonable but narrow enough to have achievable results. The Leaders Group also held discussions with consultants ACIL Tasman, the company contracted by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (ITR), to produce a scoping and research paper on the Marine industry. The outcomes of this paper will feed into the Action Agenda process and hopefully give some clarity on where the shortfalls are, what needs to be done, and what can be achieved.

During the course of the meeting a number of outcomes were agreed. A work plan and a timetable for the Action Agenda and a consultative mechanism based on a series of working groups to deal with the issues, were among key outcomes achieved. The working groups will not be the only opportunity for industry stakeholders to have input. There will be at least two opportunities to comment on discussion papers, plus stakeholders can contact their industry representatives on the Leaders Group or they can contact the Secretariat at the addresses at the end of this newsletter.



The Honourable Warren Entsch MP and Peter Hunt



The Leaders Group at work



Leaders Group inspects Forgacs Cairncross Dockyard



Forgacs General & Commercial Manager Ray Benn explains the dock's operation



Dockyard equipment

## WORKING GROUPS WILL BE WHERE THE ACTION IS

The working groups will be focusing on

- Education and skills,
- Market development both domestically and export,
- Innovation/research and development, and
- Regulation and environment.

The Action Agenda can only succeed if everyone in the industry gets behind it and contributes to its success. I encourage you to nominate for one or more of these working groups. We need a diverse group of views and experiences for each working group - to help our industry grow! Each working group will be chaired by a member of the Leaders Group so that the activities of the Leaders Group and the working groups can be exchanged quite freely.

Chairs of each working group are:

EDUCATION AND SKILLS – Mr Terry Hall

MARKET DEVELOPMENT – Mr Lance Cushion

INNOVATION/R & D – Mr Phill Brown

REGULATION AND ENVIRONMENT – Mr Allan Cayzer

Apart from actual membership of a working group there will be a number of other opportunities for you to have input into the Action Agenda process and the working groups. In due course, each working group will be seeking your input on issues facing our industry and what we need to do to address them. Your input will form part of a discussion paper which will be circulated to everyone in the industry for further comment. That paper will form the basis of a report to government. The report will spell out the direction and future of the industry with a series of recommendations for action.

Along the way, we also hope to produce some more immediate and tangible outcomes to help you, your business and the industry generally to grow and prosper. More information on those will be available shortly.

## TIME FRAME FOR THE ACTION AGENDA

The time frame for the Action Agenda is about 12 to 18 months, while the working groups have a life span of up to about 12 months. This is all dependent on the makeup of the working groups and how they progress their issues. If you think you have a contribution to make, I encourage you to put yourself forward. The working groups may meet once or twice face to face and the rest of the time by teleconference but ultimately the management of each group will be up to that group to determine.

## HOW TO NOMINATE FOR A PIECE OF THE ACTION

To nominate, email: [marine@industry.gov.au](mailto:marine@industry.gov.au) or telephone Jeff Beeston, Manager, Shipbuilding Section, Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources on 02 6213 7088.

Nominations need to be in by 30 April for you to be part of the initial meeting for each working group. We aim to have the working groups meeting before the end of May.

For more information on the Marine Industries Action Agenda visit [www.industry.gov.au/marine](http://www.industry.gov.au/marine)

**Peter Hunt**  
**Chair, Strategic Industry Leaders Group**