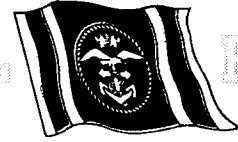


ROYAL VOLUNTEER COASTAL PATROL

ACN 000 425 187 Supported by voluntary contributions - Registered Charity

COASTAL PATROL RESCUE



National Headquarters: The Spit Peninsular, Mosman, NSW

Commodore Keith Jenkins, ~~FRS, FRGS, FRGS, FRGS~~
Post Office Box 71, Greenacre, 2190
Phone: 9642-7499 Fax: 9642-6649
(24-hour Fax: 9736-2995)

11th April 2000

Mrs. Claudia Leslie
Productivity Commission
P.O. Box 80
BELCONNEN ACT 2016

Dear Mrs Leslie,

Further to our recent telephone conversation I thank you for the information supplied in respect to the enquiry into the Review of Australians General Tariff Arrangements.

Preamble

The Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol is the oldest volunteer marine group in Australia having been founded in 1937. We have no paid staff, exist on volunteers to provide all office and support requirements, have no Commonwealth Government Funding, receive a Waterways allowance of \$155,000.00 to use between 27 bases and 4 vessels but cannot use any of these funds on administration, fuel or instruction. We exist and provide a voluntary service to anyone in distress on water, we also provide members for natural disasters such as the Eastern Suburbs hail storm, Bush fire emergency, body searchers in conjunction with the Water Police, storm and tempest assistance. We are affiliated with the SES of NSW, and are a registered charity. A Year Book, for 1999 is enclosed which documents our operation in 4 States.

In respect to the Assistant Treasurers reference to the terms of the enquiry, I make the following submissions.

Point 2. (a) My submission will have no effect on the overall efficiency of the Australian economy the unit in question being very specialised and infrequent in their requirement.

Patron in Chief:
His Royal Highness,
The Prince of Wales
Patron:
Chief of Naval Staff
Royal Australian Navy
Founded 1937:
Capt M Blackwood
DSO, RN, and
H W G Nobbs & W Giles
Awarded 1941:
NSW Government Ensign
since granted —
the State Ensigns
of Victoria
and South Australia
Awarded 1945:
Water Police Service
'Nemesis' Pennant

- (b) No effect
- (c) No effect
- (d) No effect
- (e) No effect

Para 3. Benefits will be to the Australian Community

Our Challenge - Safety of Life at Sea

ROYAL VOLUNTEER COASTAL PATROL

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SAR DIVISION

2.

- Para 4.
- (a) No effect
 - (b) No effect
 - (c) No effect
 - (d) No effect
 - (e) No effect
 - (f) No effect
 - (g) No effect
 - (h) No effect
 - (i) No effect
 - (j) No effect
 - (k) No effect

With the nil effect (apart from benefit to the Australian community) the question must be asked what is the relevance in the tariff schedule that creates a problem which necessitates a submission to the Productivity Commission.

The reference is tariff classification 89.06. Section 3 of this heading defines.

'Lifeboats for the placing on board ships, as well intended to be placed at certain points around the coast to help ships in distress'.

In schedule 3, 8906 'other vessels, including warships and lifeboats other than rowing boats' 8906.00.10 not exceeding 150 gross construction terms Duty 5%.

The Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol being virtually a self funded organisation accept help wherever it is available.

As a member of the International Lifeboat Federation we have access to worldwide information in respect to Marine safety and search rescue.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution has a program of replacement of vessels and we as well as other lifesaving organisations, have access to their redundant vessels which despite their age are in pristine condition and we calculate their useful life in our organisation in excess of 20 years.

The Council of the RVCP took advantage of the offer of the RNLI to purchase 6 Waveney Class Vessels, each 44' long and weighing 18tons.

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SAR DIVISION

3.

The RNLI offered interest free terms to December 2001, P & O Nedlloyd shipped them free, but our Government charged 5% duty. The vessels are purpose built and cannot be used for any other purpose.

It is in this regard that I make the following submission to the Commission.

Purpose built lifeboats to be stationed on ship or on shore

Nil % Tariff

I am sure you will realise now my contention that the effect on our trade relations and Australian Industry will be negative.

I would be pleased to appear before the Commission if required.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Jenkins'.

KEITH JENKINS
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL