

AUSTRALIAN SHIPPING INDUSTRY RESOLUTION ACTU CONGRESS 1997

- 1.1 Congress rejects the Federal Liberal-National Coalition Government Shipping Policy which is designed to undermine the Australian shipping industry and Australian seafarers' jobs by the removal of cabotage and the introduction of a second register to employ foreign "guest" workers. These measures together with the Workplace Relations Act and the amendments to the Trade Practices Act are aimed at the maritime unions and would lead to the demise of Australian shipping.
- 1.2 Government shipping policy and the recommendations of the Shipping Reform Group would undermine Australian involvement in the shipping industry, increase the growing Balance of Payments deficit and add to Australia's unemployment crisis.
- 1.3 Since 1980 the maritime unions, together with Australian ship owners and past Federal governments, have developed an on-going reform agenda to achieve an efficient, safe well-regulated industry operating within a competitive framework consistent with Australian community standards. The maritime unions confirm that they remain committed to this ongoing process of co-operative reform.
- 1.4 The ACTU calls on the Federal Government to scrap its Shipping Policy and to develop a positive industry policy for the expansion of Australian shipping by initiating collective discussions with industry participants, including shipping companies and unions. This would ensure the retention of cabotage and the use of Australian vessels in the coastal trade together with an increasing share of our overseas trade being serviced by vessels that are Australian owned or controlled and which employ Australian seafarers under Australian Awards and Agreements.