

Your reference: C09/10887
Our reference: ED09/913
Contact: [REDACTED]

Mr [REDACTED]
Assistant Secretary
Historic Heritage Branch
Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

23 JUL 2009

Attention: Secretariat to the Review of the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976*

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in relation to your letter dated 22 June 2009 regarding the review of the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976*.

I understand that the review is being considered in concert with the possible ratification of the UNESCO 2001 *Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage* (Underwater Cultural Heritage Convention).

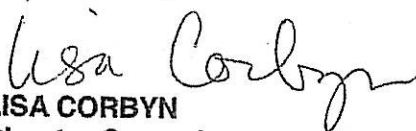
Within NSW, the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) is responsible for the protection of historic heritage on DECC-managed lands and Aboriginal heritage across the landscape, in addition to managing both aquatic reserves and marine parks (as part of the Marine Parks Authority NSW), a number of which contain examples of underwater cultural heritage sites and relics.

DECC considers the review of the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976* timely, and supports the need to consider broadening the provisions of the Act to bring the legislation in line with the *Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage*. For this to occur, not only would the Act need to protect historic shipwrecks and associated relics, it would also need to apply to the protection of other underwater cultural heritage sites and relics, such as sunken aircraft.

I look forward to the outcomes of the *Historic Shipwrecks Act* review, and thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the process.

If you have any queries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact myself or have your staff contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely


LISA CORBYN
Director General

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Department of **Environment & Climate Change** NSW

