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Mr Clive Davidson  
Chief Executive  
Australian Maritime Safety Authority  
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7 5 JAN 1999  
2405

Dear Clive

Over the Christmas-New Year period and like so many others in Australia and overseas, I watched with great interest the drama associated with the 1998 Sydney to Hobart yacht race. While the loss of life was tragic, I firmly believe that the Australian people can look with pride and comfort at the very professional manner in which the responses to the individual incidents and the race as a whole were mounted.

The role played by those directly involved in the rescues will always be more newsworthy than that of those charged with coordinating the response. However, an effective response is predicated on the professionalism of those 'behind the scenes' operators who work under enormous pressure and with little recognition.

I firmly believe that the AMSA staff involved over the extended period were a credit to the Authority and themselves personally.

I would appreciate it if you would pass on to the staff of AusSAR and the Public Relations Section and anyone else involved, my personal congratulations for their competent and professional contribution.

Well done.

Yours sincerely



PAUL MCGRATH  
4 January, 1999