To Commissioners David Robertson and Neil Byron:

I urgently ask you to help protect local and foreign recreational cruisers in Australian waters and nearby high seas by recommending the reform of the Radio Communications Act and related Determination issued by the Australian Communications Authority to allow digital ship-to-shore amateur radio communication via WinLink 2000.

Reforming this law and regulation will provide cruisers with more communications options and more efficient search-and-rescue support if ever they need help in an emergency.

Also, the ability to send and receive email via the Internet allows travelers to stay in touch with family and friends, increasing the comfort level of all. In these uncertain times, this is important.

We understand that all what is needed is to change the ACA Determination to allow interconnection between amateur radio and the Internet. Your Review provides a unique opportunity to liberalize amateur radio operations in Australia. It would allow them to participate in our international cooperative effort and support advances in Information and Communications Technology.

We ask you to recommend that the ACA Determination be suitably amended.

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