

To: Mr. Michael Carmody  
Chief Executive Officer  
and to: Ms Jenny Eutick  
Queensland Regional Director  
Australian Customs Service

Dear Mr Carmody,

date.....

I have just arrived in Australia by yacht and completed customs formalities in the port of .....

I would like to take this opportunity to express my concerns about customs regulations requiring 96 hours notice prior to arriving in an Australian port of entry. My understanding is that this requirement is because of concerns about security, specifically terrorist activity. Have yachts been involved in terrorist activities in Australian waters? Is there evidence of thwarted terrorist yacht activity? Please understand that members of the yachting community are very law abiding and respect Australian sovereignty but the very nature of sailing and the unreliability of electronic communication sometimes makes advance notice difficult; sometimes impossible. The present situation does not seem to allow for special circumstances.

Please also appreciate that almost all yachts arrive in Australia not as commercial ventures but rather as tourists and can make a valuable contribution to the Australian economy. For example, it is estimated that each yacht visiting New Zealand may spend approximately \$30,000 during their time there.

At the present time many foreign yachts are avoiding Australia because of what is seen as draconian and inflexible regulation. The USA, UK and Spain (all of which have suffered terrorist attacks) do not require advance notice of arrival. Is Australia more at risk?

No doubt customs officers are very busy and advance notice may help in planning and logistics. I think most yachts people, would understand and respect that perspective.

I would very much appreciate an acknowledgement of receipt of this letter and any information that would further clarify the issue.

Yours truly,

Yacht .....

Email contact:

Postal contact: