

Organisation: Marine Pilot - Sydney

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Part One:

1: NO.

2: NO.

3: NO.

4: NO.

5: YES.

I am currently a marine pilot in Sydney and have over 30 years experience in the maritime industry and have been advocating for training of cadets for the past ten years having meet with politicians, management of shipping companies and I am an active member of Offshore and Specialist Ships Australia (OSSA).

For years I have spoken on the ABC radio program "Australia All Over" for the need of training cadets and the need of a merchant fleet, they refer to me as the marine correspondent.

I approached the Port Authority of NSW in 2016 and broached the idea of sponsoring two deck cadets.

The board agreed and today I head the Port Authority of NSW deck cadet sponsorship scheme.

6, 7 & 8 N/A

Part Three Other Information to benefit the Strategic Fleet:

At anyone time we sponsor two deck cadets and find them ships to complete the necessary 18 months seetime which is a requirement for them to attend the Australian Maritime College or Hunter TAFE and study to become deck officers.

We pay the cadets a wage, medicals and flights to the ships.

I have formed relationships with 14 shipping companies including 4 international companies, these companies allow our cadets to sail on their vessels.

The cadets sail on a variety of ships such as container, bulk, research, Roll on Roll off, Offshore and some cruise ships.

The experience is nothing any other cadets in Australia get and to date we have sponsored 8 deck cadets and all of them are still working in the industry.

Companies applaud the program and 3 of our cadets have been offered full time cadetships with 3 Australian companies.

We have built up a strong relationship with the Australian Maritime College and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (certification department).

I try and attend the Australian Maritime College regularly and meet with students hoping to embark on a career at sea and encourage them not to give up hope as only a small percentage find cadetships or sponsorship.

Many of the students and cadets ask me for advice and I have become a mentor to many of these people.

Today Australian shipping companies are struggling to find deck and engineer officers, to become a qualified deck officer takes 3.5 to 4 years, we will not be able to man any of the proposed strategic fleet vessels unless we start training ASAP.

Our sponsorship scheme is working and we have injected 8 good people into the industry.

It is critical to the development of the strategic fleet that we have a training Pipeline to man these vessels and it can be done as proven from the Port Authority of NSW deck cadet program.