

CSIRO Staff Association

Level 7 / 350 Queen Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia
Phone: +613 8620 6348
Email: csstaff@cpsu.org.au
Web: www.csirostaff.org.au

A section of the Community and Public Sector Union



Toni Moate, Director NCMI toni.moate@csiro.au

Dan Metcalfe, Director CSIRO O&A dan.metcalfe@csiro.au

Cc : Amanda.meys@csiro.au Jacinta.handley@csiro.au Anna.schwartz@csiro.au
michelle.hackett@cpsu.org.au louise.jarman@cpsu.org.au

Re : RV Linnaeus, Commercial Charter Vessels and Workplace Health & Safety

Dear Dan & Toni,

I am writing to you regarding a number of issues raised by workers on the progress of a decision to provide a permanent solution, to resolve what is now approximately a 9 month interim period of time, with the use of a charter vessel in place of RV Linnaeus which is currently decommissioned due to engine failure.

The Staff Association is aware that very soon, perhaps even as early as next week, the replacement charter vessel is again scheduled to be used instead of the RV Linnaeus.

The Staff Association understands the importance and priority of the ongoing research work being carried out across multiple projects, however the Staff Association is very concerned with the delay on the RV Linnaeus decision and the subsequent health and safety concerns associated with the continued use of the commercial charter vessel for the research work being undertaken.

As per CSIRO's own RV Linnaeus Option Paper clearly outlines it is a false economy to continue to use commercial charter operations while decisions are delayed on repair of the RV Linnaeus, all the while having to manage significant workplace health and safety issues due to commercial charter vessel design without critical controls in place to mitigate hazards on the charter vessel. Other issues of note due to the ongoing use of the commercial charter vessel :

- The spend on the repair engine at \$100,000 once committed to can add 10 years to the service of RV Linnaeus equating to 10K per annum.
- The ongoing cost of using commercial charter vessel at \$3250 per day + costs
- The cost of failed operations due to commercial charter vessel deficiencies

The Staff Association requests as a priority, a consultation meeting on the decision and timeframe on the RV Linnaeus repair together with how hazards will be managed for CSIRO staff until the decision on RV Linnaeus is made and implemented.

Given the health and safety concerns raised, the Staff Association also requests to be provided with a copy of the risk assessment to use the commercial vessel charter (given the charter vessel design differences) that would have been completed prior to the use of the charter vessel when the RV Linnaeus was no longer able to be used.

Please advise by 18/1/22 your best availability from the following dates to meet with myself and our representatives.

Staff Association current availability to meet in the coming weeks to consult are 28/1/22 or 31/1/22.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Tonks', with a small flourish at the end.

Susan Tonks

Secretary, CSIRO Staff Association