

## President's Report July 2019

I am pleased to be able to report that we continue to receive positive feedback about the work AMPI is undertaking. Membership is growing and AMPI's credibility across the industry has significantly improved. This is largely a result of the high standard of the Workshops and Conferences we host. These Conferences continue to deliver quality speakers on relevant topics, identify world best practice, and facilitate debate on some topical issues; enabling Pilots, Ports and Service Providers to continue to improve the services they provide. Our Conferences are also an excellent opportunity for a broad cross section of Businesses, Service Providers, Stakeholders and Regulators to meet and build valuable relationships. I like to call it "Industry Resource Management"!

The AMPI Conference Committee has been preparing for the Sydney Conference for over 18 months and must be congratulated for the world-class event that is emerging. Adam Roberts has undertaken the lead role while moving house and starting piloting in a new port, we are all appreciative of his commitment and passion. We are also grateful to those organisations that have recognised the value these conferences provide for our industry, and have committed to sponsoring and supporting these events.

Our industry continues to face challenges. AMPI members have expressed their concern about competition in pilotage as it is emerging in some Australian ports, and more recently, we have seen larger investment entities now making inroads into pilotage. Regulators now have an increased responsibility to ensure standards are not compromised in their pursuit of profit, and shareholders in these companies must be aware that the primary role of pilotage is to ensure the protection of the port infrastructure, the environment and economy before dividends. AMPI will be watching this space very closely.

We are pleased that one of these companies has signed up as a major sponsor for the Sydney Conference so we trust that this contribution demonstrates a sincere commitment to support AMPI's objectives to maintain the highest possible standards for pilot recruitment, training, transfer and management in Australasian Ports.

While we are limited in our capacity to prevent competition, AMPI does have the capacity to develop industry standards for all aspects of pilotage that meet with world's best practice, and we encourage all pilots and service providers to exceed these standards.

All of us have a role to play in this respect, by demonstrating to the industry that pilotage in our ports is conducted at the highest level. To do this we must stay up to date with industry trends, embrace modern technology, listen to the experts, learn from others' misfortune, update our skills, share knowledge and not accept second best.

Attending the AMPI Conferences and Workshops, and supporting AMPI, is how we can achieve this and give a collective assurance to the industry that ships that transit our ports are in good hands.

I look forward to seeing you in Sydney in October

*Neil Farmer*

AMPI President

0417 212 780

