

22 David Street
Mosman NSW 2088
3rd May 1999

Coroners Court Glebe,
44 Parramatta Road,
Glebe NSW 2037

Attention: Mr John Abernathy

Re: Safety at Sea - THE ALL IN ONE SAFETY JACKET

Dear Sir,

Further to my correspondence dated the 24th February 1999 regarding the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race I wish to offer my recommendation regarding the safety of crews at sea whether they be aboard racing yachts, power boats, general cruisers, fishing boats or other. This recommendation could be considered by you and your Office to supplement other necessary changes to the current safety requirements that you are studying regarding this race.

Yachtsman including myself take too many unnecessary risks and what I am recommending is nothing more than "good old commonsense" for the better of safety while at sea.

A Government approved wet weather jacket is actually available, made in Australia, and do provide the following in-built protection and safety rescue facilities, which are:-

- built in safety harness with tether
- built-in life vest that inflates either automatically or manually by the release of air from a small self contained gas bottle which is built-into the wet weather jacket. The option between automatic and manual is one of preference only.
- a whistle which is attached to the jacket
- a personal E.P.I.R.B which is attached to the jacket
- a strobe light which is activated either automatically or manually pending on the type chosen by the user
- the cost of the jacket is in the financial means of most serious sailors.

The design of the jacket naturally requires yearly certification similar to life rafts and the jacket should be properly maintained and stored when not in use, all in accordance with the manufacturers recommendation.

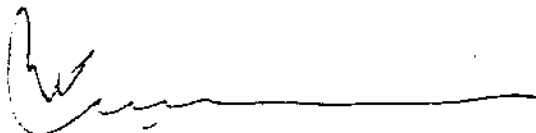
I strongly believe that all crew should be wearing this type of safety equipment. Let us call it "THE ALL IN ONE SAFETY JACKET". This jacket will help reduce the loss of life and will assist with the rescue of persons overboard with a minimum of time lost in the retrieval operation. This jacket which is manufactured in various sizes to suit body weight/height is comfortable and simple to wear.

To ensure that this equipment is used, may I recommend, all Governments and insurers should insist that the organising committees incorporate this safety requirement into the rules for all participants.

The safety requirement for yachting could be adapted for many other sporting events and leisurely activities to provide the participant with a greater safety protection than ever before available, but enforced. This equipment should also be a requirement for use in marine work related activities such as the Waterways, MWS and DB, the EPA, and private contractors to mention a few.

I trust that this recommendation will have your support as I believe it is a really positive response and solution in reducing the number of losses that occur at sea, like the 1998 Sydney to Hobart. If I can be of any further assistance please call me at home on (02) 9969 4185 or at work on (02) 9906 1366.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Purcell', written over a horizontal line.

Richard Purcell.