

INQUEST INTO THE DEATHS IN THE 1998 SYDNEY TO HOBART YACHT RACE

STATEMENT OF HANS SOMMER

On 29 June 2000 I, **HANS SOMMER** of Unit 9, 12 Kareela Road, Cremorne, in the State of New South Wales, company director, say:

Involvement with the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia ("CYCA")

1. I have been a member of the CYCA for approximately 14 years and commenced sailing when I joined. I purchased my first yacht 12 years ago and became involved in offshore sailing. For the past 12 years I have regularly participated in short offshore and short passage racing. I have not done a lot of long ocean racing and in particular, I have not sailed in a Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race ("SHYR").
2. I have been a member of the CYCA Board of Directors ("the board") since July 1994. In July 1998 I was elected Vice Commodore and still hold that position. By virtue of my position as Vice Commodore, I am Chairman of the CYCA Sailing Committee ("Sailing Committee") and the SHYR Race Committee ("Race Committee"). Prior to 1998 I had not been a member of the Sailing Committee or Race Committee.

CYCA's Sailing Management Structure

3. The CYCA's Memorandum and Articles of Association and By-Laws outline the CYCA's overall management structure. I refer to Volume 13A of the Brief of Evidence, which contains true copies of those documents. For convenience, I will briefly outline in the following paragraphs the CYCA's overall management structure and then, set out the roles of the Sailing Committee, Race Committee, Sailing Office and Race Management Team in the organisation and management of the SHYR.