

Thursday, 23 September 2004

> **COMM CIRC 04/89 SC CIRC 04/30**

Visa Issue to Attend CCAMLR Meetings in Australia

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Dr D. Miller **Executive Secretary**

Attch.

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Further to COMM CIRC 04/86 and SC CIRC 04/29, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs has provided additional information on the issuing of visas for CCAMLR meetings. The attention of Members is therefore drawn to the attached.

Dr D.G.M. Miller Executive Secretary

Attch.



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

21 September 2004

Dr Denzil Miller **Executive Secretary** CCAMLR PO Box 213 NORTH HOBART TASMANIA 7002

Dear Dr Miller

Thank you for your letter of 17 September 2004 seeking confirmation that the newly implemented arrangements for the issue of visas to participants at this year's CCAMLR Conference in Hobart would continue to allow for the conditions in the CCAMLR Headquarters Agreement to be met.

As we discussed in our telephone conversation with you earlier this week, we have had to change our administrative procedures as it is no longer appropriate under the subclass 995 diplomatic visa regulations to issue 995 visas to participants and delegates at CCAMLR conferences in Hobart.

The Department of Immigration, and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs has advised that arrangements have been made to issue conference participants with 456 Short Stay Business Visitor visas. The list of delegates has been provided to all relevant posts to assist with visa issue. The arrangements will include the waiver of the \$65 visa application charge on the production of a certificate from CCAMLR stating that the applicant is a participating delegate or observer at the 2004 CCAMLR conference in Hobart.

The new administrative procedures for visa issue do not affect the privileges and immunities that Conference participants are eligible for under the Headquarters Agreement. These will apply to Conference participants in the same manner as they have for past Conferences.

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Please contact me should there be any issues arising from the implementation of the new visa arrangements. I would like to also take this opportunity to wish you and your colleagues a successful 2004 CCAMLR Conference.

Yours sincerely

Anne Plunkett

Deputy Chief of Protocol

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