

NJG/JAC/29639

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CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS  
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS  
IWC.CCG.303

**Note from Australia regarding Iceland's instrument of adherence**

Australia's Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission, Dr Conall O'Connell, has requested that the following message and attachments be circulated to all Commissioners to the International Whaling Commission:

*This is to inform you that Australia has lodged its formal response to the instrument lodged by Iceland on 10 October 2002 concerning the International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW). The attached Third Person Note was conveyed to the U.S. State Department on 5 February 2003.*

*I would also like to draw the Commissioners' attention to a media release on this matter, made by Australia's Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Hon Dr David Kemp MP, which can be accessed at:*

*<http://www.ea.gov.au/minister/env/2003/mr06feb03.html>*

*I note that the instrument makes clear that Australia considers Iceland's reservation to the moratorium on commercial whaling to be prohibited under international law as being incompatible with the object and purpose of the ICRW, and thus invalid from the start.*

*From a policy perspective, Australia considers that Iceland's reservation represents an attempt to undermine the moratorium.*

Dr. Nicky Grandy  
Secretary to the Commission