



PRIME MINISTER  
CANBERRA

### MESSAGE FOR SPIRIT OF AUSTRALIA - CLIPPER ROUND THE WORLD RACE

I am delighted to provide this message of support for the Spirit of Australia as its intrepid crew reach the finishing line after ten long months on the ocean.

Adventures like the Clipper Round The World Race are an integral part of our long and proud maritime history – a history as old as our nation itself.

Indeed, there is a delightful symmetry in the fact that the Spirit of Australia is returning to the waters where the First Fleet began its important journey two centuries ago.

The Spirit of Australia certainly has an impressive lead over its opponents and if they maintain that lead to the end – as I'm sure they can – it will be another sailing success story right up there with Australia II and Jessica Watson.

I warmly wish Brendan Hall, his fellow crew members and support teams all the very best for a safe and triumphant journey. The hopes and ambitions of Australia go with you.

The Honourable Julia Gillard MP  
Prime Minister of Australia