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## STATEMENT ON "WINCH TEST" VIDEO

Stress Free Marine Pty Ltd (**Stress Free Marine**) has become aware of a video (**Winch Test Video**), described by some as of a "Drum Winch Shootout", which has been uploaded and subsequently shared on a number of on-line forums, including Lone Star Marine's.

The video depicts certain testing apparently undertaken by Melbourne Testing Services Pty Ltd (**MTS**) on single examples of four manufacturer's marine drum winches sold to the Australian market, one of which was Stress Free Marine's "Mini 50 Standard" model.

Stress Free Marine prides itself on and stands by the performance, value, and durability of all of its winches.

Stress Free Marine welcomes and encourages any and all opportunities for boat owners to learn about, understand, and compare the features and benefits of all of the winches in the market place.

In all these comparisons, it is important that "apples are compared with apples", and that all relevant information is at hand to place information in context.

Stress Free Marine has a number of concerns about the way in which the Drum Winch Shootout was designed and undertaken, and more importantly, the way in which particular information was or was not disclosed, and the manner in which some commentators have sought to interpret and report on the outcomes of the particular testing that was undertaken.

In particular, Stress Free Marine is concerned by any suggestion to the effect that the tests were "independently designed", and by any suggestion that the tests provide a complete or accurate measurement or assessment of the "real world" performance or durability of the products in question.

Stress Free Marine is continuing its investigations in the matter, but in the meantime, and in the interests of transparency and the best information for the consumer, raises the following points:

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- The organisation that undertook the tests, MTS, has advised that the particular tests it undertook were entirely specified and designed by its client, which Stress Free Marine understands was Lone Star Marine.
- Similarly, the particular models of winch used were chosen by MTS's client, rather than MTS.
- To Stress Free Marine's understanding, MTS does not seek to assert that the tests which it undertook were, in its opinion or assessment, the best or most appropriate, or reasonable or accurate, for assessing "real world" performance and durability.
- The tests, and the way that outcomes are represented in the video, fail to identify and make clear that some marine drum winches (including Stress Free Marine's "Mini 50 Standard" model) are designed to "cut out" well before reaching theoretical maximum "pull weight" to ensure longevity, and as a safety feature to prevent accidental vessel submersion.
- Many designers and manufacturers of DC current motors will include operating instructions prohibiting rapid and repeated current reversal (such as that seen in some of the testing in the video) which can damage and reduce the longevity of all such motors.
- The video appears to explain or justify the selection of the winch models used by reference to manufacturers' recommendations for 6 metre vessels. It does not explain why other manufacturers' products were not included, and does not explain, for example, that Stress Free Marine offers a variety of winch configurations recommended for that size vessel, each of which has different features and benefits (including the option of a 1,400W motor, in contrast to the 500W motor in the "Mini 50 Standard" model).

In summary, while Stress Free Marine welcomes all fair and reasonable scrutiny and comparison of its products, it believes that customers should have all information at hand, so that they can make the best decision about the "real world" performance, durability and value of all of the winches on the market.

Stress Free Marine welcomes any questions consumers may have in respect of the Winch Test Video, or its own products (including motor drum winches also fit for use by a 6-metre boat that were not tested by MTS).