

Montara Commission of Inquiry

The Report of the Montara Commission of Inquiry was released by the Minister for Resources and Energy on 24 November 2010. On 25 May 2011, the Minister released the Government's final response to the report, accepting 92 recommendations, noting 10 and not accepting three due to them being technically inappropriate. The Government response was developed by an Inter-Departmental Committee comprising all key Government agencies, including AMSA and the Department of Infrastructure and Transport.

Chapter 6 of the report is titled "Environmental Response" and is of most relevance to AMSA. This chapter includes fifteen recommendations, with implementation of nine recommendations requiring some level of AMSA involvement, either directly or by providing input to other agencies. AMSA will continue to work with the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (RET) and other key stakeholders to implement the accepted recommendations.

The Commission of Inquiry Report and the Government response can be found at: www.ret.gov.au/Department/responses/montara/report/Pages/Reports.aspx.



It has been another very busy period for the Marine Environment Division.



The National Plan and NMERA review is now well underway. We are on target to deliver this report and the associated risk assessment early in the New Year. The independent report will provide some valuable pointers for improvement in the future. This will involve further careful consideration and more consultation, particularly within jurisdictions.

The Strategic Stakeholder Group and the National Plan Management Committee have provided valuable input into the draft risk assessment.

The competency based training for the National Response Team is going from strength to strength. Several courses have already been delivered and we would like to thank you for the excellent feedback we have received to date.

The Montara Oil spill is very much in focus again in parallel with the Deepwater Horizon incident, in the Gulf of Mexico. There are global initiatives examining both future prevention work and future oil spill contingency planning requirements. Closer to home government departments, including AMSA, are working on the recommendations stemming from the Montara incident.

The tendering process for the refreshment and replenishment of the National Stockpiles is coming to fruition. Several orders have now been placed. This will align very closely with the DNV risk assessment.

From an incident perspective we have been very quiet. However, the risk is always there. We have had several near misses where there was a high risk of pollution. Fortunately these have been averted.

Lastly I must mention the very good news about the work of the Marine Environment Protection Committee this year and the successful adoption of MARPOL Annex VI Regulations for the prevention of air pollution from ships to make mandatory the Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI) for new ships, and the Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan (SEEMP) for all ships. This is the first ever mandatory global greenhouse gas reduction regime for an international industry sector, a very good achievement.

Toby Stone
General Manager
Marine Environment Division

Oil spill response: new wildlife cleaning facility

New South Wales (NSW) Maritime, in its capacity as the Statutory agency and one of the combat agencies in NSW, has recently taken delivery of a custom-made oiled wildlife washing facility which will significantly improve response times for cleaning oiled wildlife.

The wildlife cleaning facility is housed in a 20ft long shipping container and was custom-built in New Zealand, designed by Massey University for usage as part of the New Zealand national arrangements. When not deployed, it is located at Sydney Ports' Emergency Response Base at Glebe.



The unit is ready for transport by road to any location where it is needed. Once attached to an external power, water and gas source, it provides warm, softened water to three internal washing bays and has enough capacity to provide warm water to a number of other external washing bays. A self draining floor ensures all waste water can be captured for appropriate disposal.



The unit would be made available for deployment to other States if there is a requirement to clean oiled wildlife. Fauna care agencies – both government and NGO – will have access to the facility if needed via the NSW State emergency management arrangements and the National Plan.



Representatives from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Australian Seabird Rescue, Taronga Zoo Wildlife Hospital, Native Animal Trust, Marine Fauna Program, Sydney Ports and some interstate agencies have inspected the facility.

Rena incident

While going to print.... on Wednesday 5 October 2011 the fully laden container ship *Rena* ran aground at high speed on to a reef 22 kilometres NNE of Mount Maunganui, in the New Zealand Bay of Plenty.

AMSA is providing Maritime New Zealand with support in responding to the incident through a Memorandum of Arrangement. To date more than 50 specialist personnel have been deployed from the National Response Team. The team consists of experienced personnel from AMSA, the States and Northern Territory, Great Barrier Marine Park Authority, and industry through the Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre (AMOSC). Thank you to all National Plan stakeholders for their support and assistance to date. A full report will be provided in the next issue.

Ship-to-ship transfer legislation enters into force

In August 2011, new regulations applying to ship-to-ship (STS) transfers at sea entered into force for Australia, with the proclamation of the Commonwealth *Protection of the Sea (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Amendment (Oil Transfers) Act 2001*. The new legislation is based on Chapter 8 of Annex I of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), and sets out requirements for applicable oil tankers when undertaking STS operations.

Oil tankers are required to carry a plan approved by the flag State prescribing how to conduct STS operations, taking into account information contained in the best practice guidelines for STS operations. The legislation also requires oil tankers to notify the relevant coastal State party of certain specified details of STS operations at least 48 hours before commencing STS operations in the territorial sea or exclusive economic zone of the coastal state. STS operations conducted on or after 1 April 2012 will need to comply.



The new STS regulations will apply to operations such as this off the NSW coast earlier this year

MOU Signings

Two agreements with Papua New Guinea were signed in Cairns on May 5 at the Maritime Labour Convention Regional Dialogue.

The first agreement promotes mutual co-operation on marine pollution preparedness and response. In the event of a marine pollution incident, each maritime Authority can request assistance from the other Authority and take all reasonable efforts to provide vessel and aerial assets, equipment, materials and personnel to respond to a pollution incident. Each Authority has also undertaken to consult on a range of matters pertinent to pollution of the marine environment by oil and hazardous and noxious substances.

The second agreement concerns cooperation between Australia and Papua New Guinea on improved marine safety. This agreement forms an annex to a broader agreement between the Governments of Australia and Papua New Guinea on Cooperation in the Transport Sector signed on 5 November 2010. Activities under the annex include joint casualty management and an oil spill exercise.

AusAID will consider funding projects under the agreement up until 30 June 2013 to a maximum of A\$1m for each financial year.



2011 Environmental and Science Coordinators Workshop

GEMS hosted this year's National Plan Environment and Science Coordinators (ESC) workshop in Hobart in late August, under the theme of "Raising the Bar". The old adage that "timing is everything" could not have been more apt. As well as the usual networking and sharing knowledge and experience, the 33 participants from all the States/Northern Territory, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australian Antarctic Division, Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC), Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre (AMOSOC), New Zealand and Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), had two important and complementary tasks to complete this year – creating a better description of spill response environmental functions and recommending improvements in how these could be delivered.

First, participants took a bottom-up look at the environment and science-related areas of spill response, and agreed on four quite disparate functions: key adviser to the Incident Controller; information management and analysis within the Planning Section; environmental supervision of and support to field work within Operations Section; and Agency Liaison communicating to the incident management team the support being offered and the objectives sought by key environmental stakeholder agencies. They then looked at where, within the incident control structure, these functions are delivered from. From this, specific roles could be identified and draft job descriptions developed.

This analysis fed directly into the workshop's major second task; to provide a view on how to better deliver the environmental

and science advice required in spill response. This discussion resulted in an innovative, comprehensive and consensus set of recommendations to AMSA and their own agencies about the importance of environmental advice, functions and roles in spill response. Based on the wide variety of functions identified earlier, one important conclusion was that ESCs alone can not prepare for, resource and provide for these functions – a stronger "whole-of-agency" approach would be required in future.

As well as the presentations focussed on the big issues, another highlight of the three day workshop was the range of "Show and Tell" sessions provided by attendees as a way to share their experiences. These included: lessons from the "big one" in the Gulf of Mexico; a new Victorian web-based tool for wildlife management; six weeks of work in New South Wales (NSW) to prevent thousands of birds being oiled by a "small spill"; a better understanding of water movement in the Tamar river from Doppler radar surveys; Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) using online tools to map fishing activity; and (CSIRO) promoting their oil spill response expertise, including designing post-spill monitoring.

Discussions on oiled wildlife response (OWR) concluded that it was time to shift the focus from the environmental aspects of OWR to its operational needs, and that the national OWR coordination group should reconvene to support this.

By all measures, this was one of the more successful and enjoyable workshops of recent years.

Training

National Plan Training is gaining momentum with our Competency Based Training Courses underway. SEER Associates are contracted to deliver the Incident Management Team Courses and the Australian Emergency Management Institute contracted to deliver our Operations, Logistics and Incident Controller Courses. Other requests for quotes are presently being negotiated for a range of training.

In the last twelve months 565 people have received training under the National Plan. Australian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIMS) training was delivered in each

State and Territory and our underpinning online learning "Introduction to Marine Pollution Response" has been very popular.

The training calendar on the AMSA website provides details of all our training courses including dates and where they will be held. Most agencies are forward planning to ensure they have the relevant people on each of the courses. www.amsa.gov.au/Marine_Environment_Protection/National_plan/Training_Program/index.asp

The training team of Fran Brolsma, Cassandra Brooks and Susan McLeod have many plans to further develop and grow National Plan training and any enquiries should be directed to this team: nationalplantraining@amsa.gov.au

South Australia shows interest in the Deepwater Horizon Response

On 23 August 2011 approximately 70 staff from South Australia's (SA) Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure attended a presentation by Joe Rositano, one of SA's on-call Incident Controllers, about his experience in attending the International Observer's Tour of the Deepwater Horizon Response. Joe attended with other members from Australia's National Response Team to see first hand how BP and the United States (US) Authorities responded to the prolonged spill.

Joe provided an entertaining overview of the spill, having donned a blonde wig and lab coat to demonstrate his enthusiasm in assisting with the testing of prawns for the presence of hydrocarbons! Joe explained the complexities and magnitude of the response with the US able to marshal around 48,000 responders, over 5,000 vessels, 120 aircraft, 700 km of boom, 1,000 skimmers and with the oil affecting 5 separate States. His presentation included actual footage of beach, marine, wildlife and swamp (marsh) response.

Those that attended felt it was worth giving up their lunch break for, with some enquiring how they could be part of SA's response team. Joe is preparing to deliver another presentation for those who were not able to attend with around 30 people already expressing an interest.



Joe "assisting" with the prawn testing

New Marine Pollution Training Coordinator in Victoria

The Marine Pollution Team in Victoria is pleased to introduce its newest member, Nick Bugeja. Nick has been appointed, part-time, as the marine pollution Training Coordinator to assist the team with a busy training schedule over the next nine months.

Nick's background is in Education and Training, both as a Vocational and Educational Training trainer and manager of commercial and emergency service training programs, and also as a school teacher. Along with event management and course administration experience, Nick has extensive experience in training design, adult education principles and the development, testing and delivery of training programs.

We are very excited to welcome Nick to the team. For any training enquiries in Victoria please email:

Nick.bugeja@transport.vic.gov.au.



Australian Maritime Safety Authority Welcomes

Susan McLeod

Logistics and Administration Officer

Susan joined AMSA in August 2011 as the Logistics and Administration Officer for Marine Environment Division (MED). Susan's responsibilities include coordinating activities on behalf of MED, facilitating budget information for the section, assisting with Audits and inspections of AMSA's National Plan oil spill response programs and prepare input to reports on inspection findings and recommendations, providing assistance and advice on behalf of AMSA at pollution incidents and general administrative assistance to MED. Before joining AMSA Susan worked delivering a program to Indigenous Australians within the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Paul Irving

Senior Scientific Coordinator

Paul joined AMSA's Marine Environment Division, in April 2011 in the role of Senior Scientific Coordinator. The purpose of the role is to provide effective environmental and scientific advice and support in preparation for and response to oil, chemical and marine casualty incidents. This includes advice on pollution combat materials, including oil spill control agents. With the help of Giovanna Lorenzin (Information Systems Coordinator) Paul provides national information systems supporting oil, chemical and marine casualty response operations, including geographic information systems and spill trajectory modelling. This advice is available to other operational areas of AMSA.

Prior to joining AMSA in April 2011, Paul spent 26 years working primarily within the New Zealand Government including a 7 year stint with Maritime New Zealand and in

various fields of public policy and operations, but always with an environmental core and mostly with a marine or maritime theme, or a focus on science, infrastructure, energy and climate change. Starting with degrees in marine science and natural management Paul has since worked in a range of roles across fisheries management, marine and coastal ecological research and conservation, marine pollution prevention, response and control, transport pollution research and policy, energy, infrastructure and climate change policy, and Antarctic science.

Scott Wilson

Equipment Officer

Scott joined the Marine Environment Division team in August 2011. Scott is responsible for providing assistance in the management of all response assets including audits and contract management. Previously, Scott worked for 5 years as a Test and Trials Manager in Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO), managing medium Test and Trial contracts on behalf of Defence. Prior to DMO, Scott completed a 21 year career in the Australian Defence Force (Army) as a Fitter and Turner including two overseas operational deployments.

Mick Fleming

Senior Response Coordinator

Mick Fleming joined AMSA's Marine Environment Division, in September 2011, as the Senior Response Coordinator. Mick's role is to assist in preparation for and response to recovery from marine pollution incidents.

Prior to joining AMSA Mick worked on the oil rigs in Bass Strait before joining the RAN for 7 years. He was then enticed into the fire service where he stayed for 16 years riding the trucks for 11 years. Mick then moved into a managerial role working as a training manager with the responsibility of 44 fire stations, then going onto the role of operational area director managing a number of fire stations.

Mick then joined Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) to broaden his emergency management knowledge across government. Mick was based in Townsville and Rockhampton and received a few calls from AMSA when they misplaced a boat or two.

After 5 years with EMQ, Mick changed a letter in his employer details and joined EMA as a senior educational officer at Mt Macedon. In this role Mick developed and facilitated emergency management educational programs and practical activities to clients from the Australian Government, States & Territories, Local Government, the private sector and countries in the Asia / Pacific region.

In 2009, Mick was appointed to improve governance in risk and business continuity for the Attorney-General's Department in Canberra. This work involved developing frameworks and guidelines in risk management, fraud control and business continuity arrangements



From left Mick Fleming, Scott Wilson, Susan McLeod and Paul Irving

AMSA Support for Marine Conservation in Torres Strait

Tagai College at Thursday Island recently held their first Grade 8 “Conservation Camp” at Bampfield Beach, Prince of Wales Island, Torres Strait. This outing was a variation from previous school camps which had tended to centre on cultural connections with the ocean and islands of the Torres Strait, and instead, focused the kid’s attention on the ever increasing need for conservation of the marine environment that their ancestors have cherished for many thousands of years. The conservation theme reflects a very real philosophy of the Tagai Marine Studies Unit, and as such, was met with great enthusiasm by the students who had been exposed to the principle and theory of marine conservation and were keen to put all of that into action.

Year 8 teachers and students were supported by a fantastic team of school staff, as well as various government agencies, including the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. On this occasion, AMSA’s Thursday Island Community Liaison Officer, Adrian Davidson teamed up with Karlina See Kee from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to deliver talks on subjects such as boating safety, oil pollution and clean up and risks to shipping from marine debris. The officer also led the Year 8 boys through a practical exercise in retrieval, identification and removal of ghost nets. The team was not alone on the beach with support from AMSA’s Marine Environment Division in providing a number of “Save our Seas” educational kits. The kits, as shown in the attached picture, provide information on the marine environment and contain a number of educational aids such as posters, pamphlets, stickers, mathematics on oil spills and a DVD, which were a real hit with students at the camp.

Adrian would like to say a big thankyou to the Tagai College team for deciding on an environmental theme, and to the students for supporting the initiative with such enthusiasm. Despite some less than ideal weather, the week was a fantastic success, with the results ensuring AMSA’s support of the camp in years to come.



AMOSC Welcomes

AMOSC welcomes the arrival of Emily Sahajdak into the recently vacated Administrative Officer role; as the new ‘face of AMOSC’. Emily is the first point of contact for all Member Company representatives, trainees and government colleagues. Emily has an extensive administration background focussed most recently in the transport sector and brings much needed organisational and process skills to the AMOSC business area.

AMOSC continues to expand membership of the industry mutual aid Core Group with a potential membership target of around 100, a commitment to run 3 training programs (20 places per course) each year for the Core Group ensures that all personnel will have access.

New equipment has been purchased and commissioned to support members engaged in smaller or single well exploration programs to ensure a basic level of response capability is maintained locally.

10’ containers hold equipment packages tailored to meet the response needs of the particular operation.

In addition to the training provided at the Geelong Centre, AMOSC personnel continue to be engaged in training and support activities around the country, Darwin, Broome, Karratha, Sydney and Perth have been the most recent destinations for the weary travellers!



What's On

October 2011

Course Name	Organisation	Location	Dates
Introduction to Marine Oil Spill Responses	Maritime Safety Queensland	Cairns, QLD	4-5 October
AIIMS	Department of Transport, VIC	Melbourne, VIC	4-5 October
Marine Oil Spill Responder Level 3	Maritime Safety Queensland	Cairns, QLD	6-7 October
Course in Oil Spill Response Operations	AMOSC	Geelong, VIC	10-14 October
Shoreline Training Workshop	WA DOT	Perth, WA	18-19 October
Incident Management Team (IMT) Course	AMSA	Mount Macedon, VIC	31 October- 4 November

November 2011

Course Name	Organisation	Location	Dates
Operations Specialist Course	AMSA	Mount Macedon, VIC	7-11 November
Course in Oil Spill Response Command & Control	AMOSC	Geelong, VIC	7-11 November
Introduction to Marine Oil Spill Response	Maritime Safety Queensland	Urangan, QLD	6-9 November
Shoreline Responder Course	Maritime Safety Queensland	Urangan, QLD	10-11 November
Logistics, Finance & Administration	Maritime Safety Queensland	Mackay, QLD	15-16 November
Regional Responders Initial Training Course	Maritime New Zealand	Auckland, NZ	15-18 November

December 2011

Course Name	Organisation	Location	Dates
Marine Oil Spill Responder Level 4	Maritime Safety Queensland	Brisbane, QLD	12-16 December

For further information on national plan training:

www.amsa.gov.au/Marine_Environment_Protection/National_plan/Training_Program/index.asp

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