

The wonders of oil spill clean ups

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Australian Government
Australian Maritime Safety Authority

33rd MLAANZ Conference

The wonders of oil spill clean ups

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GENERAL MANAGER**





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- **Fully integrated Emergency Response Centre**
 - Multiple incident co-ordination and management
 - Interaction and support with other agencies

- **Modern hi tech permanent search aircraft**
 - Full electronic search capability
 - Multiple role capacity

- **National emergency towage capability**

- **MERCOM** - National marine emergency response decision maker

- **Powers of intervention and place of refuge clarity**



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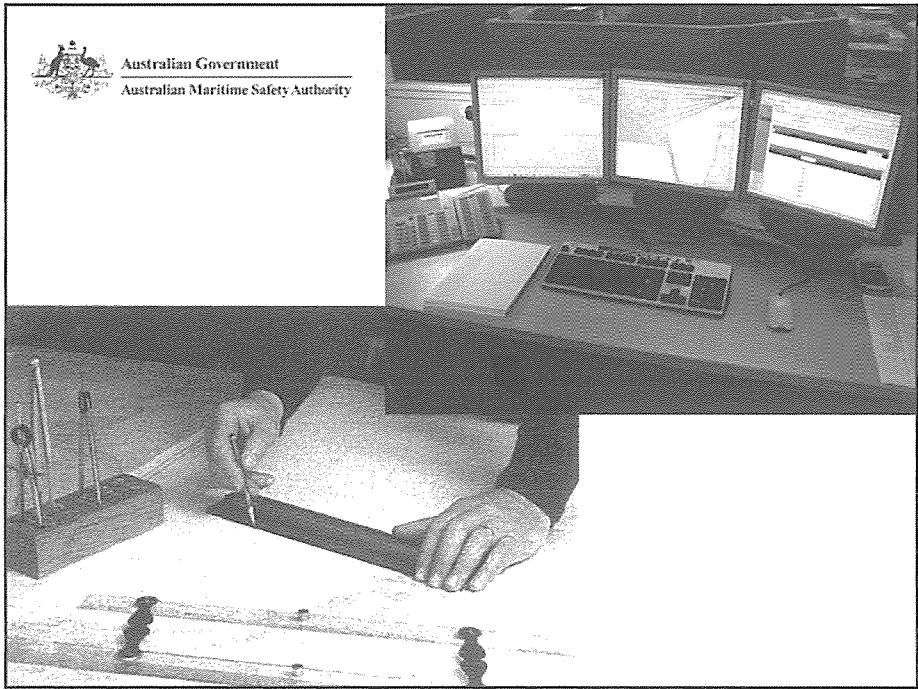
ERC

- **Integrate all AMSA emergency functions:**
 - Manage “multi” incidents:
 - Multi-agency (AMSA, EMA, Police, States etc.)
 - Multi-disciplinary (SAR, pollution, ETV, Pol, other)
 - Multi-incident (more than one incident in progress)

- **24-hour Emergency Response Centre**
 - H24 aviation & maritime SAR coordination
 - Receive distress communications
 - Pollution, ETV, other responses as required

- **Purpose built Disaster Recovery Facility**

- **Decision support systems** for AMSA senior managers, media relations, liaison officers



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PLANES

- AeroRescue Pty Ltd (Paspaley Group)
- Provide 5 dedicated Dornier 328-120-TP
- Darwin, Perth, Cairns, Melbourne, & Brisbane





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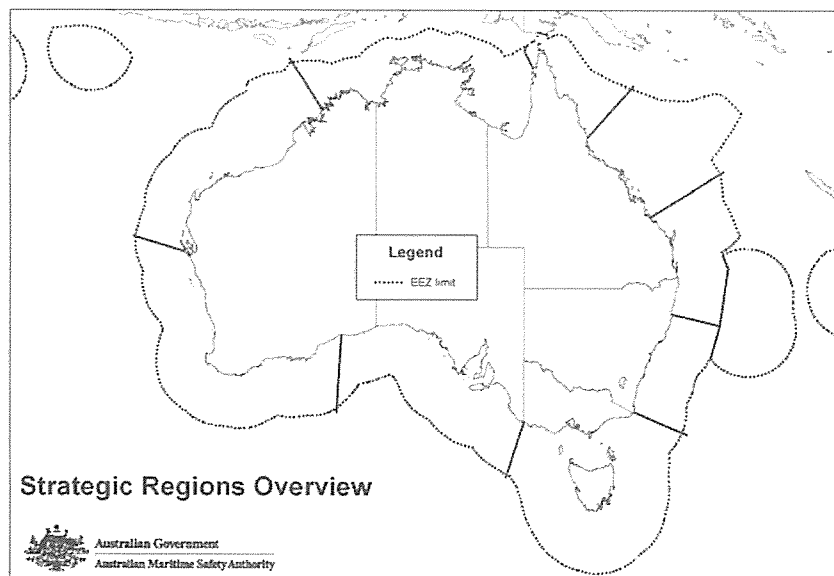
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A three tiered approach towards ETV:

- **Level 1** – Single dedicated ETV for northern GBR / Torres Strait region
- **Level 2** – Contracted capability located in various ports around the coast
- **Level 3** – Vessels of opportunity, either at sea or in port

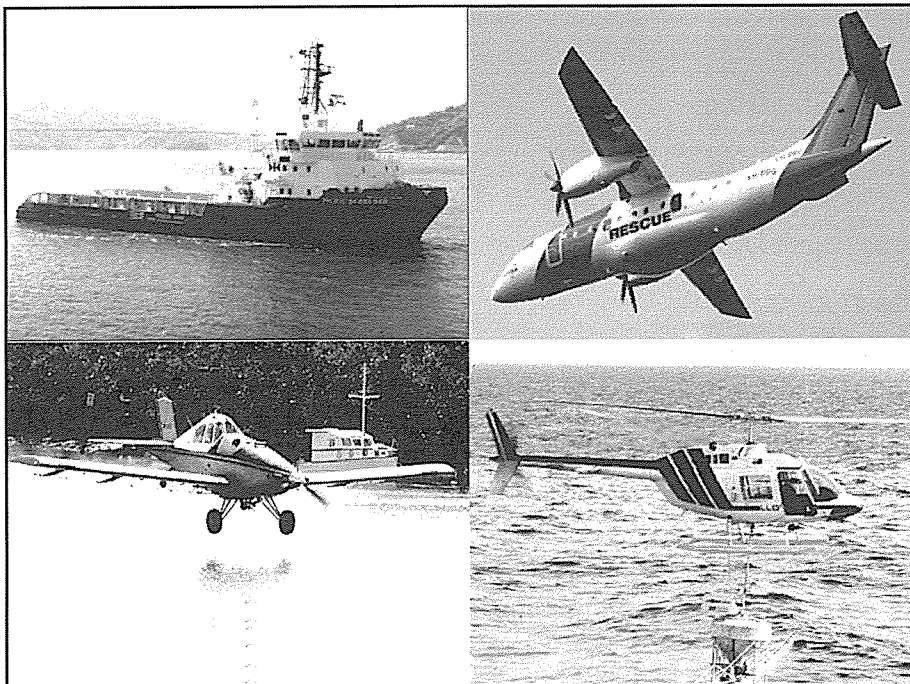




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MERCOM

- Responsible for the management of maritime emergencies (except SAR)
- Utilises the resources of the ERC
- Manages the ETV network, training and tasking
- Manages the daily tasking of the GBR/TS dedicated ETV
- Manages AMSA's National Plan pollution preparedness and response capability
- Maintains a close relationship with State/NT, port, and industry marine response managers







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Oil spill clean-up crews are winning battle

Clean-up crews believe they are winning the battle against a huge oil slick in Gladstone Harbour on Queensland's central coast.

About 25,000 litres of heavy fuel oil spilled into the harbour and was washed upstream into the bulk coal pier as it was also before midnight on Thursday.

Conservation groups for a long term monitoring amid fears that the spill could push an oil slick into the Great Barrier Reef.

BRISBANE — Conservationists fear that strong winds could push an oil slick choking a central Queensland harbour into the Great Barrier Reef.

Windy conditions and choppy seas have slowed the clean up of 25,000 litres of heavy fuel oil from the port of Gladstone after a tug crashed into a bulk carrier

moving out to sea.

"They found a wedge-shaped area of oiled mangroves about 150m long and 50m at its widest point," Mr Orgill said. "The oiling was heavy but localised mainly along the shore-

was a priority.

"So far we have recovered eight tonnes of solid waste and four tonnes of liquid waste," Captain Watkinson said. There was still a lot of debris churning in the harbour but it

Barrier Reef spill fear

shortly before midnight on Tuesday. Skimmers were forced to retreat to more sheltered parts of the harbour as winds picked up late on Thursday, keeping crews from deeper areas where a wide slick of oil remains.

However, more than 7000 litres of oil has been removed.

Australian Marine Conservation Society spokesman Craig

Bohm said authorities had to implement a long-term monitoring programme to assess the slick's impact.

"I really hope the oil spill on the surface has been contained," he said yesterday. "But with the high winds and the quite strong current, the potential for spread (into the Great Barrier Reef) is certainly greater than in winter."

Fears oil spill may reach reef

Ian Gerard

GREEN groups fear that a major oil spill at the central Queensland port of Gladstone could threaten parts of the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Authorities yesterday continued the clean-up operation of 25,000 litres of heavy fuel oil — the state's worst spill in 75 years — which this week contaminated an 80sq km zone around the

"The combination of a current, a southerly wind and a heavy outgoing tide from the Gladstone harbour itself is a lethal combination," he said.

"It's blowing quite hard from the south which means if it does escape the harbour area it could easily reach the reef."

However QPWS district manager Dave Orgill said he did not expect the spill would affect the Great Barrier Reef.

The spill happened on Tues-

to the mouth of the Collopy River, where clean-up crews worked much of yesterday.

"So far we have recovered eight tonnes of solid waste and four tonnes of liquid waste," Mr Watkinson said.

"There is still a lot of light sheen in the harbour."

Mr Bohm called for an investigation into how the spill occurred. "The big concern now is that as the oils sink to the bottom, it gets up to the mun-



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HARBOUR SPILL AFTERMATH

What a big oily mess...

By ZOE SINCLAIR

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OILED wildlife and mangroves are next to be tackled, as the clean-up is scaled back today, four days after 25 tonnes of oil leaked into the Gladstone Harbour.

The focus today will turn to the foreshore, mangroves and the envi-

Captain Mike Lutze said eight tonnes of solid oil and four tonnes of liquid waste had been recovered.

"There's virtually no oil left out in the harbour at all," Captain Lutze said yesterday.

"What is left out there now is a very light sheen.

"This is the last day for the on-

Lawyers deal with spill bill

Richard Finnila and Cameron Atfield

A LEGAL battle is looming over who should foot the multimillion-dollar clean-up bill for the Gladstone oil spill.

Oil skimmers continued to work through the night to scoop up the estimated 25,000

blame.

Speaking from Gladstone harbour yesterday, investigating lawyer Frank Turner said he understood the tug's control system failed during the berthing manoeuvre.

Adsteam Australasia, which owns more than 100 tugs across the country in-

80sqkm of ocean, will take a week to clean up.

Local fisherman Lance Hayward claims he is facing a \$50,000 loss due to the oil spill.

The handline fisherman returned to port on Tuesday afternoon with more than 1050 live coral trout on board, destined for the lucrative Hong Kong market in time



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IN BRIEF

Clean-up a success

The clean-up of Gladstone Harbour after a huge oil spill has been hailed a success. About 25,000 litres of heavy fuel oil leaked into the central Queensland waterway last Tuesday after a tug boat holed a fuel tank on the Korean-owned coal carrier Global Peace as it berthed around midnight. The oil spread into a nearby marina and upstream into mangroves, sparking deep concern for fish stocks and local wildlife. But yesterday a spokesman for Maritime Safety Queensland, Captain Arthur Diack, reported that all recoverable floating oil had been mopped up.



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